



## UWG OFFERS OPEN ACCESS TO PROTOTYPING WORKSPACE: THE GARAGE

TUCKER COLE  
Contributing Writer



Photo: Tucker Cole, *The West Georgian*

The Garage, located in Boyd 114, provides open access to high-tech prototyping equipment, offering a new avenue for aspiring minds to turn ideas into real-world products.

Included in The Garage's collection are 3D printers, a laser cutter, a vinyl cutter, a water jet cutter, a digital media studio, circuit building components, a metal lathe, band saws, a computer lab and other such items.

Deemed the university's "premier maker space," The Garage is available to all students at UWG, as well as anyone in the surrounding community interested in turning their ideas into physical products.

"We've had anybody from West Georgia students to high school students to faculty and staff," said The Garage's Maker Space Manager and UWG graduate student Witt Teem. "We've had people come all the way out from Atlanta. I enjoy having it open to the community."

The technologies and services provided in The Garage were funded by a grant and have been accessible since 2018, but they were located off campus up until this year.

"The equipment originally came from a grant way back in the day from our old location, when it was a project that was conjoined between the Carroll Tomorrow Business Chamber of Commerce and the university," said Teem.

The Garage's first home was the Burson Center, which was a business incubator where Teem began providing programming lessons, holding events, conducting classes and inviting people into the maker space. Teem said the Burson Center is no longer in existence after Carroll Tomorrow cut off funding

for the building, but the maker space lives on at UWG.

"They decided to, very generously, give us all the equipment, and we brought it on campus, and this is the first iteration," said Teem.

Tucked away on the first floor of the Boyd Building, the new space does not hold as much equipment as the original location did, but it also provides a more convenient location for UWG students to visit.

"Our old space used to be very large—about three to four times the size of this space— but it was off campus, which means it was kind of a drive for students to come and see us," Teem said. "So, the fact that we're on campus now, if students just want to pop in, it's a lot easier."

Most tools in The Garage are free to use, thanks to some funding from the UWG science department, with the main exception being projects that require a significant amount of 3D printer filament or other supplies.

"The model we have set currently — we're still fine tuning it — but the model we have currently is if we have enough filament and it's something small, we don't really worry about it, but if it's something that takes an excess amount, then we measure out how much filament you used and we give a rate for that," said Teem.

There is yet to be a specific policy for the kinds of projects that people can create in The Garage. Rather, Teem serves as a facilitator and instructor for those who show up with an idea, and most projects are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Teem highlighted a few examples of the kinds of projects that students

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have created in The Garage in recent memory, including large sculptures used for decorating the University's Winter West event, as well as an LED lighting matrix which has been assigned to a computer science student to be placed in the Humanities building elevator. He also mentioned film students creating props, sororities and fraternities making decorations for their events, as well as students making cosplay suits and video game controller casings.

"That's what I really enjoy about this job, quite frankly, is you have lots of different people from different walks of life, different professions and different perspectives coming in and saying, 'I want to make this,'" Teem said.

For those interested in utilizing The Garage, it is now open Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-7 p.m. every week.

## WOLF RADIO & WOLF SPORTS NETWORK ARE IN A NEW LOCATION!

GIANNA WILCOX  
Contributing Writer

At the beginning of August, WOLF Radio and WOLF Sports Network moved to a brand new location: The top floor of Miller Hall.

For over five years, the Anthropology Building was the location for the two stations. Now, the move is complete after years of discussions and planning. Although the move benefited both stations, the stations' managers did not really make the decision. The dated features of the Anthropology building were decided for them.

"It wasn't entirely a decision to move, but more that we had to move," said Michael Tucker, Operations Manager for WOLF Radio and WOLF Sports Network. "With the Anthropology building being as old as it was, the air conditioning and heating units were starting to fail.

"The cost to repair the units was too much for what the building necessitated," continued Tucker. "So, they decided, ultimately, that it was time to put the building offline, and we had to

find a new space to move."

The radio stations' move was a matter of safety rather than a choice. Discussions of moving the radio stations have been circulating since before 2019, when Kyle Marrero was the university's president. However, the final result was a different location than originally decided. The radio stations' would have still moved to the top floor of Miller Hall, but it would have been at the other end of the hall.

"We were able to find a space about the same size, but the space is utilized better. It provides more room for students to work," said Tucker. "Where we went from six editing computers, now I have six rooms with three computers each. We're tripling our workflow."

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# LIVING WEST

*(Continued)*

“Now I have two student offices with five computers each and Shawn and I have our own offices,” continued Tucker. “Everybody is getting a growth out of this.”

