

Historic storm hits South Georgia - pg.3

January 26, 2017

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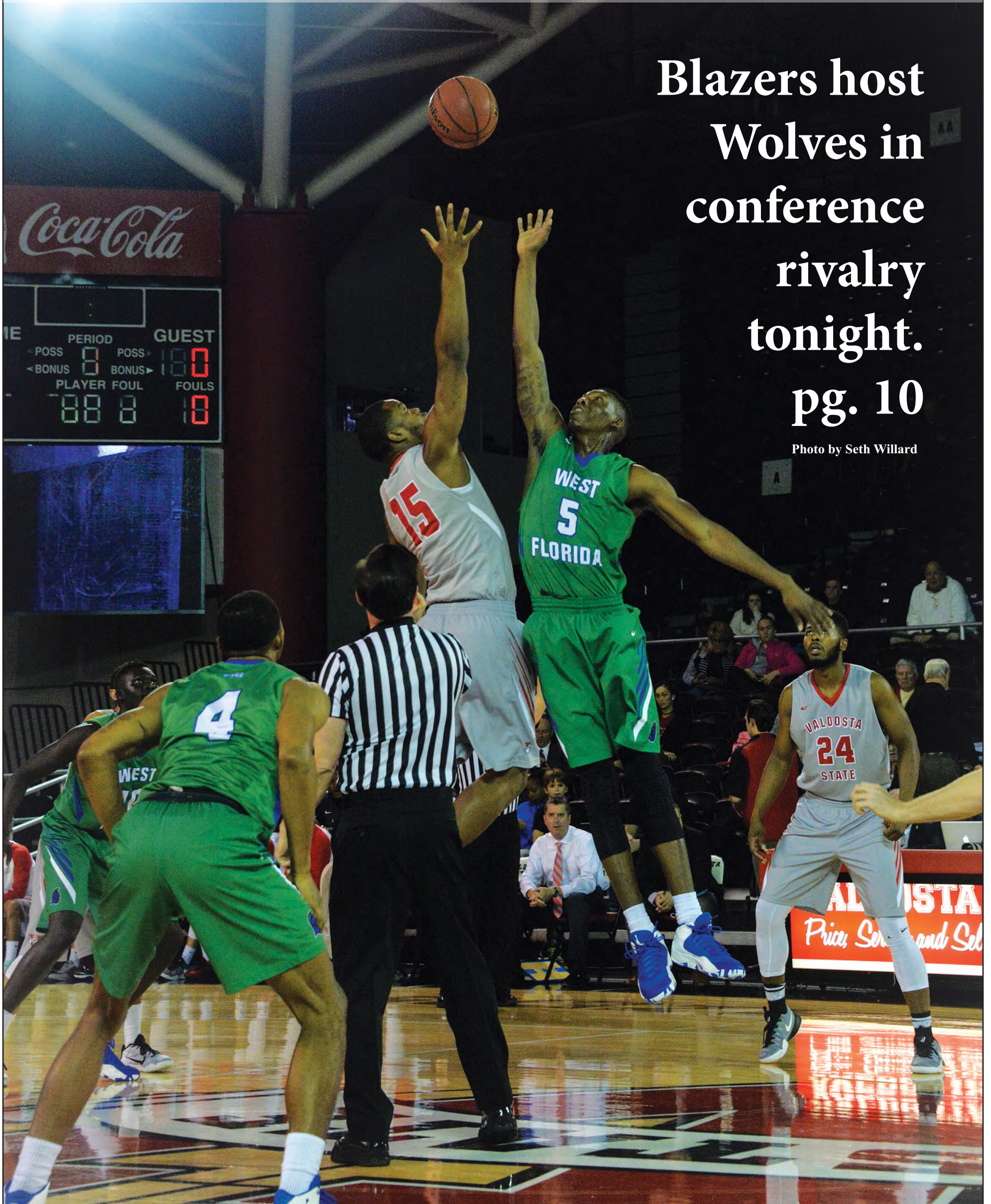
Volume 92, Issue 03

THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

Blazers host
Wolves in
conference
rivalry
tonight.
pg. 10

Photo by Seth Willard



NEWS

Student Health goes digital

Edward Rella

STAFF WRITER

etrella@valdosta.edu

VSU's Student Health Center has implemented a new online pharmacy, selling common over-the-counter medication via an online store through the Student Health Center web page, according to Lynnette Lewis, assistant director for the Student Health Center.

On the web store, students, faculty and staff can find items from cold-sore products, pain and headache relievers, as well as vitamins and supplements. Customers can use debit, credit or Flex on the VSU1Card. For order pick-ups, identification is needed.

Per their website, "[Our mission] is to provide optimum health care in a convenient location for undergraduate and graduate students in a compassionate, confidential manner." VSU's online pharmacy is making it easier for students, faculty and staff to seek healthcare at good prices. One can simply log on to the online store and place an order to

be picked up in a timely manner, at the user's discretion.

In addition to the online store, the Student Health Center is pushing for the ability to give students, faculty, and staff a location on campus to fill a variety of prescriptions from outside pharmacies, according to Lewis.

To find the retail pharmacy, go to the VSU website and click on the Campus Life tab, scroll down to Student Services and click on Find Out More. On the right side of the following web page, click on the Health Center tab and then click on the Over the Counter/Pharmacy button. That page allows one to log into a VSU account and begin shopping for the medications and other available products.

Alternatively, one can visit the Student Health Center Pharmacy from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday. On Monday through Thursday, expect to have lunch breaks from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Fridays will have lunch breaks from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Announcements

Blazer Ready Workshops

Cultivating Purposeful Relationships - Tuesday, Jan. 31 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Student Union Meeting Room 1

This workshop will explain the importance of getting involved on campus, and how to make connections and cultivate purposeful relationships that will help you after college.

Choosing a Career - Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Student Union Meeting Room 1

This workshop will help you explore your values, interests, skills, and personality, guiding you in choosing a major and career path.

Conducting Effective Interviews - Tuesday, March 28 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Student Union Meeting Room 1

This workshop will teach the three keys to answering ANY interview question and how to make a proper impression.

Creating an Online Presence - Tuesday, April 18 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Student Union Meeting Room 1

This workshop will give tips on how boost your professional online presence.

Wild Adventures ON THE SPOT Hiring Event - Jan 31, 2017 @ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Student Union Theater

Representatives from Wild Adventures Theme Park will be discussing employment opportunities with students on a first come first serve basis. Students should be prepared for an interview. (Please complete an online application before coming wildadventures.com).

Health Tip

* A healthy tip from VSU Student Health Center – flu season is still active. "The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: Fever* or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever" (www.cdc.gov). If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact the health center at 229.219.3200 to schedule an appointment.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email your information to Editor-in-Chief Gabe Burns at gcburns@valdosta.edu.

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The Spectator prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$18.50 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$18.50 for up to 40 words.

Ads should be sent to *The Spectator* or delivered to

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nied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Students must also submit their VSU Student ID number. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary.

