

Local cadets assist in Matthew relief effort

Daniel Forte

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Local cadets from the Georgia Military College (GMC) recently returned from their mission of providing hurricane disaster relief due to Hurricane Matthew. Hurricane Matthew's widespread destruction has mobilized numerous relief organizations such as The American Red Cross and FEMA to assist those affected. GMC sent 25 local cadets to assist the relief effort in Effingham County, Ga., to help citizens deal with after effects of the storm like supplies shortages, lack of clean water and downed trees.

The Academy, located in Milledgeville, dispatched their squad on Operation Water Magnolia after the dangerous part of the storm had passed. The cadets, along with FEMA, teamed up and distributed 50,000 bottles of water over 6 days. Alexis Marroquin, Carrollton resident and Army National Guard Specialist and his 24 comrades were dispatched to Effingham County, where cleanup and assistance were greatly needed.

"We gave away about 10,000 bottle of water on the first day alone," said Marroquin. "People just kept coming looking for clean water. That was the biggest issue because Matthew's rain dirtied the water supply."

The torrential downpour from the tropical system caused flash flooding not just in Effingham county, but all across the southeast coast. All of Effingham's bodies of clean water became tainted by the runoff from all the rain flowing into the water supply and backing up the sewage. Water, both



Photo Courtesy of Shannon Wiggins

rainwater and drinking water, were the primary concerns for citizens dealing with the effects of Matthew. However, they also had to deal with many other issues that come with a storm of such magnitude: power outages, downed trees, injuries etc.

Downed trees were a major problem in Effingham county. Falling trees can potentially bring down power lines, block roadways, or fall on buildings. Several trees were knocked down

on and fell on Effingham Middle School in Guyton, Ga. Fortunately, the building was not severely damaged and the biggest issue at the middle school was the big mess.

"We were sent out in shifts to do certain missions we were assigned," said Marroquin. "Sometimes we would go help clean up downed trees, other times we would distribute water. We also went through the residential neighborhoods checking to make sure nobody was

trapped or hurt."

As with any state of emergency, the disaster relief team was ready for anything Matthew could have thrown at them. An emergency medical shelter was set up, but fortunately it was not needed as there were no life threatening injuries sustained in the area. Relief effort are still underway, as damaged homes and businesses will take a long time to recover. Thankfully, the worst of it is over.

Photo Courtesy of Alexis Marroquin



opinion / editorial

America needs Millennials to vote

Dee Dee Murphy

Guest Writer
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I am an elder member of the wolf clan. I'm retired and have audited classes at UWG since I moved from Charlotte to Carrollton in 2012.

This semester I'm enrolled in Sociology of Terrorism with Dr. Neema Noori. The class is topical. My classmates and I strive to understand what terrorism is and why it happens. Border security is important and the subject should concern everyone.

As a fellow wolf, I appeal to you on a matter of utmost importance, the 2016 election. The deadline to register to vote in Georgia has passed. I hope you are registered and will participate in the process of choosing the next president.

Major candidates present flawed choices, but you should still vote November 8. In sixty-seven years, I've held my nose and voted many times. Not voting is not an option. We can't abdicate our responsibility as citizens. This month, the Billy Bush tape made our choice clearer.

Millennials can make a difference in this election. Statistics show you are much more informed about climate change, and understand the need for immediate change in energy and pollution policy.

Your generation contacts local government and works with others in the community. You are likely to get involved in protests or other political confrontations. You're also a progressive generation. That's why many millennials are Bernie people.

Sanders is as progressive as you are.

It's not because he presents a slick political message to appeal to the younger generation. It's because he's a true progressive who believes in progressive principles. He fights for them out of conviction. That's the thing about authenticity, ou can't fake it.

Sanders inspires passionate, politically active voters. Since his defeat, he agrees it's time to help elect the adult on the ballot. Early voting has started. Please put down your device and cast a vote.

I write a bi-monthly opinion columns for The Times-Georgian newspaper in Carrollton because I want to be a thought leader. At the risk of sounding preachy and partisan, although it's good to have a third party alternative, please don't vote for Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate for president. His lack of knowledge on foreign affairs is appalling.

In response to an interviewer's question, Johnson didn't know what Aleppo is. His inability to recognize the Syrian city that is ground zero for the refugee crisis disqualifies him. Images flood our television screens nightly of Aleppo's bombed hospitals and bloodied children.

Hillary runs on the Democratic National Platform which was brokered at their national convention with heavy influence from Sanders.

Don't fall for diversions. Discern who has well-thought-out policy positions, and who's throwing everything at their opponent to see what sticks. It's impossible to rig national elections run by fifty separate state Boards of Elections.

Decide whether you want your country to be entertained, or to be led.

No matter your choice, please vote.



Photo Courtesy of Dee Dee Murphy

living west

BikeShare with UWG

Sade' Louis

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"Bike West" has been the new mantra for UWG since the debut of the bike lane that circles the campus and the completion of the 16-mile GreenBelt, the largest paved loop trail in the state of Georgia, that winds throughout the city of Carrollton at the beginning of the last academic year.

In addition, the University Recreation Center, through the outdoor sector, offers a bike rental program where students can rent a variety of bicycles, along with helmets, at their leisure for a small price. However, in recent works, Auxiliary

Services has ignited a new bike rental initiative titled The Community BikeShare Program.