Although a better-utilized space is great, it is not the only advantage of the new location. Shawn Isaacs, Manager of WOLF Radio and WOLF Sports Network, and Tucker were able to upgrade a lot of both stations’ equipment.

“We did buy a new sound board for the student classroom. We’ve also bought two TriCaster systems, which allowed

us to put four cameras in each studio,” said Tucker. “Now we can start live-streaming our radio shows on Twitch and YouTube, our goal for this semester, and hopefully grow from there.”

Along with the new equipment, Tucker and Isaacs updated both radio stations’ systems. The updated systems allow the two stations to function like four radio stations.

“The classroom is a functioning radio station, it is just not broadcasting. Then we have our two streams, WOLF Radio and WOLF Sports Network,” said Tucker. “And in the programming

room, that board and wide orbit have been set up to be a mirror that could pull up WOLF Radio and WOLF Sports.

“So students could go in there, and voice track or production, programming, and music can put things in the system from that room,” continued Tucker. “It also means that, if one of the studios were to go down, then that studio could operate from the classroom for a temporary amount of time while we got it fixed.”

The new location has allowed the two stations to become more stable, which will only lead to more success.



Photo: Gianna Wilcox, *The West Georgian*

## UWG OPENS DOORS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS 62 AND OLDER

**CAROLYN MONCRIEFFE**  
*Contributing Writer*

It’s never too late to learn something new. Those over 62 years of age who want to study history, art or other courses offered at Georgia’s universities have access through a door that has remained open for almost 47 years.

The Georgia Free University Courses for Seniors Amendment was approved on Nov. 2, 1976. The bill, commonly known as Amendment 23, was on the ballot as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. Its approval authorized the Board of Regents to establish a program allowing state qualified citizens, 62 and older to matriculate Georgia’s 31 colleges and universities tuition-free. Since this benefit is not widely advertised, few senior citizens know of its existence.

The University of West Georgia provides enrollment access through the Senior Plus Program, which was recently re-branded as Post or Neo-Traditional Learners. Senior Plus Program offices, once located at 104 Parker Hall, are now vacant. Vital access, which once afforded students 62 and older with an established meeting place to interact with other students as well as face-to-face interaction with staff versed in the needs of the senior community, appears to be defunded.

Diligent searches for program information led to many pleasant interactions from UWG Faculty and Staff. Ava Elefante, the Assistant Registrar, directed initial inquiries to The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, which led to conversations with Ralitsa Akins, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, who, in turn directed further inquiry to L. Elaine Harper, Senior Institutional Research Analyst. Harper was able to provide some statistical information regarding the Post or Neo-Traditional students in attendance at UWG.

As of Fall 2018, there were 38 undergraduates enrolled in the 62 and over program. The number of undergraduates enrolled in the program remained constant through Fall 2019 and dropped to 36 undergraduates in Fall 2020. Fall 2021 saw a minimal student increase to 43, preliminary numbers for 2023 has undergraduate student enrollment at 36. This information provided insight into why the office space is now vacant. Still, the 62 and over student body looks for camaraderie and a common place for educational and social interaction.

This idea was echoed by post-traditional undergraduate student Arthur Ragland,

who will be 81 in November, has been enrolled in the program since Spring 2021. He credits Erika Mitchell, Associate Director of Admissions and Recruitment, with guiding him through the registration process.

“There was a flood in the high school I attended, and all transcripts were destroyed,” said Ragland. “Erika provided a way to validate my high school graduation, which allowed me to successfully complete the registration process.”

Arthur attends UWG as a part-time student and has not yet declared a major because he is “simply enjoying the learning process.”

He loves math and science and is currently enrolled in a Quantitative Math and Skills course. After completing English 1 and 2, Ragland’s professors expressed their appreciation for the insights the post-traditional learners bring to class.

Although there are many reasons the 62 and over Neo-Traditional Learners return to school to pursue higher education, Ragland was prompted by his daughter who thought he needed a stimulating post-retirement outlet.

UWG does not require Neo-Traditional Learners to pay an application fee, but they are charged some fees as well as the cost of any books and supplies.

The curious, the adventurous and the avid learner are welcome to enter the all-encompassing learning experience. More information can be found at: <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/calv/adult-learners.php>

**THE WEST GEORGIAN** EST. 1934

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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Photo: Micah Noel, *The West Georgian*

### 45TH ANNUAL GOLD RUSH FESTIVAL: THE HISTORY OF VILLA RICA

MICAH NOEL  
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 8 and 9, the City of Villa Rica will hold their 45th annual Gold Rush Festival in the heart of the city. The event sheds light on not only the current residing citizens but also its past residents and rich historical events that took place a little under two centuries ago.

