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Dinner at the Marrero's becomes a new tradition for some at UWG



Photo: Ashley Buckner

Ashley Buckner

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A group of University of West Georgia students have memories that will last a lifetime after having dinner with the university's President, Dr. Kyle Marrero and his family. Sunday, Feb. 26, the University of West Georgia Blue Coats were able to enjoy dinner and dessert in the beautiful home of Dr. Marrero, his wife Jane and their seven-year-old daughter, Lily.

It is not every day that you can enjoy a home cooked meal with the president of your university. However, for the Blue Coats, this dream became reality.

The Blue Coats are a select group of student leaders who are involved in a diverse range of activities and pursuing various educational disciplines. The Blue Coats work closely with Alumni and donors of the university.

"The Blue Coats are UWG's most prestigious ambassadors," said Marrero. "They represent the students and the university at official events, functions, on and off campus. They represent a kaleidoscope of experiences, cultures, demographics and ethnicities but are united in their quest for education and the ultimate student experience. I'm so proud of the Blue Coats and so blessed to be their President."

"It is always wonderful to spend quality time with UWG students. Having the Blue Coats at our home provided the opportunity to engage with these student leaders in an informal, home cooked environment. The conversations ranged from family to careers to dreams and aspirations," said Dr. Marrero. The Blue Coats were able to really converse with Dr. Marrero and his family by asking questions to help understand the passion that goes into such a dedicated position.

"It truly re-energizes me engaging with such an incredible group of student leaders. Hopefully,

ly, it also allowed the Blue Coats to get to know me and my wife and our precious seven-year-old, Lily, a little better," said Dr. Marrero.

The event consisted of dinner, dessert and fun games that kept everyone laughing for the night. Students enjoyed being able to really connect with Dr. Marrero and his family one such a relaxed occasion.

"Being invited to the president's house was such a wonderful and humbling experience. It is very rare for a college student to say they got to have dinner with their university's president and his family. The best part of the night was spending time in an intimate environment with such a beautiful and down to earth family. We really have the best president in the nation," said Blue Coats President, Charity Dobbs.

The University of West Georgia welcomed in 16 new members on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. These new members have already expressed their excitement on attending next semester's dinner at the Marrero's!

Students Spending Spring Break Abroad

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The University of West Georgia is sending 22 students to Ireland for a study abroad opportunity. These Richards College of Business students will have the chance to earn up to 6 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit during spring break. The students participating in this unique experience can expect to be immersed in a new culture while having the opportunity to gain global experience.

"I wanted to study abroad because I have never been out of the country before," said UWG Senior Lindsey Shank. "I have never even been on a plane. I decided for spring break of my senior year I should try something new!"

Some students chose to spend their spring break studying abroad due to their experience with previously participating in student abroad programs.

"The previous trip was my first time leaving the country on my own without my parents; we traveled to Prague, Budapest, and Vienna," said UWG Senior Elle Allen. "That trip sparked my love for traveling and seeing the country."

While in Ireland, students will have the chance to visit Kilkenny Castle, Coca-Cola of Ireland, Trinity College, the Titanic Center plus much more. Students will also have a free day in which they will be able to explore Ireland and the surrounding cities as they please.

"Out of the options for study abroad spring break, Ireland was my top choice," said Shank. "I am attracted to Ireland because of the beautiful landscapes, the historic castles and all of culture that I will get to experience."

Students who study abroad will be able to develop skills that attract future employers, making those students more marketable. This is an unique opportunity for students to gain perspective and understanding about a new culture and educational system. This trip is also meant to challenge students to extend their understanding of sociocultural diversity and to broaden their perspective of the world around them

"When traveling I have experienced the language barrier which is expected when going to an unfamiliar country," said Allen. "However when I went abroad two years ago our tour guide liked reminding the group of how Americans are so slow and like to linger. I'm interested in what the people of Ireland will be like, fast paced like the people of Prague, Budapest, and Vienna, or slow like Americans."

UWG provides both personal and financial support for students who want to study abroad. Scholarships are available to help students finance their trips, and fundraising opportunities are also available.

"Growing up I never really had the opportunity to travel outside of the country; I honestly never gave much thought to it in my early college years because of the cost," said Shank. "When I heard about Ireland last spring, it seemed like the perfect opportunity. I am counting down the days until we leave!"

Students interested in participating in future study abroad programs should reach out to their advisors for more information regarding upcoming programs.

editorial

Why soccer will eventually be the most popular sport in the US

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Watch out NFL and NCAA fans, football will soon be overtaken by soccer as the most popular sport in the United States. The growing number of problems plaguing the NFL and NCAA for the past decade such as concussions, domestic violence and confusing rule changes are slowly driving the population to lose interest in football and gravitate toward a sport that has constant action, takes less time to complete and is not difficult to follow.