The Spectator address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698. Our email address is spec_advertising@valdosta.edu.

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vsuSpectator.com

NEWS

South Georgia devastated by tornadoes Storm has ended but recovery has just begun for many



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Hundreds of homes were destroyed by tornadoes over the weekend, leaving individuals homeless.

Alex Dunn

ASST. FEATURES EDITOR
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More than 15 people died from tornadoes that passed through Southeastern states on Saturday and Sunday.

According to ABC News, the tornados swept across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Some formed early Saturday morning, and others came through later on Sunday.

Georgia was under tornado watch late Saturday night through Sunday afternoon.

Valdosta State University sent out multiple alerts to its students and faculty about the severe weather.

Some students were awakened by concerned friends and family members, anticipating a tornado hitting the VSU area.

"I was woken up by my mom

early Sunday telling me a tornado was heading my way," Macy Miller, a junior, said. "She had me sitting on my hallway floor in the middle of my house; it was terrible because I was the only one awake out of my two other roommates."

A tornado did not hit the VSU area. However, power lines were down from the strong winds and debris littered the roads and sidewalks.

Other areas were not so lucky. Dougherty County, Cook County and Brooks County had severe weather related deaths over the weekend, according to ABC News.

Rob Simmons, a junior from the Cordele area, experienced a lot of damage and debris on his way back to Valdosta from the weekend.

"The interstate had debris, and you could see trees uprooted and

leaning over all down the interstate," Simmons said.

The Weather Channel confirmed at least 12 tornadoes touched down in Georgia, but at least 29 occurred in the entire Southeast.

Albany and Warner Robins were hit the hardest, with a mile-wide damage path in Albany, according to The Weather Channel.

Georgia upped its state of emergency after the severe weather, according to Fox News. Crews organizing clean up for the damage asked for more aid.

Fox News also reported that Gov. Nathan Deal visited the areas affected by the tornadoes on Wednesday to offer his support and condolences. Deal also expanded his state of emergency declaration to other counties to help make more resources available to help people directly affected by the storm.



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Countless trees were uprooted and cracked in half during storms this weekend, taking out power lines.

Get involved with Adel clean up
Donate money, clothes, food or your time

Michaela Leung

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
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After deadly storms devastated areas of South Georgia, residents are left picking up the pieces.

On Monday, VSU students went to Adel to aid in the community clean up and accepted donations to give to families in need. If you were unable to help, there are still ways you can get involved in the storm relief effort.

- The American Red Cross is operating emergency shelters at the First Baptist Church of Adel, Albany Civic Center and Turner Civic Center. For information on how you can donate visit their site. You can also get involved with The American Red Cross of South Georgia which is located in Valdosta. You can visit their site for more information on how to get involved.

- First Assembly of God Church in Adel is operating as a shelter. They are in need of volunteers and supplies. For more information on how you can donate, visit their site.

- Adel Ga Tornado Relief Fund is a Go Fund Me account associated with the relief fund at Cook Community Bank. To donate you can go here.

- Samaritan's Purse is looking for volunteers to help with storm relief in Albany, Ga. They are looking for skilled volunteers and construction equipment. For more information you can visit their site.

- United Methodist Committee on Relief is providing hygiene kits and cleaning buckets to those affected by the storm. To donate, you can visit their site to find out more.

- Operation Blessing International has sent their U.S. Disaster Relief team to Albany, Georgia. to assist with clean up and they are looking for volunteers. Volunteers must be at least 18-years-old, dressed in long pants and hard soled shoes. For more information you can call their Volunteer Hotline 757-374-0944 or visit their site.

These are just a few ways that you can help the community in this time. If you know of any more volunteer or donation opportunities, mention us on Twitter at @vsuspectator or leave a comment below.

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OPINIONS

Our point of view...

Adel seeks support from VSU community



SETH WILLARD/THE SPECTATOR

Last weekend, Georgia was hit by an enormous storm that produced dozens of tornadoes, leaving destruction in its path. The storm claimed 15 lives in Georgia and left more homeless, according to Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA).

Though the storm has passed, the devastation remains. According to The Weather Channel, authorities hope that the current death toll is the final number; however, there are still missing persons, such as two-year-old Detrez Green, who slipped away from his mother during the storm.

According to GEMHSA, Atkinson, Baker, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Dougherty, Lowndes, Mitchell, Thomas, Turner, Wilcox and Worth counties are in a state of emergency until Jan 20, declared by Gov. Nathan Deal.

These are times when communities must pull together. The government and large organizations such as the American Red Cross step in to help, but neighbors, friends and volunteers can make an enormous impact as well.

Multiple tornado relief funds have begun on Facebook. If finances are an issue, many places are accepting clothing and toy donations. Check the closet or the toy box. If something has been sitting for months, donate it to the victims who lost everything.

If there is nothing material to donate, try donating time. The counties devastated by the storm don't just need clothes and food, they need help cleaning up and organizing incoming donations.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.



MCT CAMPUS

Elephants among other zoo animals are soon to be relocated as B&B Circus closes down.

Animal rights activists close the curtains on 'The Greatest Show on Earth'

Darla Dunning

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The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus will be shutting down its tents on May 10 after being in business for over 146 years, according to The Associated Press.

There were multiple factors that contributed to the show closing its curtains, such as high operating costs, ticket sales declining and disputes with animal rights activists claiming that the animals were being poorly treated.

The constant court battles with the animal rights activists caused the show to remove the elephants from its performances last May and place them at the Center for Elephant Conservation in Florida. In result, ticket sales dropped dramatically.

The elephants will now be used for cancer research and it is not specified how the animals will be used specifically.

"Many of the elephants are painfully arthritic....and it's too long for a baby elephant to be beaten with the sharp fireplace-poker like weapon called a bull hook that Ringling handlers use routinely," said animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Feld Entertainment, which manages the circus, said that their commitment to all of their animals is forever their lifetime, and they are now having to focus on helping 400 of their workers who were affected by the shut-

with several animal rights groups and Feld Entertainment winning \$25 million in settlements against these groups, the social pressure finally put a stop to the animal cruelty, because people did not want to see animals suffer through 15 minutes of entertainment.

"I used to go to the circus all the time at Phillips Arena in Atlanta. It makes my heart happy to know that animals will no longer be subject of unhumane conditions and ridiculous tricks," said Devin Scott, junior, finance major. The company has yet to discuss what will happen to the other animals who are part of the performances; they will put out a press release later this week discussing the issue.

According to the Washington Post, Feld Entertainment is trying to find suitable homes for the rest of the animals such as horses, tigers and kangaroos.

The location for these animals has yet to be decided, but requirements will have to meet critical safety standards such as a zoo or equipped private owners.

Hopefully, the new life for these animals will be better than the circus life.

The constant court battles with the animal rights activists caused the show to remove the elephants from its performances last May and place them at the Center for Elephant Conservation in Florida.

down find new jobs.

