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The wait is over: Pita Pit officially opens



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On Monday, March 13, Carrollton's long awaited Pita Pit finally opened its doors for business. The opening comes after nearly two years of waiting, planning and preparation by owners and UWG alumni John Crossley and Josh Pline.

The new restaurant, located on Adamson Square, opened its doors at 10 a.m. for regular business hours and ran a special deal which allowed customers to buy one pita and get a second for free. The two-for-one deal and the long awaited grand opening resulted in a

steady stream of customers flooding into the store for the majority of the day.

By 11 a.m. nearly every seat in the restaurant was filled and among the first customers to place their orders at Pita Pit were Carrollton residents Beth Marlow and Emily Cryer who both praised the quality of the food and the freshness of the ingredients.

At 11:30 a.m. the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce arrived and held a ribbon cutting ceremony outside of the store for a photo opportunity and to welcome the new business to the community. Many members from the chamber stayed to enjoy a pita before leaving and were joined by numerous other civil service employees from the Carrollton Police department and

other areas of service. Both Pline and Crossley were ecstatic to finally be open and spirits were high among employees and customers alike. The restaurant has received incredible reviews thus far and looks to continue making a good impression on Carrollton and the surrounding area. "It is a dream come true," said Pline. "Its been two years in the making so to finally be able to see it come to fruition is one of those things and it's super exciting to be able to serve the city of Carrollton. Carrollton's always been a big part of who we are so we just want to be able to give back." To learn more about Carrollton's Pita Pit follow them on social media and check out their store located at 106 Adamson Square.



Carroll County Animal Shelter Launches Paws 4 Bravery

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Carroll County Animal Shelter (CCAS) has teamed up with Paws 4 Bravery to launch a new program benefiting retired veterans and animals ready for their forever home. Paws 4 Bravery is a non-profit organization that will be working with the Carroll County Animal Shelter to find dogs and cats that have the character to become suitable therapy companions. These animals will then be paired with veterans dealing with post traumatic stress disorder, a heartbreaking illness which affects thousands. Paws 4 Bravery will be open to all veterans, regardless of which branch of the military or in which conflict served. All animals that are placed with a veteran will be fully vetted prior to the adoption. "Any veteran can fill out a meet your

match form and we will pair them up with a companion animal at no charge. It is our way of giving back to those that have served our country and also to save more animals lives in the process," said Sarah Lumpkin, Adoption and Volunteer Coordinator at CCAS. Currently, Paws 4 Bravery is working to pair veterans from Carroll, Haralson, Heard and west Douglas counties. The process has already begun to expand their outreach. Paws 4 Bravery is currently accepting applications from any veterans that are interested. Learn more about Paws 4 Bravery at paws4bravery.org or contact the Carroll County Animal Shelter at 77-214-3590 for more information.

UWG Saxophone Ensemble set for a historic performance

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The wait is nearly over for the University of West Georgia Saxophone Ensemble's historic performance of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. The first of its kind performance in the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts will take place Monday, April 3.

The performance will not only be significant in terms of difficulty but also as it will be the first all saxophone group to take on the challenge of an entire Beethoven symphony.

"We will be the first saxophone ensemble, to my knowledge, on the face of the Earth to ever perform a Beethoven symphony in its entirety," said Dr. John Bleuel, conductor of the UWG saxophone ensemble and renowned music professor. "Especially at a school that does not have a string program, to be able to give a live performance for our students, as well as the general public, of a master work like that is the opportunity of a lifetime."

The performance is not only going to be historical, it is also going to be very intimidating. Beethoven's

Sixth Symphony is a beautiful marathon divided into five movements and typically takes an average of 35 minutes to perform as a whole. These movements show an incredible range of emotions and tone, from the calm melodies of movement two, known as the "Scene by the Brook", to the violent madness of movement four, fittingly called "Thunder Storm". As a whole, the symphony shows the complexity of the mind of one of the greatest composers on the planet and also holds personal significance to many who have come into contact with it.

"The piece has tremendous personal significance to me," said Bleuel. "My wife and I had the good fortune to see the Berlin Philharmonic play the Beethoven Sixth in Carnegie Hall about three weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001 and they chose this piece as the final piece of an entire week of Beethoven concerts and I was puzzled at why they would end with the Sixth Symphony. I didn't really realize until I sat down in my seat that night and opened the program and looked at the movement titles and the last movement is 'Thankful feelings after the storm'. It was part of the healing process."