Enter Major League Soccer (MLS), who will soon be the paramount league in American sports. MLS, rather, soccer as a whole, does not have the drama and complications that come with American football. There is no fancy padding and training equipment, it does not have complicated rules and is focused on the game rather than commercialization.

The NFL is a multi-billion dollar entertainment behemoth that has owned a day of the week for over 50 years, and they are obviously not going anywhere anytime soon. To say the barely 20-year-old Major League Soccer will become more popular than the NFL is a bold statement, to say the least, but there are

indications that it could happen. Twenty-one years ago the United States saw a fledgling 10-team Major League Soccer take the field for the first time. The start-up teams played in massive, hollow NFL stadiums with tens of thousands of empty seats. Teams tried moving to another location, others changed their name while some went completely under, but MLS eventually started gaining traction. Over the course of the next 20 seasons, MLS grew at an average of just over one franchise every two years. As teams became more stable, they left the conventional NFL stadium and constructed their own soccer-specific stadiums, which are better suited for soccer's wider field (knows as a pitch to soccer players) than the narrower NFL field. MLS now governs 22 franchises across 20 cities and two continents, with more expansion planned in the years to come. According to Don Garber, Commissioner of MLS, there are currently 12 cities bidding over four more MLS expansion franchises, which would grow the league to 28 teams, in the near future. Expanding to 28 teams would bring the league on par with the 'Big 4' leagues (NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA) that all have 30 teams, save the NFL, which has 32.

Obviously, the cities that are not lucky enough to secure one of those four franchises are not going to simply give up. They will most likely keep petitioning the MLS and

making bids for a new franchise. With four new teams already a guarantee for the future of MLS, they are continuing to expand at breakneck speed.

The NFL lately has become a hotbed of controversy on and off the field. Most importantly, from a fan's perspective, the game is getting less enjoyable despite the talent in the league seeming to get better every year. While watching the game, fans should not have to struggle to determine complicated rules such as differentiating between defensive holding and pass interference. Rule changes over the past few years such as hits on a defenseless receiver, pass interference, roughing the passer, are necessary, yet unpopular changes to the game. Fans do not like additional interruptions to games and want the rules they are accustomed to. Soccer, on the other hand, has had their rules cemented in the game since it began. The rules are simple: play the ball, do not use your hands and not be caught offside (behind the very back defender). These rules are much easier to follow, and easy to learn. There are no helmets, chinstraps, big foam pads to practice hitting, like in football, there is simply a ball, cleats and shin guards in soccer.

New rule changes, replay reviews and commercial breaks make a football game drag on for over three hours, according to The Wall Street Journal. Fans will often

see a touchdown scored, and not see any action for eight minutes. Following the score, television networks will cut to commercial break, tune back in to see the scoring team boot the kickoff into the end zone for a touchback, go to commercial break again, and finally come back to the game, with nearly ten minutes separating the plays from scrimmage. Soccer, on the other hand, has constant action for 45 minutes straight. There is no getting up for a beer after a goal in soccer, because the teams go right back to playing immediately following the goal celebration. There are no television timeouts interrupting play in soccer, which ensures the game is completed in two hours, like always. The same cannot be said about football.

The city of Atlanta has something special with Atlanta United's inaugural soccer season. It is one more milestone of the MLS that is slowly making it the most popular league in the United States.

This change is not going to happen overnight, but eventually the United States will be a soccer country, even in the football dominated south. Football will still be around, football will still be popular, the Patriots will probably still be hated, and the SEC will probably still be the best conference in NCAA. However, ten years from now, do not be surprised to see more people in Atlanta donning red and black Atlanta United kits rather than Atlanta Falcons jerseys.

living west

A Grand Night for CASA

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Carroll County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will hold their 16th Annual "Grand Night" fundraising event at the University of West Georgia on Saturday, March 18.

CASA is a national, nonprofit organization that promotes court-appointed volunteer activism, in order to create a place of refuge for every abused and neglected child in the United States, so that they will have a forever home and the ability to succeed. The Carroll County chapter of CASA was founded in 1998 by local couple, Russ and Mary Sarnier, who saw a need for child activism. Carroll County CASA has since expanded, by increasing staff members, conducting continuing volunteer training and presenting a professional appearance to the community.

With more than 300 children going through foster care each year, there are simply not enough volunteers to go around. Carroll County CASA is currently serving 123

children, but 73 other children are still in need of CASA volunteers. The organization has made a promise and commitment to put a CASA volunteer into the life of every child who needs one, which is why they need the help of the community.