The Circus and its people have been a source of inspiration and joy to my family and me, which is why this was such a tough business decision to make," CEO of Feld Entertainment, said.

After 36 years of protests

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OPINIONS



MCT CAMPUS

President Donald Trump signs his first executive order.

Trump shows no hesitation in first 24 hours as official POTUS

Hunter Terrell
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A lot of ground was covered within Donald Trump's first few days, and ultimately hours as president of the United States.

Within an hour of Trump swearing in, the Federal Housing Authority announced the reversal of planned cuts to interest premiums on mortgages.

The rate cut, introduced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, would have reduced the annual FHA insurance premium on new mortgages for lower and middle income home buyers from the current .85 percent to 0.6 percent.

Ultimately, Trump signed not one, but three executive orders the same day.

The orders covered the U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a federal hiring freeze for all departments besides the military, and a ban on federal funding for abortions overseas.

TPP was the trade deal that would have aligned the U.S. and 11 nations in the Asia-Pacific region including Australia, Canada, Vietnam, Japan and Mexico under an agreement that would have erased hundreds of tariffs and regulations. The countries involved in this deal collectively conduct 40 percent of all global

trade.

"Great thing for the American worker, what we just did," said Trump as he signed the order.

"I think he is trying to stimulate the economy by keeping jobs in America," said Kay Walden, graduate student, Business major. "That has not happened since before most of our time, in the '80's with Reagan. The stock market and the companies alike don't seem afraid of his actions. America has been in a stalemate and a lot of the middle class and workers were ready for such a change."

Next up on his list, Trump insisted cutting the number of federal workers as his second priority.

Trump made the federal hiring freeze part of his ultimate plan to tackle corruption and waste in Washington, D.C., by "draining the swamp."

"I'm not sure if this is the right thing to do. I think he should wait or not do it at all before people start losing jobs," said Bryan Furhyr, graduate student.

As it seemed to be a reaction, over 500,000 women as well as a few men took to the streets of Washington, D.C., early Saturday to rally against Trump and advocate for all women's rights.

Women marches took place worldwide, including in Atlanta, Seattle, Mexico and even in

Paris.

"I commend everyone who was able to participate in the march. I wish I had the chance to go and show my support," said MiCayla Greene, sophomore history major.

Past the first 24 hours, Trump signed two additional orders Wednesday, focused on national security.

The president signed the two orders during a ceremony at the Department of Homeland Security after honoring the department's new secretary, retired General John Kelly.

The executive orders jump start construction of a U.S./Mexico border wall and strip funding for sanctuary safe cities.

"He really is going to build a wall", said Laine Whisnant, junior, anthropology major.

Trump will meet with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto at the White House next week.

Trump also tweeted Wednesday morning that he would ask for an investigation into voter fraud, including alleged votes by undocumented immigrants, people who are allegedly registered to vote in more than one state.

Trump is undoubtedly stirring the pot. He is coming in strong and with no hesitation.

Day six of out of 1,461.



MCT CAMPUS

Policemen and civilians alike celebrate MLK Day.

MLK Day; how far we have come

Alex Dunn
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Last week was the 31st year of celebration and remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr., who has been known as the icon for peace and justice during and after his life.

The holiday falls on the third Monday of January, according to infoplease.com. In addition, it was proposed to Congress four days after Dr. King's assassination and took 15 years to make it an official federal holiday.

MLK Day symbolizes the very qualities that Dr. King stood for during a time when civil rights did not apply to everyone equally.

"On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit," said MLK Jr.'s wife Coretta Scott King.

America has come a long way since then, but how far?

This year's holiday was marred by values that had the complete opposite for what this day is meant to stand for.

A shooting that took place during a parade at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Miami left eight people shot. More were injured from the stampede that broke out after the gunshots, according to Miami Herald.

There were even more shootings reported in the Jacksonville and Hallandale Beach area on the same day, according to Miami Herald.

Even with the tragedies that occurred, celebrations and events were still being held for the national holiday.

Universities in Atlanta like Emory and Georgia Tech were holding events that included educational programs with important speakers and service opportunities.

Also an MLK Day 5K, taking place in Piedmont Park, started bright and early to play music and a drumline for the runners.

"Martin Luther King Jr. did a lot for our people and our country. Without him, there is no telling where we would be," said Felicia Graves, junior business major.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a symbol for peace, humility, fairness, equality and justice. His holiday has promoted these values for 31 years and has become a day for celebration and remembrance.

Although missteps have occurred throughout the years, the nation has come far since Dr. King's era. Without him and the holiday to remind people what matters most, it would be a very different time today.

CIA releases 13 million declassified documents

Darla Dunning
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The Central Intelligence Agency released 13 million declassified documents to the public on Jan. 17 that were previously only available at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

According to the documents, the files range from information over Nazi War Crimes, psychic phenomena in military and domestic applications (Stargate Project), UFO sightings, the plans for the United States to

overthrow foreign governments and various miscellaneous CIA records.

Heather Fritz Horniak, CIA spokesperson, shared her insight on what the documents included.

"None of this is cherry-picked. It's the full history. It's good and bad," Horniak said.

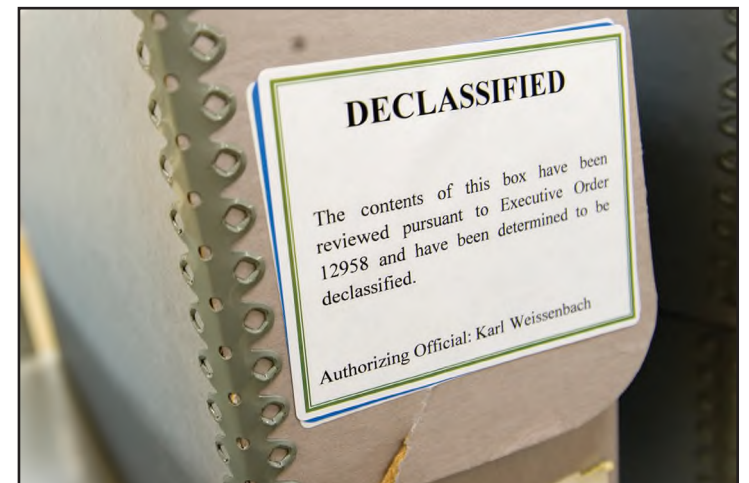
According to BBC News, MuckRock, a non-profit freedom of information group, sued the CIA in order for them to upload these declassified files to the public.

The process and court hearings took more than two years in

order for MuckRock to win the law suit.

"Access to this historically significant collection is no longer limited by geography. The American public can access these documents from the comfort of their homes," Joseph Lambert, the CIA Director of Information Management, said.

To access these documents, they are located on the CIA Library website called the CIA Records Search Tool database archive.



MCT CAMPUS

13 million documents were released over the past month.

FEATURES



Darla Dunning

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Yarning for adventure

after he quit nursing school due to neurological problems that affected his mobility.

