

Statesboro hoping to utilize 'South with a Twist'

Marketing plan presented to Convention and Visitors Bureau

By **HOLLI DEAL BRAGG**
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Georgia is marketing one of its greatest assets – “The South with a Twist” – and Statesboro is a prime spot for tourists to enjoy its charms, a state tourism offi-

cial said Friday.

Kevin Langston, Georgia's deputy commissioner for tourism, spoke during the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau's 2012 Annual Meeting at the Quality Inn & Suites.

“The South with a Twist” advertising campaign promotes Georgia as a tourism destination for both non-residents and those seeking “staycation” experiences with modern flair and unexpected surprises, he said. “People expect the tradi-

tional Southern ‘Gone with the Wind’ experience, and they get that here in Georgia, but they are also delighted with the modern twists,” he said. “Things like the wineries and breweries, farm-to-table restaurants, wi-fi in the Marietta Square, and the

most con-
centric air-
port in the
world (in
Atlanta).”



Langston

The modern flow of things is an “unexpected surprise” for many visiting the state, he said. “The Statesboro

Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting is a great time to celebrate tourism in Bulloch County and the economic impact it has on our community,” said Heidi Jeffers, the executive director of the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Tourism contributes

See **TWIST**, Page 5

Two arrested in gambling sting

One sought after investigation of East Main Street business

By **HOLLI DEAL BRAGG**
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A two-month investigation by Statesboro police led to the arrest of two on gambling charges and the seizure of seven old-style commercial gambling machines.

Public Safety Director Wendell Turner said the police Crime Suppression Unit has been investigating East Main Street Office Supply, in the East Main

Street Connections shopping center, since March.



Skipper

Advanced Patrol Officer Kyle Briley opened the investigation, and after collecting evidence that the store was actually a front for the illegal gambling operation, partnered with the Ogeechee Judicial

Circuit District Attorney's Office and issued a search warrant.

As a result of their findings, officers arrested Mayla Bhatt, 40, of Decatur; and Eddie Lane, 43, of Brook Run Drive in Register. They were both charged with commercial gambling, keeping a gambling place and unlawful ownership of a gambling device.

See **GAMBLING**, Page 3

GSU students create new Bioenergy Garden

Host ribbon-cutting at Botanical Garden

By **JEFF HARRISON**
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Georgia Southern University staff and students gathered Friday at the college's Botanical Garden to unveil a new garden they say holds the promise of a more

sustainable future.

In an afternoon ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Botanical Garden grounds, school staff officially opened a new bioenergy garden that features an array of crops used in creating alternative energy sources.

The new display is a joint effort between the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden, and the university's College of Science and Mathematics, Department of Biology and Center for Sustainability.

See **GARDEN**, Page 3

A special day at Statesboro High



Teen points out map mistake

Garden to aid in sustainability effort at Georgia Southern

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"One of the major issues of our time has become finding alternatives to fossil fuels for transportation," said Lissa Legee, the director of the Center for Sustainability, who spoke at the ceremony. "This new garden demonstrates potential bioenergy sources and provides information about their utility."

"This new garden is just the beginning," she continued. "It will focus on educating Botanical Garden visitors and students engaged in maintaining and developing the garden."

The small, fenced-in patch of land near the back of the Botanical Garden property contains an assortment of crops, including sugar cane, corn, peanuts, algae, grasses, soy beans and trees.

It will be open and freely viewable to all Botanical Garden visitors during regular operating hours.

Presenting the garden to the crowd gathered at Friday's ceremony were the Georgia Southern professor and students who worked to make the idea a reality.

Dr. Subhrajit Saha, a biology professor and sustainability fellow with the Center for Sustainability, said he knew for quite some time that he wanted to cre-



SCOTT BRYANT/staff

Georgia Southern University senior Ryan Day of Douglas describes the various crops being grown in the new Bioenergy garden at the Georgia Southern University Botanical Garden Friday. Day created the garden for a class project to help raise awareness about plants developed and grown for sustainability.

IF YOU GO

- ▶ **WHAT:** New bioenergy garden
- ▶ **WHERE:** Georgia Southern Botanical Garden, 1505 Bland Ave.
- ▶ **HOURS:** The Botanical Garden gate and grounds are open 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. The Bland Cottage, Heritage Pavilion and Weather Vane Barn are open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday
- ▶ **COST:** Admission is free
- ▶ **INFORMATION:** <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/garden>, garden@georgiasouthern.edu, (912) 871-1149 (administrative office) or (912) 871-1114 (Bland Cottage)

ate a bioenergy garden as part of his work in the field.

After receiving a blessing from Dr. Bret Danilowicz, the dean of the College of Science and

Mathematics, and a commitment from his Biology of Plants students to take on the project, Saha and his students began work on the garden in early March.

"This bioenergy garden is a very timely initiative," Saha said. "The entire nation has taken on a policy of working towards renewable energy."

"The garden's significance is in its concept," he continued. "Many other universities have a bioenergy garden, and now we can be proud that we have our own."

Saha said the new resource will allow the opportunity for students to learn hands-on about bioenergy and the plants used to produce it.

Eventually, Saha hopes to expand the garden to produce enough stock for increased research opportunities at Georgia Southern University, he said.

The students who toiled in the field say they hope to create more awareness about natural, renewable forms of energy.

"The main thing is, we wanted to create something that would give awareness of the changes that need to be made with energy — using alternative fuels and not something fossil fuel-related," said Ryan Day, a senior biology student. "Hopefully, people can see this garden and understand that there needs to be a change."

"This is really an important issue to students and others who take the issue

seriously," said Spencer Braley, a junior biology major. "We worked very hard to get where we are now, and we hope the garden is enjoyed and appreciated."

Saha said the university plans to maintain the garden "year after year, and continuously use it for educational and research purposes."

Jeff Harrison may be reached at (912) 489-9454.

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Museum map error pointed out by 13-year-old

Continued from page 1

believe me," Benjamin told The Hartford Courant. "I'm only a kid."

The 13-year-old West Hartford resident filled out the form and never expected a response, but a museum official wrote him in September saying his comments were under review. Then came an email in

January from Helen Evans, the museum's curator for Byzantine art.

"You are, of course, correct about the boundaries of the Byzantine Empire under Justinian," Evans wrote, and she invited Benjamin to return to the museum.

Benjamin took up the offer and met Evans at the museum in February. He brought her notepads from his school, and Evans gave him a tour of the museum including a sneak preview of a new exhibit. She also asked Benjamin to draw what the

map should really look like. He's still working on that project.

Evans said this week that the museum is still deciding what to do about the error, including possibly displaying other maps reflecting the empire's history. She said the mistake probably stems from a map reprint a few years ago.

"It may be the makings of a young historian," Evans told the Courant about Benjamin's actions.

The teen likes history, but said he has other things in mind for a career.

"I want to move to Greenwich and open a modern exotic car shop," he said.

His mother, Joanne Lerman, told The Associated Press on Friday that her son is at a leadership camp this week with his Renbrook School classmates and had no idea that he's the subject of national news stories.

"He's going to be floored," she said, predicting her son's reaction to all the publicity. "He was just happy receiving the letter from the museum and the recognition from the museum. I'm proud."

Gambling arrests made

Continued from page 1

Police are still seeking a Christa Dyan Skipper, 24, who is "known to frequent the East Main Street/Gordon Street" area, Turner said. She is charged with com-

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