Before Villa Rica, there was Hixtown. Founded in 1826, the population included farmers and miners from the north. Gold was discovered in the same year, predating the Georgia Gold Rush by three years and the California Gold Rush by 23 years. Mining soon became popular, leading to 19 active mines in the city. Villa Rica became a part of what was known as the Georgia Gold Belt, which spans from Rabun County, Georgia, to Alabama. Despite the amount of gold found, most of it was in a dust form, making it challenging to mine. Many residents moved to Dahlonega, Georgia, when gold was discovered in 1829.

Hixtown continued to thrive as it mined well through the 1830s.

Stockmar, now called Pine Mountain, Villa Rica's most recognizable gold mine, was one of the oldest mines in the state, staying active well into the 1900s. Although the Georgia Gold Rush ended in the 1840s, Hixtown still wanted to promote its unearthed gold. Hixtown was renamed Villa Rica in 1881. Villa Rica, which directly translates to 'Rich City,' does not use the direct translation of its town name but instead calls itself another name.

"We are called the City of Gold because they found gold around the city, so that's where the name originates from," said Events Manager Karina Rivas-Martinez.

As time passed, the city became known for other things. Textiles became a very prominent source of income in the town, with the Villa Rica Cotton Mill in 1906 and the Villa Rica Hosiery Mill in 1911. The city is also home to prominent figures like the "Father of Gospel," Thomas Dorsey, and the founder of the Coca-Cola company, Asa Candler.

Today, Villa Rica continues to benefit from the Gold Rush. Pine Mountain, which features Stockmar Gold Mine, has now become a museum. The 27-acre grounds feature hiking trails, train rides, and animal exhibits. Visitors can also take a step back in time and see the gold mining process throughout the park.

The city also remembers its roots through its gold rush celebrations. The annual Miss Gold Rush Pageant falls on the third week of August, where participants from newborn to 19 years of age can participate. This event is then followed by the Gold Rush Festival, which falls every year on the second weekend of September.

"We try to keep it within the community and through downtown, down Temple St.," said Martinez. "This event takes 6 to 8 months to plan, so we need all hands on deck from all departments. This is one of our biggest events."

The festival will kick off Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at The MILL amphitheater, with returning artist Leah Belle Faser as the opening act. Following her is the main act, Departure, a Journey tribute band. Sept. 9 festivities begin at 8 a.m. with the Gold Rush 5k followed by the parade at 10 a.m. The festival will conclude with various vendors and entertainment until 4 p.m.

### REMEMBERING BIZ MARKIE: 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP

NEVAEH BROWN  
Contributing Writer

All Up In the Biz premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival this Summer, nowhere near a coincidence, slated for the 50-year anniversary of the genre that molded me, hip hop.

This documentary tells the story of Biz Markie, a popular hip hop artist, who brought a certain fun to the genre I can't quite refute. From the way he sings the chorus of irrefutably his best song, 'Just A Friend,' as if he's been begging for 30 days and 30 nights hoping that his love interest would give him a real shot. To him, day by day with his foster family and musical cohorts that knew him, he was a guy that had his childhood dreams come true as an adult.

Director Sacha Jenkins took the initiative to not only talk about his grandiose presence in the game but highlighted the lovable man who was respected by everyone that came in contact with him.

The film shows Biz Markie's life through archival footage and also different media recreating memories by way of a puppetry sketch and animated drawings.

This movie is nostalgic for me seeing as I grew up listening to 80s and 90s hip-hop, being infatuated by both eras, gravitating to these words that Markie once said, "I got addicted to this thing called hip hop 'cause it was the cool thing to do."

Aug. 11, 1973, hip hop was born in the colorful borough of the Bronx at a party being deejayed by Clive Campbell, famously known as DJ Kool Herc, "the Father of Hip-Hop."

Next to DJ Kool Herc, the film spotlights other legends such as Grandmaster Flash, The Furious Five, RUN-DMC of Queens and Public Enemy of Long Island who all contributed to hip hop's rich history from New York City. However, these artists also played a part in making Biz Markie a phenomenon.

In particular, "the human beatbox," Doug E Fresh, was one of the first artists to jumpstart beatboxing. Inspired heavily by Doug E Fresh, Biz Markie created his own beats with his voice with his own unique twist.

Outside of musical nostalgia, I learned about clothing designer Dapper Dan, who

described Biz Markie as "just a regular guy." Dan created countless costumes for Biz in the 80's.