"It's a good way to get the community together," said student leader JaSia Lovelace. "People that aren't students, nor have access to a bike, now have that option."

Pairing with the community, the Wolfe's Card Office is bringing six refurbished bikes from the University Police Department to this program. Those same refurbished bikes and more will be available at 10 different stations around campus, the Carrollton community and along the Greenbelt, for free checkout for students, faculty and staff.

The campus locations where rentals will be available will be at Watson Hall and across from Murphy Hall.

Students, faculty and staff can use their campus identification to check out a bike free for the first hour. If the renter would like the bike longer than the allotted hour, a small fee charged from a debit or credit card will be needed.

Putting emphasis on "going green" and new technology, all 10 bike stations will be solar powered and will rely on cellular communication devices, like the average smart phone.

"Honestly, I'm all for it," said University Recreation Facilities Manager Michael O'neal. "This new bike program will promote physical fitness for children to be more active. This generation is full of new technology."

Zagster, whose slogan is "Bike share for everyone," is the company that helps make this dream come true for the community. Originating in Philadelphia, Pa., the city of brotherly love, they cater to other cities and properties, such as apartments and different neighborhoods.

The bike share company has already installed similar programs at Cornell University, Columbia University and Dartmouth.

Formerly known as CityRyde, Zagster paired with ZipBike, parallel to the well-known ZipCar program, to create this phenomenal bike share program that has become a huge hit across the country. Due to the diligent work towards the launch at the end of this month, this program has been kept under tight wraps.

"The Community BikeShare Program is not yet in place," said Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Mike Reeves. "We plan to have this program communicated through UWG Marketing and Communications."

This new bike rental program has sparked amazing energy in the community, and people have nothing but good words to say about it.

Compiling the bike lane, the GreenBelt and on campus bike rentals, a healthier and more fit Carrollton is in the near future, and the city of Carrollton will have another reason to "Bike West."



Photo: Sade' Louis

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The West Georgian welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters may be mailed to:
Editor, The West Georgian,
University of West Georgia,
Carrollton, GA, 30118,
or sent via electronic mail to:
uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com

All letters must be signed and include a phone number and mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length.

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news

Patrons and sponsors offer artists a means to create

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Brainard Carey, an influential American artist, conducted a webinar offering advice to artists on how to get patrons and sponsors. Carey presented this particular webinar on October 19 at 8 p.m. and over 400 people attended.

To better understand this topic, patrons are the people who support artists by offering their financial support.

“Patrons and sponsors are about cultural production,” said Carey. “I’m talking about money to your studio. This is about raising money, this is about checks in your studio.”

An artist alone can only do so much with what they have. In order to create art, money is usually a huge requirement and sometimes artists cannot create due to a lack of funding. Patrons and sponsors are the people who can give artists the financial support they need.

“There are three types of sponsors and patrons: one is for personal projects, the other is corporate patrons and the other is what’s called sponsors in a bag,” said Carey. “Sponsors in a bag is about working with local businesses. Corporate patrons is obviously corporations like Bose and Apple computers, and patrons for personal projects can be like the patrons that are developed on Kickstarter.”

However, unlike Kickstarter, sponsors and patrons for personal projects do not expect compensation of artwork or objects for contributing large amounts of money to an artist. The agreement is not for an object. Though Kickstarter is a great resource for artists, it can be a hassle to have to send out a large amount of rewards to donors.

“This is a more expanded version of how sponsors are developed on a more intimate basis,” said Carey. “It’s existed for hundreds of years. They still exist in the largest numbers ever.”

The impact of personal project sponsors and patrons is significant compared to Kickstarter. If artists take the time to really invest in their supporters, the results are substantial. Plus, this has been a successful process for longer than Kickstarter has been around.

“Michelangelo was writing to Ludovico Sforza,” said Carey. “He gave him a pitch for why he should support his studio, not because Ludovico Sforza is going to make any

money off of his studio or because he’s giving him anything. He needs money and he’s an artist that has a whole studio to pay for. He needs a little more money to keep going and potentially get more commissions. This has been happening for ages.”

Carey has had plenty of time to learn this practice and has been seeking out patrons and sponsors for the last 15 years. He had a child during one of his most desperate times searching for patrons.

“I wanted to keep doing what I wanted to do while I had a child and not feel like I had to get a job that I hated, so since then I’ve received well over 100,000 in support from patrons and sponsors. It’s still my main income. I like the system; I like the paradigm, which is people pay you for work before it’s done. It’s a different kind of support and it’s very personal and very supportive.”

Carey graduated with a BFA soon after began to struggle in Rhode

five every week: museum directors, curators, artists from all over the world. I ask them what they’re doing and how they’re doing it. I’m always drawing from information and inspiration from these interviews.”

After he talked about personal project sponsors and patrons, Carey discussed what he likes to call sponsors in a bag. In exhibits, artists can provide their visitors with bags that have sponsor’s business cards or other self-promoting things. Sponsors and patrons can pay to advertise in these bags.

“What you’re telling them is that they can be in a special sponsor bag that 100 people are getting as they come in and leave your exhibit,” said Carey. “These are people who are culturally oriented, so their income is higher and have more money to spend than most.”

This is a win-win for sponsors, the artist putting on the exhibit and viewers attending the exhibit.

“THE MOST *generous* THING
YOU CAN DO IS TO
recieve EVERYTHING.”