Despite being an incredibly difficult piece to perform, the UWG Saxophone Ensemble is always up to the task. The ensemble is comprised of over 30 members including

UWG students and graduates, local educators and students from local high schools and middle schools and continues to grow each year. The ensemble meets every Wednesday night from 6:45 p.m. until 9 p.m. to rehearse and get their pieces ready for each semester's performance. It is this drive and work ethic that has helped the ensemble to remain among the most elite groups of its kind for such a long time.

"A lot of us have worked together for a long time," said Bleuel. "It's a very talented group. It's a very special collection of really good people in addition to really good musicians. Of all the groups I've ever

conducted in my 31 years of conducting, this is my absolute favorite group. To able to do this piece that means so much to me personally with this group that means so much to me personally is quite an emotional crossroads."

Beethoven's Sixth Symphony is filled with emotion and imagery as you are walked through the calm countryside, enjoy merriment with friends, encounter a threatening storm and experience thankful feelings as the clouds finally break. The University of West Georgia Saxophone Ensemble would like to invite everyone to their historic performance on April 3 at 8:15 p.m.



Photo: Linda Li-Bleuel

New Club Looks to Build Careers in Criminology

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From the Department of Criminology faculty members to any type of law enforcement, the Criminology Association is planning to host professionals who have worked in the criminal justice field in hopes that it will benefit their members with their future careers. The new club will begin in the fall of 2017 and will hold their inaugural meeting after spring break.

In the past, a criminology association similar to the one being started in the coming weeks has not always succeeded. Many students leave or transition so the club has not been able to keep up. Because the student body at UWG is growing and expanding, the new Criminology Association is hoping to maintain a successful club for years to come.

"Since we have about 600-700 majors now, we thought it would be a good thing to offer students and hopefully get them to want to stay involved, help them get jobs, or even a Master's degree," said Dr. Anthony Vito, Assistant Professor of the Department of Criminology and Faculty Representative for the Criminology Association.

The main purpose of the Criminology Association is to give criminology students the opportunity to meet professionals in the criminal justice field and create a way for them to gain experience in criminology outside of a classroom setting.

"The idea is that hopefully it will open doors to when we have guest speakers come in, so students will learn about jobs and also help others in terms of applying for graduate school," said Vito. "Our goal is that it will help students when writing resumes to say, 'I was involved with this club and here is what it did and how it helped me achieve my degree.'"

While many plans are in store for the future, hosting guest lectures at the monthly meetings is one of the main events that will take place along with several other ideas for the Criminology Association.

"We plan to either have a faculty member present research or someone like probation parole, any sort of law enforcement, a judge, a lawyer, etc. to come in and talk about their experiences and what types of things the members should be getting involved in to help them with jobs," said Vito. "Also, we plan to show documentaries with movie nights or even starting an informal book club to read and discuss non-academic books."

Because the organization is planning to bring in professionals in the criminal justice field, members of the Criminology Association are taking advantage of the opportunity to advance their future careers.

"I was extremely fond of the idea that the organization could have a lawyer or an officer come talk to us about a personal experience they had or research conducted," said Amber Rivera, a member of the Criminology Association. "To me, this plays a huge role in helping define what route most criminology majors want to take such as the corrections, social workers, or law."

The association is created to be a student led organization. Students are expected to keep the organization running smoothly and incorporate their own ideas in ways such as deciding how meetings should be run along with offering suggestions and propositions as to how the club can move forward and improve.

"While I am the faculty representative of the association, we hope to keep the students as the ones who keep the organization running and I will just be there to answer questions and keep the transition going, so it stays around year-to-year," said Vito. "We are relying more on students to be heavily involved and I will be more on an oversight."

The Criminology Association has high expectations for student involvement within both the Department of Criminology and the College of Social Sciences. Furthermore, the association plans to advance through the many ideas created within the coming months.



Photo: Victoria Jones

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news

Blaire Hanks comes to Georgia

Ariel Dickson

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The South’s talk of the town, Blaire Hanks, is coming to Rome, GA on March 18 at 9 p.m. at the Brewhouse downtown. Hanks has made a name for himself over the years as a country music artist and songwriter. From touring across the states, and even being watched on television, Hanks has definitely become successful since his career first began.

“I actually moved to Nashville to be more or less a songwriter but the more I had people telling me I should try to perform and be an artist I gave it a shot and realized how passionate I was about it” said Hanks.

The Florida native, moved to his new city in Nashville in 2011 when he was only 19 years old. Even though his family is far away, they are always supportive and even join Hanks on the road sometimes.

The 2017 tour began on Jan. 13 in Nashville, TN and will continue until May 26 where he will end in Orange Beach, AL. Hanks performs many of his hit songs during the tour, but his favorite thing is seeing the new crowds and fans at each stop. “The fact our crowds are getting bigger and people are finally understanding us and seeing our vision” said Hanks. “Also, playing some new places we’ve

never been before!”