Since 2001, Carroll County CASA has held the "Grand Night" event to raise money in order to solicit support and accrue sponsors for the event and organization. Music will be provided by the Dakota Dodge Big Band, and will also feature local talent Dr. Howard Seeman, Dr. Thelma Wiley-Lucas, Donisha Kight and Marion Smith. The playlist for the evening will consist of 70's rock, soul and R & B tunes such as Aretha Franklin, Chicago, Earth, Wind, and Fire and Smokey Robinson. Music will begin at 6 p.m. and will continue late into the evening.

Cocktail attire is required. The cocktail reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the buffet dinner at 7 p.m.

Limited seating is available. Individual tickets are \$100 and may be purchased at the CASA office. You may also make donations and purchase tickets online at www.carrollcasa.org.

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living west

UWG fraternity or just a club?

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The Alpha Nu Phi house, which is located across from campus, is constantly mistaken as one of the UWG fraternities due to its given name. The Greek letters ANF stands for A Non Fraternity.

“People do compare us to UWG fraternities even though we are not affiliated with the university or any Greek organization,” said Rocky Capobianco, ANF member. Even though ANF is not affiliated with the university, members of the group participate in intramural sports hosted by the university. “Those of us who are students at the university enjoy competing in intramural sports with other students,” said Rocky.

Since ANF has been questioned by students from the university about if they are a fraternity associated with the university, they have taken precautions. “We have been talking about changing our group name to 1502 instead of ANF because of people constantly mistaking us for a UWG affiliated group.” 1502 is a part of the street address where the members meet to hang out and conduct meetings.

“If we are hanging out and someone wants to talk about what we’re doing for spring break or really anything, we make sure to discuss it at our meetings,” said Rocky. “We have a lot of discussions about those kinds of things.”

Rocky explained that males and females from both the university and the com-

munity come to be a part of the group. “From campus, depending on their moods, about 5-15 students would consider themselves a part of ANF,” said Rocky. “We do not have official membership like a fraternity would so it’s hard to say for sure. We are not a closed group so we are always excited to add new friends!”

The purpose of ANF is to find a group of friends from the university and community who can be consistent throughout the years of being in Carrollton. “The group was born out of the need of people who were comfortable with each other to have a place to hang out and plan fun things to do together,” said Rocky. “For instance, a bunch of us decided to go on a cruise for spring break.”

Rocky is a senior at the university and stated that ANF started sometime in the Fall of 2015. Before ANF started, Rocky was a part of one of the UWG fraternities. “I was in a fraternity and resigned because all it represented was drinking and etc.”

“Friendships are so much more than that and building friendships with guys and girls who are my age to help solidify those relationships reflect some of what was missing when I was in a UWG fraternity, which is why I left,” Rocky continued.

Since Rocky is a senior at the university, he hopes ANF is able to continue. Anybody is allowed to visit 1502 Maple Street on Fridays or Saturdays to hang out. “If it’s fun, then you’re welcome to be a part of our clique,” said Rocky. “We are just a group of people who really enjoy hanging out with each other.”

ArtRageous! Music and Art Gone Wild!

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The Townsend Center at UWG is holding the show ArtRageous on Mar. 25 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. This is the first time this show has been held on West Georgia’s campus. This show is unlike any other, and brings a new way for people to see Music and Art together. ArtRageous is based out of Tijeras, Mexico from a small artistic community. Each artist creates a masterpiece before your very eyes, while incorporating musical numbers and never before seen choreography.

The ArtRageous crew travels all over the world to perform this show, and is one of the most popular shows to this day. The show has been going on for 20 years, and has included some of the same performers since day one. The crew of this show practices at their troupe campus located in New Mexico, between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. This location is equipped with a recording studio, garden, offices and rehearsal spaces.

“Most people say that it is the combination of art and music that makes the show different,” said Lauri Francis, ArtRageous Costume Designer. “In that our goal is to involve the audience in their show, we would also add what makes us very different is the focus on audience interaction”. Francis has been a part of the show since 1993, and even takes

her son Jaden on the ArtRageous tour with her. Besides designing the immaculate costumes for the show, Francis also a painter, dancer, singer and bus cook. Along with Francis, many of the cast members carry various amounts of talent for the show.

During the ArtRageous performances, many neon colors are used to make the art stand out even more. The artist uses splashes of paint to make the picture they are wanting to create. Most of the paintings created during the show are famous well-known celebrities. ArtRageous has created paintings of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Dr. Martin Luther King and Stevie Wonder. Many of the paintings are also done at the same time on stage, with different artists. This show does this to help make the audience feel as though they are part of the show. “We help create an atmosphere during the show where the audience wants to participate - both in their seats and on stage with us.” Said Francis. The audience has even been given neon lights before to hold up during the performances

“We had done Action Painting and we were a show band but the idea behind ArtRageous was to put everything together in one show.” Said Francis. ArtRageous Includes dance, music and art all into one show, because it’s different and hasn’t been done before. It’s a new form of art that they are hoping that people see and decide to chase their dreams to be an artist.

