

The West Georgian

Est. 1934

Feature Story

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Featuring Moscow's Ballet

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West Georgia's Alzheimer's Association held their 12th annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on Nov. 3, 2019 at Hobbs Farm Property, attracting more than 260 locals and individuals from other nearby cities such as Douglasville and Villa Rica.

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This Halloween, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) kicked off its fall festival filled with quirky costumes and fun games at UWG.

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Matthew Harvey
NEWS EDITOR

George Falegon
GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR

Ariana Carter
COPY EDITOR

Justin Hodges
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Matthew Harvey
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Justin Hodges
SPORTS EDITOR

John Sewell, Ph. D.
ADVISOR

Brittany Shivers
FEATURE EDITOR

Jon Upshaw
WEBMASTER

Hannah Keown
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

The University of West Georgia
University Community Center, Room 111

Carrollton, GA, 30118-0070
Editorial Line: (678) 839-6527
Advertising Manager: (678) 839-6588
Editorial E-mail: uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com
Advertising E-mail: uwgads@gmail.com

Online at:
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Navy Bound

Emily Conklin

Contributing Writer

Ellie Hightower is an eighteen-year-old girl who has decided that the Navy is her best option after high school. Being so young, many people question if she truly understands what she is going to be getting herself into. She confidently assures everyone that this is what she wants and that this is what she was made for.

Hightower graduated from high school in the Spring of 2019 but knew well before then that she wanted to become a member of the Navy. She began preparing for this at a young age and it has most definitely paid off.

“Everything really became real when I was sworn into the Navy on June 3,” said Hightower. “I’ve signed my life away to the U.S. Navy and I couldn’t be happier about it.”

Hightower continuously expresses her pure excitement for this opportunity. She tells everyone that she knows and wants everyone to understand how much of an honor it truly is for her to be a part of something so much bigger than herself.

“I will be leaving for basic training at the end of November,” said Hightower. “I feel both nervous and excited to see where this journey takes me, but I know that this will only further me in my life, so I feel more excited than nervous.”

Hightower applied for a job position that is quite difficult to get when first entering into the Navy. She put endless hours into preparing for this specific position and is excited at how everything turned out for her.

Navy damage control people do the work necessary for damage control, ship stability, firefighting, fire prevention and chemical, biological and radiological warfare defense. They

also instruct personnel in the methods of damage control and warfare defense and repair damage control equipment and systems, which is extremely important for any ship.

“I was nervous that I would not get it even though I have trained so hard for it and that I would have to do something else that I did not prefer to do,” said Hightower. “I know that regardless of what position I got that it would still be something good as I would be helping people, but it would not have been my dream.”

She has been very competitive with her swimming since she was very young, which is why she is a great fit for this position. Not only is this position very physically demanding, the normal day to day activities of a Navy member requires her to do a lot of swimming. She has put her skills to good use and everyone around her is proud. Although many question if she is ready for this so early in her life, they are trying to be supportive of the fact that this is what she has chosen to do with her life.

“I know that there are a lot of people questioning my decision of committing to the Navy at such a young age because they believe that I do not know what I truly want to do with my life,” said Hightower. “Every time someone questions me, I try to explain that this is what I have wanted to do for such a long time. I want to help people and I want to serve the country that has already done so much for me.

“I also have the amazing opportunity of trying out for the Special Forces Rescue Swimmer program, which is the ultimate goal of this whole thing,” said Hightower. “I am so excited for this incredible opportunity that I have in front of me and I will miss everyone while I am away.”

NEWS

Ballet Tour coming to Carrollton

Cameron Lynch

Contributing Writer

The Gift of Christmas Ballet Tour Coming to Carrollton in November Moscow’s Ballet will be performing a Great Russian Nutcracker in Carrollton on Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m as part of their holiday tour. The 2019 Gift of Christmas Tour will be spreading holiday spirit to over 150 cities across the U.S. and Canada, and one of their stops will be right here on campus. The performance will include over 200 extraordinary hand-made costumes, breathtaking sets and performances that have been rehearsed all year.