This film also brings great insight to the life of Biz Markie, including his struggle with Type 2 Diabetes that ultimately cost him his life.

The mix of animation, archival footage, the multiplicity of stories and the canvas painting ultimately revealed at the end of this film is a beautifully wrapped gift for Biz Markie and hip hop fans.

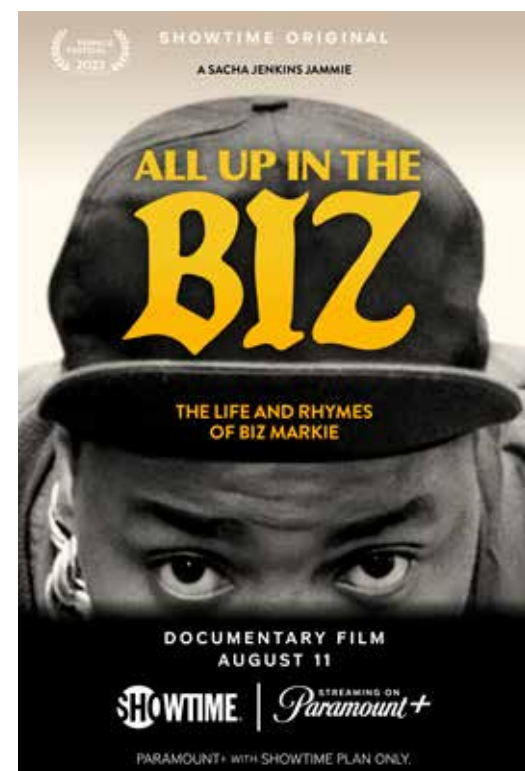


Photo courtesy of Paramount Plus



## THRILLS AND KILLS: "SHARKNADO'S" 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

JANNETTE EMMERICK  
Feature Editor

Cult classic "Sharknado" celebrated its 10 year anniversary with screenings in select theaters all over the country Aug. 15 and 16. The screening included a remastered anniversary edition advertised with never-before-seen thrills and kills.

Originally released in July 2013, the film depicts— as the title suggests— a tornado with sharks. The film was originally released on TV, written by Thunder Levin, directed by Anthony C. Ferrante, and produced by major companies Syfy Films and The Asylum. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the movie earned \$200,000 in the box office when given a single theatrical midnight showing upon its release.

In actuality, the shark-filled "tornado" is closer to a hurricane and the disaster itself was caused by a waterspout whipping up a frenzy of sharks. Needless to say, Sharknado captures a certain nuance that nods to the film's comedy and self-awareness.

Aside from the gimmick, "Sharknado" also provides character arcs following a middle aged bar owner named Fin, his young worker named Nova and a few other

characters including his wife and two children. Specifically, the movie manages to throw in some drama and personal connection with how Fin navigates and repairs his strained relationship with his daughter, son and separated wife.

Nova also, as the secondary main character, hates sharks and loves Fin. She's truly the pinnacle of girl boss sentiment with her shotgunning and shark killing mojo. While rewatching, I completely forgot that she ends up with Fin's son, to give her what she wanted in a way, after Fin rejected her so much for being too young for him. The son and Nova's dynamic in particular is very silly, but fits the whole tone of the film.

Swept up in a disaster flick, the cast manages to survive, and later destroy the Sharknado with an explosive bomb to save the city.

The movie never takes itself too seriously at any time, even if melodramatic, after 10 years. The dialogue and story are as cheesy and edgy as ever. Which is apparent in the many bloody kill scenes where the humans and sharks alike are violently decimated by each other or the elements.



Photo courtesy of Hollywood Reporter

Plot aside, does the film still hold up 10 years later? Absolutely. As a cult classic, this film checks every box in the genre of corny shark movies like "Sharktopus" and the like. The CGI itself was low quality in its initial release, and now, it's abysmal, but even this adds to the charm and nostalgia of the infamously memed movie.

From convenient plot devices to serendipitously surviving a shark-infested disaster, this film is all about absurdity. It's been 10 years, and is still a great recommendation to those who enjoy corny movies, especially those wanting to watch a silly movie with friends.

## UNDERGROUND BOOKS: STILL ALIVE AND COZY

LANCE GOINS  
Contributing Writer

Amidst the charming streets of Carrollton, Georgia, a vibrant tapestry of local businesses contributes to the city's distinctive character. Three years after the pandemic, Josh Niese, Co-owner of Underground Books, shares insights into the bookstore's history, distinctive offers and strong ties to the city.

The journey of Underground Books began with a shared passion for literature. Co-owners Josh Niese and Megan Bell turned their dream into a reality, driven by a desire to create a haven for book enthusiasts.

