

FAMU PD can't staff Campus Safety Team

Kenan K. Mercius

Staff Writer

The focus of discussion for this week's senate meeting was the announcement that there will not be a Campus Safety Team this academic year, due to lack of staffing for official law enforcement.

The Campus Safety Team is a joint operation between the Student Government Association and the FAMU Police Department to deploy a patrol unit that transports students to and from campus locations at night to ensure safety measures.

"As of right now there truly is nothing we can do about it," explained Senate President Artise Lewis. "It's not SGA... FAMU PD just doesn't have the staffing to have a Campus Safety Team this academic year."

With students already concerned about Coleman library missing key safety measures, this decision will undoubtedly create insecurities in students navigating campus after dark.

Student Melissa Toussaint expressed her concerns on the matter stating, "hearing that SGA will not have a Campus Safety team is showing me how students are on their own when on campus."

"Whatever happens to us on campus just happens," Toussaint said. "This is just one area where FAMU is severely lacking in campus safety for students."

The student Senate spent most of



their meeting time explaining why this program couldn't happen during the 2021-2022 school year and their decisions regarding the remaining financial balance of about \$20,000 budget for the Campus Safety Team, which has not yet been used.

Lewis explained to the senate body "They [Campus Safety Team] have nearly \$20,000 in all of their accounts combined, that they're not using at all...so what I'm saying is we can transfer all that money to the L-Branch [Legislative] ac-

count and that can be used for any events or programs that either branch of student government wants."

For the 2021-2022 school year, the student senate funded a total of \$19,234

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Mail not sorted at student housing

Kiara Green
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy Kiara Cain

The United States Postal Services have stopped individually sorting mail for many of the student housing apartments.

Residents of The Social 2700 noticed the change earlier this year when the frequency in which they received mail changed. Some say they went from getting mail every other day to maybe once a week, if that.

No one really knew why the change had occurred until the leasing office sent out an email stating that all mail is to be

picked up from the office rather than the mailboxes.

This was frustrating for residents to deal with due to many of them being in school or working during the day. By the time many students receive free time to retrieve their mail, the office is closed with their mail and packages locked inside.

Yasmin Smith has lived at the Social 2700 for two years and said she never had a problem with receiving her mail up until now.

“Having mailboxes is what makes getting mail convenient for us. We shouldn’t have to jump through hoops to retrieve what is ours. Sometimes, my mail is never even found in the office at all,” said Smith.

The full-time student works long hours, usually getting off around 10:00 p.m. Due to Smith’s busy schedule, being able to pick up her mail is close to impossible.

Several residents have also experienced complete loss of mail. Since

everything is sorted through the leasing office, it becomes easier for things to be misplaced. Leasing office associates say they try their best to sort the mail efficiently and place them into the mailboxes themselves.

“We do our best to upkeep mail and place them in the mailboxes in a timely manner,” said Shonese Walker, a leasing office associate at the student complex.

USPS mail carrier, Alexander Andrews, said there are several reasons why the USPS stopped sorting the mail.

For starters, the amount of fraud and money scams during the pandemic increased significantly. Individuals would have other people’s mail — including pandemic checks, government assistance, and personal information — delivered to their homes. This occurred throughout student housing, as well.

In an attempt to decrease the amount of fraudulent activity, USPS stopped delivering mail to complexes whose contract did not require individual sorting by the company. Mail carriers prefer to have the mail sorted by the associates at the office since they have resources to identify who lives in which apartment and who the mail is going to.

“We trust the integrity of the associates and that they will return any mail that doesn’t belong to the individuals that live there,” said Andrews. “Right now, missing mail isn’t being accounted for and someone has to be held responsible.”

Walker, an office associate at The Social 2700, said USPS stopped sorting mail for the complex in February, leaving the workload for them to do in the office. She described it as a tedious process, which is extremely time-consuming.

“If residents are experiencing any mail loss, it is happening between transit from the post office to the leasing office, not by leasing office associates,” Walker said.

Setting up a post office (P.O.) box has

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City aims to make roads safer

Oriana Plummer

Staff Writer

The Tallahassee Police Department has established a six-month patrolling initiative to improve protection and compliance for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists. It went into effect Monday.

Tallahassee is among the top 15 cities in Florida for crashes resulting in serious or fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists, according to the Florida Department of Transportation. Starting Nov. 1 through May 2022, traffic officers will be educating drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists about road safety.

The patrolling efforts will be conducted through a high visibility enforcement detail to reduce fatalities in Tallahassee. TPD's goal is to enforce community traffic rules and promote safety awareness by educating everyone on using the roads.

Detective William C. Deming of TPD's traffic unit says he's expecting the community to give their full support based on the positive feedback he's received since

the initiation of the program.

"They're honestly excited to see it based on all the pedestrian fatalities. While working in trafficking, the majority of the complaints are that pedestrians and drivers aren't following laws," Deming said.

