

Chief Mackel retires from Campus Police after 30+ years



Photo: UWG Police

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Dating back to 1975, Thomas J. Mackel made the courageous decision to change lives through a career in law enforcement. Mackel began his career as a patrol officer at Emory University being one of the original 17 hired when the department started. In the coming years, he would hold prestigious positions such as: Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief. In addition, Mackel worked within criminal investigations, crime prevention, and the Domestic Terrorism Task Force of Metro Atlanta. Mackel then took over as Chief of Police for the University of West Georgia (UWG) in September of 1989 where his career is now coming to an end after 30 plus years.

Throughout Mackel's career he has experienced the true meaning of what it means to hold the title of Chief. "The best part of the job was getting to work with the students and dealing with their problems," said

Mackel. "I also taught here, so I was able to get involved in mentoring them in terms of law enforcement, getting a career here, and not getting into law enforcement. Sometimes that is the better way to do it."

In 2005, the University of West Georgia held a shelter in Roberts Hall for the evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. The impact this made on Mackel's life remains one of the greatest and most rewarding aspects of his career.

"My biggest accomplishment was Katrina and helping to get the entire University to serve," said Mackel. "It was a tremendous amount of work, but it wasn't just the police department. It was student services and facilities coming together to serve 200 total strangers."

Mackel's time at UWG allowed him to make lifelong memories with people that he met throughout his term. In particular, Mackel was able to meet a man who came here as a victim of Katrina.

"Mike Conner decided he wanted to help instead of sitting in the dorm, so he started to work and has now been

employed with us for 12 years in custodial services."

It is moments like this that remind Mackel why his job meant so much to him. "Really it is the people that made this job so important," Mackel continued. "Too much law enforcement is the idea that we are going to put everyone in jail. If we put them in jail and kick them out of school, then what will they become? You may have blown their only shot."

Mackel's long term goals for the department are to continue striving for the best in every situation for each individual. His proudest moment is seeing the students graduate and remembering how far they have come. "If I could give advice to the next Chief it would be to always keep in mind that the center of things we do here is serve the students. It may not always be the way the students want us to, but you have to look at what is best for the students and how we can make them better people," said Mackel. "The thing I always tell people is that the biggest thrill we have is when we see those students walking across that stage at graduation."

EyeCon Genesis returns to Atlanta

Nikole Gianopoulos

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Television stars from "Gilmore Girls," "90210" and "Gossip Girls" are coming to meet fans, sign autographs, and sit in panels where they answer questions about their work. EyeCon Genesis, a three-in-one convention experience, will take place March 17-19 in Atlanta at the Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel.

In previous years, the convention was based on one show at a time. But due to the overwhelming number

of fan requests to create a multi-genre event, this year's convention will feature three shows. This new approach will afford fans the opportunity to meet several of their favorite cast members at the same event.

"This year's convention is the first of its kind, so I'm really hoping that it works out well and the fans really enjoy it," said Autumn Dawn, EyeCon convention director. "I think fans will like it because now they get to meet headliners from each show instead of just one."

Scott Patterson, Yanic Truesdale, Keiko Agena, Matt Czuchry, Ed Westwick, Kelly

Rutherford and Matt Lanter are included in the weekend lineup. More cast members will be announced closer to the event. Attendees can expect a jam-packed schedule that includes a bingo game, karaoke night, celebrity Q&A, a day full of photo ops, a banquet, panels, autograph sessions and a masquerade party. Other activities are said to be added to the schedule, such as an auction featuring artwork by celebrity guests.

Dawn revealed that fans are going to receive a much different experience than what they may be used to. This convention focuses on several franchises as compared to

just one panel or autograph signing at a bigger convention. A maximum number of 13,000 tickets will be sold in order to achieve a smaller and more intimate setting. The tickets will range from \$50 to \$695.

"The banquet on Saturday night has always been a fan favorite because, depending on when they purchase their ticket, they get to eat and have dinner with their favorite stars," said Dawn.

This is EyeCon's first return to Atlanta since the since "The Vampire Diaries" and "The Originals" fan convention in 2014. Because of the frequency of the

events, Atlanta is considered to be a home base for the convention. "We've done many conventions in Atlanta before, so it's kind of like our second home," said Dawn. "Since we haven't been back for a while, we're very excited for March. We love Atlanta!"

EyeCon started hosting events in 2006 with promoter Kenny Smith. Since that time, the group has hosted 22 conventions in Los Angeles, Wilmington, Atlanta, Chicago and Orlando. With a staff of just five, EyeCon has plans for two conventions in 2017. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.eyeconfla.com.

