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The internet is making us evil

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An uprising band uses their unique and creative minds to develop music about one of the biggest issues in society, the internet. Flower's latest Extended Play (EP), "Death by Internet," raises awareness to the digital downfalls that many individuals face on a daily basis. Flower sets themselves apart by choosing the unpopular route of what is real and pure.

Flower is not interested in the popular way of life. Their foundation is built around bringing the hidden struggles to life and they do so through their music.

"There's too many people trying to make decisions based on what they think is popular and we do not care to do that," said Jack Fowler, the frontman of Flower. "We want to do things based on what is true to us and it's a huge bonus when it clicks and everyone is into it."

"Death by Internet" originated from previous experiences the members of Flower have encountered throughout their lifetime. Because the popular style of music may not always fit into authentic issues being dealt with, Flower received

negative responses due to the lack of choosing to write about something remarkably powerful.

"We had been through a lot of really stressful things," said Fowler. "I went through some really harsh criticism of art that I had put out, which was negatively received and kind of lashed out against. You want to be able to release things in an artistic sense that is meaningful and heavy at times and to have that pushed back was really archaic and kind of weird to me."

To Flower, providing an outlet from the digital world is crucial. "Death by Internet" serves as that outlet and allows their audience to escape their worldly possessions and insecurities through music.

"The internet kind of connects us all and makes us not talk to each other a whole lot because we have this digital satisfaction for our need to feel socialized, so I thought it was important as a writer to bring that to light," said Fowler. "It might not be the popular thing to say right now, but the internet is making us evil people."

The purpose of the new EP is to bring to light what is buried deep. To convey their passion towards the digital world, Flower gives each show their all by interacting with their fans, so that they have the opportunity to release any particular pain or frustrations.

"We play energetic shows. They are not just the sit back and watch this band do some-

thing kind of shows," said Fowler. "They are interactive and people push and shove to let out their frustrations because we tend to bottle a lot of things up and I think that it's healthy to get frustrations out and be honest with ourselves."

The authentic and genuine passion that the members of Flower have for their fans is incredibly humbling. That passion is what keeps the band going.

"I consider myself an incredible empathetic individual," said Fowler. "I really care about people and worry about the state of society and the people around me in my community. A big reason why I write and why I play shows is to remind them that they're not alone."

In the future, Flower's main goal is to continue promoting "Death by Internet" and their album they released last year. To successfully continue their work, Flower had to establish a foundation for both their personal lives and music career lives.

"We plan to keep releasing music and we have set up our private lives in a way so that we will not be stopped," said Fowler. "The problem before is that our private lives mixed with our music lives. Our music career lives were kind of conflicting at times, making it difficult to be on the road, so we adjusted to set ourselves up for permanence to stick around for the long haul and release whatever we want, whenever we want."



Photos Courtesy of : Jeremy Theall

The Brumbelow takes on UWG

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The Brumbelow at West Georgia is a new apartment complex that is scheduled to open by August of 2017. This complex, located at 227 Brumbelow Road, used to be occupied by the Rivers Edge apartments. Due to poor management, along with several other factors such as maintenance and crime, River’s Edge was foreclosed on and has since been replaced by The Brumbelow at West Georgia. Chip Fife, who owns several other successful apartment complexes in the Atlanta area such as the Lenox Woods Apartments, has bought the complex and has renovated it as well.

“We renovated the whole entire complex,” said Britt James, Property Manager of the Brumbelow at West Georgia. “They went in there and gutted the whole place, so each unit is going

to be completely brand new.”

Each new apartment unit has four bedrooms and two bathrooms and is going to have new appliances, and be fully furnished as well. The pool and lounge area will also be renovated and be complete with multiple grilling stations as well as flat screen TVs, a pool table and a gym area.

Along with a new owner, The Brumbelow is under new management by Century 21. Due to the high crime rate at the previous Rivers Edge apartments, The Brumbelow is making strides in order to ensure the safety of its residents.

“Our goal is to have a safer community, which is going to be strictly for West Georgia students,” said James.

The Brumbelow will also have an off duty police officer living in the complex in order to help maintain the safety of the community and its residents. The complex plans on having a good relationship with the residents but also plans on being firm on maintaining the quality of the complex as well as the residents. With Century 21 being the new management company of the Brumbelow, they hope to be as successful as its

fellow Carrollton communities under the same management.

“We manage South Ridge, we manage The Cottages, and we’ve had great success with those. We haven’t had any issues with crime or delinquencies,” said James. “We review each tenant and make sure that they are a good fit and someone that is going to represent the university, as well as the community.”