Since his success, Hanks has released two singles and two EPs. His most recent EP titled “Her” made it to #4 on iTunes music charts, as well as #44 on Billboard. He is currently in the process of recording his third album now called “Mixtape.” The most recent song, “Baby I’m down” hasn’t been released yet, but Hanks says that it is one of his favorites.

“It’s such a high-energy song and it really get me and the fans hyped up! Plus, I get to rap in it” said Hanks.

The inspiration behind each of these songs all come from Hank’s personal life and the situations he faces every day. “Whether it’s a personal situation I’m dealing with that causes me to just spill truth in my phone notes, or if I build a really cool track first that I think the fans will vibe with I usually try to just do what I feel and not worry about the rules or genre I’m technically in” said Hanks. “If it feels good that’s all that matters.”

Each lyric has a deep meaning to him, and he really tell his story to his fans when performing his music.

“I just never really thought I would be where I am today so it still blows my mind every day at the fact I’m doing what I’m doing!” said Hanks.

This current Southeast tour will be just one of the many more Hanks plans to go on during his career. His road to becoming a country music artist has been successful, and it has only just begun.

Art takes over the Square

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Carrollton’s Historic Adamson Square is soon to be transformed into an extravagant art festival. Carrollton Main Street in partnership with businesses in the area and the University of West Georgia are set to put on an art filled evening on March 30 from 5-8 p.m.

Carrollton Main Street is excited to offer a new and exciting kind of takeover. The Art Takeover will host 25 locations, featuring artists from the UWG School of Arts faculty and students, as well as local artists from the Carrollton Artist Guild. Several musicians will be playing in venues around the square as well. The Carroll Symphony Orchestra Musical Director and The Carroll Community Wind Ensemble will both be performing at the Carrollton Presbyterian Church. Restaurants and shops throughout the square will also be open for business.

Visitors will not only be able to purchase art, but they will have the opportunity to watch the artists work. The Art Takeover idea was born from downtown business owners Michael and Andrea Stone. The Stones wanted to draw greater attention to the art community and their growth in Carrollton. The main concept for this idea was to build a bridge between the UWG School of the Arts, the Artist Guild and merchants of downtown. The first Art Takeover event, which took place last March, was a huge success according to the Stones. The event brought more awareness to the art community and downtown local businesses.

“We hope to build on the success of last year’s Art Take-

over event, and we believe the excitement created by this shared commitment to the arts by the Main Street Merchants and the UWG School of the Arts will ensure a large turnout by the community,” said Michael Stone, CEO and founder of Milestone Investment Management. “We believe art sets the tone to draw people together, and a community is literally empty of culture or soul without art. Also, art can drive tourism.”

The Stones have such a strong passion for the arts that they created an endowment in partnership with UWG called the “Michael and Andrea Stone Visiting Artist Series”. This program features one nationally recognized artist from art, music, theater or creative writing and film each semester. “Supporting local art enhances the quality of the cultural life of this community, and our encouragement of local artist to create and explore new directions both individually and collectively can enrich our individual lives in ways impossible to measure,” said Andrea Stone, retired art educator. They believe that the arts are especially important for the children of Carroll County.

“Despite the current trend in our local public school system to reduce or eliminate art education in the classroom, students with an education in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, with lower dropout rates,” said Stone. Parents are encouraged to bring the entire family out for this event.

Visitors and those participating in this year’s event are encouraged to visit each host location to be eligible for a drawing at the end of the night for a gift basket. All information of the host locations will be available downtown on March 30. For any additional information, contact Carrollton Main Street (770) 832-6901.

USA Gymnastics president resigns amid abuse Scandal

Will Graves & Eddie Pells

Associated Press

Steve Penny resigned as president of USA Gymnastics on Thursday following intensified pressure on the organization for its handling of sex abuse cases.

The resignation came a week after the United States Olympic Committee’s board recommended to USA Gymnastics chairman Paul Parilla that Penny should step down. Penny offered his resignation during a previously scheduled board meeting on Thursday.

“My decision to step aside as CEO is solely to support the best interests of USA Gymnastics at this time,” Penny said in a statement.

USOC chairman Larry Probst said the move “will hopefully allow USA Gymnastics to shift its attention to the future with a secure environment for its athletes and continued success in competition.”