Deming also provided a few tips for those on the road:

Pedestrians

- * Use crosswalks

- * Always check for traffic in both directions before attempting to cross the street

Bicyclists

- * Follow the rules of the road

- * Use lights at night and wear reflective clothing if possible

- * Always wear a helmet

Drivers

- * Drive the speed limit, slow down when necessary

- * Be cognizant of bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks



Photo by Oriana Plummer

Evening Traffic flow on Gaines St. close to Macomb's patrolling area.

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Olympic pool being converted to parking

Khlayn Harris

Staff writer

You would think every school in the Sunshine State would have a pool, right? Even Florida A&M, right?

The answer to your question is yes, FAMU does have a pool. In fact, it has two pools.

But it has been almost a decade since the Olympic pool located near the FAMU Aquatic Center behind Gaither Gymnasium has been used. Due to the lack of funds to operate properly, the Student Government Association approved funds to keep things afloat.

But this wasn't enough.

There still isn't enough money to maintain the pool.

This place that was once a gathering spot for a summer cool down will turn

into a student parking lot. And while some may think this is a great idea, it is a depressing development for others.

Jorge Olaves, coordinator for aquatics, says he doesn't even like to look in the direction of the old pool anymore.

"I have been working here for over 32 years and although I love working here, it makes me sad because there is so much potential here," Olaves said.

After 2007, Olaves says no one showed any interest in renovating the pool, and things started dwindling down. As the years went on, fewer people used the pool, there weren't as many lifeguards and the thought of swimming on FAMU's campus drifted away.

The locker rooms are now used for

storing equipment for events and the empty Olympic pool is used for teaching students to learn how to swim on dry land. Turtles have found shelter in the pool, due to the lack of care.

Students at FAMU feel as though the landmark pool should be kept and revamped. The pool is more than just a tub full of water, it is a representation of past greatness.

Between the swim team that used to compete in the pool to social gatherings for students, it was truly a place that brought the FAMU community together.

Alex Jackson, a current lifeguard, says there has to be another way to compromise.

"With the other pool still running, we

still need rooms to change along with the public. If they tear down everything, not only will there be no space for guards but the equipment as well," Jackson said.

Jackson comes from a family of lifeguards that used to work at FAMU's pool and he feels as though the school should embrace what it has from when the school was originally built.

More money should be given towards aquatics to help bring back the livelihood of the pool instead continuing to push it to the back burner, he said.

Students still have access to the newer pool located directly behind Gaither Gym. It is open from 9-6 and swimming lessons are available.

New leader for Dream Defenders

Tashai Smalls

Staff writer

In 2012, after the killing of the teenager Trayvon Martin in Sanford, a group of Black and Latinx people marched from Daytona Beach to where Martin was killed. That march sparked a movement.

Known as the Dream Defenders, they identify as abolitionists, feminists, socialists and internationalists who work to serve people of color from disenfranchised communities. A year after George Zimmerman was acquitted, the Dream Defenders occupied the Florida State Capitol for a month, demanding a repeal of the Stand Your Ground law.

More recently, the Dream Defenders have participated in protests regarding the killing of George Floyd, and last year's so-called "anti-riot" bill (HB1) that was proposed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and approved by the Republican-controlled Legislature. They have also organized sessions that advocate for abortion rights and fought against deportation of Haitians.

Tallahassee resident Marietta Roberts shed a positive light on the organization.

"I have never seen a group of young people so driven and determined to make the world a better place for all people. I remember their efforts at the Capitol a few years ago and their fight was the one thing that gave me hope during such turbulent times," she said.

In Tallahassee, there is a local chapter referred to as the Tallahassee Dream Defenders led by squad leader Malik Gary, a political science major at Tallahassee Community College. Gary has been the squad leader of the Tallahassee Dream Defenders since July.

"I want to be like Rep. John Lewis and Dr. King," Gary said. "I have been blessed to have worked on the Joe Biden campaign, with Poor People of Florida and I will soon be a fellow of NLC. I have been tear-gassed while protesting for Mike Brown and I was one of the people that were run over by a truck in a peaceful



Photo courtesy of @Dreamdefenders on Twitter.

protest during the summer of 2020. So, I know at a young age that this is what I need to do for my community," he said.

Other chapters in Florida, referred to as "SquaDDs" by the Dream Defenders,

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Supply chain issues a reality at Publix

Malcolm Harvey

Staff writer

The global supply chain issues are a persistent crisis that started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and are becoming more alarming to consumers worldwide. The ongoing supply chain issues stem from several reasons, including: the pandemic, port congestion, a boom in demand for goods and an overwhelmingly shortage of workers at warehouses and trucking companies.

In Tallahassee, shoppers are noticing a low supply or even a complete wipeout on certain items they routinely purchase at grocery stores. Florida A&M student Charlie Smith II is all too familiar with this frustration.

"It's been very difficult to find certain items at stores, even at Dollar Tree,"

Smith said. "I've also noticed that there haven't been multiple cashiers working at a time and it seems like a lot of stores are in strain nowadays."

In addition to a low stock or complete absence of products on shelves, Publix is facing a shortage with its premium deli meat, Boar's Head.

"With it being close to the holidays, the manufacturers are only getting in one case at a time, where it would usually be four," said Jessie Grant, assistant grocery manager at Publix at Lake Ella Plaza. "We are starting to get cleaned out of toilet tissue and paper towels as well."