"I had been selling used, vintage, out of print books online as a hobby for several years," said Niese. "Turning my hobby into a small business was part of a dream to make a living doing work that I loved and could feel good about."

Both co-owners welcomed Carrollton's

warm embrace of arts and culture that made the location of Underground Books a natural fit.

"It's a great town to have an eccentric little bookstore," said Niese. "It's small enough to have a great sense of community, but big enough to allow you to meet lots of new and interesting people all the time."

Underground Books rarely hosts any special events, so in order to engage with its target audience, the bookstore holds an annual sale.

"We do have our big annual \$1 book sale coming up soon, which will be Sept. 15-17 at Printer's Ale Brewery," said Niese. "All the books are \$1 each or you can fill a box that we provide for \$10."

With the rise of online reading, Underground Books faces the threat that all local bookstores face with an

increasingly digital landscape.

"A much bigger threat to the local bookstore is people buying their physical books online from Amazon instead of from local bookstores," said Niese. "That is a problem that is very much ongoing, and a major challenge to us and our bookselling peers."

However, Niese remains resilient and hopeful that this wouldn't create a big hindrance to their business. The bookstore even uses social media as a medium to attract customers. Their success on social media allows the business owners to tell their story, which resonates with people.

"With over 60,000 followers on TikTok, we've had a number of videos go viral and get hundreds of thousands or over a million views," said Niese. "These TikTok videos have driven visitors from out of town to visit Underground Books in droves."

The goals of its owners, the vivacity of the neighborhood and the ongoing love of pageturners makes Underground Books a staple in the community.



Photo: Lance Goins, *The West Georgian*



# SPORTS



Photo: Alex Ducoulombier, *The West Georgian*

## EAST COWETA INDIANS STUN NEWNAN COUGARS IN 35-7 WIN

ALEX DUCOULOMBIER  
*Contributing Writer*

On Aug. 25, the East Coweta Indians and the Newnan Cougars marked their 32nd meeting between the two cross-town rivals, and East Coweta's fifth consecutive victory.

The game was held at Newnan High School's historic Drake Stadium on a blistering hot day, with temperatures above 90° at the time of kickoff.

With this game being one of the greatest rivalries in the state of Georgia, emotions were high from both sides, with passionate fans filling out every corner of the stadium leading to an attendance reported to be around 5,000.

After the game ball was hand delivered by the pilots of an AirLife Georgia helicopter, the game was ready to begin.

Newnan won the coin toss and elected to kick off to start the first quarter. The game started off slow, but Newnan showed promise early as their first play on defense resulted in a sack against East Coweta's quarterback, Cohen Peebles. However, this was short-lived after their first drive on offense led to a

quick 3 and out.

East Coweta got the ball rolling at the end of the first quarter as the starting quarterback completed a pass to receiver Seth Gritton for a 43 yard catch for the first touchdown of the game.

They kept the momentum going as they ran the score up to 28-0 before the half with touchdowns coming from Dionte Jones, Tyler Horsley and Walter Maestre.

East Coweta's senior receiver, Seth Gritton, was the player of the game with a whopping 138 yards from only four receptions, averaging 34.5 yards per reception.

Other standout players included East Coweta running back Dionte Jones with 88 rushing yards and a touchdown, quarterback Cohen Peebles with 146 passing yards from five completions leading to two touchdowns and no interceptions, and star safety Josh Anderson with six tackles on the night.

In an interview prior to the game, East Coweta head coach John Small mentioned that he tells his players that they are blessed to have the

opportunity to participate in this type of ball game. Additionally, coach Smart expressed that this is the craziest game that he has coached.

The penalty flags were accumulating rapidly by this point, as both teams ended the night with over 100 yards worth of penalties.

Newnan's misfortune continued as a pass from their quarterback was intercepted and ran back for a touchdown by Malachi Dugger. Although it was called back for an illegal blindside block, East Coweta still managed to score within three plays to make it 35-0 for the visiting team.

A 53 yard reception by Newnan receiver Gus Anderson, which was followed by back to back rushing plays gave Newnan their sole touchdown of the game. Running back Antevius Berry scored the touchdown for Newnan, which was his first touchdown of the season. Though it was too little too late, with 35-7 by this point and only the fourth quarter to go.

The game ended as a one-sided exhibition rather than the nail-biter that many had hoped for.

East Coweta advances on with a 2-0 record going into their home game next week against Hillgrove, while Newnan will have to look past their 0-2 record while they wait until Sept. 8 to play Hardaway at home.