Penny joined USA Gymnastics in 1999 and was named the organization’s president in 2005, overseeing one of the greatest runs in Olympic history. Led by national team coordinator Martha Karolyi, the women’s program has become a dominant force, producing each of the last four Olympic all-around champions and team golds in 2012 and 2016. The success turned gymnasts like Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas, Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson into stars and made USA Gymnastics a magnet for big-time corporate sponsors who wanted to be aligned with its healthy, winning image.

That image took a serious hit in recent months following an investigation by the Indianapolis Star that portrayed USA Gymnastics as slow to act when it came to addressing allegations of sexual abuse by a team doctor and coaches at member gyms across the country.

“The Board believes this change in leadership will help USA Gymnastics face its current

challenges and implement solutions to move the organization forward in promoting a safe environment for its athletes at all levels,” Parilla said in a statement.

Last fall, Jamie Dantzscher, a member of the 2000 Olympic team, filed a civil lawsuit in California against USA Gymnastics and former team doctor Larry Nassar.

The lawsuit claims Nassar - who worked for the organization on a volunteer basis for nearly 30 years before being dismissed in the summer of 2015 - sexually groped and fondled the gymnasts as teenagers. Subsequent lawsuits have followed, including some that name Penny, Karolyi and her husband Bela as co-defendants because they “had knowledge of inappropriate conduct and molestations committed by (Nassar) before and during his employment, yet chose to allow him to remain unsupervised where he sexually abused plaintiff.”

John Manly, the attorney representing Dantzscher and scores of others who have filed suits against Penny, USA Gymnastics and others said his clients “welcome” Penny’s resignation but see his decision as simply “the end of the beginning.”

Martha Karolyi retired last August and sold the training gyms at the Karolyi Ranch north of Houston to USA Gymnastics.

Nassar was fired by USA Gymnastics after Penny heard of an athlete’s concerns about Nassar’s conduct and went to federal authorities. The Indianapolis-based organization initially claimed it notified the authorities immediately but amended its timeline last month, indicating it conducted its own investigation during a five-week span before reporting Nassar to the FBI. Nassar is in prison in Michigan, where he worked for decades at Michigan State University before being fired last fall. He faces charges in both the state and federal system.

In federal court in western Michigan, Nassar is being sued by 69 women and girls, including 20 who joined the case this week. They participated in gymnastics, basketball, cross country, track,

ballet and tennis. USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University are defendants in some of the claims.

USA Gymnastics hired a former federal prosecutor last fall to conduct an extensive review of the organization’s policies in regards to potential sexual misconduct. The report by Deborah J. Daniels is expected sometime in the spring or early summer.

The gregarious Penny - whose booming voice and penchant for wearing eye-catching shoes during big events made him stand out in a sea of gymnasts - has denied any wrongdoing and the USA Gymnastics board of directors had remained supportive throughout the firestorm.

That didn’t stop the USOC from sending recommendations to USA Gymnastics last week. While the USOC does not have official authority to remove heads of national governing bodies, it can apply pressure by threatening to withhold funding. The USOC gives USA Gymnastics a cash grant of nearly \$2 million annually.

Pressure also has been building within the gymnastics community. International Gymnastics Camp, a summer camp located in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, announced last week it was pulling its sponsorship of the organization. “USA Gymnastics must become the leading governing body in child safety considerations including National Team programs and club programs alike,” camp director Brent Klaus wrote in an open letter on the camp’s web site.

Penny’s departure is not enough for some of the women who have filed suit against Nassar and the organization. Manly, who is representing more than 70 women currently suing Nassar and USA Gymnastics, issued a letter to Probst this weekend asking the USOC to de-certify USA Gymnastics.

The letter pointed to the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, a federal law that guarantees athletes the right to compete without discrimination. The letter pointed to misconduct by coaches as proof that USA Gymnastics “materially inhibits these women’s ability to participate in their sport.”

news

David Daniels: How To Be Successful

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The renowned Carrollton Chick-Fil-A, with a high speed drive thru and friendly staff, is set to open another location on Bankhead Highway in what used to be Ryan’s Steakhouse. There are very high expectations, set by the original Carrollton Chick-Fil-A, in the minds of Carrollton community members for the second location opening soon. David Daniels is the owner of both Chick-Fil-A locations and the mastermind behind the successful business.

Daniels’ started in the Chick-Fil-A business in Stone Mountain, GA when he was in high school as part of the general staff. He says that when he worked this job it was just to pay different expenses and that he never anticipated Chick-Fil-A turning

into his career. Daniels attended Lee University and pursued a degree in pastoral studies and ministerial leadership. After, he worked his way up to general manager at a Chick-Fil-A franchise. He then continued his career with Chick-Fil-A by becoming the owner of his own franchise.

“Chick-Fil-A brought my family to Carrollton,” said Daniels. “We had the opportunity to take the local franchise in 1997.”