“I will create any sweater that is either an iconic landmark or just a natural scene,” Barsky told Today. “The only limitation is that it takes a month to make one sweater.”

Most sweaters come with a knitting pattern, but Barsky knits his sweaters freehand, using only his imagination and creative skills as a guide.

“I have not knitted from a pattern in almost 17 years,” Barsky told The Times of Israel. “I don’t think anybody else in the world knits like I do.”

A sweater with tigers on it is one of Barsky’s favorites because he took a photograph while wearing it in Thailand with a real baby tiger.

Barsky planned on designing a sweater for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, but he did not get it done on time.

“This is what I enjoy doing,” Barsky told The Times of Israel. “I like creating. I like replicating what I see in life and what I plan on seeing.”

For Barsky’s next ambitious sweater project, he plans on making a groundhog sweater for Groundhog Day.

A Baltimore man became famous for knitting sweaters of different landmarks and taking photos of himself wearing those sweaters at those landmarks.

Knitting phenomenon, Sam Barsky, 42, has knitted sweaters since he was 24-years-old, making more than 103 sweaters.

Barsky has pictures of himself wearing 91 of his sweaters at different landmarks.

For example, Barsky traveled to Times Square in New York City and took a picture of himself in his handmade sweater with a Time Square design.

He took pictures of himself at multiple iconic landmarks, ranging from Niagara Falls, the Golden Gate Bridge, Thailand and the Dead Sea in Israel, all while wearing his self-designed sweaters of these landmarks.

“Pretty much anything that crosses my eyes could be a sweater,” Barsky told Today. “I choose a place that I plan on traveling to, and I start creating the sweater.”

According to Barsky’s website, colorknit.webs.com, he developed a passion for knitting

Review: VSU group fitness classes

Shanice Barns
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If you’re ready to commit to your New Year’s resolution to get back in shape, but find it hard to work-out alone or can’t afford a personal trainer on a student’s budget, then the Student Recreation Center’s group fitness classes are the perfect place to start.

The Rec Center offers a variety of group fitness classes, from beginner workouts to intermediate ones that offer more of a challenge.

Students conduct the classes, which can make you feel a little more comfortable because you’re working out with your peers.

These workout classes are perfect either before or after classes. The workouts typically last 50 minutes—just enough time to get in and out before class.

Some of the classes offered at the Rec Center include; yoga, PiYo, booty work, Zumba, spin and lift, hourglass figure and more.

There are a variety of classes and instructors to teach them. Dee is the booty work fitness class instructor on Sunday at 6 p.m., Adrienne on Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Kiana on Monday at 8 p.m.

Dee’s class was a very intense

Times	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7AM		Insanity Jourdan	Spin Yoga Colleen	Spin Colleen	Spin Colleen	
8AM		PiYo Jourdan	Sunrise Yoga Deven	Yoga Colleen	Sunrise Yoga Deven	
9AM					Bootcamp Adrienne	Spin Yoga Colleen
4PM						
5PM		Spin + Lift Sarah	Circuit Training Dee	Beach Ready Arms Sarah	Booty Work Sarah	
6PM	Booty Work Dee	Arms + Abs Sarah	Dance Fusion Jourdan	Cardio Take Down Kiana	Full Body Blast Dee	
7PM	Cardio Takedown Dee	Zumba April	Core/Cardio Adrienne	Core/Cardio Kiana	Zumba April	Zumba April
8PM	Yoga Deven	Yoga Kiana	BodyWork Adrienne	Yoga Adrienne	Hourglass Figure Kiana	Hip Hop Jourdan
9PM		Hip Hop Jourdan	Zumba April	Circuit Training Adrienne		
Workout of the Day Classes in the Functional Training Room						
		WOD Aurielle: 8AM-10AM Irving: 3PM	WOD Aurielle: 8AM-10AM Irving: 3PM	WOD Aurielle: 8AM-10AM Irving: 3PM	WOD Aurielle: 8AM-10AM Irving: 3PM	WOD Ellis: 3PM-6PM

Courtesy of VSU Rec Center

and effective workout. She challenged you to push yourself, so you can achieve the body you desire. I liked that the class involved more than typical squats. Dee was interactive, and we moved around a lot.

Jordan is the PiYo instructor at 8 a.m. on Monday. PiYo is a cross between Pilates and yoga. It utilizes the same stretching done in typical yoga but also gives the intensity of a Pilates workout; the two together are very relaxing and effective.

April is the Zumba instructor on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. and Tuesday at 9 p.m. The class gets you up and moving to the beat, literally. In the beginning, it starts pretty slow, but

once you get through the warm up, it really gets you moving. The Zumba class is a fun way to get in shape. It doesn’t feel much like a workout; it’s fun and interactive, and, believe me, you can really feel the burn towards the end.

Kiana is the hourglass figure instructor on Tuesday at 8 p.m. The class focuses mainly on your core, so you can achieve those beach-ready abs you’ve been longing for.

Don’t be surprised if you go to a group fitness class and you end up being the only one there along with the instructor; it happens often. Just think of it as a way of getting one-on-one training.

For more information regarding any group fitness class, contact the Rec Center.

Award Winning Director
Tim Lee Returns To Valdosta
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KILL TOM PHOOLERY

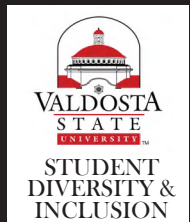
A PLAY BY WINSHERE JONES

KILL TOM PHOOLERY is about one playwright, Thomas E. Phoolery, who has created a genre of theatre in which writing ignorant, comedic buffoonery has made him a rich man.

KILL TOM PHOOLERY explores the nature of the idolized playwright who sends the wrong messages, promoting negative stereotypes that could easily misrepresent an entire culture.

Monday, February 6th • 6pm
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Social media stalker

Bryce Ethridge

STAFF WRITER

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It reads your diary and writes down your secrets, all without you knowing. It’s like the big brother you never wanted, but it steals your secrets in order to show you more of what you like. It’s on your phone as the social media app Facebook.

Facebook came into our lives in 2006 like a re-skinned version of MySpace. Now it thinks it can make people like it more by using “likes,” “loves,” and “laughs,” to generate more of what people like.

According to ProPublica, the social media giant compiles data into “detailed dossiers,” which are then used to influence the advertising you see. Facebook tries to downplay its actions by saying it got user data, “from a few different sources.”

ProPublica said even though Facebook has been called out on its shady action, it rebutted with the fact that users are able to detect which third-party users are using their data, “if they know where to look.”

Steve Satterfield, Facebook manager of privacy and public policy, stated that Facebook is unable to control third-party categories in the same way it controls its categories, due to the fact that third-party providers, “make their categories available across other platforms.”

ProPublica said Facebook does not disclose the use of third-party data because the company is not responsible for collecting that data. Facebook began handling data brokers when they signed a deal with Datalogix in 2012.

While it might not be known,

there is a way to find the data that is taken and stopping it from being taken again.