—ELIE WIESEL

Island and New York City. He eventually opened a gallery in Rhode Island and did carpentry to support himself out of college. He worked hard and eventually got into the Whitney Biennial exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

He also worked for Yale Radio at Yale University conducting interviews with artists. He founded the interview program at Yale Radio called The Art World Demystified and also founded an online school for artists later on called Praxis Center for Aesthetic Studies. In addition he has written five books. Carey also still interviews professionals from the art world every week and this yields a wealth of knowledge about the art world.

“Yale University Radio is kind of special,” said Carey. “I started a talk show there. It’s a student run radio and I still have it. I’ve interviewed hundreds of people, now well over 600 today. I interviewed about four or

“It’s more powerful than a Facebook ad or print ad, because these people are getting a card in their hand,” said Carey.

The final type of patron and sponsor Carey talked about was the personal patrons. These are the people who will support artists personally. Personal patrons are the ones to write letters to.

“There’s three types of letters to write to them,” said Carey. “There’s a letter asking for a donation just to pursue studio practice. The second type of letter is asking for support of a particular project and the third is a letter asking for a meeting resulting in a studio visit.”

Personal patrons simply want to see artists make art and learn as much as they can about artists. With personal patrons, it is best to be sincere and listen to them. Artists can benefit from them by simply giving them their time and that the relationship

lasts.

“It’s enormously important that this conversation continues,” said Carey. “Meet a patron at a gallery or museum and walk through with them, have coffee with them, lunch with them. They like to know artists. Artists are exotic creatures to them.”

Corporate sponsors are the final type of sponsors Carey talked about. This type of sponsor requires the most persistence. Artists need to ask many questions and communicate immensely with corporate sponsors if they want to get anything from them. Some corporations can be easier to get sponsorship from than others, but it all boils down to how much an artist is willing to reach out and try.

“I reached out to Apple by calling repeatedly,” said Carey. “I wanted them to loan me 40 iPods to show video on a wall. So first I wrote to Apple and didn’t hear back, then I called 1-800-MY-APPLE for sales. They gave me a number eventually and that number had a recording on it.” Essentially that was a dead end for Carey, so he sought out an Apple store and decided to start fresh from there. An employee gave him information on someone in business.

“I wrote to that guy, and asked if he knew anybody I could send this to,” said Carey. “He said, ‘well I’ve never heard of anyone doing that but it doesn’t hurt to ask; send me something.’ Who he was sending it to was somebody in Buzz Marketing. Buzz Marketing department is the department that some corporations have; Apple has one. It’s the department where if you see Apple computers and all kinds of things in film, it got there and those films or TV shows were loaned that or given that and it came through this department. So, I got an email back two days later. It was sort of cryptic and seemed like it was missing words.”

Carey communicated back and forth with the Buzz Marketing department, but because of his persistence, he got the 40 iPods for his project. Not only did he receive the iPods, but he also got to keep them. Apple did not want them back nor did they want to be listed as a sponsor in his exhibit.

Through all this, artists can flourish from asking for financial support and allowing themselves to be open to any gifts to keep them doing what they do, and that’s to make art.

Carey is an example for artists trying to make it in modern society. He offered a wealth of information to listeners of the webinar and also offers a class online through his school, Praxis Center for Aesthetic Studies.

Graphic: Anndrea Ours

Carrollton’s fall festival returns to Adamson Square

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If you plan on driving through Adamson Square on Oct. 29, you might want to find a different route. Main Street and Carrollton Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Department is teaming up once again for the Carrollton Fall Festival and plan on shutting down the square at 7 a.m. to begin preparations.

With over 30 businesses involved and a wide range of activities planned, Main Street Director Scott Ballentine is expecting between three to four thousand people to show up for the festival.

“It’s a win-win situation,” said Ballentine. “Adamson Square is a fun place, and it has a pretty great vibe. It is also a safe place to bring children.”

Each Main Street business, as well as some of the side street businesses, will provide a safe way for children to trick-or-treat on the square. Side street businesses can put a table in the square while the Main Street businesses give away candy inside their stores.

However, the main goal of the Fall

Festival is to bring people to the square and entice shopping and interaction between business owners and citizens.

“If they are downtown, odds are they are going to spend money,” said Ballentine. “If the people downtown are spending money, the businesses are doing well.”

While parents spend their morning looking around and helping local shop owners, children can find an extravagant amount of activities to indulge in, including inflatables, corn hole, storytelling at Horton’s Books, face painting, putt-putt golf and more. Halloween music will play in the background and free drinks, popcorn and snow-cones will be handed out as well.

“We provide an activity for kids and an economic impact for our merchants,” said Ballentine. “For the food, we rent from local vendors.”

At noon, the Amp will host a costume contest for children ages 12 and under. Categories will be by age, and the winners will receive a trophy.

“If anything, come and see the spectacle,” said Ballentine. “You can see the snake of children slither throughout the square.”

The festival kicks off at 10 a.m. and will end at noon with the costume contest. It is free and open to the public.

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For first lady, Trump is he who shall remain nameless

Thomas Beaumont

Associated Press

First lady Michelle Obama has emerged as perhaps the most effective Donald Trump critic in the Democrats' lineup, and she's done it without ever uttering two key words: Donald Trump.

In her six campaign trail speeches for Hillary Clinton, the first lady has never said the Republican nominee's name. She's talked about "this candidate" and dedicated much of her time to a searing indictment of his words and positions. But throughout her buzzworthy takedowns, Trump remains the man who shall remain nameless.