Daniels recently spoke at the ongoing series, “BB&T Lectures in Free Enterprise”, hosted by the Richards College of Business. Daniels gave great detail on his route to being successful. He mentioned being a servant leader, always thinking ahead and having discipline and morals to guide you is the recipe for success. He also spoke about how a mentor throughout your professional journey would be beneficial in reaching your goals. Throughout Daniels’ career with Chick-Fil-A, he

relinquishes a great deal of credit to his mentor and former boss, Brad Williams, for his success.

Williams currently owns two locations in North Gwinnett and oversees both locations in the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

“Brad hired me when I was young and developed me into a leader in his store,” said Daniels. “Eventually I became his general manager and ran his store for him. During the process he invested in me heavily as a leader. He started out as a boss, but then became a mentor and a friend. To this day I still meet with him regularly to gain insights and wisdom from him.”

Daniels’ mentioned that being able to grow as a leader with Williams while watching him grow as well has been a very unique experience. He also mentioned that Williams is someone he greatly admires and aspires to be like in each

stage of his developmental journey. Daniels has also turned to Williams for advice while opening his second location.

Daniels now strives to be the same type of mentor to his staff. He mentioned that one of the most challenging things he has faced while owning Chick-Fil-A is finding great team members. When he does find great team members who have a similar value system as the company, he loves watching them succeed and develop into leaders just as he did. The values that Chick-Fil-A operates on were one of the most intriguing elements about the company to Daniels.

“We operate on a basis of servant leadership, which sets us apart,” said Daniels. “We treat people differently, we develop people to their potential. Obviously our product and service are superior to anyone else. I feel there is no comparison to any other brand out there.”

Egyptian statue recently unearthed is not Ramses II

Hamza Hendawi

Associated Press

A massive statue recently unearthed in Cairo and thought to depict one of the country’s most famous pharaohs may be of another ancient Egyptian ruler, the country’s antiquities minister said Thursday.

Khaled el-Anani said the colossus discovered last week in a Cairo suburb by an Egyptian-German team almost certainly depicts Psamtek I, a little known pharaoh from the 26th dynasty who ruled Egypt between 664 and 610 B.C.

“We are not going to be categorical, but there is a strong possibility that it’s of Psamtek I,” el-Anani told reporters in the front yard of the famed Egyptian museum in the heart of Cairo.

Sitting just meters (yards) away were parts of the statue, including the torso and a partial head, which were ferried across the city before dawn on Thursday. The statue was thought to be of Ramses II, who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

“There is a possibility, albeit small, that Psamtek I reused an older statue that may be of Ramses II,” el-Anani said.

Psamtek I, credited for bringing stability to Egypt after years of turmoil, ruled some 600 years after Ramses II and sat on Egypt’s throne for about 50 years. Ramses II, also known as Ramses the Great, ruled for around 60 years.

The discovery of the quartzite statue has offered a piece of welcome news at a time when most of Egypt’s 92

million people are struggling to make ends meet amid an economic crisis. The tourism industry has yet to recover from the years of unrest following the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian officials appeared keen to bring international attention to the find.

The press conference called to clarify the statue’s identity was held at the Egyptian museum, which houses the world’s largest collection of pharaonic artifacts, and was attended by senior government officials and diplomats.

El-Anani allowed the anticipation to build, delivering his remarks after four archaeologists and restoration experts spoke.


He said the size of the statue - with an estimated height of some 9 meters (26 feet) and a weight of seven tons - was typical of Ramses II’s era, but that hieroglyphs discovered at the statue’s back-pillar after it was unearthed showed that it was of Psamtek I.

“We will not be 100 percent certain that it is of Psamtek I, but give us days, weeks or months and we will be certain,” he said.

For now, said the Egyptian museum’s chief of restoration, Moamen Othman, the challenge is to prepare the statue to survive in an environment different from the one in which it was submerged: Water and mud.

“It’s important that we study the process of environmental adjustment for the statue. It will take three months to do.”

The statue will eventually be displayed at the yet-to-open Grand Egyptian Museum near the Giza Pyramids.



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news

‘Beauty’s’ Beast Dan Stevens breaks out behind the effects

Lindsey Bahr

Associated Press

When Dan Stevens met his “Beauty and the Beast” co-star Emma Watson in pre-production, she wanted to get to work analyzing the story and the themes. He just wanted to talk about her U.N. speech about gender inequality.

“It was so impressive and so mighty in its message. I was so blown away by it,” Stevens said recently.