Supply chain issues aren't really impacting Leon County's K-12 schools in how they provide school lunches for stu-

dents, even though some school districts across the country have had challenges. However, the supply chain issues are affecting the Leon County School District is struggling to pick up technology devices. The orders for certain resources at Griffin Middle School such as projectors, took "a little longer than usual to receive," said Patrick Wright, Griffin Middle School's assistant principal.

Prior to Tuesday, President Biden's administration has struggled to find solutions to combat the supply chain issues. But it's possible they've finally laid out a plan. According to nytimes.com, the Port of Savannah could reallocate more than \$8 million to convert inland facilities into space that'll aid ships in off-loading cargo

quicker.

Now that truck drivers are needed more than ever to help transport goods, trucking companies have started to raise their rates. The shortage of truck drivers has an adverse effect on the way prices have gone up at some retailers. To alleviate this issue, Werner Enterprises, Inc. is beginning to try and hire 700 new truck drivers. Researchers and industry leaders have called for more women and people of color to be considered.

Fixing the driver shortage is vital to getting the supply chain issues under control, as well as addressing other factors. Bob Costello, the chief economist at the American Trucking Associations, said, "If

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Some Rattlers ready to wager as sports betting becomes legal

Kaela Moore
Staff Writer

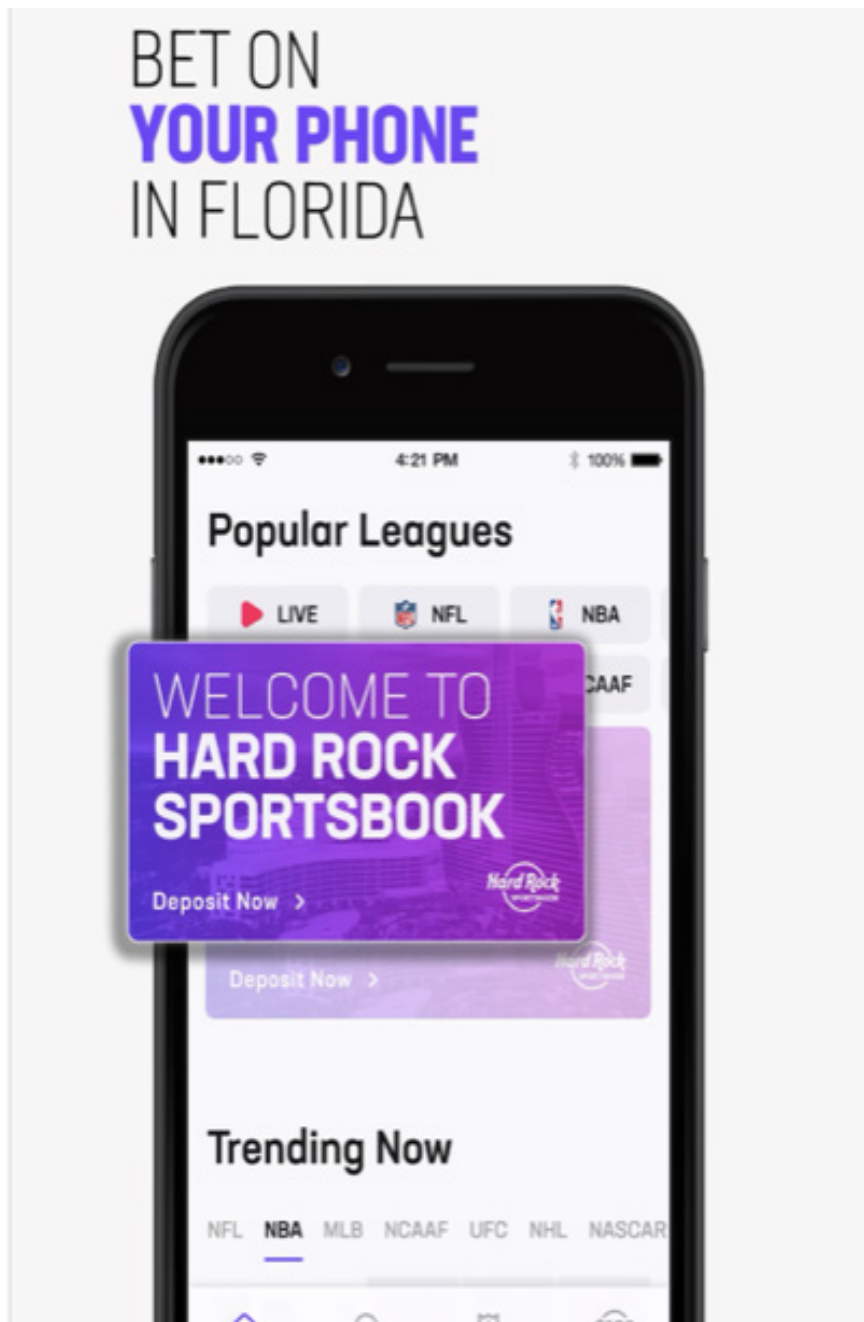


Photo courtesy Palm Beach Post

Florida residents can now bet on all sports legally from their phone or any device with

Game on, Florida. As of Monday, sports betting is now legal in the Sunshine State.