Recent Water Outage Causes UWG to Collect Over 20,000 Water Bottles

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The majority of the City of Carrollton, including the University of West Georgia, was left without water for over 40 hours on Feb. 22 due to the major leak in its water system. As a result, Dine West and Housing and Residence Life experienced significant issues causing their staff and partnerships to act quickly in order to accommodate to the students and faculty at UWG.

When the news of the water leak in Carrollton was given to HRL at UWG, extra professional staff along with ResSTAR patrol, student employees who help maintain safety in the residence halls and campus overall, increased. The staff of HRL created a response plan that would help them quickly control the situation.

“HRL immediately communicated the outage to our residents,” said Stephen Whitlock, Director of Housing and Residence Life. “Our response plan included: water distribution to our residence halls, consideration of services to be impacted including toilet facilities and suppressed fire system was identified.”

Dine West at UWG suffered extreme cases from the water outage. The dish machines as well as the water to cook and clean hindered the staff of Dine West from their normal duties.

“The water outage and subsequent boil water advisory had a big impact on standard operating procedures,” said John Lyons, Executive Director for Campus Dining at UWG. “Every drink machine is connected to water lines and we were unable to serve drinks normally or wash dishes as we normally do.”

As a result, campus dining utilized disposable products until the boil water advisory took place and the staff was able to boil water to resume their normal routine. Water deliveries were also being made for emergency situations.

“When we lost water pressure, we changed to disposable service ware to eliminate the need to operate the dish machine,” said Lyons. “Once the water pressure returned we began to boil water so that we could wash pots and pans

as well as mop the floors. While this was happening we were on the phone with our suppliers to get emergency water deliveries.”

To quickly serve the faculty and staff of UWG, Dine West was able to purchase approximately 7,000 bottles of water, which was used by HRL as well. Tanner Grocery, US Foods in Atlanta and Coca Cola all helped contribute to delivering a tremendous amount of water bottles to UWG in case of an extended advisory.

“In the end our partners were able to deliver 25,000 bottles of water to campus in less than 18 hours of the boil water advisory,” said Lyons.

Ice machines were greatly impacted across campus due to the advisory. Every ice machine had to be emptied and sanitized in order to properly serve the faculty and staff of UWG.

“We needed ice to be able to operate and our partner, Crystal Cubes Ice Company, supplied us with a freezer truck and 16,000 pounds of ice within 18 hours of the water outage,” said Lyons.

To ensure all operations were back to normal, Campus Planning and Facilities contributed greatly along with the Coca-Cola service techni-

cians to re-start the drink and ice machines in a safe and timely manner.

“Facilities played a major role in bringing all the equipment back online after the advisory was lifted,” said Lyons. “All the water lines had to be purged and every filter had to be replaced. They did a great job of getting the operations back to normal as quickly as possible.”

The University of West Georgia is taking steps in order to ensure the staff of UWG is well prepared if an incident such as this were to reoccur. Through the help and strong communication between all departments involved, the staff was able to work diligently to solve the problem.

“We are meeting as a leadership team in the days to come to debrief the event and include these learnings in our contingency plans so that we can be prepared for a similar event in the future,” said Lyons. “We had excellent communications among the departments (HRL, Facilities, Auxiliary Services, UWG Police, University Communications and Marketing and the City of Carrollton) and everyone worked together to minimize the impact to the campus community.”



Photo: Victoria Jones

news

Local restaurant files application to sell alcoholic beverages

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Rocky's Pizza, located at 1027 Maple St. Suite A, has filed an application to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises as a limited pouring license restaurant.

"We applied for a beer and wine pouring license," said Rocky Capobianco, student and owner of Rocky's Pizza.

Capobianco loves to serve UWG students, but his main focus is on the community as a whole. "We are adding beer and wine to complement our food menu; not to become a place where students come to drink and frolic," said Rocky. "That's what downtown is for.

"We intend to offer a small, but creative menu of popular beers

and wines that are best consumed with our quality food," continued Rocky. "If you are enjoying a pizza, some wings, a calzone or salad, you might want to enjoy a beer or a glass of wine with it. That's another reason why we want to make it available."

Rocky explained that before the application could be processed he had to pay fees. Once the application was processed the City of Carrollton required the restaurant to post a sign up in front of the building stating that they have applied for the license. The sign also stated that a hearing took place on Feb. 17 for the public to attend along with the owners of the restaurant.

"The hearing was held for anyone who felt as though we should not be allowed for whatever reason to serve beer and wine at our location," said Rocky.

The business owner also had to apply for an application with

the state. "With this application I had to get fingerprinted and get those sent off to the state," said Rocky.