The process sometimes involves giving the last four digits of your social security number to data companies, and since Facebook regularly changes their data brokers, the user would have to regularly visit the help center to find the new data brokers taking data.

For example, reporter Julia Angwin attempted to opt out of all the data brokers, but she found out she was only able to opt-out of 92. Out of the 92, Angwin stated that 65 required the user, “submit a form of identification such as a driver’s license.” Even with that, Angwin was unable to take her data back from a majority of the data brokers.

After its investigation, ProPublica started an app on Google Chrome, allowing users to see in which categories Facebook put them, called, “What Facebook Thinks You Like.”

According to Forbes, companies gain an upper hand from this data by using it to increase advertising abilities, gearing advertising more toward the viewers. That being said, companies are basically taking your data for free just so they can sell you products better.



courtesy of wikimedia

FEATURES

TEACHER PROFILE

Manning enriches student experience, leads research

Darla Dunning

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Dr. Thomas Manning may have a passion for teaching chemistry, but helping his students achieve something that they have always aspired to do is his main priority, he said.

Dr. Manning, professor of chemistry at VSU, has done a lot in his life. He's worked alongside Nuclear Chemist Greg Choppin, helped his students create a reversal for Alzheimer's Disease, and received a patent for antibiotics that allowed him and his students to interact with ambassadors of different countries.

He's had a passion for teaching science since he was an undergraduate at the College of Charleston.

"I was going back and forth between chemistry and physics, but I decided to go into chemistry because I loved how much energy there was in the department and how dynamic the faculty was," Dr. Manning said.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Dr. Manning went on to pursue his PhD at the University of Florida. Then, he received his post-doctoral at the National Research Center of Coal and Energy and his second post-doctoral at Florida State University working in the lab with Choppin.

"I spent most of my time out in New Mexico working for the Federal Government at the Los Alamos National Lab where they make our country's nuclear weapons," Dr. Manning said. "This is where I got my passion for nuclear science."

Dr. Manning is a New York native and moved to Valdosta after realizing how much research and teaching could be done at VSU. He has been teaching at VSU for 24 years and strives each day to teach his students something new.

He has three projects that he and his students work on throughout the year. The projects include receiving patents from the government; giving them exclusive rights to a process, design or new invention for a designated period of time.

The students currently have three patents: one for antibiotics that deal with the treatment of tuberculosis, another for a cancer drug called Bryostatins that helps with the reversal of Alzheimer's disease (an ongoing project to make treatment cheaper and more effective), and one dealing with oyster restoration in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Manning's enthusiasm for receiving these patents allowed his students to break out of their comfort zones and receive background knowledge about their

career fields. Garrett Crook, biology major, said Dr. Manning has taught him a variety of concepts from being in his classes for the past two years.

"I've learned so much from Dr. Manning," Crook said. "I designed a patent for oyster protection systems, and right now we are doing one over biodegradable oysters and coral restoration."

Another student who gained a vast amount of knowledge from working with Dr. Manning and taking his classes is Paven Patel, biology major. Patel said Dr. Manning had 15 cancer and antibiotic drugs accepted for pre-clinical trials at the National Cancer Institute.

"I have also done a project for MRI contrasts," Patel said. "It took me one month to do, and I am now trying to get my project out locally."

Out of all the patents that Dr. Manning worked on with his students, he said the antibiotics patent is his favorite so far.

"We ended up writing over 140 pages for this patent when we filed it," Dr. Manning said. "It was five years of data and testing the drug with the National Institute of Health. We interacted with ambassadors of different countries who needed these antibiotics for people who were dying in their countries."

In addition to the ongoing patents, Dr. Manning also received unique patents that allowed his students to embrace their creative side. Some of his students have patents for puzzles they created.

"Right now, we are making a puzzle for cancer drugs, and then we are going to send it to the American Cancer Society as a learning tool," Dr. Manning said. "They are challenging puzzles, so people can start learning the names of different cancer drugs. We also have a puzzle that we sent to 100 towns in South Georgia, so people can complete them, and then we are going to send it to different Chambers of Commerce."

In his spare time, Dr. Manning enjoys spending time with his wife of 25 years and his three children. He enjoys doing activities with his church and helping his wife, a middle grades science teacher, with science classes at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School.

"I love taking care of my family, and I enjoy doing family activities," Dr. Manning said. "Every Friday night I go to the rodeo because my daughter has a horse and she competes in the races."

Dr. Manning has a younger sister and an older brother. "I'm the only one who does



Darla Dunning/THE SPECTATOR
Dr. Manning, a chemistry professor at VSU, spends a lot of his times patenting his work with students science in the family," Dr. Manning said. "I was considered the nerd."

He said his favorite part of his career is when he can help students achieve what they are aiming for.

"It's always a good feeling when I can help my students succeed," Dr. Manning said. "On a personal level, I want to look back on my life and remember all of the students that I have helped. It makes me feel satisfied and happy."

VSU 'Cinderella: The Opera!' a night of enchantment



Kelsey Dickerson/ THE SPECTATOR

VSU Opera presented 'Cinderella: The Opera!' to the public on Jan. 21 and 22 in whitehead auditorium. Above, guest preformers Dorea Cook as cinderella and Joseph Mason as prince charming star in two of the story's most pivotal scenes. Left, Prince Charming and Cinderella meet for the first time at the ball. Right, Cinderella and Prince Charming are revealed to each other in the woods by Cinderella's fairy godmother, played by guest performer Marti Shert. Despite weather, both performances drew sizable crowds.

Turn the page to read a review of 'Cinderella: The Opera!' by staff writer LaDaezjah Warrens

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ENTERTAINMENT

Get fit with the Nupes

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February is the month of fitness, and the men of Kappa Alpha Psi have you covered.

During the week of Feb. 9, there will be events to keep your New Year's fitness resolution rolling. The week will all lead to the "NaKed" 5k mile run on Feb. 11.

"Nupesanity is an intense session of workouts led by CEO of Commando Athletix, Eric Roberson, a.k.a. Commando Dro," David Burdette, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc. Lambda Phi chapter, said. "The event will be Thursday, Feb. 9, and the location is to be announced. The entire week the Nupes will be handing out health tips and giving out free protein bars and possibly some smoothies."

Burdette explained how NupeSanity came to be.

"I came up with the idea of having NupeSanity in the late fall for students who are in need of a personal trainer that will push and bring momentum to their workouts," Burdette said. "However, the NaKed 5k mile run I have been wanting to do since my freshman year when my RHD told me about how his school did this annually to build

pride and tradition."

The week of events will consist of health tips and fitness that will help expand your fitness regimen in only a week. Anyone who is looking for a personal trainer will have the benefit of being trained by Roberson. Everyone is welcome to the events during the week and are encouraged to be a part of something that can improve their health.

The first day of NupeSanity will consist of health tips, protein bars and membership sign-ups for Commando Athletix and for the NaKed 5k.

The Tuesday and Wednesday of the week will consist of videos to promote the intense session that will happen Feb. 9.