The Seminole Tribe has launched The Hard Rock Sportsbook app that is up and running, allowing Florida residents to legally place bets on any sporting events.

Bettors can wager on game lines, spreads, futures and player props. You can also bet on all sports you love, and receive your money with easy and reliable withdrawals while receiving promotions such as risk-free bets, payout boosts and bonuses.

Prior to launching the app there were three lawsuits challenging the state's gaming contract with the Seminole Tribe regarding controlled mobile betting. One lawsuit was filed in Washington, D.C. by West Flagler Associates. Deb Haaland, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, could still determine by Friday if online sports betting needs further investigation.

With the lawsuit still pending it could be a costly decision for the Seminole Tribe after going forth with launching the app.

However, Florida online sports betting still faces other legal challenges but will remain live for Florida residents. Many out of state students who are now legally Florida residents are excited about the launch of this app.

"I'm originally from Memphis, Tennessee so I was used to using apps such as FanDuel and Bovada, but since I've been a student and official resident of Florida since 2019 I'm excited to know I can continue my sports betting legally with no hassle here," said Tamren Smith, a senior electrical engineering technology major at Florida A&M University.

For many sports fans, betting on games adds more thrill to watching the event, especially when lots of money is on

the line.

"I've been betting on sports since I was in middle school and turned to betting on apps since 2020," Smith said. "I'm glad this app is legal in Florida now because me and all my friends bet on many football games."

"We usually do parlays which is when you bet on many games and get a cut from each win," Anthony Belle, a FAMU business school graduate, said. "The most I've put up is \$250 but I know people who've put up \$1,000 on games."

"In my group chat alone I've won 50 bets from basketball, football to baseball, and on apps I've won about 5 bets. So now I'm ready to win more," Smith said.

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Blue Tavern is reborn

Ryan Mohorne

Senior Writer

The Blue Tavern, a popular Midtown bar, shut down at the start of the pandemic but has reopened its doors for business.

The small community-oriented bar is under new management and has experienced a few changes since its re-opening earlier this year.

The new owner and operator, Carrie Hamby, said she bought The Blue Tavern from the previous owner after they shut down for six months due to the pandemic. Hamby said she wanted to keep the bar alive in the community.

"It's kind of turning into a neighborhood bar, and I like that," she said.

When Hamby re-opened the bar, she wanted to make a few changes to the building. The bar

received new lighting throughout the building, and that helped set the vibe of the building.

They also added lights over the stage, to give it a better presence in the room, and added benches along the wall for more walking space.

The Blue Tavern has a few menu items. It has four soups, and three sandwiches including vegan options for both. It has brought back the famous Valence St. vegan soup. It is named after the street the founder of The Blue Tavern lived on in New Orleans.

Hamby says she also updated the recipe to the tomato soup after adding some new items to the menu.

"When we just opened up, we only had gumbo and red beans with rice," Hamby said. "The



Photo courtesy Ryan Mohorne

tomato soup we used to have, I wasn't a big fan. So, I came up with my own recipe, and people

like it."

Kirill Litvak, an employee at The Blue Tavern, works behind

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Some not returning for next homecoming

Sandler Fleurima

Staff writer

Florida A&M University's "epic return" homecoming brought thousands to Tallahassee the week of Oct. 24-31.

Although it was a highly anticipated and well attended event as Rattlers near and far came together to celebrate and honor FAMU, some seniors and alumni do not plan on returning for next year's celebration.

John Jackson III, Ar'monie Mack and Sierra Beard each said there are many reasons why they do not plan on attending next year's homecoming at FAMU.

Jackson, a senior business administration major from Atlan-

ta, said although he has lasting memories from FAMU's homecoming, he's now focused on finishing his courses and moving on to his career.

"College is notorious for being the finest four years of your life, with memories that last a lifetime, but I am ready to begin the next chapter of my life and become someone I have worked incredibly hard to become," he said. "Although this celebration was one to remember forever, some seniors and alumni are not returning to homecoming next year."

Mack, a FAMU alumna, said

homecoming is an alumna/student association luxury. She believes it's certain accolades she desires to obtain and accomplish before experiencing that sense of "I'm home" feeling.

"We stress the importance of how FAMU is truly something to brag about but when people hear my name in the future I would want my university to be proud to have had me as an alumna," Mack said. "No accomplishment is too little."

Mack said that as a FAMU grad she wants to be able to represent all FAMU has instilled in her during undergrad so that

others can see why she goes hard for her university.

"Personally, now it's truly time to go out into the world and show others why I brag so hard on my university and all they've instilled in me," she said.

Beard is an alum as well as a graduate student at the University of Georgia. While she was satisfied by her homecoming experience, she doesn't feel too sure about returning next year for another celebration.

"My experience was satisfactory," Beard said. "Although I did

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Spuck swings on sax, tuba

Kyla Hubbard
Lifestyles Editor

He can be seen playing the tuba in The Marching 100, delivering smooth jazz on the saxophone with Tallahassee Nights Live, or speaking about the music industry in his classes. Victor Spuck is a fourth-year music industry major from Broward County who isn't afraid to show his love and skill for music.