With the ever expanding number of students growing each school year, The Brumbelow has an agreement with UWG housing. This agreement gives on campus students the opportunity to live at the Brumbelow as an alternative living situation if the on campus facilities fill up, following that they pass a safety inspection administered by the University. The Brumbelow is taking to social media in order to spread the word of the opening and is also running a leasing special for \$395 a month rent per person which will end shortly. In terms of location, The Brumbelow is located right off campus and is a short walking distance. The Brumbelow has high hopes for the future and prosperity of its community and its residents for many years to come.

32nd Annual Sunbelt Jazz Festival

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The Sunbelt Jazz Festival will be returning to the Townsend Center on Friday, Apr 28. This event is sponsored by the University under Dr. Daniel Bakos, Professor of Music, and Director of Jazz Studies and Music Theory. The event consists of a concert featuring the guest artist accompanied by the UWG Jazz Ensemble. This year’s event will be featuring Bill Prince, a well-known Professional Musician for more than 50 years.

Bill Prince has performed with many different bands and orchestras including Buddy Rich, Pee Wee Hunt, Palm Beach and Jacksonville Symphonies. Prince has appeared on Television shows across the world and has performed on over 50 albums. One of the biggest accomplishments has been his recent cabaret show he performs on cruise ships. Prince has been known to be a unique jazz artist because he is able to play multiple instruments. He is known for playing his trumpet, Prince also can play the flute, clarinet, piano, electric bass and trombone.

Each year the festival allows entries for multiple bands to apply for their chance to play music with the professionals like Prince.

“It’s a wonderful experience and you can get a unique perspective on playing your own music” said Bakos. “You’ll get both advice and constructive criticism.” UWG always encourages bands to apply for the festival to have the opportunity to show off their talent and music. These bands also get the chance to rehearse with the professionals before the festival, and UWG makes sure the atmosphere is a learning environment and not competitive among the bands. It’s a major opportunity for the participating bands to take the time to learn from the professionals and create their music based off the new knowledge that they learn during this experience.

Since the Jazz Festival began in 1986, it has been filled with

uniquely talented jazz musicians. The previous years have included, Chris Vadala, Ignacio Berroa, Jerry Coker, Gary Foster, Lew Solof and many others. A fan Favorite from last year was Chris Vadala. “Saxophone player Chris Vadala has always been a pleasure to work with,” said Bakos.

“The variety of the guest artists always keeps the festival fresh and exciting each year,” said Bakos. It is important that UWG provides a variety of performers each year for viewers to hear all different forms of Jazz Music. “Come in and enjoy it,” said Barkos. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. and prices range from \$5 to \$12. To purchase tickets online, visit the Townsend Center website.

Carrollton Police department host Color run for fellow officer

Savannah Vetrano

Contributing Writer

On Saturday, May 20, the Carrollton Police department will host The Paint Chip 242 Color Fun Run. Named to honor Glenn Lyle, a Carrollton police officer, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Not only will the proceeds support Officer Lyle, but the fraternal order of police lodge.

The event will be held during national police week, a fitting time to celebrate the contributions of the local police department. The evening race events consist of the two color runs. The first, a one mile color run at 6:30 p.m. immediately followed by the five mile color run at

7 p.m.

Each year the Carrollton Police Department fundraises to help 20 local families in the Carrollton community. “The event is exciting,” said officer Chad Wilson. “It allows us to involve the community, raises money for a fellow officer diagnosed with cancer, and helps fund Christmas presents for needy children in our community”.

The color run will be held on the Greenbelt at Hobbs Farm in Carrollton, Ga. There are several awards and medals for fastest women and men runners as well as ribbons for participants under twelve years of age.

For registration, visit GARunner.com, carrolltonpd.com or pick up a registration form at the Carrollton Police Department.

Photo Credit : Savannah Vetrano



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living west

Midway Church celebrates Easter at UWG

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Easter morning, April 16, Midway Church will be having a worship service on campus at the University of West Georgia Coliseum. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m and the worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Having a worship service at the university will be something new for Midway Church. The church thought doing so would be a good idea to spread the word of Christ to others and hopefully find people who would want to join their church.

“Easter has always been a day that celebrates the word new,” said Ben McAdams, Media Coordinator.

He explained how since

Easter is the day to celebrate new things in life, Midway Church wants to experience something different by having worship service at the university. “We celebrate new life in Christ; we celebrate new chances to show his love to those around us, and we celebrate new ways to share the Gospel,” said McAdams.

Midway Church welcomes everyone to the service to enjoy the celebration.

“If you call Midway Church home, or if you don’t have a church home yet, we invite you to come be a part of this special day,” said McAdams.

Visitors will be able to park in The Coliseum parking lot, the Bookstore parking lot and Tyus Hall parking lot. The shuttle busses at UWG will be available throughout the day to take the guests from

where they parked to The Coliseum. The Coliseum provides 14 sections of seating for a huge crowd. Majority of the seats are standard bleacher sitting, but the lower levels contain chair-back seating. Accessible seating for people who fall under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) will be available in the coliseum as well. ADA seating is located at the top of the building. Operation Assistants will be present dressed in red shirts to help anybody that requires ADA seating.