The Russian Nutcracker is a Holiday Classic that tells the story of Masha and her Nutcracker Prince and their journey through the Snow Forest. Moscow Ballet’s version of the Nutcracker ballet, known as the “Great Russian Nutcracker,” includes other unique elements in the telling of the traditional holiday tale. The show promises to be acceptable for all ages, and to create family holiday memories that last a lifetime.

The production has received praises from The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and CNN News. Participating in the holiday fun won’t just benefit you and your family, as it also supports UWG and the City of Carrollton. The Gift of Christmas Ballet Tour will be performing at the Maurice K. Townsend Center for the Performing Arts. The Townsend center is located on campus off of University Drive across from the UWG bookstore, and is also home to many theatre performances put on by the university.

The Moscow Ballet has also invited children from the Carrollton Academy of Dance to join them on stage. This studio specializes in age appropriate costuming, musical selections and choreography, and has been doing so since 1977. The children have been given the opportunity to dance alongside the full professional Russian cast. This adds a personal and local touch to the worldwide holiday classic.

Carrollton is a beloved college town, but not commonly known for new fun things to do in between classes. Since the Townsend center is on campus, this performance could be a fun way to give your brain a break from studying for finals, or spend some quality time with your classmates before parting ways for the Holidays. Tickets are on sale now and military, senior citizens and group discount rates are available.

To purchase tickets, or learn more about the history of the production visit <https://www.nutcracker.com/buy-tickets>



Photo Credit: Cameron Lynch

Will you have it Mike's Way?

Katelynn Johnson

Contributing Writer

Freshly cut meat layered on a baked bun made Mike's way is what you will find at the new sub restaurant, Jersey Mike's, that just opened at 1670 U.S. Highway 27 in Carrollton. Jersey Mike's is a widely known sub restaurant and hosted its grand opening next to Johnny's Pizza and Taco Bell from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3.

"Jersey Mikes has the best tasting subs," said Mitch Johnson, a grand opening attendee. "All of their meat is freshly cut when you order."

Three franchise owners, Jarrett Nease, Phil Lukert and John Hull, chose to host Jersey Mike's grand opening while also fundraising to support Carroll County Marine Toys for Tots.

Over 7,500 coupons offering a regular sub sandwich for \$2 were passed around Carrollton to help fundraise. Jersey Mike's franchise has raised over \$41 million for charities since 2010.

"It makes each purchase easier knowing I am supporting a business who helps with charities," said Brian Stone, a Jersey Mike's customer. "Not only is the food good, but their business puts money earned back into charities."

Carrollton's Jersey Mike's location was booming with sub lovers on Oct. 30. The service was exceptional, and the franchise owners in attendance made sure everything ran smoothly.



Photo Credit: Katelynn Johnson

Having a sandwich made Mike's way is their famous slogan. Mike's way is fresh onions, tomatoes, lettuce with red vinegar, oil and oregano added to any sub or wrap. Their meats and cheese are freshly cut once ordered, and they even have made to order hot sub options available.

"You can't go to Jersey Mike's and not have your sandwich made Mike's way," said Johnson. "This is what makes your sandwich so good."

All of Jersey Mike's sub bread is made fresh daily in store. They also offer substitute bread items for those with an allergy or intolerance. Jersey Mike's has a wheat bread and UDI gluten free bread option and they also have three different types of wraps, or a salad option available.

"At a lot of sub places, you can have a hard time finding a gluten free bread that tastes great," said Stone. "Jersey Mike's gluten free bread tastes great."

There are over 2,000 Jersey Mike's locations in the nation, and the business has been voted America's best sub by a variety of outlets. The hours for the Carrollton location are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and they are open every day of the week.

"At Jersey Mike's we are all about quality and service," said franchise owner John Hull. "I hope everyone who has attended our Grand Opening will love the food and service, and want to spread the word about it."

ENTERTAINMENT

Harriet brings American heroism to the big screen

Kimberly Wooten

Contributing Writer

Cynthia Erivo's powerful performance as the heroic Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery to become a freedom fighter for the Underground Railroad, is the highlight of the first biopic about the American abolitionist.

Writer-director Kasi Lemmons takes on the enormous task of telling this legendary story in just over two hours. The result is a thorough and inspiring film with good performances from a sensational cast of black actors and actresses.