He quickly realized that her ideas actually did apply to the film too. Between the spoiled Beast, the sleazy Gaston, the gracious Maurice and others, Stevens began to think about just how many different types of masculinity are on display in the film, which opens in theaters Friday.

“Looking at these little elements of the patriarchy that she can smash through on her quest through the movie and the challenges presented to her as a girl, they tally so beautifully with Emma’s project,” Stevens said. “I love storytelling and fairy tale and myth and getting to grips with those fundamental elements is something that I really get a kick out of.”

At 34, Stevens is perhaps still best known for his role as Matthew Crawley on the PBS period series “Downton Abbey,” which he somewhat infamously left five years ago to pursue other things stateside. In the interim, the English actor has found roles in edgy indies, like the home invasion thriller “The Guest,” and even in campier family fare like “Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb” as the overconfident Lancelot.

Now Stevens is on the verge of becoming a household name with a leading role on FX’s edgy comic book series “Legion” and, of course, “Beauty and the Beast” - by far his highest profile role since “Downtown.” Ironically it’s also one where his face is largely hidden for most of the film.

“It’s still my face driving it,” Stevens said, insisting that his friends and family have said they

can definitely tell its him behind the facial capture technology that turns the blonde-hair blue-eyed human male into a horned and hairy beast.

Besides, it allowed him to focus on the performance in the eyes - something he studied in Jean Marais’ performance in Jean Cocteau’s 1946 version of “Beauty and the Beast” to prepare.

“It was very important to me to preserve the beast’s soul through the eyes,” Stevens said. “It’s kind of the last human quality that he has shining through.”

As a father to three children with wife and singer Susie Harriet - Willow (7), Aubrey (4), and Eden (10 months) - Stevens has an added interest in balancing hard R-rated genre work with more family-friendly fare.

“I almost certainly would have said yes to this whether I had kids or not, but it is a big factor and informs some of my choices for sure these days,” the actor said.

He would often bring his kids to the “Beauty and the Beast” set to see him in action.

“I love it when crew members or other cast members bring their kids on,” he said. “It helps you remember why you’re making it and who you’re making it for.”

It also made for some amusing observations from his children. Stevens’ costume consisted of stilts and a cumbersome grey muscle suit that the visual effects people would eventually use to morph him into the Beast in post-production.

“My daughter said I looked like a hippo,” he said. “It helped with that Beast feeling of feeling monstrous and like he didn’t fit in.”

With four other projects in various stages of post-production, from a role in a historical drama about Thurgood Marshall to the rom-com “Permission” and “Legion’s” renewal for a second season, Stevens is doing what he’s always wanted.

“I’m having a great time just exploring a number of different areas that I never dreamed I’d get to explore,” Stevens said. “And, hopefully, slipping into some quite unrecognizable roles.”

The Beast isn’t a bad start.

The New Crave in Publishing

Kenya Forster

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Every writer’s dream of signing a publishing contract is becoming harder to make reality. Unless you are already a best selling author or celebrity, publishing companies have become harder to please. Self-Publishing has become the saving grace for writers who do not have the means to be represented by professional companies.

“Self-publishing has become very easy and affordable,” said Lisa Adams, Book Publishing professor for Continuing Education. “The amount of editors that are looking for books in the traditional world has shrunk. It was always really hard to get a book published and now it is exponentially hard.”

Companies like Amazon, Lulu, Infinity Publishing and more, make self-publishing possible. All the author has to do is write a story, decide whether they want it to be Print On Demand (POD), an E-book or both. Once they decided they upload their manuscript, choose their cover, font, price and voilà. Their story is available for sale online.

POD and E-books are a lot less costly than books that are published traditionally. POD books help cut down on the presale costs when an author has to pay a lot of money upfront for a business to print copies of their books. If they print more books than are sold, the author loses money. With POD, the publishing site does not print a book until an order comes in then, the price for print is deducted from the money the author receives from the book sale. E-books have no printing cost, thus the author is able to receive more royalties from their sales.

A self-published author has the joy of dodging the long wait time and process that is inevitable when publishing traditionally. The process of getting a book published traditionally can be stressful with all of the people the book goes through and the process of making the

book meet the standards of the company. Self-publishing gives the author control over their creation. “Compared to the traditional process, as an author you have control over your project,” said Adams. “You decided the title, cover etcetera. In traditional publishing, the publisher decides everything and has the right to change anything they want to.”

Like many things in life, self-publishing has its setbacks. Books that aren’t published professionally have a reputation of being low quality. “There’s still a stigma, although it’s decreasing where people assume that self-published books are low quality and many of them are,” said Adams. “It’s because you can publish anything you want. Nobody says you have to get them proofread or looked at by other people.”