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Residence Life Strives For Student Safety

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Housing and Residence Life introduced drastic changes to entry and exit policy to keep students safe in the current crime wave. Last October, an assault was reported in Bowdon Hall, along with an onslaught of crimes close to campus. Since then strict visitation as well as entry and exit policies have been put in place to minimize crime. In addition to RAs, ResStar, a 24-hour service desk for students, now has employees stationed at the main entrance of every residence hall. Residents must check in and check out each time they leave their building and may only enter through the front door main entrance. Also, you must sign in your guests at the front desk, and if that guest is of the opposite gender, they must sign in and sign back out. While the new rules were put in place to make students feel safe, some students felt otherwise. "I've always felt safe on campus, all these new ResStar people create a bigger hassle than necessary," said Destiny McCowan, an Arbor View resident. "It makes it hard to

access all the points of my building, and it makes my life inconvenient. I think it's stupid and a waste of time." Prior to the incident, there was no exit and entrance policy for residents, and the visitation policy was quite lax. "In the past, the protocol was usually to let your roommate know, if possible your RA, but not necessary," said Jovan Jinks, an Arbor View RA and ResStar employee. "If it was an opposite sex guest, then you had to really verify with your roommate, and they couldn't spend the night." "People are still learning what the front desk position entails," said Jinks. "I think it's a smart and useful system to use. It verifies occupants who stay in the building and those who don't. If someone tries to enter using a false I.D. then it is confiscated and they are asked to leave, if they refuse to leave then ResStar notifies UPD and they handle it from there." According to Jinks, Housing and Residence Life staff also endured two full weeks of vigorous training before the semester started, which included sessions on crisis training, response training and risk management training. "Housing is doing all they can to ensure that resident safety is the number one priority."

Hidden History

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The film *Hidden Figures* has taken over the role of the American school system by teaching millions about important black figures. When John Glenn became the first person to orbit the earth, he received most of the praise and the people working behind the scenes went unnoticed. *Hidden Figures* showcases the story about three African-American women who helped launch America's space program. Upon learning about their journey through NASA as engineers, many were left wondering why this story and many others are often unknown. Every February, teachers gear up to tell their student stories about African American leaders for Black History Month. Outside of the usual lessons about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman, many other black leaders go unnoticed. Most children are taught a condensed lesson about slavery and segregation. They do not get the chance to learn how black people were involved in shaping the United States. "My problem with the way that Black history is taught," said Michael Hester, African American studies professor at The University of West Georgia, "is if you teach it the same way every time, you fail to meet the goal of teaching." As a result of repetitive learning, students are often left ignorant to most of the facts about the background of this country. Carter G. Woodson, co-founder of the Association for the Study of

Negro Life and History, created Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month, to be an observance and remembrance of important people and events related to African Americans. It was not created to be the only time that Black history is taught. "If the only time we talk about black people is during the month of February," said Hester, "then we are not only doing a disservice to the study of American History, we are doing a disservice to Black History Month." In schools, Black history is taught as a separate entity, Woodson hoped that one day America would recognize the contributions of Black people without needing to set aside a month. In a study published by the *Journal of Child Development*, it was shown that Black students who are taught about the accomplishments of their race are more likely to succeed in school. Studying about how people of other ethnical backgrounds helped shape the United States helps to break the racial and prejudice boundaries that we see in the world today. Black History is American history but by it being subjected to just one month, the importance is open to be questioned. Many students who attend UWG have enrolled in African American studies classes to learn about the leaders who were not in their school curriculum. "I ask the same question on the first day of every class," said Hester, "what do you want to learn and the most popular answer is "I want to learn about the people we don't hear about." If teachers continue to teach repeated lessons about Black History in school, hopefully Hollywood will continue to showcase the accomplishments of Black people to the world.

Campus Carry back in action

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Georgia's campus carry bill is seeking a resurrection in this year's legislative session. Campus carry has been a controversial issue on college campuses around the state of Georgia. Beginning back in 2014 Georgia passed the Safe Carry Protection Act. This bill was nicknamed the 'guns everywhere bill' but it restricted carrying on school property and public universities. Last year House Bill 859 was introduced. House bill 859 would've expanded on the Safe Carry Protection Act. This bill was more commonly known as the campus carry bill. It would have allowed those over the age of 21 with a weapons license, to carry a concealed weapon on public universities and campuses. With the exception of fraternities, sororities, dormitories, and athletic events. The bill was brought forth into the 2016 legislative session and then put to an end by a veto. House Bill 859 proved to be a controversial matter as those on both sides of the argument had loud opinions. The original bill was heavily sponsored by six representatives in the house and one senator. The bill went on to be passed by both the house and the senate. It was finally put to an end by a veto from Governor Nathan Deal. Deal vetoed the bill in May of last year, keeping the campus carry legislation

out of the books for 2016. But it is back, and not going anywhere soon. The 2017 legislative session began in early January. Even before the session began talks of a campus carry comeback had already hit the floor. Representative Rick Jasperse was a giant proponent and sponsor of bill 859 and he plans to help spearhead the new bill as well. Jasperse has also just been appointed as the new chairman for the House Higher Education Committee. Per representatives this new campus carry bill will resemble the old campus carry and will be filled in the house soon. House Speaker David Ralston has shared his opinion on the possibility of new legislation for campus carry. "The second amendment issue I think you'll hear from this session," Ralston said "I think it's important that we do all what we can to reasonably expand our protections under the second amendment," Ralston went on and said that "Under the constitution, it allows states to expand upon constitutional rights. This isn't just a campus carry issue but it's a protection of the second amendment issue." The University System of Georgia and thousands of students have been a loud voice of opposition