Taking place in 1849 Maryland where Araminta "Minty" Ross (Cynthia Erivo), is born into slavery on the Brodess Farm, she marries John Tubman (Zackary Momoh) a former slave but now a free man. Minty's father Ben Ross (Clarke Peters) is also free but her mother Harriet 'Rit' Ross (Vanessa Bell Calloway) and siblings remain the property of the Brodess family who refuses to set them free.

Jennifer Nettles plays matriarch Eliza Brodess, who views her slaves as commodities that increase the value of the family's farm. Her son Gideon (Joe Alwyn), a wicked man like his father, is alluded to in a weird, sadistic way. He has a crush on Minty and refuses to let her live with her husband John. Frustrated, Minty wants to be free and she gives up everything, electing to leave her husband and family behind and goes on the run.

Along the way, Minty receives help from a free man, the Reverend Green (Vondie Curtis-Hall). Minty is told to follow the river and the North Star at night and after outwitting Gideon and his men trying to capture her, Minty goes on the long arduous journey through the wilderness.

An important historical part of the movie is when a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and a historian, asks Minty what name she would like to take as a free woman, she symbolically chooses "Harriet" after her mother and "Tubman" after her husband.

Selfishly, Harriet could have stayed put in the city where she was residing, considering she had been given shelter by business owner Marie Buchanon (Janelle Monáe) who runs a boarding house and who was born free. Harriet feels like she's been called by God to return to Maryland to free her enslaved family from their plight.

Harriet was like a "Moses" of her time because she led dozens of slaves to freedom. Cynthia Erivo is the film's standout star, and at times the movie seems a little dreary, but we have to understand at that time, slavery was horrific and there is no other way to tell the story like it was. But with the story of Harriet we get to see why her story needed to be told.

Disney+ is set to change the world

Logan Landers

Contributing Writer

For a company known for making magical fantasies come to life, reality is soon to set in for Walt Disney. With the Disney+ streaming service set to premiere on Nov. 12, 2019, the world is clamoring to see what all this new service has to offer. With the release of over 300 items, via a thread on the official Twitter profile @disneyplus, fans all across social media were jumping with joy. They also released a 3-hour video on

Youtube that shows everything that will be available. Gone are the days of waiting in front of a television screen patiently waiting for a commercial break to end. Now within seconds, viewers will be able to open up Disney+ and watch old classic movies and shows as well as original programming. However, unlike other platforms such as Netflix and Hulu, Disney+ will only offer family-friendly content that is PG-13 and below.

While it won't have as much content as some competitors, Disney won't have to worry about people not buying their streaming service. Die-hard Disney fans are all over the globe and can't wait to see what all Disney+ has to offer. New remakes will also be made to movies like Home Alone, Night at the Museum and Cheaper by the Dozen.

With the current trend of streaming services beginning to take over cable television, Disney+ will have some stiff competition in the very near future. HBO Max and Apple TV Plus will be released to the public soon, and for most households, they will have to pick which service they think best suits their interests.

Showcasing over 7,000 television episodes and 500 movies at the time of launch, Disney+ is sure to have something for everybody to watch. Some examples of the content that will be available are every Star Wars film, 30 seasons of The Simpsons catalog and a good majority of the Marvel universe. Childhood favorites like Toy Story, Finding Nemo, The Incredibles and High School Musical franchises will also be available to view.

Along with many big-name movie companies, Disney+ will also offer National Geographic as apart of this deal. This is an excellent addition as it will bring something different to the table for families to watch. Being a channel known for real-life programming and documentaries, many older viewers should enjoy this change of pace since it is not oriented only towards children.

Costing only \$6.99 per month or \$69.99 a year, this affordable deal is sure to be a must-have purchase for Disney fanatics or for the people who are just starting to get involved in Disney culture for the first time. With the previously mentioned streaming apps having already established themselves as a juggernaut in this technological age, it will be interesting to see how Disney+ impacts the competition.