Spuck's arrival at Florida A&M University was a tough decision for him. His freshman year he attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. It is one of the top music conservatories in the country and breeds professional musicians, Grammy award winners, and well-known industry executives. With an acceptance rate of 51%, there is no doubting Spuck's talents that allowed him to get into the college.

Spuck describes his time at Berklee as "full of connections and great musicians." He was given access to live concerts for

Hiatus Kaiyote, Snarky Puppy, Cory Henry and John Mayer. He got the opportunity to play with Tia Fuller, a Grammy Award winning saxophonist, who gave him advice and tips on navigating the industry and his instrument.

Although Spuck loved his curriculum and events at Berklee, the school culture didn't make him happy.

"The conservatory environment wasn't conducive to the person I wanted to be," said Spuck. "Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week spent only talking about music, wasn't letting me grow in anything except music."

Spuck made the life-changing decision to transfer to FAMU after taking a semester off at Berklee. The Marching 100 had a huge impact on his decision after being trained by a FAMU grad and former Marching 100 member in the Dillard High School marching band.

"Being at Berklee brought me to a point where I didn't want to touch my instrument at all," Spuck said. "I knew I would have a full college experience and still enjoy music and make fruitful connections at FAMU."

And he did just that. He wasn't afraid to get involved and make strong bonds at FAMU despite being a transfer student. He joined Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Jazz Band, and served as a section leader for The Marching 100.

Felicia Leonard, a FAMU student and friend, explains what it is like to work with Spuck musically.

"You can just tell that music is his passion. He picks everything up so fast and sounds great when he plays," Leonard said.

Spuck's high school band director, Sheldon McClean, also highlights his determination to be successful.

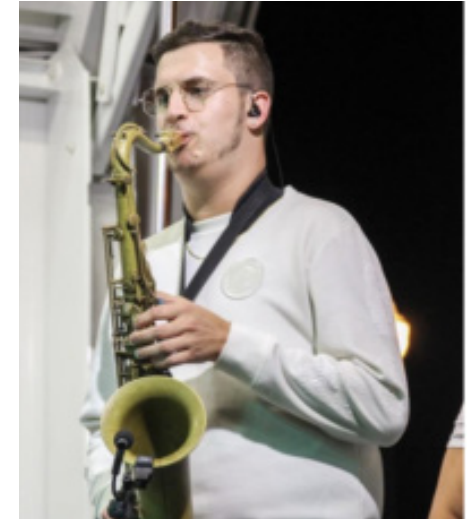


Photo courtesy: Everlasting Memories Photography
Victor Spuck playing at Frenchtown Rising

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Study abroad program targets Belize

Joshua Robinson
Staff writer

Some students at Florida A&M are preparing to study aquatics and learn about the country of Belize as part of the university's study abroad program. A meeting was held Wednesday for students interested in the opportunity, where topics such as travel, activities and requirements were explained in detail.

Since 2003, the Office of International Education and Development [OIED] at FAMU has welcomed thousands of international students and has sent thousands of students abroad.

This semester, however, the study abroad program was done virtually as a result of the pandemic.

With the development of vaccines and certain travel restrictions lifted, the uni-

versity is now comfortable with studying abroad, according to Jorge Olaves, coordinator and instructor with the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation at FAMU.

Olaves was in charge of Wednesday's event. He explained to those in attendance specific deadlines and class requirements to be part of the Belize trip, as well as how it is applicable to multiple majors.

Olaves made sure to mention that those who do make the trip must have had the COVID-19 vaccine and will have to be tested 2-3 days prior to returning to the United States. A passport will be required and a visa may also be required.

The program runs from July 7-29. The total cost for each student is \$2,607, with

the first deposit of \$500 due Jan. 21. Following that date, two additional deposits of \$929 and \$928 are due March 1 and April 15. The deadline for the application is Jan. 10 and those who will be selected to attend will be notified Jan. 24.

Students who plan to attend must take one of the three courses: principles and analysis of aquatics (PEN 2101), aquatics seminar (PEN 3104) or the first aid course (HSC 2400) over the summer. Only those who enroll and pass one of those classes are able to participate in the Aquatics in Belize program.

Although tuition for those courses is not covered in the cost, all other aspects such as travel (round trip and in country transportation), housing, international

health insurance and cultural activities are. These activities will include sea kayaking, beach and mangrove cleanup, cooking lessons and others. Students were also provided a link to a tentative itinerary to see how the weeks will be structured.

Kiera Macklin, a first-year psychology major and Yasmine Dierestil, a second-year journalism major, attended the interest meeting. They said they were excited about the possibility of participating in the program.

"I've always been interested in learning about other cultures," Macklin said. "So, when my friend sent me the flyer for this meeting, I thought this would be a perfect

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Managing money can be tough

Kaylah Burns

Staff writer

Students have been struggling to maintain proper spending habits. Apart from the academic expenses expected from them, some students have had trouble managing their money on their personal needs.