to any campus carry legislation. They believe that it could be a disruption to the campus and learning environment. One student on the University of West Georgia campus disagrees. "I am 100% for new campus carry legislation. I don't feel safe walking on campus and I should have a right to protect myself, but I also believe that it should be concealed," Senior Megan Flynn expressed. The idea of allowing guns on campus will continue to be a controversial issue. A comeback to campus carry is in the works and will put Georgia back in the headlines.



Photo: Jessica Lord

THE WEST GEORGIAN

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UWG's Annual Juried Art Exhibition

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The 2017 Juried Art Exhibition will be held at the University of West Georgia from Jan. 26 to Mar. 2. The exhibition takes place during the spring semester in the Bobick Gallery and Gallery Two, which are both located in the humanities building. This exhibition is an open event for all during the weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Exhibiting work is an important opportunity for all artists. At the student level, it provides an opportunity to learn skills that are not always a part of the art making practice," said Assistant Professor Mark Schoon.

Students may submit up to

five different pieces of artwork for consideration. Even if the students work is accepted, it might not be accepted in the show the next time. Funding is also available for pieces to be purchased. For each exhibition, a different Juror is chosen to select which pieces will be in the show. The Juror is a person that doesn't see the students work beforehand.

"Since an outside juror curates our student exhibition it provides a non-familiar voice of criticism," Schoon said. "It offers the experience of dealing with acceptance and perhaps more importantly, rejection, a critical part for anyone working in a creative field."

This year's juror is artist Yu-Kai Lin, owner and director of Kai lin Art. Yu-Kai graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, with a Bachelor of Art in Music: Piano performance. He has gained much recognition over

the years, including being in Jezebel Magazine's Best of Atlanta and Atlanta Business Chronicle as a 40 Under 40. Besides being a Juror for this exhibition, Yu-Kai has collaborated with several organizations including the High Museum of Art, Coca-Cola, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Fox Broadcasting company and many others in the surrounding Atlanta area.

The Awards ceremony and reception, was held on the night of Jan. 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Several awards are given out, based on the Jurors decisions. The show gives the students their chance to show off their hard work, and what they are passionate about.

Bruce Bobick, former art professor at UWG, created the Juried Art Exhibition in 1984. His goal was to try and raise the standards and level of interest in the visual arts in the West

Georgia area. Many professors at UWG still have this same hope.

"The Art Department at UWG offers students a rich cross-disciplinary experience that gives them opportunities to engage with world in meaningful ways," said Schoon. "Students are provided repeated opportunities to learn technical and problem solving skills, critical thinking, history, theory, and social engagement."

With this being a major event for the UWG Art Department, it provides current students insight, and prospective students a glance into what their learning outcome will be.

"Ultimately, we hope for students to leave our program as well rounded artists who are ready to use these refined skills and abilities in whatever direction most aligns with their goals," Schoon concluded.



Photo: Stephanie Smith

"There ain't no magic there"

Reagan Biddy

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A new aluminum wishbone sculpture on the University of West Georgia's campus has caused quite the talk among the student body. The sculpture was brought to UWG by our sculpture on campus' program. Daniel Hunt, Associate Professor and area coordinator at Kansas State University, is the artist and mastermind behind this work of art.

Hunt was contacted by the University of West Georgia's art department chair, Kevin Shunn, who asked Hunt to create a piece for our campus. Hunt gladly accepted the offer and visited campus to find the perfect location for his wishbone sculpture.

"When I was talking with Kevin initially I wanted to do a site-specific piece down in Love Valley and hopefully at some point I'll be able to see that realized," said Hunt. "(That piece) wasn't going to happen because there just wasn't enough time to get that done in the time that I had." Hunt does have high hopes of returning to our campus to carry out this future piece of art he has in mind.

Hunt spoke with Shunn about making a wishbone instead. "I have been making wishbones at various scales for the last 5-7 years," said Hunt. He and Shunn walked all of campus and claims when he saw the grassy area between East Commons Dining Hall and The Oaks Residence

Hall he knew that was the place that his sculpture belonged. "I think it activates that space very nicely," said Hunt.

"I knew I wanted to create a landscape feature. Initially we were going to incorporate flowers," said Hunt. "But the more I thought of it, as far as the maintenance issue and the aesthetics, I went the direction I did and used just the colored rock."

Many students have been exchanging ideas on what they think the meaning behind the wishbone sculpture is or what it represents.

Many believe that it is to give hope to students. Hunts meaning behind the sculpture may come shocking to those students who felt this way.