NEWS

UWG Alumni Soldier: From class to the Iraqi Desert

Taylor Barton

Contributing Writer

Sgt. Nathan Ploeg is a UWG Alumni who graduated in the Fall of 2018 with a Mass Communication degree and is currently on a nine month deployment to Iraq using his degree as a Combat Camera soldier.

Ploeg was just a regular college freshmen, going to classes, heading home, learning the day to day of college life, until one day he was stopped by an Army recruiter and asked, "Hey, you want to join the army?" Little did he know that that decision would be the start of a crazy journey.

Ploeg joined the United States Army Reserve in February of 2014, and attended basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. From there he went to Advanced Individual Training at Fort Meade, MD, where he learned the Army's specialized way of taking pictures and video. In 2016 Ploeg returned to UWG to finish his degree in Communications and graduated in the Fall of 2018.

In the summer of 2018 Ploeg was told to prepare for his impending deployment to the Iraqi dessert, where he would serve his country for nine months as a Combat Camera Soldier. "I was pretty excited," said Ploeg, "This is something that we have all been trained for but I was also pretty nervous because it was my first deployment. I have had friends that went before me, so I kind of knew what to expect but every deployment is different."

Though Ploeg does have a lot of his training in camera work from the Army, he agrees that his communications degree does make certain areas easier during his deployment. "Communications is so broad that it has helped me in many ways during my time here," Ploeg said. "A few examples would be technical writing, public speaking to sell myself to others to say 'this is why I need to be here' and as my Commander says, we are dominating the information environment."

Ploeg serves as a Combat Camera Soldier, which, for this deployment, means that he is going out on missions where he uses photo and video to document other nation's training, advising and assisting the Iraqi security forces.

"Our imagery helps not only to show the U.S. and coalition nations the work we are doing to show a self sustaining and independent Iraqi military, but show the Iraqi people that its military will be able to protect them from ISIS and any other terrorist organization," said Ploeg.

Ploeg is enjoying the rest of his deployment, however when asked what is the biggest take away from UWG into his deployment, he said that it is the ability to network and make connections, because it's important to know and understand what is going on in theater, or an area of operation, in order to be ahead of the story and be where the action is happening.

Opera Workshop at UWG excels

Allison Lee

Contributing Writer

Students in the music program at UWG gave a truly impressive performance during their Opera Workshop at the Kathy Cashen Recital Hall on Oct. 24. This collaboration of musicians was only possible through the help of several student directors, Director Dawn Neely, Graduate Assistant Demi Harling, Music Director John Elson Williams and Pianist Bernie Wong. There were a total of nine scenes performed by numerous singers aided by their devoted directors and pianist. These skits were from various operas by a few different artists. Before each performance, some of the directors would give a brief description of the events that would take place during the show.

The first scene portrayed actors rehearsing for a performance called “Rehearse” from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue by Leonard Bernstein. There were four soloists that performed with a chorus as they sang this upbeat, energetic song. Many of the actors were within certain groups, frantically running around and practicing for their performance to come and then grouped together by the end to sing as one. The second scene was called, “Letter Duet” from the third act of *The Marriage of Figaro*. This one featured Kelsey Williams as Susanna and Dileesa Archer as the Countess sweetly singing about writing a letter to Count Almaviva to invite him to secretly meet with his wife. They actors sang a complex piece and had to act comfortably towards each other because the count was actually cheating on his wife.

The third scene was called, “Sandman and Evening Prayer” from *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck. This piece showed Kennedy Clark and Kelsey Williams as the two children accompanied by Jacob Arnett as the Sandman. In this one, the Sandman softly sings Hansel and Gretel to sleep by casting a spell on them. Jacob came down from the audience to the children on stage which was a surprise to the audience as this haunting figure emerged from the back of the recital hall. Then the fourth scene was called, “Down to the Depths” from *Too Many Sopranos* by Edwin Penhorwood which is about too many soprano singing angels being in heaven at one time. This opera music is gospel influenced and featured a few solo parts to elaborate on the angels being divas because they are soprano singers. They all were becoming frantic about their mission to hell to weed out the best sopranos and the actors portrayed that perfectly.