Aside from school-related expenses, such as tuition and books, the main thing that students have been spending most of their money on is food. Based on the 2018 College Explorer Market Research Study, students spend an average of \$4,097 per year on food delivery or eating out.

The same study also reported that this habit of constantly eating out causes a number of students to struggle with affording to eat in general. An article

from admissionsly.com written on this study said more than one in three college students find that “affording an adequate amount of food is a difficult task for them.”

Computer science major Ayanna Mason is a second-year student who lives on campus. Mason said that she had similar difficulties when it came to spending her money on food.

“Most of my money has gone to food this semester and eating out with my friends,” Mason said. “It’s just hard to resist that urge especially when you’re already craving something. I think if it wasn’t for food, I would be better at saving my money.”

Entertainment and social events are two other reasons why students have struggled with their spending habits.

Nightlife in Tallahassee is popular among students as well as on-campus events where both may require students to purchase tickets.

Fourth-year accounting major David Greene said that he had to sacrifice going out with friends in order to manage his money better.

“I used to go out all the time my freshman and sophomore year but I didn’t realize how much money I was wasting until I had to pay rent,” Greene said. “Once I got my own apartment I barely went to clubs.”

Greene went on to say how he still struggles with his spending habits.

“Aside from bills and rent and all that stuff, a lot of my money goes toward personal things like clothes or food,” Greene said. “I saved a lot of money from working over the summer because I know how much I like to spend once I’m on campus.”

The 2018 College Explorer Market Research Study showed that college students end up spending more money on personal needs than on their academics. The study showed that over a four-year period students spend “12% more than the average expenditure on academic needs.”

Signature Art Gallery hosts annual show

Joshua Robinson

Staff writer

Tallahassee’s Signature Art Gallery held its annual Fall Trunk Show on Thursday, a showcase for original art works from more than 30 different artists.

Located at 2782 Capital Cir NE, the event was held from 3-7 p.m. and will be open to the public through the weekend. The gallery has hosted this event for more than a decade, drawing in local residents and others from different parts of Florida.

Mary McNamara, the gallery’s owner, opened the Tallahassee location in 1996. After graduating from Florida State University in 1982 with a degree in marketing, McNamara originally entered the art business by providing art to law firms, restaurants and banks. After doing this for some time, she realized that she could make a career in the art and framing business, which led her to open Signature Art Gallery.

Alexandra Hartsfield, the gallery

manager, said there is an international dimension to the show.

“So, we represent a lot of artists based in Toronto, Canada and they have a representative that comes down to Tallahassee and brings a bulk amount of their work,” Hartsfield said. “We do this to really show off artwork that we wouldn’t normally get down here otherwise. The trunk show is ultimately to show off those artists’ work and to bring in fresh new work.”

“This year we actually have a much bigger selection, as we get work from other artists as well located in

Jacksonville and Atlanta, so with all three locations providing us tons of work we are able to give those in attendance something new to look at and enjoy,” Hartsfield added.

Celeste Rodriguez, a third-year pre-dental major at Florida A&M University, was able to attend this year’s event.

The trunk show was meaningful and powerful to her, she said.

“I enjoyed this event especially since I can’t go to these types of showings as often as I would like,” Rodriguez said. “It was refreshing to escape from academics and attend something else that I have an interest in other than my major. I had a great time to say the least.”

“This was my first time attending this particular event, and I’m happy I did. Their artwork truly speaks in many different and creative ways,” Rodriguez said.

Richard Winslow, a 79-year-old Florida native, is a regular at Signature Art Gallery. “I visit Tallahassee each November of the year for vacation, but every time I come I always visit this gallery,” he said. “I really enjoy what they have. I always recognize a lot of the artists’ names associated with old or new pieces I see here each year, so it’s always nice to watch

their progression.”

“I purchased a piece a couple years ago that was made by an artist, Eleanor Blair, who actually has a couple pieces in here today that I’ve seen,” Winslow said. “I really enjoy going to art galleries and viewings. I’ve had a large interest in art for over 50 years. This was the first gallery that I came across when I first searched for one, and it’s definitely worth visiting.”

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Mary McNamara, the gallery’s own-

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Review: ‘Halloween’

Gabrielle Johnson

Staff Writer

As one of the most popular series in Hollywood history, “Halloween” now has its 12th installment with “Halloween Kills.” The sequel to “Halloween,” “Halloween Kills,” finds Michael Myers escaping the fiery inferno Laurie Strode and her family forced him into as he continues his rampage across Haddonfield, setting the stage for next year’s finale.

After Myers becomes ensnared in Laurie Strode’s daughter Karen’s [Judy Greer] trap in “Halloween Kills,” he gets the cockroach treatment. In the street outside his childhood home, Haddonfield citizens beat him down with bullets, bats and blood. Michael appears dead — suddenly dead — as the score from John Carpenter’s 1978 original echoes over the carnage. The scene is reminiscent of watching Karen insert a knife into Michael’s spine.

But among shaken survivors who still

wrap themselves in blankets provided by the EMTs, he reanimates. Michael kills Karen inside his former home after taking out his enemies, including Tommy Doyle [Anthony Michael Hall].