"My intention (for the sculpture) is pointed more toward poking fun at the superstition of any sort of hope in breaking up a wishbone," said Hunt. "There ain't no magic there." Hunt chose to build the wishbone out of aluminum because it is light and easily breakable.

Although Hunt is the sole artist on this piece he did have help

from students and staff in the UWG art department. "It wouldn't have happened without that kind of help," said Hunt. Two people he mentioned specifically from our art department were Ryan Lamfers and James Davis, who he spoke highly of and were a great help to him.

"It is exciting for me to put something out in the public, especially hearing that people like it," said Hunt. "But, it is also really exciting to be able to work with other artists and exchange ideas while you're doing all that stuff."



Photo: Daniel Hunt

news

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Carrollton hosts the 21st annual Martin Luther King Day Parade

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The 21st annual Martin Luther King Day Parade took place in Carrollton, GA on Jan. 16, 2017. The parade was a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and his fight for civil rights. Various businesses and organizations throughout the community marched in the parade, paying their respects Dr. King's life work. The parade began at the Dairy Queen on Highway 27 and carried all of the way through Adamson Square. People from all over the West Georgia community woke up early and made it out to the sidelines in order to cheer on those participating in the parade and show their support for Martin Luther King. The parade was organized by the local Carroll County NAACP, who have taken many steps in order to evolve and expand the parade throughout the West Georgia.

"They have really reached out to different members of various organizations, or groups in our community from educators to legislators to non-profits to

religious organizations to various businesses here in the West Georgia area," Deidre Haywood-Rouse, the Director for the Center of Diversity and Inclusion at The University of West Georgia added.

She was also reached out to by the Carrollton NAACP to serve as Grand Marshall of the parade. There was a large turnout of students and faculty members from UWG showing their support, many of which also helped organize the parade and make it possible this year. The focus of the parade was Unity, Justice and Peace which is exactly what Martin Luther King fought for throughout his career.

"It really is a team effort and a group effort," explained Rouse. "And that is really important as we work as a University to include more of our core values, and one of those is collaboration."

This parade was one of the many opportunities for students to get involved in events that are taking place outside of the University. Along with students, the Martin Luther King Day Parade brought together faculty members and residents from the West Georgia community in an effort to honor him and the work that he did. The West Georgia community will continue to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr for many years to come.

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Leaked video likely to hurt “A Dog’s Purpose” at box office

Sandy Cohen

Associated Press

Marketers would describe “A Dog’s Purpose” as a film with “four-quadrant” appeal, meaning it’s likely to draw moviegoers of both genders, young and old. Based on a bestselling book and told from a dog’s perspective, it’s a feel-good story for animal lovers of all kinds.

Which is why a video leaked last week of a frightened dog apparently forced into rushing water during the making of the film is so damaging to its opening box-office prospects this weekend : It alienates, even offends, its very audience.

“Sometimes a controversy can help you, but this isn’t one of those cases,” said Gitesh Pandya, editor of boxofficeguru.com. “As far as videos that can come out for your film, this is definitely not the one you want if you’re the filmmakers, right before the movie opens.”

Since the video surfaced Jan. 18 on TMZ.com and quickly went viral, fallout has been extensive, including:

- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has called for a boycott of “A Dog’s Purpose.”

- Producer Amblin Entertainment and distributor Universal Pictures went into full damage control, complete with a “war room,” canceling a planned press day and starry premiere, but sticking to its plan to open the PG-rated film in more than 3,000 North American theaters on Friday.

- American Humane, the watchdog organization that certifies that “no animals were harmed” during TV and movie productions, suspended an employee and launched a third-party investigation into the incident.

- “A Dog’s Purpose” star Dennis Quaid went on TV’s “Entertainment Tonight” calling the leaked video “a scam.”

- Actor Josh Gad, who lends his voice to a dog in the film, issued a statement on Twitter saying he has asked the studio and production team for an explanation of what he calls “disturbing images.”

- And Gavin Polone, a producer of the film, wrote an editorial in the Hollywood Reporter attacking American Humane and asserting his lifelong love of animals.

“No matter how the film performs this weekend, there is virtually no way to accurately quantify how the ultimate gross receipts for the film may have been impacted by the negative publicity,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker comScore. “Social media chatter has been very strong for this film and so it’s definitely on the radar for more people who might not have otherwise been aware of the movie.”

No one has disputed the authenticity of the leaked video. Quaid, Polone, “A Dog’s Purpose” author W. Bruce Cameron and American Humane, however,

have all said that it is misleading. The minute-long clip shows a trainer trying to put a resistant German shepherd named Hercules into a turbulent pool and the dog scrambling out. A subsequent scene shows the dog becoming submerged in the water for several seconds as trainers shout, “Stop!” TMZ says the footage was recorded in November of 2015.