Friday will be a resting day, and Saturday will be the 5k run.

The Nupes will be holding a clothing drive, and all of the proceeds from the 5k run will be donated to LAMP, a homeless shelter in Valdosta.

If you're looking to improve your health then, make sure you reach out to one of the men of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc.

"We as men of Kappa Alpha Psi . . . are always looking for ways to inspire service in the public's interest," Burdette. "Nupesanity is just one of many and just for you. So, get off the couch and come out and work for the results you've been waiting for."

Models plan to strut into forever

Tiana Foster
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Kameri Johnson, a senior mass media major, and Zaria Howell, a junior mass media major, are collaborating on their first project: the Forever Young fashion show.

Johnson stated they both wanted to bring something new and fresh to Valdosta State.

"Forever Young is about being as young as you feel, believing in yourself and energizing your future," Johnson said. "It's about channeling that time in your life when the world and everything around you was new. It is about refocusing, reassessing, re-planning and reactivating your future."

Johnson and Howell are models for Legends Modeling Troupe. After experiencing the behind the scenes of a fashion show, they were instantly inspired to create their own show. After careful thought and late night conversations with Michael, "Mikey," Sanders, president of Legends Modeling Troupe, they were able to think of a name and begin auditions.

Forever Young plans to work with a lot of first time models

and also current models from Legends Modeling Troupe. No experience was required to audition, as plenty of the models are inexperienced.

Forever Young will feature 30 models, both male and female.

Forever Young is also collaborating with Share in Africa and a

make sure that the designers represented the theme of the show, which is youth. Ugly Urban; Simplicity; Nia Shades; His and Her Closet; and Muse and Melrose are all young entrepreneurs that represent the young, wild and free.

The production team also displayed the youthful and energetic spirit, as they chose to work with several students to showcase their talent as well. The directors, make-up artists, photographers and DJs are all students who attend VSU.

The show is set for Feb. 24. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. at the University Center in the Magnolia Room. Regular admission will be \$3 and \$5 limited VIP seating will be offered. Pre-sale tickets will not be sold.

Before the show, there will be a few pop-up shops that for the designers to showcase their merchandise before it is viewed on the runway.

Johnson and Howell have not thought about another show just yet because they are working on perfecting Forever Young.

"This show was put together out of our enjoyment to model, and we hope to see you all there," Johnson said.

"Forever Young is about being as young as you feel, believing in yourself and energizing your future."

-Kameri Johnson
Coordinator

promotion team formerly known as "The Baddies."

"The theme of the show is finding your inner free spirit," Johnson said. "Living young, wild and free but most importantly being Forever Young."

Johnson and Howell wanted to

Art show taking on a new direction

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It's Feb. 1 and you wake up in the morning thinking there's nothing to look forward to today. You walk out of your room and head to class, and then you get there and find out that it's Black History Month. You sit there and still feel unexcited as the professor talks about the same things you hear every year. Kyle Breaux, this year's head of the Black History Month Art Show, wants to change that.

"I want to highlight how music has affected our culture as black people," Breaux said.

The main message Breaux wants to send through this art show is how there has been music to get black people

through all the decades and the various movements they've gone through. He also wants to show how music from the past has influenced music today.

Breaux doesn't want this show to be your run-of-the-mill art show. He has included more live events, such as live music, spoken word and even a few yoga performances throughout the show.

"We're trying to give people a lot more to see," Breaux said. "You have a lot more to interact with and to see in the moment. You're able to see these live art pieces taking place."

Breaux stated he doesn't feel like most people know how impactful and unifying music can be to the people who listen, thus showing that music will be a large part of the art show.

Breaux wants the artists that have entered their art pieces in the show to reflect music. He stated he wants the artists to create a playlist to go with their pieces in order to create atmosphere around them.

"I want to make sure that each [art] piece is connected to some piece of music," Breaux said.

The new director shows that he wants to leave his mark on the show by breathing life into it with the use of music.

Breaux currently has both sides of the Magnolia Room at the University Center secured for the show, but he's looking to expand to another room for more space.

The Black History Month Art Show will be held on Feb. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR

Back row from left: Lacie Duncan, Brittany DiGiammarino, Kendra Beasley
In front: Dorea Cook perform a scene from "Cinderella: The Opera!"

A twist on a timeless classic

LaDaezjah Warrens
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The VSU Opera performed "Cinderella: The Opera!" Jan. 20 - 22.

The show was a re-telling of the original Cinderella story; however, instead of animals helping Cinderella get ready for the ball, Cinderella, played by Dr. Dorea Cook, was helped by six beautiful spirits who served as the fairy godmother's helpers.

What stood out the most was the ability of the performers to sing in the operatic style while still acting and dancing.

"The hardest part about singing opera is learning the proper technique and learning how to sing properly so that your voice remains healthy," said Andrea Leon-Moreno, one of the spirits in the opera.

Imagine trying to sing opera laying down, that sounds crazy,

but, somehow, Dr. Cook managed to pull it off.

The show featured an even balance of comedy and romance and kept the audience engaged.

The crowd was so enthralled that the slightest distraction caused an uproar. At one point, a woman saw the light from a cellphone and passed a whisper down the rows to the young woman, asking that she turn her phone off.

When asked about the rehearsals leading up to the performance, Leon-Moreno praised the cast.

"[They] worked like a well-oiled machine," Leon-Moreno said. "The most difficult thing was learning where to put all the props for scene changes."

After seeing this show, you will likely have a newfound appreciation for opera and would want to see another show.

The next show is "Wine, Women, and Song," on April 20. The price is \$40 for students, which includes dinner and a show.

A 'fortunate' new addition on Netflix

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On Jan. 13, Netflix released one of its most anticipated series to date: "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

The season's eight-episode cliff-hanger, detailing the first three and a half books of the Lemony Snicket series, was more than promising. The series, thankfully, stuck close to the books, as spin-offs rarely do, with only one surprise twist. The three children, Violet, Klaus and Sunny, encountered the same traps and clueless adults as in the books, and Count Olaf was always there, ready to pull off some new scheme in some new costume.

Neil Patrick Harris, who sang the theme song as well as starred in the show, was almost too

good as Count Olaf, a role that could have been challenging for Harris because of the character's chameleon-like antics.

Malina Weissman, Louis Hynes and Presley Smith each fit right into their roles as Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire respectively.

The casting, in my opinion, was where the production could have failed, considering most children (now adults) who read the series when it came out probably watched the 2004 movie that packed a punch in the casting department. This new series had the unique challenge of persuading viewers who have known an alternative cast to believe in a new cast's portrayal. Though I personally preferred Meryl Streep as Aunt Josephine to Alfre Woodard, no actor disappointed.

The series itself is a whimsical dark-comedy that is truly a delight to watch.

The makeup team in charge of Harris' transformation deserves a medal for their work. The overall look of the character was stylized just enough, so Harris looked like a storybook character brought to life but not a cartoon.