Midway Church will also allow children to be a part of the worship service with their families. For those with smaller children, there will be a family room available for children that may not want to sit through the whole worship service. Each child that decides to go in the family room will receive an Easter

coloring book to keep the busy during the service.

Midway Church wants the best experience for their guests, but certain items are prohibited such as noisemakers, balloons, firearms hover boards, alcohol and outside foods. Food will be provided at both concession stands in The Coliseum throughout the day.

For college students that are unable to go home for Easter, having Easter at The Coliseum will be very convenient. Midway Church could become a new church home for several people who take the chance to see how they worship. Not only would this be a new experience for some guests; it will also be new for Midway Church. The church is ready for the new way of celebrating Easter and they hope to be able to do it again next year.

Photo Credit : Cheyenne Bell



The Black Project

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The University of West Georgia has an extremely diverse campus. Unfortunately, most people are either unaware or do not want to admit it. The African American presence on campus has grown in the past few years. There are many organizations on campus geared towards bringing African Americans together. Models and Business is an organization who is determined to make the African American student body stand out amongst the rest.

Models and Business is a modeling troupe that was created in 2014 by then president Kirstie Crumbley who graduated Fall 2015. The organization is now being led by UWG Marketing major Keith Crawford. Models and Business put on a lot of events throughout the semester and regardless of the event, the organization makes sure there is a strong presence of African American talents involved.

Over the century, the growth in the black student population has radically transformed the size of UWG and who we are as a university. The size of the black population of students on campus is the size of the student population at UWG for approximately 90 years of its 100 year history. Meaning black students are a campus within themselves. According to the federal definition for a predominately black school, there has to be at least 40% of black students in attendance. Currently, UWG is almost at 37% and growing with every semester.

The number 1 performing academic student we have in terms of gender and race profile

is the black female. She also has the highest graduating percentage and better progression throughout her campus career. These facts are available for anyone to look up but they are not emphasized which is why organizations such as Models and Business feel the need to do their part in making the black presence on campus known. “There is so much greatness inside of the African American culture here at UWG that goes unnoticed,” said Crawford. “The campus is only seeing the beginning of the greatness African Americans have on campus no matter the race which is why Models and Business feels the need to showcase the black talent we have on campus.”

Models and Business put on a lot of events throughout the semester and, regardless of the event, the organization makes sure there is a strong presence of African American talents involved. Models and Business are mostly known for the fashion shows they produce. They have put on four shows so far and are in the process of putting together their fall 2017 show. During their fashion shows, they like to showcase many UWG student’s talents. They also welcome make up artists, hair stylists and photographers into their organization. Models and Business makes sure to play their part in providing African American students on campus with a place to showcase their talents by asking some to perform during their show intermissions. “We like to keep our intermissions geared to students on campus to keep the black empowerment and provide them with a place to showcase their talents.” In the past years, they have had performances from....

Along with the theme of black empowerment, Models and Business just wrapped up “The Black Project” along with students from other organizations including, Black Student Alliance, College Girls Rock, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,

National Council of Negro Women and The National Pan-Hellenic Council. “It was geared towards commemorating and exemplifying our African American students because we don’t see too many activities or events that showcase our talents.” The Black Project consisted on many events like The Beat Expo, Black History Eve, Showtime at the Apollo and The BELAS (Black Excellence leadership awards). “All highlighting and showcasing black excellence on campus from artists, poets, dancers, hosts, event planners, models, photographers and even political debaters,” said Crawford.

Models and Business also aims to promote confidence within their organization and the student body at UWG. “Models and business is an organization that strives to let people know that confidence is key,” said Crawford. “We tell everyone that no matter your size, shape or sexual orientation, you should always feel confident in your skin.” Crawford tries to make sure that every model in the organization books jobs and is not discriminated against for any reason. “Most of the time, designers will try to choose the models,” said Crawford. “Sometimes they can choose the same look and person for jobs. We don’t want any of our models to be able to say they never book jobs.” During the early communication stages with designers, Crawford tries to tell them that he usually chooses the models for the shoot. He feels like it’s best to know what the designer is looking for and decide which models will be best so every model gets the chance to participate.

Models and Business enjoy making sure their troupe feels confident and are putting their best foot forward. The organization believes in inclusion for all people regardless of physical appearance. they do a lot to make sure the African American presence is known on campus but Models and Business is open to diversity within their organization and collaborating with different organizations on UWG campus.

news

It Can Wait

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In March of 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the month of April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Driving distracted is a hazardous action that can result in fatal car crashes. Thousands have died in crashes involving distracted drivers and congress felt it was time to raise more awareness about the issue.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts the driver's attention, including talking or texting on a phone, fiddling with a navigation system, talking on the phone and be distracted by passengers in your car. Texting is the most alarming distraction, according to distraction.gov. A text message, whether reading or sending takes your eyes

off the road for at least five seconds if not more. A lot can happen in that short amount of time. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing and not only the possibility of harming yourself but others as well.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, during daylight hours, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cellphones while driving. In 2015 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in crashes involving distracted drivers. Teens were the largest age group reported as distracted at the time of fatal crashes.