Mark Stubis of American Humane said its investigation should be completed by Friday, but that preliminary findings indicate that the two scenes in the clip were shot at different times and edited together. Stubis said production was stopped after the dog showed signs of stress on the day in question and that Hercules “was not forced to swim in the water during this take.”

Amblin officials have been reviewing dailies and other images taken on set since the video surfaced to determine what actually happened. On Wednesday, the studio shared with reporters more than 10 minutes of raw footage that shows Hercules eagerly jumping into the water from the front and left of the pool, but resisting when the trainer wants him to enter from the right side. It also shows trainers and crew surrounding the pool and platforms just beneath the water’s surface for the stunt dog to stand on.

The studio had no comment beyond sharing the footage Wednesday. Last week, Amblin and Universal released a joint statement when canceling the press day and premiere that read in part, “While we are all disheartened by the appearance of an animal in distress, everyone has assured us that Hercules the German Shepherd was not harmed throughout the filmmaking.”

Polone, who describes himself as a vegan whose closest relationships are with animals, says the actions in the video are “inexcusable and never should have happened,” and blames the American Humane representative on set for not intervening immediately.

Even without the controversy, “A Dog’s Purpose” wasn’t born to be a blockbuster, Pandya said. Original industry estimates had put the film’s opening weekend in the mid-\$20 millions domestically.

“January is typically not one of your high-profile times to release the big films,” Pandya said. “This is not a big franchise that needed a huge opening.”

But ironically, the film could still end up No. 1 at the weekend box office.

“Public attitude may be shifting to sympathy for the filmmakers and also producer Gavin Pallone’s strong pro-animal statement,” said comScore’s Dergarabedian. “There may be a lot of people who may have not had the movie on their radar but may now be compelled to support the film by coming out to see it.

“This could wind up being a win for the film since at this point, ‘A Dog’s Purpose’ is now being viewed as the underdog”

How Trump’s Plan to pay for Mexico Border Wall Would Work

Josh Lederman and Josh Boak

Associated Press

President Donald Trump is promising Mexico will pay for his massive border wall. On Thursday, his administration finally suggested how: a 20 percent tax on products imported from south of the border.

The new measure could be part of a comprehensive tax reform package that Trump and Congress will work out, the White House said. But there was great ambiguity about the proposal. White House officials later clarified that the tax was but one possible way Trump could finance the wall.

Much was left unanswered. Would Mexico be footing the bill or American consumers? What items would become more expensive? Is this even legal?

Some of the details Trump’s proposal still has to work out:

IS IT A TAX, A TARIFF OR SOMETHING ELSE?

It’s unclear.

The White House said Congress’ tax overhaul would place a 20 percent tax on imports from any country enjoying a trade surplus with the United States. In other words, countries selling more goods and service to the U.S. than buying from it. The idea is to rebalance the playing field for U.S. companies by discouraging Americans from importing. The idea appears to overlap with a plan House Republicans are pushing called “border adjustment.” Under this plan, the U.S. would refrain from taxing American companies’ exports, but would tax imports.

The new revenues are projected to top \$1 trillion over a decade. The money had been envisioned as an offset for lowering U.S. corporate income tax rates, though House Republicans say it could also pay for a wall.

Trump, however, recently said he didn’t like the “border adjustment” idea.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AMERICANS?

Mexican products would become more expensive.

That means pricier tequila, but also things Americans need: cars, eyeglasses and many basic groceries. A Toyota Camry? About \$1,000 more, according to Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota North America, noting that a quarter of the car’s parts are imported.

U.S. exporters are behind the House plan because it would reduce their taxes.

Here’s the flip side: Importers, including big retailers and consumer electronics firms, say the higher prices for Mexican products could hurt sales. And that means American jobs.

Retailers such as Wal-Mart also could face higher tax burdens.

WOULD MEXICO REALLY BE PAYING?

Not quite.

The U.S. could recoup some of the wall’s costs by changing the tax and trade policies with Mexico. But the money wouldn’t necessarily be coming from Mexican taxpayers or the Mexican government.

While the tax would land first on companies exporting from Mexico, the costs would likely be passed on to consumers. That leaves Americans footing much of the likely bill.

Trump has said he’s OK with being “reimbursed” at a later point because he is keen to start building the

wall immediately.

WOULD IT RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE WALL?

Probably.

Various estimates put the wall’s cost at up to \$15 billion.

House Republicans expect their plan to pull in much more than that in its first year. They say that could easily cover the costs of the wall.

IS IT LEGAL?

To be determined.

The U.S. has a range of obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and at the World Trade Organization. And Mexico is likely to challenge any new tax that penalizes its economy.

Trump has said he plans to renegotiate NAFTA. Mexico, however, is under no obligation to soften the agreement for his sake.

Other countries may also object, if their products and services are targeted.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics, said the border adjustment is essentially a tariff that would be struck down by the WTO if it targets Mexico.

HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT THE ECONOMY?

A topic of great dispute.