The previous movies have explicitly confirmed the existence of Michael’s supernatural abilities. In 1988 and 1989, the films “Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers” and “Halloween 5: The Revenge of Michael Myers,” laid the foundation for Michael’s supernatural strength and stealth to be attributed to some otherworldly force. “Halloween 6: The Curse of Michael Myers” in 1995 tied Myers’ origin to a cult that worshipped demons while portraying him as a sympathetic figure who had been victimized on a childhood playground.

Nevertheless, supernatural events seemed to be off the table in this latest iteration. In the 2018 sequel, 40 years have

passed since the 1978 “Halloween,” and Michael has become a very human killer who is somehow obsessed with Laurie.

Michael’s fake-out death could’ve been handled nicely without any supernatural elements in “Halloween Kills.” Laurie kills Michael with an ax in 1998’s “Halloween: 20 Years Later,” but the 2002 “Halloween: Resurrection” clarifies this was a mistaken identity killing. In addition, Michael’s survival is explained at the beginning of “Halloween Kills” due to a fireproof metal door and a potentially ill-advised rescue.

“Halloween Kills” creates a frustrating data point by showing what should have been Michael’s definitive end and then allows him to rise immediately after. This sets up the possibility of reconciling his discordant legacy in the following chapters.

David Gordon Green appears inclined



Photo ourtesy: Instagram @Halloweenmovie

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Black-owned business pressures

Destiny Gaines

Staff writer

As a proud member of the Black community, it is important to spread the message of looking out for each other as we all want to accomplish our goals. Regardless of how big or small our dreams, discrimination is used to demean our community. Supporting Black-owned businesses is always a pleasure, but having to deal with their unfortunate circumstances can be a pain.

For those who have dealt with Black-owned businesses that have a lack of communication, unfair expectations, disrespect or terrible quality, you are not alone. Customers have been facing this issue that has rarely been addressed. Not acknowledging these problems promotes stereotypes and a slim chance of finding a solution.

Azaria Austin, a student at Florida A&M University, was in need of help from College Boutique, formally known as Rattler Apparel.

“I commissioned them to make a special edition Halloween mask and shirts for our junior class CAB Halloween events. We came up with the design and everything,” Austin said. “We sent them email after email and no response.”

College Boutique is a popular Black-owned business that sells trending HBCU merchandise, but mainly to students of Florida A&M University. Although it’s popular, it is still important to reach out to customers and answer their questions within a 48-hour period.

Kayla Stanton is a student at Florida A&M University and owner of Slayed by

Kay, a hair braiding service since 2017. Stanton was inspired to form her business by her mother and her upbringing. Stanton said that growing up at predominately white schools allowed her to take pride in herself and her identity and she wanted to display her talent to other Black women so they can say they were, “Slayed by Kay.”

Stanton said that there’s work behind the scenes that customers do not see that is required to keep the business afloat and moving smoothly.

“It can become difficult to consistently pay for hair products and other styling necessities when you have the hardship of being a college student paying for your endeavors,” Stanton said.

Stanton says that she has not faced any

issues with her customers, and that she needs us to continue doing our part and support Black-owned businesses — but with reassurance on certain things.

“I think it is important for Black-owned businesses to focus on ensuring the best customer service for their customers, as that has been a known critique of Black-owned businesses,” Stanton said. “It starts with the business owners themselves, by willing to accept critiques, or even asking customers to fill out a survey on their experiences.”

Morgan Tucker is owner of Sweet on the Geaux, a Black-owned business that provides sweet foods such as brownies, chocolate strawberries, candied grapes,

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Precautions during homecoming

Ryan Mohorne
Senior Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of FAMU's Facebook Page
Students Participating in FAMU's homecoming Pep Rally

Florida A&M University had their 2021 homecoming celebrations at the end of October, and now many of their students are experiencing flu-like symptoms preventing them from returning to campus.

Homecoming is a time for celebration between students, alumni and supporters. FAMU's homecoming tradition is big to all its supporters, but this year's homecoming has led many people to feeling ill after having a blast at events on and around campus last week.

Tanya Tatum, FAMU's Director of Student Health Services, spoke with the Tallahassee Democrat earlier in the week and informed them that FAMU had 102 positive flu cases on campus just this past Wednesday.

This is not a surprise. FAMU did require their students to wear a mask to indoor events. But students, alumni, and supporters gathered in masses on the campus grounds for outdoor events, and many times there were no masks in sight.

Lakya McQuitery, a senior Psycholo-

gy major at FAMU, said that she recalls seeing FAMU personnel turning students around if they did not have a mask during an indoor event.

"In terms of guidelines that FAMU put in place, the only thing I remember was mandatory masks for certain events," said McQuitery. "At the comedy show, people were turned around if they did not have a mask."

FAMU recommended that everyone in participation at their events wear a mask to prevent illnesses, especially in the height of the pandemic. FAMU is also a huge advocate for vaccinations for both the flu and COVID-19 to help prevent severe illnesses.

Tatum told the Tallahassee Democrat that students at FAMU have low vaccination rates for both COVID-19 and influenza. However, this is a crucial time to get tested for the flu and to consider getting the vaccine to help stay healthy.