The scenery and characters also lent to the surreal feeling of the show. The world this series created is one that teeters on fantasy, and, in some scenes, dives right in. The settings, Aunt Josephine's house hanging on the edge of a cliff, the reptile room, Mr. Poe's office at Mulctuary Money Management and his home, are all just odd enough that they were a delight to see.

If you've read the books, I recommend binge-watching this series. If you've seen the movie, you'll enjoy this series as well. If you've done none of the above, this is your chance to get into a franchise you might not have otherwise, and you won't regret it.

SPORTS



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Blazers Win Seventh Straight



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR



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Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Ryan Schraeder will be the second Blazer to win a Super Bowl if the Atlanta Falcons beat New England next Sunday. The first was Dominique Ross, who won Super Bowl XXX in 1995 with Dallas.

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Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Justin Simon lays the ball up against West Florida as VSU gets its seventh Gulf South Conference win in a row.

Rivalry renewed VSU Basketball to play UWG

**Juston Lewis
Tyler Gerken**

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After a fiery matchup with West Florida that featured technical fouls, dunks and other forms of excitement, VSU will look to scorch rival West Georgia.

Blazer Basketball beat the Argos for the second time this season behind a 27-point performance from Jeremiah Hill. UWF never led in the game, and the Blazers were up by 23 in the second half, but the game did not lack excitement.

The Argos were in the midst of mounting a comeback when their second leading scorer, DJ Thorpe, was called for consecutive fouls on offense and defense. Thorpe lost composure and yelled obscenities at the referees, which got him ejected from the game.

This sequence came after Moter Deng had fouled out for the Argos just minutes before hand. This essentially broke the will of West Florida and secured the 89-82 victory for the Blazers.

Throughout the game, players from West Florida talked trash and tried to make the Blazers lose their composure. It never worked, and no VSU players were ejected nor fouled out.

"We're too old," Hill said on buying into other team's tactics. "We know this is what other teams are going to try and do at this point in the season. If that [ejection] happens to us, we get suspended for a game and that hurts our team."

If any of the Blazers got ejected, they would be forced to miss possibly the most heated rivalry in the Gulf South Conference. The West Georgia Wolves are coming to Title Town for a GSC matchup that has created a lot of noise and hype around campus. That hype, however, did not carry over to the basketball team.

"We're going to do what we always do," Hill said. "Nobody is any more special than anybody else."

Head Coach Mike Helfer is not buying into the hype of the seven-game win streak that the Blazers are on either.

"We're looking at the next game, which happens to be West Georgia," Helfer said. "If we aren't excited to play in that game then something is wrong."

Whether he acknowledges it or not, the Blazers are on the longest win streak in the GSC.

They are leading the league in scoring, field goals and steals. The team is in the top five for

3-point field goals, free throws and rebounding. They've also built up a lot of expectations from fans, and they're becoming known for their pregame dunk contests. Their 15-3 record is a conference best and they are building steam before the conference tournament in February.

West Georgia comes in with an 8-9 overall record, but they should not be taken lightly. They have one of the best all around players in the GSC, Stephaun Branch. Branch is the fourth-best scorer in the GSC, averaging 18.6 points per game, and second in the GSC in both blocks and steals. He also averages 8.4 rebounds per game, which is tied for fourth in the GSC. His teammate, Shannon Fowler, averages 8.7 per game, which is second in the GSC.

Helfer said the Wolves' depth is one of their strengths.

"They play a lot of people; they're deep; they're very talented; and they utilize that depth every game," Helfer said. "We hopefully maybe can match that with some of our bench play."

VSU beat UWG 79-70 at their last meeting. The Blazers' defense stepped up during the game, and the Wolves were only able to take the lead for a total of two minutes and 37 seconds.

"Well, I don't know if we really stopped them as much as they just missed some shots," Helfer said. "We've just got to play hard, and try to keep them out of the paint. We need to dig down defensively because they are very talented offensively."

Helfer said the team's chemistry and morale are two main reasons they've been so successful.

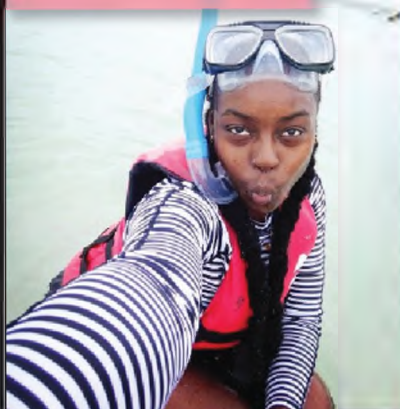
"It's not too hard to maintain morale when you're winning," he said. "However, it's been like this from day one. This team is very close knit, they like being around each other, and they like coming to see each other every day. That helps develop chemistry rather than it just happening."

A Blazer loss could mean losing the conference lead. They currently own sole possession of first place in the GSC with a 10-2 conference record. Alabama Huntsville is in second, but with a Blazer loss and the defeat of Delta State, they'd take over the top ranking.

Blazer fans will surely point out VSU Football's win last fall, when they captured the coveted Peach Basket away from the Wolves, 38-27.

The Blazers will take on UWG tonight at 7 p.m. in the P.E. Complex.

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SPORTS

VSU Baseball looking to overcome key absences in 2017

Briana Salem

STAFF WRITER

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VSU Baseball will look to defy preseason voters after being picked to finish sixth in the GSC ahead of the season. The team will be looking to replace star pitcher Mitchell Cody, who led the team in strikeouts last season.

VSU has played two exhibition games as they get ready for the regular season. They won both games against Tallahassee Community College and Central Florida Community College.

“Against CFCC we played exceptionally well, especially during our first game,” said VSU Baseball Head Coach Greg Guilliams. “In the second game, we did not play as well even though in both games we scored more points than any other team, so overall I was pleased.”

Guilliams also won't have out-

fielder Dalton Duty this season. Duty, who got injured earlier this year, will redshirt the season. He led the team in hits, average and runs last year and was selected to the preseason all Gulf South Conference team.

Instead, Guilliams will be looking for leadership from his seniors after selecting second baseman Chipper Andzel, catcher Clint Car and third baseman Marcus Sigmon to be the team captains.

Sigmon had the second most hits and runs last year, and he led the team in home runs. Sigmon said the team has had to build relationships with each other after losing 10 seniors from last year's team.

“Our team chemistry is probably our strongest point,” Sigmon said. “We have good pitching and play good defense, but I think altogether as a team we have great team chemistry.”



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Kendall Herron rounds first base yesterday during VSU Baseball's preseason scrimmage against ABAC in Valdosta.

VSU finished last year with a 27-17 record, which was seventh in the GSC out of 12 teams. After winning the conference in 2013,

VSU has posted an 81-54 record in the three seasons since.

The Blazers will start the season at home against South

Georgia rival Albany State on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 4 p.m.

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VSU Softball enters the season as a GSC power

Juston Lewis

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The Blazer Softball team is not getting caught up in preseason honors or rankings ahead of the 2017 season.