The White House said the plan would increase U.S. wages, help U.S. businesses and consumers, and deliver “huge economic benefits.” With so much of the plan ill-defined, it’s impossible to substantiate those claims.

Any turbulence in the U.S.-Mexican trade relationship could have implications for the entire world.

Mexico is the second-largest exporter to the United States, after China. The United States imported roughly \$271 billion of goods from Mexico during the first 11 months of 2016, according to the Commerce Department, and ran a trade deficit of almost \$60 billion.

DO REPUBLICANS LIKE TRUMP’S PLAN?

Not all of them.

Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan said on Twitter it would be a “tax on Americans to pay for the wall.” Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he was “mucho sad” and that “any policy proposal which drives up costs of Corona, tequila or margaritas is a big-time bad idea.”

Even Trump’s pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, dismissed the idea of using tariffs as a trade ploy.

Republicans have traditionally hailed themselves as the party of free trade.

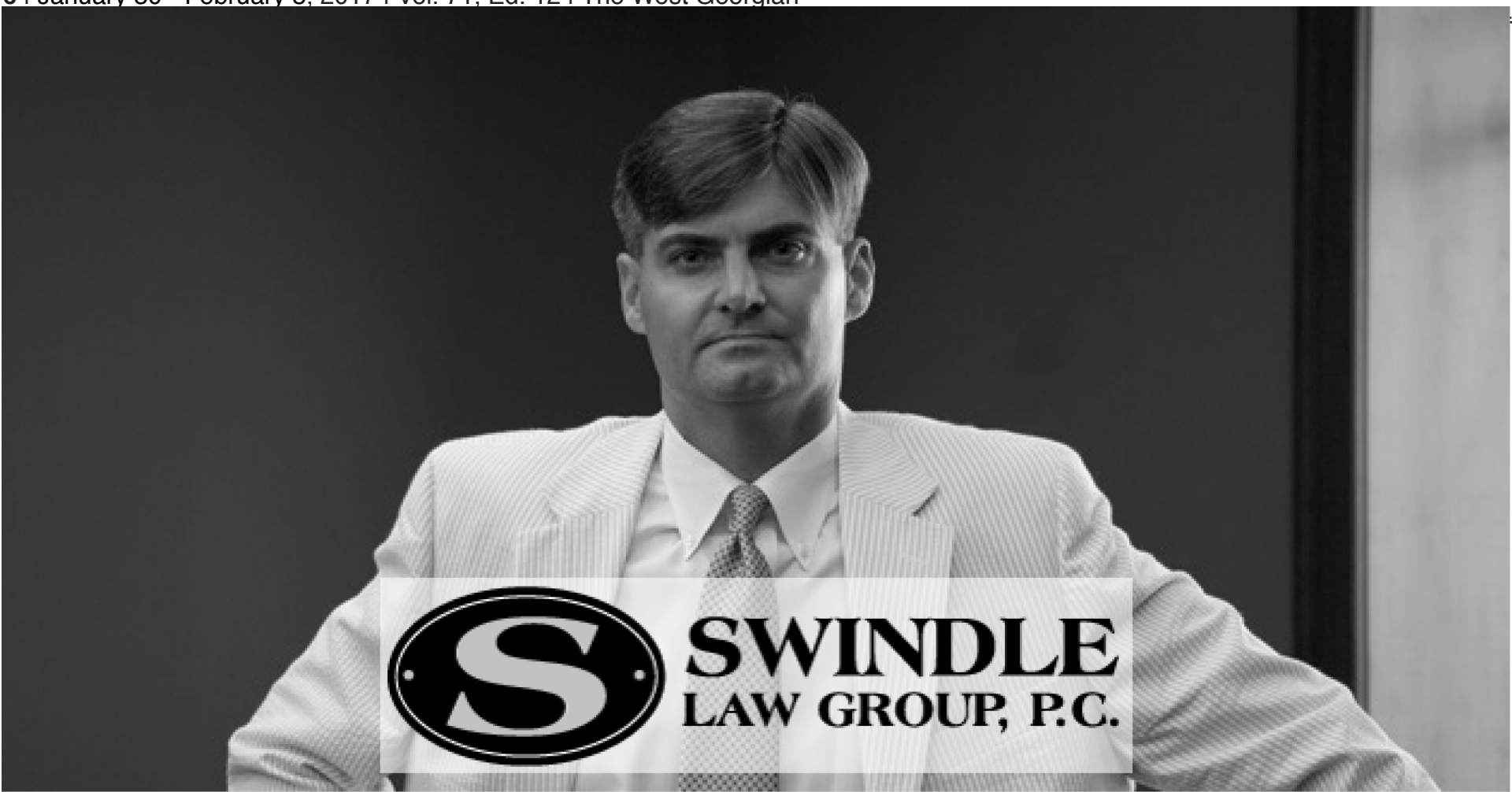
WHAT OTHER WAYS COULD TRUMP GET MEXICO TO PAY?