The graduating senior explained that his restaurant will be different from any other restaurant that serves alcoholic beverages. "Once everyone in the Carrollton community realizes that our restaurant is a place where quality food and libations are served, we will be accepted by everyone in the greater Carrollton area that has been looking for what we offer.

Rocky discussed how he loves and appreciates the university. "It could eventually rival Athens, GA as a cultural center for West Georgia," said Rocky. "We would like to be considered a part of the cultural development of this great area.

"We would also like to allow the greater Carrollton community with a place where students, along with people from the community, can

feel comfortable and enjoy themselves," continued Rocky.

The carrollton native explained that the restaurant will also be showcasing local musicians who will provide entertainment for the diners as well. "There is a need for more development of the art," said Rocky. "Rocky's Pizza can be the place where people come to enjoy great food, live entertainment and outdoor games."

The entrepreneur constantly asks his customers how the restaurant can better serve them and their responses are taken very seriously. "We intend to make Rocky's Pizza exactly what Carrollton wants us to be," said Rocky.

According to Rocky, the restaurant is still waiting on the state approval. Once the state approves, Rocky's Pizza will be able to provide everything that the community has been looking for.

Who needs the luck of the Irish when you have the Pub?

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The Irish Bred Pub will host its 11th annual St. Patrick's Day party on Mar. 17 and 18. Unlike past years, the party will be a two day event as opposed to one day and will take place on a Friday and Saturday. This gives people the opportunity to take part in the St. Patrick's Day festivities on Saturday as well, if they were unable to participate on Friday. This is an outdoor event that takes place at the Irish Bred Pub's establishment on Adamson Square in downtown Carrollton. This two day party will feature all day events and will be welcoming to people of all ages.

"We're going to have the whole quad of the square sectioned off," said Jake Thelen, a bartender at the Irish Bred Pub and Assistant Coordinator of the St. Patrick's Day Party. "We're going to have various Irish bands and bagpipers playing, beer stands stationed, there's going to be free giveaways from hats to koozies to t-shirts."

On Saturday the backside of the Pub is where the St. Patrick's Day festivities will be taking place as opposed to the front side the day before. The Pub has also rented out The Amp, which is a local concert venue and just so happens to be located directly behind the Pub. Along with various beer stations, there will be various bands


playing throughout the day, leading up to The Velcro Pygmies, an 80s rock cover band that have made their name well known throughout the country.

"It's going to be a fun environment for everyone to come out and listen to some great music and drink green beer, for those over 21," said Thelen.

The Pub has had a large influence among UWG students and the Carrollton community since its inception 11 years ago. Students and residents around the area visit the Pub on a daily basis for its food, beverages, atmosphere and staff. The Pub expects to have the biggest turnout of people this year, considering the fact that St. Patrick's day falls on a Friday and UWG is beginning their Spring Break.

"We set records every year, and we fully expect this year to be the most populated in terms of people, with UWG starting their spring break and families around the area coming after they get off of work or their children getting out of school, they are going to want to have a cool and fun environment to come and celebrate St. Pattys and that's what we are providing," said Thelen.

The 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Party at the Pub is providing the people of the Carrollton community with a spot to come out and celebrate. The Pub has been hosting this event every year since their start and will continue to do so, hoping to attract more people every year and expanding for the many years to come.



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news

Local church merges with UWG organization

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St. Andrew United Methodist Church (UMC), in Carrollton GA, is in the process of merging with the Wesley Foundation at UWG. Church mergers are very common, but a church merging with a college organization is a very unique collaboration. Last year, St. Andrews UMC decided that they wanted to take on the task of connecting with the students at UWG. They took their vision to the North Georgia United Methodist Conference to help bring their ideas to light.

In June 2016, Sam Dawkins, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville GA, had the vision that he wanted to do more work with college students. Dawkins graduated from The University of Georgia where he was heavily involved in their Wesley Foundation organization. “That was a huge part of my life in college,” said Dawkins. “I found friends, met my wife, I was able to be a worship leader, and found my calling to the pastoral ministry there, so I want to build a community where people can find that at the University of West Georgia.”

Dawkins took his decision to his senior pastor and district superintendent to keep in mind in case any opportunities came up where he would be able to follow his vision. “A couple of weeks ago, when the bishop and the cabinet met together to discuss appointments they decided to appoint me to this merger because of my gifts and my interests in working with college students,” said Dawkins. In the United Methodist Church, it is common for elder pastors to be appointed to different churches throughout their career.

The Wesley Foundation at UWG, named after John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church, closed last year. The North Georgia Conference decided that it would be best to open back up when they knew they could do it right and make the changes they knew were needed. “I don’t know the specifics on why it was closed,” said Dawkins. “That was a decision made by our conference as well as those who are in charge of higher education. They decided that it was better to close it and relaunch it than to keep it going as it was.