Mrs. Obama didn't depart from her rhetorical dismissal of Trump in Phoenix Thursday. Her appearance in Arizona was a mission to crack open new territory in a GOP-leaning state polls show is now competitive.

The Clinton campaign and Mrs. Obama's staff are reluctant to discuss motives for the obvious omission. But Mrs. Obama's rhetoric shows her trying to balance her position as first lady — a figure long viewed as out of the political fray — while also holding little back in a race she clearly feels strongly about.

At the rally in Arizona, she referred to Trump dozens of times, but in the abstract. "When a presidential candidate threatens to ignore our voices and reject the outcome of this election, he is threatening the very idea of America itself," she told roughly 7,000 raucous supporters at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Trump said he would withhold judgment on accepting the outcome of the election.

She also spoke in deeply personal terms, suggesting that Trump's life in a Manhattan tower keeps him from seeing the humanity in people who are different from him. And that, she suggested, is why he speaks so harshly of African-American communities and insults Muslims, women, people with disabilities, Mexicans and more.

"Maybe that's why he calls communities like the one where I was raised, 'hell,'" she said. "Because he can't see all the decent, hardworking folks like my parents."

Political speakers are often coached to avoid using opponents' names or titles, to deny them any measure of extra publicity or credibility.

It's a time-worn demonstration of disdain by denial, said Mary E. Stuckey, a scholar of political oratory at Georgia State University. By marginalizing him personally, Mrs. Obama also aims to marginalize what he stands for as a candidate.

It may just be

coincidence, but Mrs. Obama's speech Thursday was at the downtown convention center in Phoenix where Trump issued a reaffirmation of his immigration policy proposals, which Clinton sharply opposes.

"Naming, of course, is a form of power. It defines things and makes them real," Stuckey said. "To refuse to name is also to refuse to recognize something."

But others see additional possible motives in Mrs. Obama's rhetoric.

Where previous first ladies have typically played the role of loyal spouse and burnished their husbands' records while campaigning, Mrs. Obama has taken a different tack, said Anita McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

"Her speeches have been more political," McBride said. "Her speeches at the Democratic National Convention and in New Hampshire last week were sharper, more targeted and more cutting than anything I've seen in a previous first lady."

Mrs. Obama spoke at length at the Manchester rally about the release this month of a video from a 2005 "Access Hollywood" interview, where Trump said into a microphone, which he didn't know was live, that he used his celebrity to make sexual advances on women without their consent.

In the weeks that followed, nine women have accused Trump over the past 30 years of kissing and groping them against their will.

Mrs. Obama's response was an effort to starkly refer to Trump as "this candidate actually bragging about sexually assaulting women. I can't believe I'm saying that."

Trump has made a habit of retaliating against his critics. The only time he has mentioned Mrs. Obama during the campaign has been to attempt to poke holes in her support for Clinton by reminding voters of the fierce fight for the 2008 Democratic nomination Clinton fought against President Barack Obama.

Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, has not followed Michelle Obama's example. Speaking at Arizona State University Wednesday, she sprinkled Trump's name throughout her 30-minute speech and a question-and-answer session with more than 500 supporters on the campus in Tempe.

That leaves some former Obama administration staff and others suggesting that the first lady finds Trump so objectionable that she refuses to utter his name as a way of denying him credibility.

"I wonder in some ways if she finds his politics and rhetoric so distasteful she can't bring herself to say his name," said McBride. "Clearly, there's a great deal of passion in these speeches."

UWG student 'Trumps' stereotypes

Photo: Shaunna Conner



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By the time most college students are 19, at best they have gotten through their first semester of college and moved out on their own. Perhaps they have even made the Dean's List or become a member of a student organization on campus. UWG freshman Avery Anderson's success is a little different.

Anderson, an openly gay Conservative and Donald Trump supporter, hails from the small town of Tiger, Ga., located in Rabun County.

He currently serves as a board member and Director of College Affairs for the Georgia chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, an organization representing gay conservatives and supporters of fairness, freedom and equality for all Americans.

Anderson was also one of the youngest delegation members at the Republican National Convention this summer.

He currently serves as the Vice Chairman for the College of Republicans at UWG.

Anderson also looked into running for the Tax Commissioner seat of his county last year before realizing he had to be over the age of 25.

"My idea behind running for tax commissioner was I'm not going to leave home until good happens and until we can make some change," said Anderson. "I feel like I made some change. I feel like because I was involved, I was a public figure in my county, I actually got people to think more. I got people to educate themselves further."

Anderson deems himself a loyalist to the Republican party and hopes to finish out a Congressional or Senatorial term within the next 10-15 years. While he hopes to remain at the state level to better the state of Georgia for citizens, running for president is not out of the question.

Anderson's involvement in politics is the product of a debacle in his high school debate class. His teacher told him that he would never do anything good for the country and that he should quit while he was ahead.

"When people tell me something that I don't like to hear or they tell me something that makes me want to prove them wrong, I always try to find that determination," said Anderson. "My determination was to educate myself a little more about politics."

Originally, Anderson had no desire to be involved in the political process, but every time he tried to avoid politics, it seemed to follow him.

"It almost seems like every time I avoided politics, it just kind of came right back to me," said

Anderson. "Eventually I came to the conclusion that maybe I'm just better off getting involved in something I'm best at, and that's what I did."