"Distracted driving is notoriously under-reported," said Maureen Vogel, Media Relations Manager for the National Safety Council. "While the federal numbers indicate 3,000 deaths a year are attributed to some form of distraction, we believe the number is significantly higher. May-

be even twice that number."

Awareness is the first step to eliminating a problem. Many states in the U.S. including Georgia have passed laws relating to this. The Georgia law prohibits drivers from texting while driving, computer, or wireless device while driving. The law does have an exception for emergency personnel and drivers who remain fully parked. "Behavior change occurs through a combination of three things; education, laws and strong enforcement," said Vogel. "For example, take seat belts. Research showed they saved lives. Once we raised awareness, manufacturers started putting them in cars. Then we passed laws around wearing seatbelts, and we enforced those laws. Now we have a 90% usage rate among drivers." Changing one's behavior about these topics will in turn change their behavior behind the wheel.

There are many ways that the community can get involved to

help lower and eliminate the high numbers of deaths and accidents caused by distracted driving. Even the police departments are finding creative ways to catch distracted drivers including dressing up like landscapers and watching drivers at intersections. Individuals can also sign family contracts, sign pledges to drive cell free and hang posters in the community.

"It really will take a combination of education, laws and enforcement. We do not have strong enough laws yet, but we are starting to see the education. People understand they shouldn't be distracted behind the wheel, but too many drivers have the 'It won't happen to me' mentality. They do not want other people to be distracted, but they are not afraid to do it themselves," said Vogel.

To find out more on how to bring awareness to this epidemic facing the country, visit www.nsc.org.

Carrollton Greenbelt Grand Opening

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The Friends of Carrollton, LLC are preparing the Hobbs Farm Trailhead for the grand opening of the Greenbelt on April 15, named The Big Event. The Greenbelt is an 18 mile path for pedestrians and nonmotorized transportation. The Greenbelt has been under construction since 2011 and The Friends of Carrollton Greenbelt, LLC are excited to finally cut the ribbon on the Greenbelt to kick off the event that will have something to offer all ages.

The ribbon cutting for The Big Event will begin at 9 A.M. and will have lots of activities for participants to enjoy following. There will be a 5K beginning at 9:15 A.M. and a Big Loop Bike Ride at 9:45 A.M. Adult registration for the 5K and bike ride is \$35 and includes a participant number, Big Event t-shirt, frisbee, and a glass of Printers Ale craft beer with a collectable glass. The Children's registration is \$15 and includes a participant number, t-shirt and ice cream from AGW.

The event will also feature a food and craft beer festival featuring 302 South Street, AGW Ice-cream, Express Mexican Grill, King of Pops, Renegade Chef and Printers Ale. There will also be live music by the Groove Gypsies as well as family art in the park which will last until 1 P.M.

The Friends of Carrollton Greenbelt, LLC was created by the group of people who were building the Greenbelt. The organization is now winding down since the completion of the Greenbelt. "We are an organization that was put together by the Community Foundation of West Georgia who manage the contraction of The Greenbelt," said Martyna Griffin, Vice President of Friends of Carrollton Greenbelt, LLC.

The idea of having something like the Greenbelt in Carrollton has been around for a while. "There was a mountain bike trail that went around Carrollton in the mid 90s," said Griffin. This sparked the idea for the Greenbelt.

"In 2003, the state introduced a grant to preserve green space in Georgia and part of those funds were spent on purchasing property, which was Hobbs Farm," said Griffin. "From there the Greenbelt started to take place and the trail construction started to take place then in 2011."

The construction on the first part of the Greenbelt began between Hays Mill Park and the Carrollton school systems. "This was our first mile and was a test mile, a place that the public could go to and see what the trail would look like and it became very popular," said Griffin.

The Greenbelt was a public-private partnership and the majority of the funding was private funding.

"We were always talking about what we wanted to do when it was finished and we knew we wanted to have a really big event and we finally ended up calling it The Big Event," said Griffin. "Most of the people who were involved in constructing the Greenbelt participate in a lot of other trail events all over Georgia so we used the ideas that we saw in other places."

They chose to do the grand opening at Hobbs Farm for the disc golf course. "The course is supposed to be one of the best in Georgia," said Griffin. "We are hoping to have someone who will do a disc golf class during the event for people who want to play but do not know how."