There are ways to fix that. If the author wants the best possible high-quality book, there is money involved. Hiring someone to proofread, edit and work on the interior design is recommended to give a book its best chance at looking as if the biggest companies published it.

“When you self publish right, it is important not to skip the important steps and hire editors and proofreaders to do the job of traditional publishers but you don’t have to,” said Adams.

One of the best things about publishing traditionally is the contract bonus. The company gives the author money to take care of the initial cost of the book. With self-publishing, you’re all on your own. Having to put the money up front can be a hard pill to swallow but the cost shouldn’t set you back too far. “You can self-publish a book for almost nothing,” said Adams. “Depending on which road you take, you can publish for less than \$1000.”

Self-publishing has been around for decades but has become easier and more popular. Many writers have the dream to get their work published but dread the process of going through traditional publishing. Since it has become harder for a writer who doesn’t already have a following to get a publishing contract, self-publishing is the best “Do it Yourself” project they can take on.

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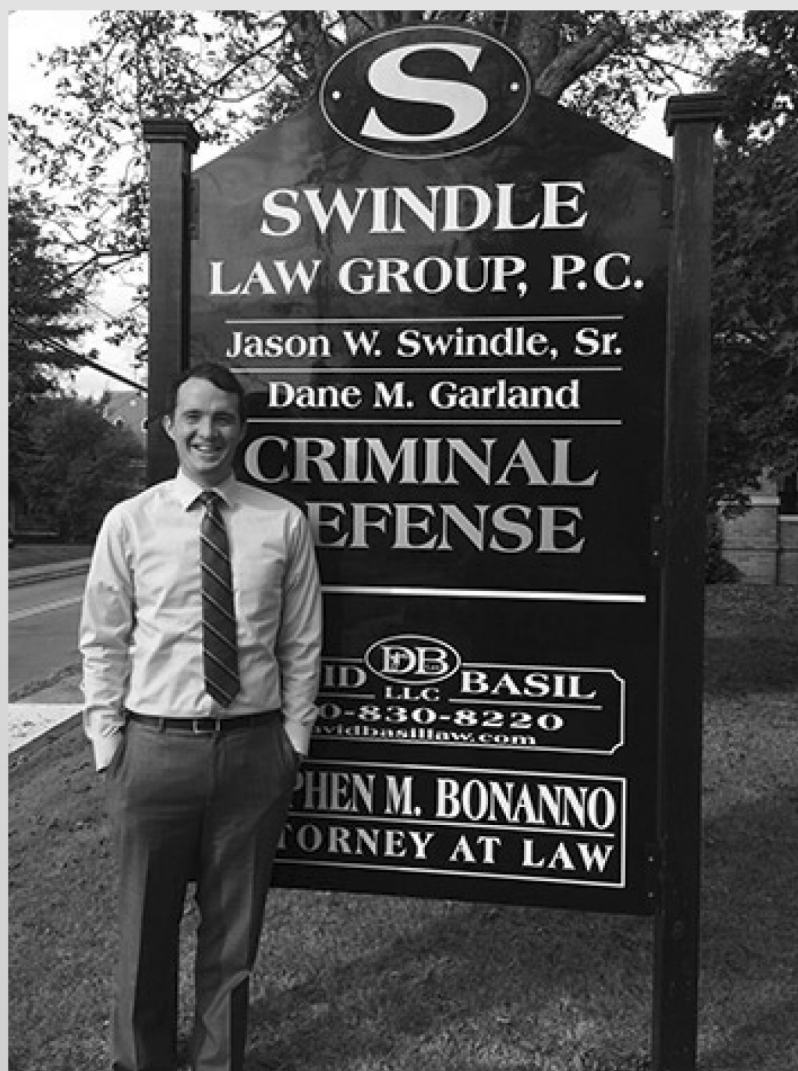
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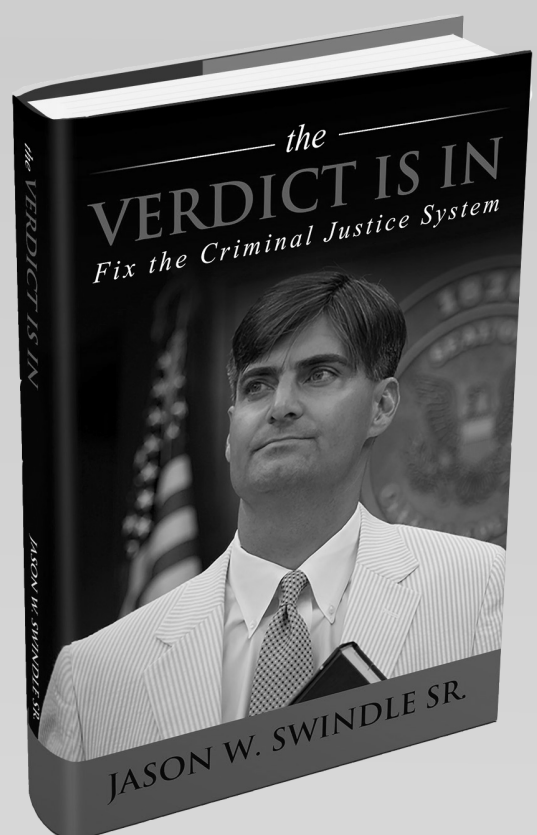
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Ed Sheeran's, *Divide* album review