The fifth scene was called, “I Trios” from act two of *Cendrillon* by Pauline Viardot which is a version of the Cinderella story. The opera song showed when the Prince sent invitations to his ball causing Cendrillon’s step sisters to act elaborate on stage. They were ranting about the riches and glory they would receive by marrying the prince and using many specific props during the scene to make it more colorful. The sixth scene was called “I am so proud” from *The Mikado* by William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. This opera piece was intended to be humorous and express what a Japanese general felt about his friends trying to tell him he is about to be decapitated. Men performing in the skit were hilarious and offered a less serious look at soldiers in an army.

Next, the seventh scene was called, “Act I Quintet” from *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. This part shows Papageno and Tamino being gifted a magical flute by three ladies telling them about the importance of its power. During this piece, the actors playing Papageno and Tamino got to express themselves more than the ladies because their characters had to work together for the quest that the ladies would send them on. The eighth scene was called, “Quickly, quickly come along” from *Albert Herring* by Benjamin Britten. This skit showed children and a choir director singing for a celebration that is about to take place in honor of a man named Albert becoming king. The children are more concerned with the food than the song and this scene allowed the only bad singing throughout all of the performances for comical purposes.

The ninth scene was called “Scene, Quartet and Chorus” from *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian Menotti. This opera piece was an adaptation of the Christmas story that focuses on the Three Kings looking for Jesus. They are told by a crippled boy and his mother about the star that they can follow. This was one of the best performances in the whole collaboration because almost the entire cast appeared in this last scene.

Since there were so many opera scenes, many of the students were a part of more than one skit. Many students had singing and speaking roles within each opera scene as well. Before each performance began, a director was standing to the side conducting the students and leading them through their scenes after the pianist gave the cue to begin to make sure they were on time and paying attention. Above all, the most spectacular part about these performances was that each scene showcased amazing teamwork between the students and directors.

LIVING WEST

Pie Slamming at UWG Baptist Collegiate Ministry Fall Festival

Allison Lee

Contributing Writer

This Halloween, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) kicked off its fall festival filled with quirky costumes and fun games at UWG. The BCM is usually more involved with mission trips and worship, but on Halloween they just invited all UWG students out to have a fantastic time at its Fall Festival.

The night began with members of the BCM greeting everyone and having them enter into a raffle and telling students about the costume contest going on. Each guest had to guess how much candy corn was in a glass jar and provide their names for the raffle. For the costume contest, everyone that was dressed up had to wait until the judges arrived to enter. The prizes for the contests were a \$10 giveaway and a pie to the face of a few leadership members at the BCM.

Some of the games that were there included Four Squares, Balloon Darts, a Nerf gun shooting range, cup stacking contests, Pin the Skeleton, Bowling and Pumpkin Pong. Plenty of people would rotate between games and got to connect with friends while dressed in fun Halloween costumes. There were a few board games such as Scrabble, Apples to Apples, Yahtzee and Chess as well. Each student had to help set up the games for the next group once they finished with them, which helped in keeping the BCM clean.

According to some of the leadership members, the BCM used to have dances for the Fall Festival, but they were not that successful. They decided to just add other activities to celebrate Halloween at the Fall Festival instead. The BCM was decorated for Halloween and included a white backdrop where students could get their pictures made by an artist or make their own pictures. They also played music throughout the event to spice it up a little and hopefully get some people dancing regardless.

At the end of the night, the judges got together to decide who would win the candy corn raffle and the costume contest. The judges then revealed the winner of the candy corn raffle, Rebecca Carson, who guessed that there were 1,123 candies in the jar. There were three categories for the costume contest which were Best Duo, Most Creative Costume and Best Overall. The winners for the costume contest were a couple dressed as Forrest Gump and Jenny for the Best Duo, Taylor the deer for the Most Creative Costume and a girl dressed as Mrs. Piggy for the Best Overall.

Members of the BCM and those in attendance were asked to take a picture at the end of the event to commemorate it. The BCM continues to have an open and friendly atmosphere to visitors of any kind that step through its doors. All of the money raised will be used towards ministry missions. The leadership members enlisted for the pie in the face were Randy Parker, Clinton Robinson, Nicholas Dedman, Calli Davis, Tara Wood and Sydney Hopson.



Photo Credit: Allison Lee