"We want to make sure that everyone knows what the Greenbelt is, where it is and that we are finished and they can use it," said Griffin. "It is an awesome amenity for the city."

Blood Donors Needed

Photo Courtesy : American Red Cross

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The American Red Cross has issued a call for Type AB and O Negative blood donors. While all types are needed, type AB and O Negative are the two in highest demands. During the month of March over 200 blood drive events had to be canceled due to severe winter weather in any parts of the country.

With those events being canceled that means that over 8,500 blood donations went uncollected. Not only does blood go uncollected but these storms are hitting injured people and causing more injuries, therefore they use more blood.

One type that can be transfused into patients with any blood type is type O. This can be used when the blood type is unknown and when there isn't time to determine the type in emergency situations. The most universal plasma type to be transfused to patients of any blood type is that of AB.

Every two seconds a person in the U.S. needs blood. A single car accident victim can require as much as 100 pints of blood. The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs. Approximately 36,000

units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S. The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O. Every bit helps and every bit is needed. "All blood types are needed to meet the constant need of patients, and there is a significant need now for type O negative and AB donations to help some of the most vulnerable patients," said Mario Sedlock, director of donor recruitment for the Red Cross Southern Blood Services Region. "We ask that you schedule an appointment to roll up a sleeve to help save a life in the coming days."

Donating blood is a safe and easy process. The entire process of donating blood takes roughly an hour and 15 minutes, the actual blood donation typically takes less than 10-12 minutes. Anyone interested in donating blood can learn more and find a local donation opportunity or schedule an appointment using the Blood Donor App or on the website at redcrossblood.org. Donating blood can give help to patients locally and across the country as blood products are moved where and when they are

needed. One blood donation, helps many lives.

The Red Cross Southern Blood Services Region serves Georgia, parts of South Carolina and north Florida. The Red Cross' Mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, according to their website. They learn and teach life-saving skills so communities can be better prepared when the need arises.



news

US blasts Syria base with cruise missiles

Lolita C. Baldor

Associated Press

The United States fired a barrage of cruise missiles into Syria Thursday night in retaliation for this week's gruesome chemical weapons attack against civilians, U.S. officials said. It was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Donald Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president.

The strikes hit the government-controlled Shayrat air base in central Syria, where U.S. officials say the Syrian military planes that dropped the chemicals had taken off. The U.S. missiles hit at 8:45 p.m. in Washington, early morning Friday in Syria.

The surprise U.S. assault marked a striking reversal for Trump, who warned as a candidate against the U.S. getting pulled into the Syrian civil war, now in its seventh year. But the president appeared moved by the photos of children killed in the chemical attack, calling it a "disgrace to humanity" that crossed "a lot of lines."

About 60 U.S. Tomahawk missiles, fired from warships in the Mediterranean Sea, targeted an air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack that American officials believe Syrian government aircraft launched with a nerve agent, possibly sarin.

The president did not announce the attacks in advance, though he and other national security officials ratcheted up their warnings to the Syrian government throughout the day Thursday.

"I think what happened in Syria is one of the truly egregious crimes and shouldn't have happened and it shouldn't be allowed to happen," Trump told reporters traveling on Air Force One to Florida, where he was holding a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The strike came as Trump was hosting Xi in meetings focused in part on another pressing U.S. security dilemma: North Korea's nuclear program. Trump's actions in Syria could signal to China that the new president isn't afraid of unilateral military steps. even if key nations like China are standing in the way.

Trump has advocated greater counter-terrorism cooperation with Russia, Assad's most powerful military backer. Just last week, the Trump administration signaled the U.S. was no longer interested in trying to push Assad from power over his direction of a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and led to the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

U.S. military officials sought to portray the strikes as an appropriate, measured response. But the assault still risks plunging America into the middle of Syria's conflict, complicating the safety of the hundreds of U.S. forces fighting a separate campaign against the Islamic State group in the north of the country. If Assad's military persists in further gas attacks, the Trump administration might logically pursue increased retaliation.

Russia and Iran, Assad's allies, pose other problems. Russian military personnel and aircraft are embedded with Syria's, and Iranian troops and paramilitary forces are also on the ground helping Assad fight the array of opposition groups hoping to topple him.

Before the strikes, U.S. military officials said they informed their Russian counterparts of the impending attack. The goal was to avoid any accident involving Russian forces.

Nevertheless, Russia's Deputy U.N. ambassador Vladimir Safronkov warned that any negative consequences from the strikes would be on the "shoulders of those who initiated such a doubtful and tragic enterprise."

Trump's decision to attack Syria came three-and-a-half years after President Barack Obama threatened Assad with military action after an earlier chemical weapons attack killed hundreds outside of Damascus. Obama had declared the use of such weapons a "red line." At the time, several American ships in the Mediterranean were poised to launch missiles, only for Obama to abruptly pull back after key U.S. ally Britain and the U.S. Congress balked at his plan.