Savannah Vetrano

Guest Writer

From the sweet harmonious ballads we slowly hum along with, to the upbeat hip-hop songs we scream in our cars, Ed Sheeran's new album displays the complexity of his 26-year-old mind. It is a mixture of heartbreak, happiness and jealousy all mixed together in conformity. Like the album itself, these songs speak on a variation of arrangements. They may be used for a romantic first wedding dance or spirit lifting tunes at a local bar. Whatever the occasion, this album's range of genres has a little something for everyone.

Resembling most of his previous albums like "+" and "x", he incorporates an element of inventiveness within his work; in "Divide", it's the extreme variation Sheeran eloquently strung together in just one album. In this series of songs, he comments on societal forces, self-loathing and the ups and downs of love and loss.

Comparable to his previous 2014 album "+", there are several heartfelt melodies within the new album. "Perfect" is a beautifully set love song that strays away from Sheeran's usual heartbreak overtone, and instead, uses his long-term

girlfriend Cherry Seaborn as a new musical muse.

Sheeran's capability to step outside his comfort zone is demonstrated in this album and specifically in "Galway Girl," a song Sheeran fought to keep on the album for its playful Irish folk tune. Within the song, he pays homage to his own Irish roots and celebrates a girl who doesn't conform to the rules of love. Also, playing with vivid characters, is Sheeran's "New Man," describing the common distaste of an ex's new love.

A personal favorite, "Dive" has a progressive jazz melody similar to those found in the infamous John Mayer ballad "Gravity". This song gives the best vocal performance on the album and solidifies Sheeran's talent as a vocalist. Not only does this album clearly exemplify Ed's multiple talents, but two songs, "The Shape of You" and "Castle on the Hill", were named top 10 in the US charts, making him the first artist with a two song debut.

To reiterate just how varied the album is, when comparing the opening and closing songs they stand on opposite sides of the spectrum. In the album opener "Eraser," he sings, "I used to think that nothing could be better than touring the world with my songs, I chased the picture-perfect life, I think they painted it wrong." A refreshing twist to Sheeran's light hearted nature,

demonstrating his frustration within his fast paced life.

The closing song, "Supermarket Flowers" is another delicate ballad Sheeran wrote honoring his late grandmother. Illustrating the painful loss through his mother's eyes, Sheeran uses his ability to portray such pure emotion in his music.

Overall, Sheeran's new al-

bum "Divide" captures his ability to stay vulnerable with his music. Always keeping his music true to himself, it displays his passion and growth through the industry. Not only will this album stretch to reach everyone's favorite genre during those long spring break car rides, but has the track record proving its worthiness by Billboard's Top 100.



Photo: edsheeran.com

Touring band to make stop in Carrollton

Daniel Forte

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The local pop/rock band, Glass Mansions, is on tour and will be performing a show in Carrollton. The South Carolina natives began their tour on March 2 and the stop in Carrollton is the last show before the culmination of their tour at NO-PHEST in Atlanta at the end of March. The band's 2017 SXSW Tour stretches all across the southeast and midwest, with stops including San Antonio, TX, Austin, TX and Montgomery, AL.

The group features propulsive, upbeat songs that combine a 90's rock band with modern dance music of today. The vibrant sounds and intimate lyrics from lead singer Jayna Doyle woo the sound with her voice while keyboardist Blake Arambula and guitarist Patrick Beardsley lay down the rhythm and back up on vocals. The group recently released their hit single "NIGHTSWIMMING" which features a groovy rhythm and a catchy melody that will be stuck in your head for the rest of the day. The band's rhythm and pulse are its lifelines and keeps an energetic tempo for many of its songs.

With over 10 tours under their belt, Glass Mansions is ready to make the bigtime. They will be performing at Alley Cat in Carrollton March 25 at 7 p.m. Photo Courtesy: Denton Cole Cruser

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