There is not an official timeline or deadline set for the merger, but those in charge hope to start gathering student involvement by the Fall 2017 semester. There are many possibilities since it is so early in the decision making process. Dawkins has not been introduced to the congregation of St. Andrews UMC yet but there are plans for an introduction in the next few months. “We are supposed to meet in the next month or two and I am not going to be appointed pastor until June,” said Dawkins. “We’re looking at hopefully having weeknight services starting in August when school starts back. And looking at launching the church at some point during the school year once we have college students, people from the congregation and the community who come together to get ready to launch.”

Merging churches can be a very tedious task. After the idea of a merge is presented, everyone in the congregation has to take a vote on whether they agree or disagree. The vote was a unanimous yes, which shows that the whole congregation has the same vision of doing more in their community and getting more involved with the college students. Originally, St. Andrews UMC was placed a few blocks away from UWG so that they could be heavily involved in the college community. Now, they are hoping to live up to their purpose.

Carroll County Animal Shelter labelled a no-kill Shelter

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As of Jan. 2017, the Carroll County Animal Shelter is now considered a no-kill shelter. This means that the shelter has maintained a live-release rate of 90 percent or more for at least three months.

Sarah Lumpkin, the Adoption and Volunteer Coordinator, is extremely excited about the news regarding the shelter she has called home since April 2015.

In the month of Nov. CCAS (Carroll County Animal Shelter) had a live-release rate of 119 percent. In Dec. it was about 106 percent which means there were more animals being adopted than there were animals coming into the shelter. In January, the live-release rate was 92 percent which gave CCAS the no-kill status. The live-release rate stayed above the 90 percentile coming in at 92 percent in February.

The no-kill status does not mean there is no risk of a euthanasia. CCAS has a maximum capacity of 287 animals and is almost always at or over their maximum. It is important to understand that shelters can gain or even lose the status of a non-kill shelter depending on their live-release percentage.

CCAS is an open admission shelter, this mean that the shelter must take any animal brought to us within Carroll County lines as long as it is during our intake hours.

“The shelter should always be your last resort to turn in an unwanted animal. We are one of the only open admissions shelters that can say we have reached this status which is amazing.

Without the direction of Lisa Barrett, the shelter director, our work as a team daily, and the love and support from our community, we would not have been able to make the impossible happen,” said Lumpkin.

CCAS has implemented new programs that have helped their live-release rate immensely. In Nov. of 2015, CCAS launched their Community Cat Release Program. This program allows any feral cat that is brought to the shelter to be spayed or neutered, receive rabies vaccinations and are given an ear tip so you can tell from a distance they have been spayed or neutered. These cats are then released back into the area they came from.

“In the past feral cats would have immediately been euthanized because you cannot get your hands on them. Now, they can live their lives like they always have, keep the mice and snake population down, without having all of the nasty habits of cats that have not been spayed or neutered such as fighting, spraying, or producing more kittens. Statistically this reduces the cat population more than just euthanizing them,” said Lumpkin.

In addition, CCAS also received a grant for \$50,000 from Petco in January. This grant allows the shelter to reduce adoption fees to \$25 until the grant money runs out.

“We are still applying for grants so that we can continue this low adoption fees. We do want people to remember that pets are a life-time commitment and to please realize that they are more than just a reduced adoption fee. They do need routine vet care, food and lots of love,” said Lumpkin.

Anyone who has questions about adopting can call the shelter at 770-214-3590. All of the animal at CCAS can be found on petfinder.com.

Gourmet Jay’s Campus Kitchen

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19-year-old cooking sensation and sophomore Jason Hogg, student by day and a businessman by night, has taken UWG by storm with his flavorful dishes for sale. Hogg, also known as Gourmet Jay is a business management major, decided to start gaining experience in his field by serving his prime target audience, his peers. Hogg began cooking at 7years old and for the most part is self-taught. Now, in his second year of college, the young entrepreneur has decided to cash in on his talent. He uses his Instagram page as well as other social media platforms to advertise his meals such as Cajun Chicken & Bacon Alfredo and Garlic Parmesan Shrimp & Grits.

Originally hailing from Bronx, New York Hogg describes his food as a cultural fusion. “I use different cultures to influence my dishes. I used my culture as example in my Jerk Chicken Spaghetti,” said Hogg. “I like to express my creativity through cook-

ing. It’s like an outlet for me.” Hogg also aspires to own several restaurants in locations such as Atlanta and even here in Carrollton, GA where it all started.

In addition to his tasty dishes, Hogg possess a natural desire to please his clients. “I think the most rewarding thing is seeing your customers happy and satisfied and people being proud of your dish,” said Hogg. “My idea of customer service is giving the customer what they need and always being respectful. Always try to work with your customer no matter how difficult they may be.”