He opted instead for a Russian-backed plan that was supposed to remove and eliminate Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles.

Thursday night's strikes were launched from the USS Ross and USS Porter and landed in the early morning Friday in Syria.

The world learned of the chemical attack earlier in the week in footage that showed

people dying in the streets and bodies of children stacked in piles. The international outcry fueled an emotional response from Trump, who appeared to abandon his much-touted "America First" vision for a stance of humanitarian intervention, akin to that of previous American leaders. "I think what happened in Syria is a disgrace to humanity," he said Thursday.

Trump seemed to rapidly reconsider his feelings about Assad, saying: "He's there and I guess he's running things, so something should happen."

The drama played out as Trump and his top national security aides were meeting Chinese President Xi at a Florida summit, which was supposed to focus on another pressing U.S. security dilemma: What to do about North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

Thursday's action in Syria could also send a message to China. Washington is trying to persuade Beijing to adopt a tougher approach to its North Korean ally, much like the U.S. pressure campaign with the Russians on Syria. And the strikes in Syria show the Chinese that Trump isn't afraid of unilateral military steps to advance American interests, even if key nations are standing in the way.

The show of force in Syria raises legal questions. It's unclear what authority Trump is relying on to attack another government. When Obama intervened in Libya in 2011, he used a U.N. Security Council mandate and NATO's overall leadership of the mission to argue that he had legal authority — arguments that many Republicans opposed. Trump can't rely on either justification here.

Unclear also is whether Trump is adopting any broader effort to combat Assad. Under Obama, the United States largely pulled back from its support for so-called "moderate" rebels when Russia's military intervention in September 2015 led them to suffer a series of battlefield defeats. Instead, Obama sought to work with Russia on a negotiated transition.

Trump and his top aides had acknowledged in recent days the "reality" of Assad being in power, saying his ouster was no longer a priority. But the chemical weapons attack seemed to spur a rethink. In Florida on Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said of Assad: "There's no role for him to govern the Syrian people."

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Cuban biologist raises 2 chimpanzees in her Havana apartment

Andrea Rodriguez

Associated Press

Over the last year Ada and Anuma II have broken Marta Llanes' television and computer key board, chewed her telephone to pieces and ruined much of her furniture.

She has forgiven them every transgression. It's hard to stay angry at a baby chimpanzee when it clammers up your leg and into your arms and plants a kiss on your cheek in a plea for forgiveness.

While zoos in other countries may have specialized facilities for raising baby animals, in Cuba the job falls to Llanes, a 62-year-old zoologist who has cared for 10 baby chimps in her central Havana apartment since she started working at the city zoo in 1983. It's hard work that requires watching the apes nearly 17 hours a day until they are returned to the zoo after their first birthday.

"I try to be the mother chimpanzee," Llanes said. "If they say 'hu,' I say 'hu.' If they want me to drop to the floor, I drop to the floor. The only thing I can't do is swing. I used to do it, but I can't anymore, but they have to be taught to swing. They have to be taught everything."

She leaves her home a few hours each week when another zoologist delivers milk, fruit and cleaning products, and cares for the animals while Llanes takes a break.

Meanwhile, Llanes' apartment looks like any that's home to two infants, albeit in-

phants able to scramble up chairs, tables and virtually any other object with already-strong arms and legs, and feet with opposable "thumbs." The floor is covered with toys, all sharp objects have been hidden away and the electric sockets covered to prevent a dangerous accidental shock.

Ada, the female, is 13 months old, and the male Anuma II is 15 months. Both wear diapers.

The chimpanzee, an endangered species, separated from humans on the evolutionary tree about 7 million years ago and shares some 90 percent of our DNA. Chimps are known for their intelligence and use of basic tools. They live half a century in the wild and even longer in captivity.

Llanes, who has an adult daughter, says it can be difficult to get female chimps to care for their offspring in captivity, and she's been happy to step in. She is raising the baby chimps because their mothers at the zoo are too young and did not learn how to feed or care for them properly.

"I have to be at home with them 24 hours a day," said Llanes, who rises at 5 a.m. and often watches the chimps until 10 p.m., with an occasional break during a simultaneous nap.