During the campaign, Trump floated a number of possibilities without committing to any in particular.

He proposed changing a rule under the USA Patriot Act to block some of the roughly \$25 billion in remittances that Mexicans living in the U.S. send home each year. He said he would refuse to free up the money until Mexico agrees to pay the U.S. between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

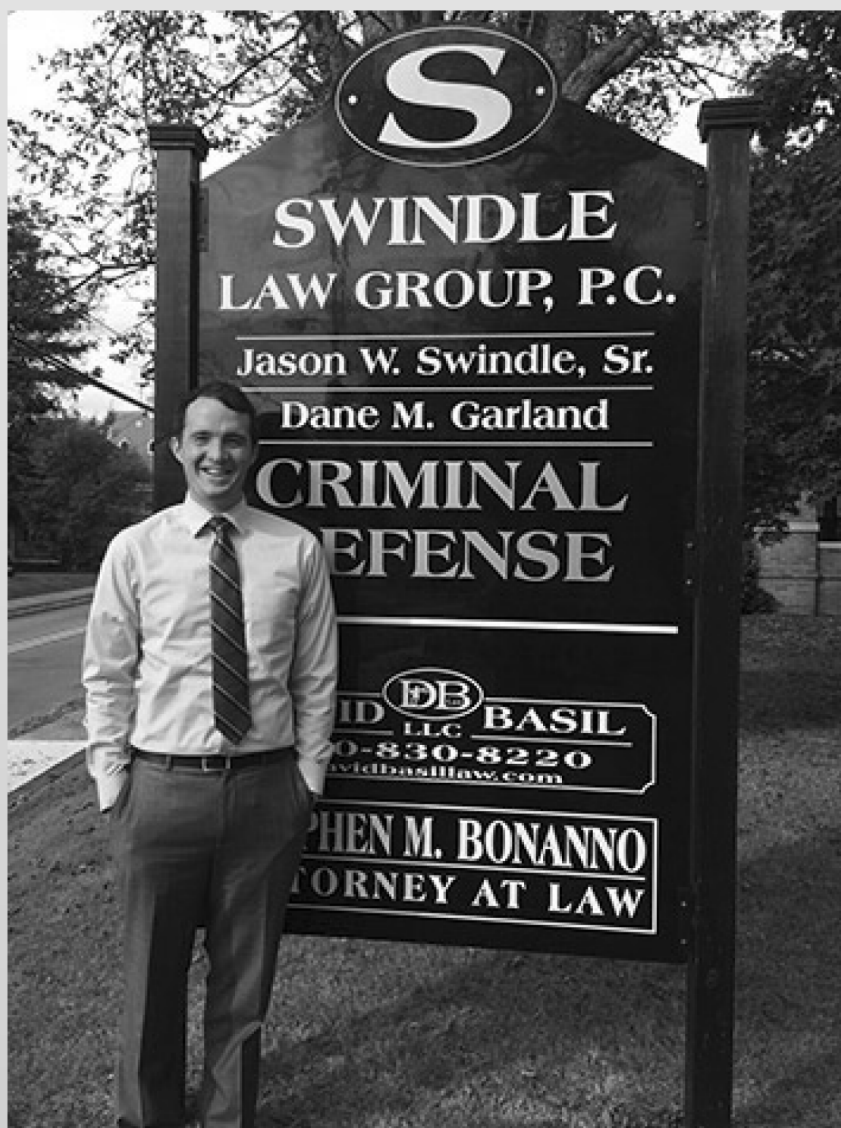
Opponents of that plan say Mexicans in the U.S. would likely find other ways to send money back. They could take cash with them when traveling, wire money to a non-Mexican bank or use off-the-books transfers that are difficult to police.

Trump also suggested increasing visa fees for Mexicans to raise money, or canceling business and tourist visas issued to Mexicans until their country pays for the wall.



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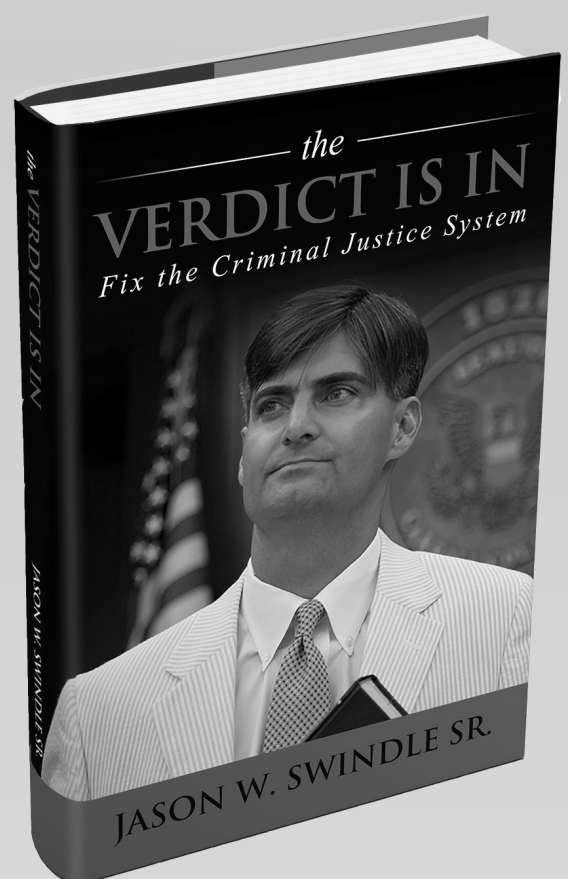
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sports