Being in college is quite draining and time management is a must, but those are not things that inhibit Hogg. “The most challenging thing is prepping before you actually cook,” said Hogg. “The actual cooking part is not hard. It’s the preparation before making sure everything is clean.”

What Hogg wants everyone to remember about him besides his dishes are the good spirits and good vibes exchanged when dealing with him. Hogg looks forward to growth and expanding his menu. Follow Hogg on Instagram at Gourmet_Jay to stay updated with Jason and his journey.

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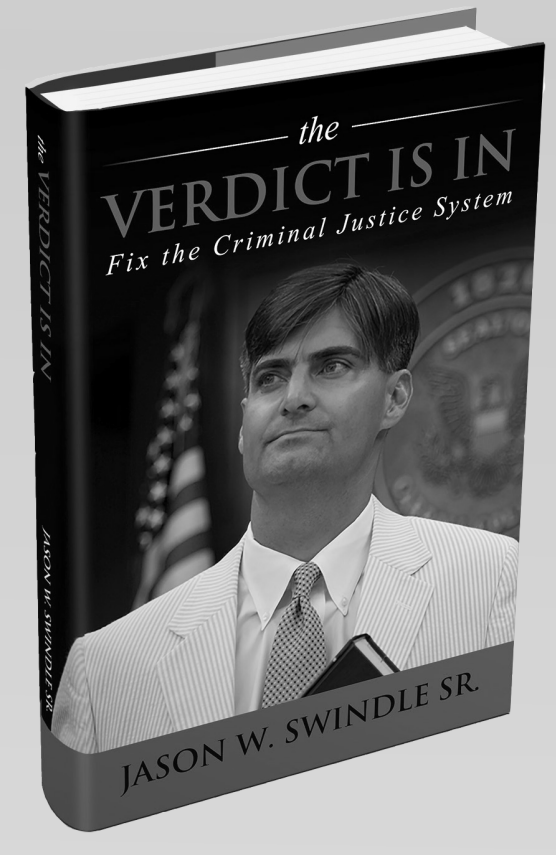
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Veterans Heart Georgia

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Veterans are an important part of the community. Veterans not only have to adjust when they go abroad but also when they come home and step back into normal life. Veterans Heart Georgia acknowledges that and works to build a relationship between veterans and the community. The organization was launched on Veterans Day 2007 by a group of military combat veterans primarily from the Vietnam era, their families, professional counselors, and clinical social workers. They came together with dreams of helping to heal the effects of war in veterans, their families and their communities. Since their creation, they have become an award winning nonprofit organization throughout the state of Georgia, even stretching to Carrollton and UWG. The mission of the organization is highly reflected from works of art by Edward Tick called *War and the Soul*, and *Warriors Return as well as books by Jonathan Shay*. These titles touch on how to welcome veterans back home and help heal from the effects of war.

The founders became committed to assure that some of the negative effects of returning veterans from the vietnam war would not be made again by generations of combat veterans. “A critical part of the mission is education. We hosts major conferences and workshops for civilian counselors, therapists, advisors, clergy, and others in the civilian community that address “The Warrior’s Journey,” along with particular issues related to the combat veteran’s transition from military to civilian life,” said Secretary and Treasurer John Caravella. They honor and support service members and their families through community based services. They work with the communities of Georgia to bring services to service-members, veterans and their families. Such as consultation with coun-

selors, clergy, and mental health clinicians. As well as workshops, programs, training, and mentoring. The organization has four main beliefs. “First, there is healing for the invisible wounds of war. Second, core work is the nurturing of a positive warrior identity. Third, that the suffering of families must be addressed. Fourth; that the citizens of our communities, those who are protected and guarded, must share the burden of the wounds of those who have gone to war,” according to their website. Community is a major aspect of the organization. Therefore, they have created their own approach to building relationships between the community and veterans. That program is called Just Listening. Just Listening is a “participative discussion group for veterans of

all wars, family members, concerned civilians, counselors, and clergy who seek emotional and spiritual healing from the effects of military service and war,” said Caravella. This group offers participants to meet and talk without judgment and gives veterans a chance to tell their stories. UWG College of Social Science collaborated with the Veterans Heart Georgia to bring Just Listening circle right here to Carrollton, Georgia. The Just Listening program is open to service members, veterans, their family members, helping professionals and caring citizens. It is a place for all to come together and listen, understand, and address together the effects of war that touch everyone. Because of these groups, it allows everyone to become part of the process that is focused to help gain a full return and healing for the effects of war. This is a chance for the entire community to share the burden and develop a unique understanding of what those in the service go through at home and abroad. The Just Listening circle is held the second Tuesday of every month at Carrollton Presbyterian Church near Adamson Square from 7-9 p.m. For more information on the Veterans Heart Georgia organization visit www.veteransheartgeorgia.org.