The Blazers were picked to finish third in the Gulf South Conference in a preseason coaches poll this season, and they had three players selected to the preseason All-GSC team. The team also opened the season at 13 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Chelsea Canara is a senior who batted a career high .360 last season. She also brought in 37 RBI's and posted a career high 59 hits.

“I just felt really thankful that people thought that I could get that [honor] but at the end of the day it's all about the team,” Canara said on her All-GSC selection. “It's a great honor to have but I don't really think about that kind of stuff.”

Canara noted that the team's goal was to win the very last game of the season (the National Championship), and with it being her last year, she wanted to do her very best for her teammates and cherish every moment.

One of those teammates, Brandy Morgan, was also voted to the Preseason All-GSC team as well. Morgan is a junior who had career highs in hits and batting average with 52 and .319. She scored 38 runs and was second on the team with 45 RBI's. She had 12 home runs, which was eighth in the GSC.

“I had no idea until a couple of my friends told me congratulations and sent me the article,” Morgan said. “It was really nice but I was a little shocked.”

Morgan considers herself a leader on the team, and she wants to be more of an example than a vocal leader.

“I used to be a selfish player in high school and just cared about myself and my stats,” Morgan said. “In college, this [team] is more of a family feel. I just want to play my best game and benefit



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

Sophomore Kasie Johnson started in the circle for VSU Softball last Tuesday in their preseason matchup with Georgia Military College. VSU won 9-5.

my team.”

The team took the field on Tuesday in a pre-season scrimmage against Georgia Military College. They trailed for a stint during the game but used a five run inning to take the lead in the 6th. They won the scrimmage 9-5 and valued the experience gained from it.

“It was probably one of the most important days in the pre-season,” Canara said. “In practice we see our own teammates playing and pitching, but it helps to see other people and gain that experience.”

Head Coach Thomas Macera is the embodiment of experience when it comes to coaching. In his 10 years at VSU, he's compiled a 485-122 record, making him the all-time winningest coach in VSU softball's history. The Blazers went to six straight GSC Conference championships, and they won the National Championship in 2012 under his tutelage.

“I don't get caught up in rankings much,” Macera said. “Sometimes you think you're better, sometimes you think you are worse. Championships aren't won in February. They're won in

May.”

The Blazers lost three All-South Region players, but Macera doesn't think that his team will struggle because of it. He also doesn't think his team is weak in any one area of the game saying, “I think we're pretty good all around. I think we have good pitching; I think we have good hitting; I think we have good defense; and we have depth.”

Macera has the same expectations for this season that he does every season: win the National Championship.

“Every year the goal is to com-

pete nationally; I don't expect to do anything less.” Macera said.

The 2012 National Championship banner looms across the field from the Blazers dugout at Steel's Diamond Field. It's something the players see every time they take the field, a consistent reminder of what the expectations are.

The pursuit of the National Title begins on Feb. 4, as VSU takes on North Georgia in the Gulf Shores Invitational in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

SPORTS



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Blake Justice is one of 22 players to score 1,000 points in VSU history.

Blake Justice goes pro

Briana Salem

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Former VSU shooting guard Blake Justice is starting his professional basketball career across the pond. Justice, who scored 1,112 points in three seasons with VSU, joined Germany's Licher Basket Bears earlier this month.

Blake, who is from Peebles, Ohio, said the decision to continue playing overseas didn't come without much deliberation among his family.

"I'm very close with my family back in Ohio, and I rarely make a life decision without discussing it with them," Blake said. "I also spoke with my coaches from Valdosta and my girlfriend who has been on the basketball grind with me since I met her, not to mention discussing it with my little brother who would have killed me had I not continued to chase my/our dream."

Blake's younger brother, Beau Justice, is a guard at VSU. He's currently ranked 15th in the Gulf South Conference with 234 points scored during the season. Beau said he totally supports his brother's decision to play in Germany.

"He's doing great right now, and I can't wait to go visit him," Beau said. "I've looked up to him my whole life. He's the guy that blazed the trail, and I followed it. He is one of the best people I know because I learn from his mistakes, and he's like my best friend."

Licher first showed interest in Blake over the summer last year. Head Coach of the Basket Bears, Rolf Scholz, said the team liked that Blake was a versatile player.

"We were much more interested in getting an all-rounder in the team that complemented us on both sides of the court and on all backcourt positions from one to three," Scholz said in a statement on the team's website.

Blake, who spent the last six months as an assistant with VSU basketball, said the university and the supportive community made his stay in Valdosta enjoyable.

"Valdosta was good to me," Blake said. "The community was always great, along with the athletic department. It was a great place to spend three years playing and having the opportunity to help the coaching staff for about five to six months was a blessing as well."

VSU Basketball Head Coach Mike Helfer said one reason Blake has so much success on the court is because of his calm demeanor, which causes him to rarely get rattled.

"As a coach, when you see that in a player, it allows you to not worry about him in pressure situations," Helfer said.

There will definitely be a learning curve for Blake as he begins his professional career. Not only will he have to adjust to a new team and playbook, he will have to adjust to a whole new country as well.

"It's definitely an adjustment," Blake said. "Germany just has a different culture that you have to adjust with."

However, Blake said syncing up with a new time zone will be his first priority.

"I'd say the time change was the hardest to adjust to because my day is half done by the time people wake up in the states," Blake said.



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

David Dean opened the door for Kerwin Bell after he left for Georgia Southern in 2015. He was fired after one year.

Dean on other side of Peach Basket

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After a 5-7 season with Georgia Southern, David Dean is headed back to the Gulf South Conference.

Dean, who left VSU after the 2015 season, is headed to conference rival West Georgia. Dean was an assistant coach and offensive coordinator at Georgia Southern during 2016. He had a less than impressive season with the Eagles, dropping four more games from 2015 where they went 9-4.

Before going to Georgia Southern, Dean was the head coach at VSU for eight seasons. He made history in his first season by winning the National Championship in 2007. Five

years later, he led the Blazers to another championship.

When the Blazers won their first championship in 2004, Dean was the offensive coordinator.

In addition to his three national titles at VSU, he holds the record for wins by a head coach with 79.

Dean has a lot of history with Valdosta, but Carrollton is the place he got his start in collegiate coaching.

He was an offensive assistant to Charlie Fisher from 1992-1999. Under Fisher he was able to develop a true offensive identity.

"He (Fisher) has had the most influence on me as far as game planning, the approach to games, what to look for, how to film study, those types of

things," said Dean to the Spectator after breaking the record for most wins at VSU.

With the hire, Dean became the 12th head coach in UWG history. He is one of the most decorated coaches in GSC.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to come back to Carrollton and to get back into the Gulf South Conference. I'm also looking forward to working again with many people that I've kept in touch with over the years," Dean said in a West Georgia press release.

Dean is only two years removed from VSU and he still has plenty of players that he recruited under new head coach Kerwin Bell. This is just the latest chapter in the VSU and UWG rivalry.

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