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Volleyball strong at home

Kimiya Watkins

Staff writer



Pictured left to right: Kalen Blathers, Alexys Mann, Radka Dimitrova and Jess Long on Senior Night for FAMU.

Photo courtesy Kimiya Watkins

Volleyball fans had the opportunity Friday to watch as the Rattlers swept Bethune-Cookman off their feet on FAMU's senior night — and final home match of the season.

FAMU dominated each set and secured its 16th sweep of the regular season, winning 25-4, 25-14, 25-21 against B-CU.

Dominique Washington, a transfer graduate student, gave the Rattlers momentum at the beginning of the first

match and came ready to "kill." Washington had 19 kills, 10 digs, and three aces, adding another double-double to her season stat sheet. She is No. 5 in the NCAA for the most kills per match this season. Washington said she is of her team and how smooth her transition has been at FAMU.

"I am very confident in my team and winning the SWAC tournament," Washington said. "We have devoted every

minute on the court, in practice, and games, for this tournament. We will not go into this tournament thinking we are better than any other team because any team can beat anyone. But our confidence is there, and we have prepared so much for this tournament."

Irem Ucar, a redshirt junior, led the Rattlers with 4 aces and 37 assists. She agreed that the Rattlers are in a good place for the conference tournament.

"We won against Auburn in a pre-season game," Ucar said. "It was the first win against the P5 school since 2006; getting such an important win before the conference games made us more confident as a team. I have been awarded six times as setter of the week and four times for the all SWAC tournament honors award so far throughout the season. We had a great

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FAMU coach in Hall of Fame

Jarren Smith

Staff writer

Many athletes dream of being the best in their sport, but very few ever reach that hall of fame greatness at any level.

For FAMU baseball pitching coach Bryan Henry, that level of greatness was finally realized when he was inducted last month into the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2021.

Per www.tallahasseebaberuth.org, the TLBR “is a non-profit organization which administers and promotes advanced play baseball for 13–15-year-olds in Leon County. It is affiliated nationally with the Babe Ruth League Inc., and is the largest youth baseball organization in the area.”

For Henry, it was an honor to be inducted with his classmates Sean Gilliam,

Michael Hyde and Brett Richardson due to his personal relationships with some of the members.

“It’s cool because Michael Hyde and I are best friends — we grew up together, played at Florida State together, and now our sons are best friends,” Henry said. “Brett, who I coach with at FAMU now, and we’ve coached together before, is a great guy. I met Sean for the first time at the ceremony, but it was great being honored together.”

Henry was a star pitcher in high school and at FSU before getting drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The 2007 ACC Pitcher of the Year is well deserving of the Babe Ruth recognition, not only as a player but as a coach

as well.

According to FAMU Athletics, in his first year as pitching coach, Henry helped direct the Rattlers to their lowest team ERA (4.71) in program history. The 4.71 team ERA ranked third in the MEAC. It marked the first time in school history FAMU had finished the season with a team ERA below 5.00. The pitching staff also combined to finish with the eighth most single-season strikeouts (284) since 2000, in just 48 games.

In an interview with Tallahassee Democrat, FAMU pitcher Jeremiah McCollum said, “Coach Henry has been everything to my career. I came here as an outfielder. He’s helped me a lot with my game and maturity as a player. I can’t wait until this



Photo courtesy FAMU Athletics
FAMU pitching coach Bryan Henry

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Rattlers now sporting LeBron James’ logos

Shakiria Hopkins

Assistant Sports Editor

Back in March, NBA star LeBron James and Nike announced a six-year deal with Florida A&M athletics. Despite the fact that FAMU has been a Nike-sponsored institution for more than two decades, this partnership renewal is significant in that it is the first time that Nike has used a non-Jordan brand signature athlete’s motif on a college athletic uniform.

The LeBron James signature crown logo will be featured on all of the Rattlers’ athletic and marching band apparel as part of the agreement. FAMU is the first collegiate team to wear the James logo.

The new jerseys were unveiled on social media. The photographs from Sunday showcased forward DJ Jones, guard MJ Randolph, and guard Kamron Reaves of the men’s team, as well as Tia Bradshaw and Dylan Horton of the women’s team. They were featured wearing jersey sets with LeBron’s logo and his signature

shoes.

Mikyah Mack, a small forward, is excited about this upcoming season as they are set to start their season against Troy University at 7 p.m. Thursday.

“It’s exciting and a great experience to put the jersey on knowing that we are sponsored by LeBron,” Mack said.

The details on the jerseys are “fire emoji.” On the back of the jersey, there is an image of the court in the Lawson Center, the Eternal Flame and the rattler head logo with 1887 under it.

As the first NCAA team to wear LeBron James-branded clothing, the unveiling attracted international attention. Shannon Sharpe and Skip Bayless’ “Undisputed” program featured it as a topic. Sharpe, a Savannah State University graduate, said he was urging James to fund his university next.

“Black colleges are being more prominent and put into the front because of



Photo courtesy @famuatletics

LeBron James logo featured on basketball uniforms

guys like LeBron and Chris Paul, so this is huge,” Sharpe said during his show.

LeBron James’ retweet of the uniforms

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