Nintendo Switch’s big challenge: Luring casual gamers

Mae Anderson
Associated Press

With three kids and constant travel for work, John Hussey jumped at the chance to play an open-world adventure game like “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” anywhere, anytime. After he heard about the Nintendo Switch, a hybrid game machine that works as both a console at home and a tablet on the go, Hussey ordered one in January even though it wouldn’t arrive until Friday, when Nintendo’s latest game machine debuts. Nintendo will need lots of traditional gamers like Hussey to redeem itself as a console maker, after being eclipsed by Microsoft and Sony in the game-console wars. But Nintendo will also need lots of casual gamers who are satisfied with playing on a smartphone and would never have dreamed of buying a \$300 game machine. And in trying to appeal to many audiences, Nintendo risks not being the best at serving any one. THREE LIVES The Switch is like three machines in one. Wireless controllers attach to a game tablet for hand held gaming. Take the tablet to a gathering with friends, and you can rest it on a table with a kickstand and detach the controllers for use as stand-alone devices. Back home, slide the tablet into a docking station and snap the controllers into a grip accessory and you have a traditional game console attached to a TV. With each switch - get it? - you can pick up where you left off. “Knowing I could get the ‘Zelda’ game both at home and on the road, at this stage in my life that’s essential,” said Hussey, a sales rep from Bloomington, Indiana. “I can’t sit around at home and play a 70-hour game, but if I’m on airplanes or hotels, it’s perfect for me.” The new “Zelda” game is the biggest

available at launch, though Nintendo is also pushing a collection of casual party games called “1-2-Switch.” Nintendo says more than 80 titles are in development, including “Super Mario Odyssey” and the action-puzzle game “Snipperclips: Cut it Out, Together.” GAME OVER ... TRY AGAIN Nintendo’s Wii in 2006 introduced motion control to gaming and was a massive success, forcing Microsoft and Sony to respond with their own motion controls. But the Wii’s successor in 2012, the Wii U, proved disappointing. People thought it was too expensive at \$300, especially when it had few must-have games. Since then, the Japanese video game maker has faced other hiccups. Its NES Classic retro module was a “hot” holiday gift, but it was difficult to find during the holidays. It fared better with the monster-chasing “Pokemon Go “ sensation on phones, but that wasn’t developed in-house. The iPhone game “Super Mario Run “ garnered buzz, but some balked at the \$10 price. It’s also not available on Android until later this month. The Switch represents a new hope. Nintendo is forecasting sales of 2 million units in the first month. IDC analyst Lewis Ward estimates Nintendo will ship 8 million within a year - better than the Wii U, though not as much as the Wii. MULTIPLAYER With the Switch, Nintendo is hoping “to reach gamers, families and we even hope to reach people who haven’t played video games before,” Nintendo managing executive director Shinya Takahashi said. “Really the goal with the Nintendo Switch is to reach as broad an audience as possible.” Part of that involves changing the nature of game play. Nintendo developed the mini-games in “1-2-Switch” so players look at their opponents - not screens - as they draw guns or milk cows. Nintendo Switch developer Yoshiaki Kozumi said he wanted the game to reflect Nintendo’s roots as a playing card company in the 1880s. Nintendo wants to bring people together, and “one of the best ways to do that is giving them

the opportunity to be able to see each other’s expression,” much like when you’re playing cards, he said. Andrew Maher, a cook in Columbia, Missouri, looks forward to playing with his girlfriend, something they couldn’t do together on phones. He said the Switch “seems like a fun group experience.” But Nintendo doesn’t want to give up on traditional gamers either - thus the docking station for playing on the big screen. PRESS START The be-all approach comes with compromises . As a game console, the Switch doesn’t have the range of games available on Sony’s PlayStation 4 and Microsoft’s Xbox One. As a tablet, it lacks traditional features such as a web browser and streaming video apps like Netflix (even rival game consoles have these). Euromonitor analyst Matthew Hudak said Nintendo needs a way to be different from rivals, and “the smartest play for them is to try to be this all-purpose console for social, casual or dedicated needs.” But if Nintendo fails to persuade casual gamers to spend \$300 on something that does less than their phones, the Switch could wind up on the trash heap like the Wii U. “For the average consumer seeking a new console, they want to be able to spend the least money, be able to keep up with all the biggest releases and play the same games as their friends, none of which they can currently do with Nintendo Switch,” said Joshua Clay, a video game programmer in Derby, U.K., who doesn’t plan to switch from his PlayStation 4. IDC’s Ward is more optimistic. While hardcore gamers might stick with the Xbox One or PlayStation 4 because they’re more powerful and support more multiplayer online games, he said the Switch’s portability and easy-to-use controllers will appeal to first-time gamers. “I’m predicting Nintendo is going to be viewed in retrospect at the end of the year as ‘Back in the game,’” he said.

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