Originally, Anderson was on board with the Bernie Sanders campaign, like the majority of the millennial generation, but after much research, he turned to Donald Trump. Due to the common misconception that gays strictly vote Democrat, Anderson often gets questioned and receives disapproval from others.

"People will always question me," said Anderson. "Just because I'm gay doesn't strictly limit me to who I vote for."

Within the past year, primarily within the last few months due to this year's upcoming election, our country has experienced and discussed in detail some of our most controversial issues such as abortion, illegal immigration, police brutality, racism and gay marriage. The issues that seem to get the most attention on campus are racism, Black Lives Matter and the acceptance of the LGBTQ community.

"On campus I see that there are a lot situations between groups on campus where there's not good diplomacy," said Anderson. "There's no good communication. It's all negativity and people are building a wall, as I like to put it, whereas I like to build a wall that has a bridge where we can still have our boundaries of individuality and being different, but at the same time we can identify with each other and we can agree to disagree and be able to understand each other."

The misconception of Trump is that he is racist, sexist and only supportive of himself and the top one percent of the country. Due to media manipulation, the average voter's opinion is swayed because of what they see and hear on the internet and TV, and not actual research.

"Young people are so impressionable and it's not because of our youth, it's because of our inexperience," said Anderson. "A lot of people don't necessarily do what I do. I will go and be the most aggressive person and get involved in everything I can possibly involve myself in, take every opportunity I can, and I constantly try to educate myself. The average college student will generally not know anything about Trump or Hillary, or even Gary Johnson, or Jill Stein or anyone who's running."

With the stigma surrounding Trump and the Republican party in general, it is important to stress to others, particularly millennials, the importance of formulating their own opinions, and not forming their opinions based on the media.

It is imperative that voters become educated about each party, not only for the present, but for the future. After all, our nation is being passed over into the hands of the millennials faster than you would think.

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news

EPA delayed for 7 months in Flint water crisis

Matthew Daly

Associated Press

The Environmental Protection Agency had sufficient authority and information to issue an emergency order to protect residents of Flint, Michigan, from lead-contaminated water as early as June 2015 — seven months before it declared an emergency, the EPA’s inspector general said Thursday.

The Flint crisis should have generated “a greater sense of urgency” at the agency to “intervene when the safety of drinking water is compromised,” Inspector General Arthur Elkins said in an interim report.

Flint’s drinking water became tainted when the city began drawing from the Flint River in April 2014 to save money. The impoverished city of 100,000 north of Detroit was under state control at the time. Regulators failed to ensure water was treated properly and lead from aging pipes leached into the water supply.

Federal, state and local officials have argued over who’s to blame as the crisis continues to force residents to drink bottled or filtered

water. Doctors have detected elevated levels of lead in hundreds of children.

A panel appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder concluded that the state is “fundamentally accountable” for the lead crisis because of decisions made by state environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who controlled the city.

Even so, Snyder and other Republicans have faulted the EPA for a slow response.

“As Gov. Snyder has stated all along, what happened in Flint was the result of failure of government at all levels,” spokeswoman Anna Heaton said Thursday.

State agencies have undergone “culture changes” and updated procedures to prevent a recurrence, so “it’s encouraging to see other agencies undergoing evaluations that can result in improvements to help people here and across the nation,” Heaton said.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver called the report “deeply troubling.”

Weaver, a Democrat who took office after the Flint crisis emerged, said agencies such as the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are “in place to help ensure the

well-being and safety of men, women and children, yet they failed when it comes to the man-made water disaster in Flint. Those responsible must be held accountable.”

The report by the inspector general says officials at the EPA’s Midwest region did not issue an emergency order because they concluded that actions taken by the state prevented the EPA from doing so. The report calls that interpretation incorrect and says that under federal law, when state actions are deemed insufficient, “the EPA can and should proceed with an (emergency) order” aimed at “protecting the public in a timely manner.”

Without EPA intervention, “the conditions in Flint persisted, and the state continued to delay taking action to require corrosion control or provide alternative drinking water supplies,” the report said.

Michigan officials declared a public health emergency in October 2015; the EPA declared an emergency three months later.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has acknowledged that her agency should have been more aggressive in testing the water and

requiring changes, but told Congress that officials “couldn’t get a straight answer” from the state about what was being done in Flint.

Spokeswoman Monica Lee said Thursday that EPA issued an order in the Flint case “as soon as it became apparent that the city and state were failing to address the serious problems with the Flint drinking water system.”

The director of the EPA’s Midwest regional office stepped down Feb. 1 amid withering criticism that the agency failed to act sooner to address lead contamination in the predominantly African-American city.

The official, Susan Hedman, denied wrongdoing, but said she was leaving to avoid becoming a distraction.

In a memo from June 2015, Miguel Del Toral, a scientist in the EPA’s Midwest office, had warned of dangerously high levels of lead. He later criticized the agency for not taking swift action.

The inspector general’s office said a final report on Flint is still being developed. Separately, criminal investigators with the IG’s office are assisting in an ongoing probe of the Flint crisis being led by the U.S. attorney’s office.

arts & entertainment

The Negan era

Anna Anabseh

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It’s been one long, stressful summer for “The Walking Dead” fans after season six’s wicked cliffhanger.