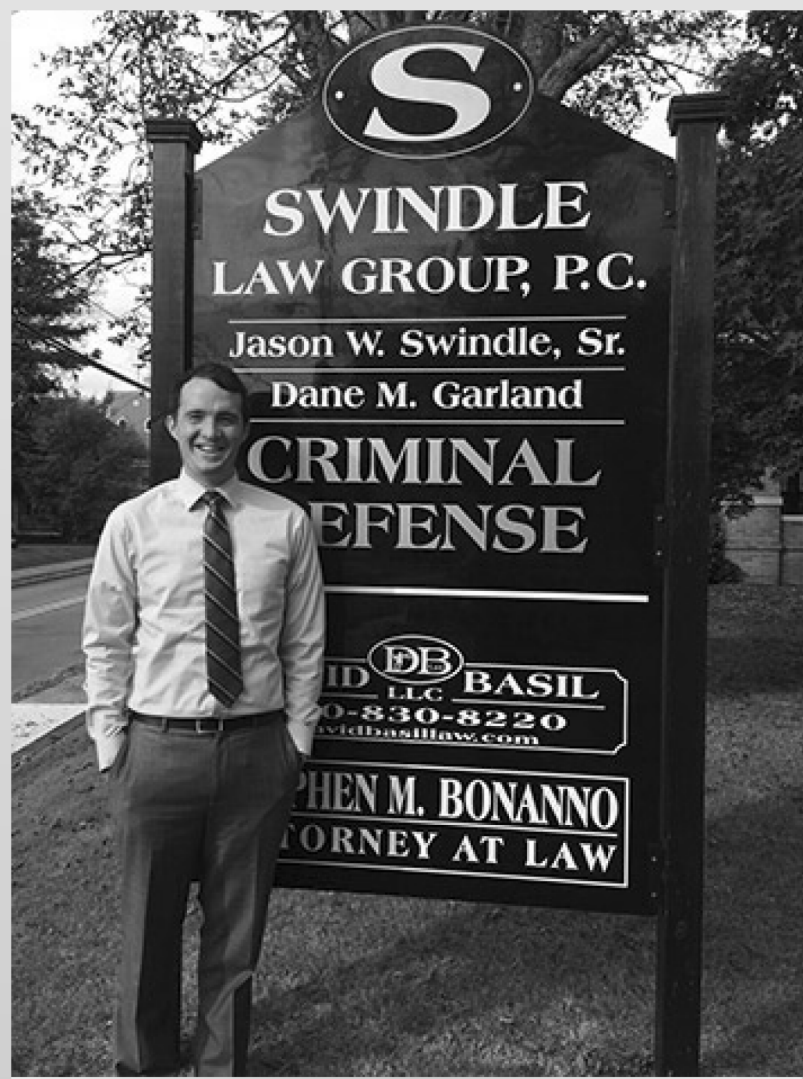
Llanes lives in a fifth-floor apartment in a building with dozens of residents, virtually all of whom say the baby chimps are good neighbors.

"They don't bother anyone," said Cari Dib, a 65-year-old housewife. "Plus, they're adorable."



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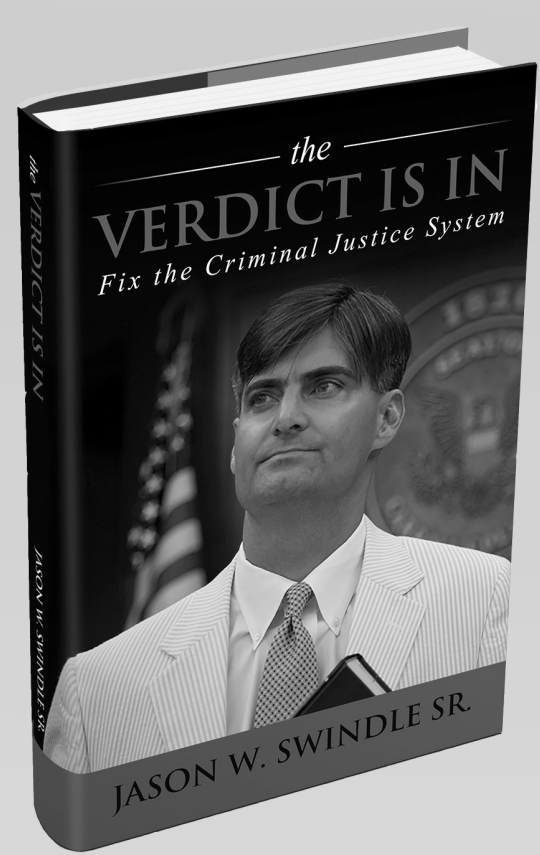
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Award-winning author coming to UWG

Photo courtesy: Joshilyn Jackson

Imagination = Empathy

A book talk with novelist Joshilyn Jackson featuring commentary on her novel *The Opposite of Everyone*

April 12, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Campus Center Ballroom
University of West Georgia
Free and Open to Public
Reception to Follow

The Opposite of Everyone is the University of West Georgia's Multicultural Book Selection for Spring 2017



Image courtesy of Joshilyn Jackson

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Daniel Forte

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A collaboration of several UWG departments and Carrollton bookstores has worked together to host the 2nd annual multicultural book discussion featuring award-winning author Joshilyn Jackson. The event will take place on April 12 at 7p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom.