University of West Georgia Cheerleading sweeps the competition

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The University of West Georgia cheerleading program traveled to Orlando, FL on Jan. 13th, determined to bring back another national championship title to Carrollton. The program is successful each year and they went to College Nationals with no doubt in their mind. College Nationals is where cheerleading teams from different universities meet to compete against the best of the best. With the cheerleading program having numerous athletes to create two teams, All-Girl and Coed, they had a total of 19 national championship titles prior to this cheerleading season. “It

feels good to have that many national championship titles especially when you’re able to continue the tradition,” said Spencer Collier, 4th year and Captain of the Coed team. “It’s a strong foundation to build on.”
The Wolves had an impressive season bringing not only one, but two national championship titles back this year increasing their number of national champion titles to 21. “It felt like a huge accomplishment,” said Amanda O’Neill, 1st year cheerleader. “To go through all of the hard work and spend so much time practicing, it definitely felt like it all paid off.” The cheerleading program was successful with continuing the tradition. Both teams worked hard throughout the year to achieve one goal and that goal was to be able to call themselves national

champions after the competition. “To see All-Girl fight through everything thrown at them and then hit and win, it made Coed want to do our job that much more and bring home the 21st title,” said O’Neill. “Once we did, everyone was beyond proud and excited to see what we accomplished.”
The Wolves performed a two and-a-half minute routine which consisted of stunting, jumping, and tumbling. The team was taught their routine at the end of November which gave them only two months to practice. “We did a lot of training at practice, and our main focus was consistency,” said Collier.
The coaches and the leaders of the teams played a huge role with making sure the team remained focused during practices and performances.

“It’s challenging because I like to play around a lot, but I also have to make sure I’m serious so that others can be as well,” said Collier. Before starting each routine, the cheerleaders make sure to say their last encouraging words to each other. “I look around making eye contact with everyone to make sure everybody looks ready,” said Collier. “Let’s take it step by step, count by count.”
The cheerleading program is very big on trusting the process. The organization makes it their priority to let first years on the team know all about the process, and how important it is to the program. “Trusting the process means adapting to the West Georgia way of doing things no matter what you’re feeling,” said Collier. “If you trust the process, everything will work out.”



Photo: UWG Cheer

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Sports Round-Up

Daniel Forte
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Mens Sports:

Basketball: UWG fought hard against VSU

Golf: Barry Harwell’s golfers don’t tee it up until Feb. 26 in Savannah for the Pirate Invitational

Baseball: Head Coach Skip Fite’s Wolves begin their season with a three game series against Augusta on Feb. 3.

Women’s Sports:

Basketball: VSU knocked off the wolves 68-60 last Thursday night. The loss marks the third in four games for the Lady Wolves.

Golf: The Lady Wolves look to build off their successful 2016 season this weekend in St. Augustine at the World Golf Invitational.

Softball: UWG softball has back-to-back double headers on Feb. 4-5. The first leg is against Catawba, followed by a match-up against Augusta later that day.

Tennis: West Georgia tennis also starts action on Feb. 4 in Spartanburg, SC against Converse College.



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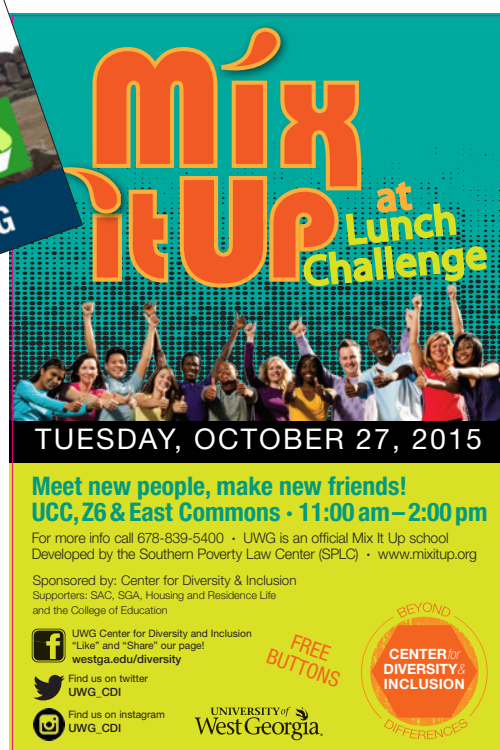
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