Fans were introduced to the comic’s main and most dangerous villain Negan, played by Jeffery Dean Morgan. Creator Robert Kirkman lived up to fans’ expectations as one of Rick’s crew members will meet their demise to Negan’s barbwire baseball bat Lucille.

Dead heads have been racking their brains trying to figure out who was on the receiving end of Lucille. The season seven premier could follow the comics like the finale of the prior season, killing off a fan favorite. Kirkman, however, has hinted numerous times in different interviews that he will stray from the comics, so anyone could be on the chopping block.

This does not mean that the walkers at home have not been digging for clues. The show films in Atlanta and provides set tours perfect for curious fans looking for hints at the next season.

“We tried to squeeze something out of the few actors and set workers we met,” said Jenna Marston, a graduated student from UWG. “No one was talking, of course.”

The creators have not and will not let this cliffhanger be ruined until the season’s premier. The slew of promotions have promised a lot of

blood and an abundance of Negan.

Negan is notorious for being ruthless, and his character’s promotion abides by the comics. Morgan brings the character to life with an entrapping, taunting and downright chilling persona as he reigns down on Rick & Co.

For most of season seven, Rick and the group will most likely be under Negan’s control or fighting against it. Negan makes it clear that they can either work for him and live, or die.

The newest trailer shows Rick, played by Andrew Lincoln, looking truly defeated and lost after Lucille claimed her victim. Rick is the foundation of this group, and if Negan can break him down, then maybe the group has finally met their maker. Fans of the show have seen the group at many lows, but nothing compares to the look on Rick’s face while Negan taunts him in the latest trailer with “He’s my right hand man. Do you have one of those? Or did I just kill him?”

Rick is shown dripping sweat, splattered with fresh blood and his eyes are vacant. Rick’s crew has always had a backup plan until now.

At the end of the promo, Negan drags Rick into a trailer with an axe. Splattered brains and blood are in the final shot. This trailer leaves us with another cliffhanger: will the creators kill off the show’s main protagonist?

As Negan says, “things have changed,” and judging by what has been shown so far, it is fair to say season seven will promise that.

ATTENTION ALL UWG STUDENTS!