According to Craig Schroer, Systems Librarian for Ingram Library, several different organizations worked together to make this happen, including Center for Diversity and Inclusion, University of West Georgia's Presidential Commission on Campus Inclusion, Ingram Library, West Georgia Athletics, Housing and Residence Life, Student Activities Council, the Center for Adult Learners and Veterans and the College of Art and Humanities. "It was definitely a major team effort," said Schroer. "This event is only in its second year but we hope to continue growing it."

The event will consist of a discussion led by Jackson, followed by a question and answer session and a reception with food and drinks available following the event, as well as a book signing. Organizers from each organization involved donated money to host the event, as well as buy novels for the book signing. "With the help of Underground Books and Horton's Books and Gifts, we were able to purchase 200 copies of Ms. Jackson's latest book, *The Opposite of Everyone* for the students to have for free" said Schroer. *The Opposite of Everyone* is UWG's multicultural book selection for Spring 2017.

Jackson, two-time Georgia Author of the year, will be available to sign books and meet students after the discussion. Admission is free for all attendees.

For those who could not secure a free copy, all of her books are available for purchase through vendors such as Amazon, Books-A-Million and Barnes & Noble. Her full collection of works can be accessed at <http://www.joshilynjackson.com/jj/>.

sports

West Georgia Equestrian Team Completes First Season

Ashley Buckner

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Carlene Williams, a current University of West Georgia senior and founder of the Equestrian Team, watched her dreams come to life this past fall semester as the UWG Equestrian Team became reality.

"I have been riding horses since I was 6 years old. My parents put me into a horse summer camp and I was instantly hooked," said Williams. "Horseback riding is a great stress reducer for me, so I thought it would be a great idea to give UWG students the opportunity to try something new or continue as an equestrian."

UWG currently has two competition Equestrian teams which both compete against many D1 schools, such as University of Auburn, Georgia, Ole Miss, Alabama, Georgia Tech and many more.

"Starting a club on campus was a little intimidating at first. After doing some research, I was able to get it running very quickly and easily," said Williams. The main requirements were to find a faculty/staff advisor, have at least five members, and fill out the necessary paperwork. We found our advisor, Dr. Ben Jenkins (physics department), because his daughter rides horses at what is now the club's host barn Spotted Hills Farm," said Williams. Each team competes in a

Photo credit: Carlene Williams



different show circuit according to the rider's discipline. The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) is one of the circuits UWG competes in. At these shows, they are usually competing against 15 or more schools in the region.

The IHSA circuit puts riders on horses they have never ridden based off of a drawing they do at the beginning of each show. The purpose of this is so that each rider has a fair chance of winning based on skill alone, not fanciness of the horse.

"Many schools also compete in NCAA competitions. We would love to get involved in that,

but would need to be considered a varsity UWG Sport before," said Williams.

The United States Eventing Association (USEA) is the other show circuit UWG competes in. These team members travel further and compete against a wider range of schools. They also bring their own horses that they have trained.

"Being a part of the team has allowed me to meet some amazing people and experience the challenges of showing a horse that I have never ridden before," said Carly Headrick.

This was the first year of competition for both teams. The

USEA team won't complete their season until the summer. The IHSA team finished this season strong with two second place awards and one sixth at their last show.

"There is no better feeling that seeing something you started become successful and gain the recognition it deserves. Seeing our team members beating division 1 riders on scholarship proves how much potential this team has. I cannot wait to see the growth this organization gains in the next years," said Williams.

For membership information email equestrianclubuwg@gmail.com.

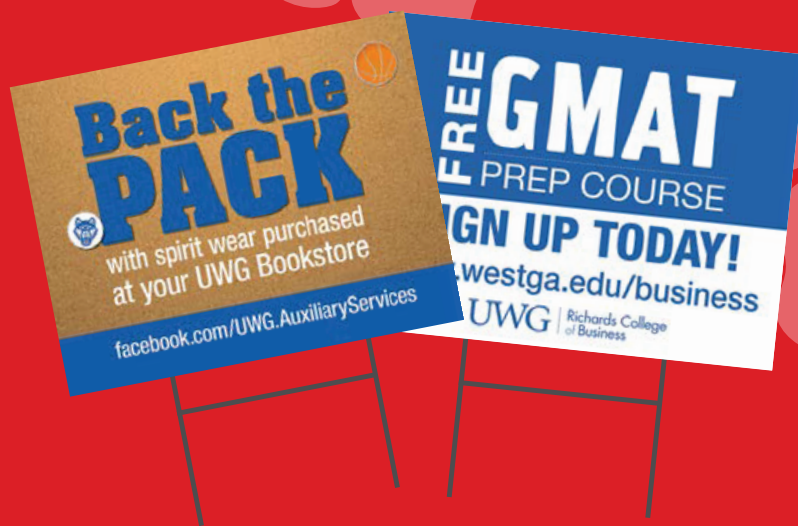
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