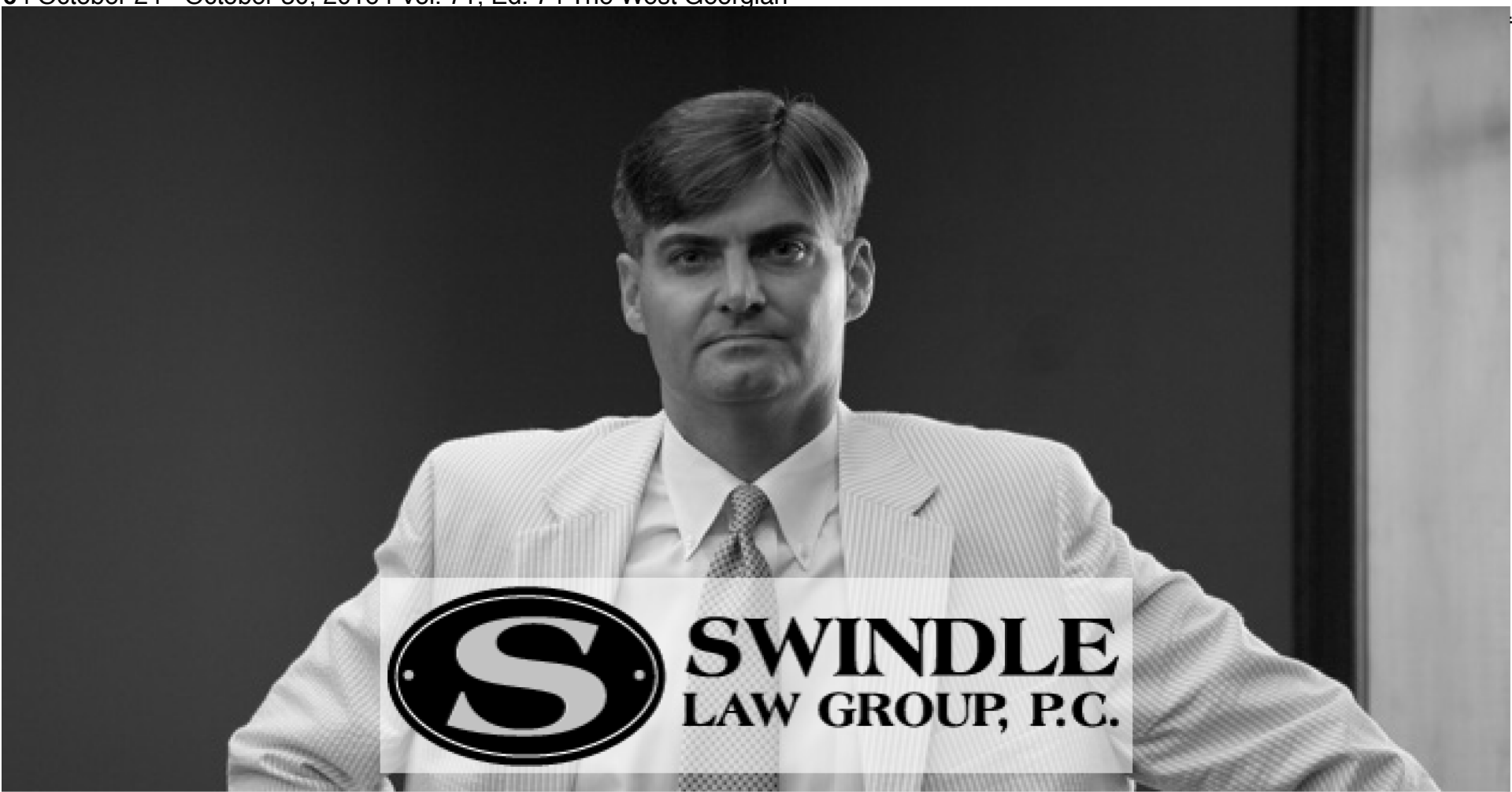
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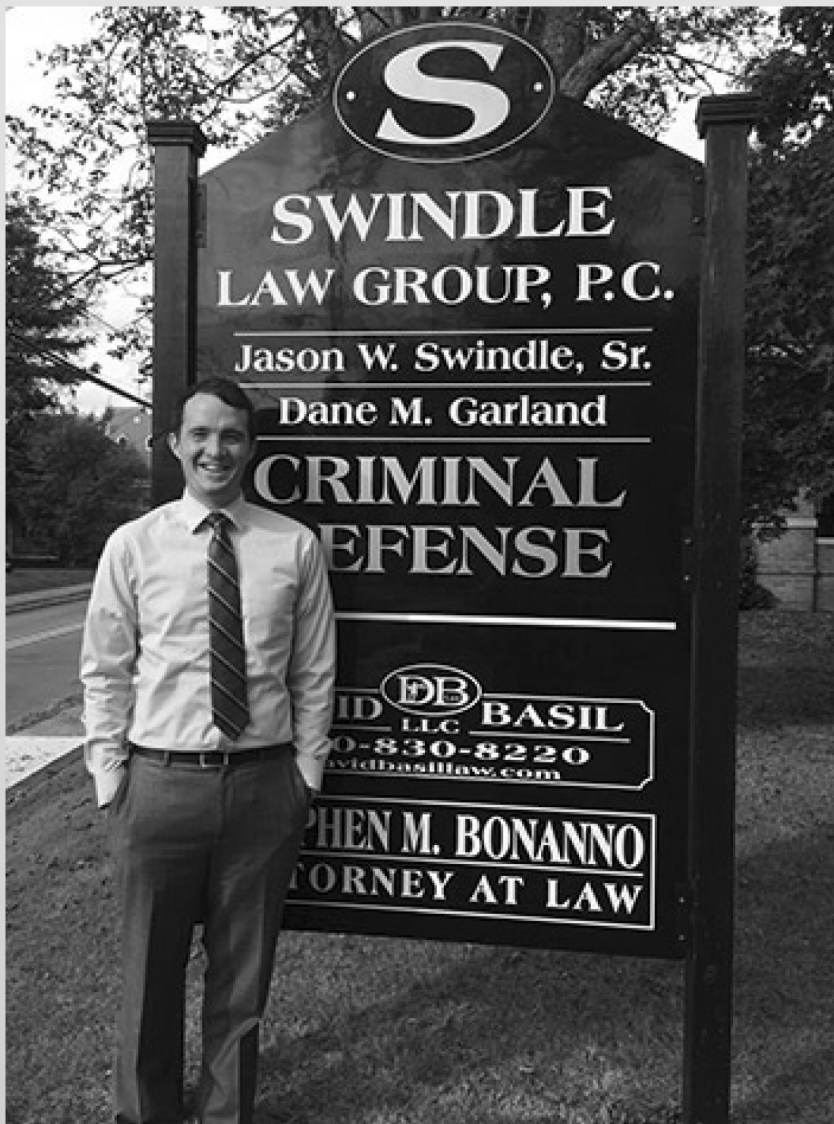
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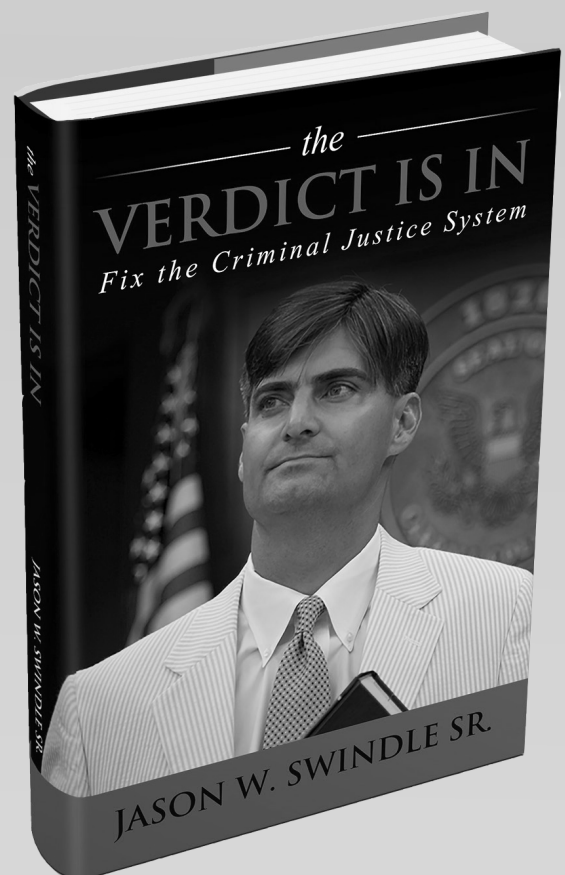
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sports

Wolves hold high expectations with season tip-off nearing

Johnny Jorgensen

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The defending Gulf South Conference (GSC) champions expect big things this upcoming season, which begins on Nov. 5.

The Wolves are coming off a season where they went 22-9 and won the GSC title for the third time and the first time since 2001. They finally ended their season with an National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament berth where UWG suffered a first round loss to Stillman 85-79 in Huntsville, Ala. Throughout the 2015 campaign, the Wolves flexed their muscles on offense, averaging 85 points per game. The defense was no stranger to success either as they forced nearly 14 turnovers and 3.5 blocks per game.

The team looks to expand on their success from last year behind the leadership of perimeter players Steph Branch and Keron Briggs.

Branch, a senior transfer from Mt. San Antonio College in California, lit up the scoreboard last year, averaging nearly 14 points per game. To go along with his scoring success, he also had 47 assists, 31 blocks, 64 steals and 200 rebounds. Branch was awarded Second Team All GSC honors.

Briggs led the Wolf pack in free throw percentage, making an

astounding .815 percent of his shots from the line. The senior from Buffalo, N.Y., didn't get fatigued easily last year while playing for more than 20 minutes per game. His 21 steals and 50 assists helped lead the Wolves to their impressive season a year ago.

With two transfers from division one programs, expectations are that talent and chemistry will be quickly built by the start of the season.

Cameron Blakely, center transfer from Charlotte, has success shooting from three-point range, which will help spread the floor this season.

Georgia State transfer Willie Evans begins his second season at UWG and hopes to increase his points and steals this year with additional playing time.

While the Wolves are no stranger to starting the season off against division one opponents, as they have done the past eight years, they have yet to play an opening matchup of this magnitude.

UWG will go across country to Spokane, Wash., to take on West Coast Conference powerhouse Gonzaga the first Saturday of November. Gonzaga has won their conference 15 of the past 16 years and has made it to the division one NCAA tournament 19 times, having their season ended in the Sweet 16 the past two years. This is easily the biggest opponent that UWG has faced in recent memory. A win against the Bulldogs could start the season off as an enormous confidence booster heading into the long season.

Graphic: Anndrea Ours

Key basketball games to watch

November 12: Miles
First home game for the Wolves

December 12: West Alabama
First GCS matchup

December 15: Alabama Huntsville
First rematch between the Wolves and the Chargers since they met in the GCS championship last season

January 12: Valdosta
Home game

January 26: Valdosta
Second and final regular season matchup between the Wolves and their rival

Februrary 25: Delta State
Senior Day and last time Wolves play a regular season game at home

In the NBA East, it's the Cavs... and everyone else

John Krawczynski

Associated Press

The Cleveland Cavaliers know what it feels like to enter the season as Eastern Conference favorites.

They begin this one with an entirely unfamiliar label — defending champions.

The rest of the East has spent the last six years unsuccessfully trying to unseat LeBron James from the throne. Whether he has been in Cleveland or Miami, James has led his team to the NBA Finals every year since 2011. But his crowning achievement came last season, when his Cavaliers captured the city's first pro sports championship in 52 years by defeating the record-breaking Golden State Warriors.

Now the Cavaliers are wearing an even bigger target on their backs.

"It's the same mindset: Let's win a championship," James said. "We just want to be able to put ourselves in position to do that. We have the ability, we have the personnel, but we have to work now. We can't expect for it to happen just like we didn't expect for it to happen last year. We put the time into it."

The Boston Celtics finally found a star in Al Horford to team with a lunch pail group that has overachieved under coach Brad Stevens. The Toronto

Raptors are back for more after falling to the Cavs in the Eastern Conference finals and Chicago and New York brought in aging stars in a desperate attempt to change the balance of power in the league's weaker conference. James' reply: Bring it on.

"We can't be entitled to anything we've got to go out and get it and work for it," he said. "We're a team that's very driven and we look forward to all the challenges the season holds."

A look at the East:

PLAYOFF BOUND

1. Cleveland — Championship hangover? No one expects that with the Cavs. There is one certainty in the NBA: LeBron will make it to the finals.
2. Boston — Horford and Stevens appear to be the perfect match.
3. Toronto — Keep doubting the Raptors. Kyle Lowry wants you to. Should be nip and tuck with the Celtics all season.
4. Washington — Here's where it starts to get dicey. Wiz are betting Scott Brooks will be able to push the buttons Randy Wittman couldn't.
5. Atlanta — The Hawks took a step back last season, then swapped Horford for Dwight Howard. Things could go either way in Hotlanta this season.
6. Charlotte — Mostly stood pat this summer after a surprising sixth-place finish last year. A healthy Michael Kidd-Gilchrist sure could make a difference.
7. Detroit — Would have picked them

higher, but Reggie Jackson's injury is a concern.

8. Indiana — Pacers swapped out the underrated George Hill for Jeff Teague, traded Frank Vogel for Nate McMillan and brought in Thaddeus Young and Al Jefferson to funk things up.

IN THE MIX

9. Chicago — Dwyane Wade's homecoming is a great story. But the severe lack of shooting figures to hold the Bulls back.

10. Miami — With Wade and Chris Bosh gone, it's rebuilding time. Don't expect Pat Riley and Erik Spoelstra to be down long, though.

11. New York — Manhattan is all excited about the star power that Phil Jackson brought in. The reality is Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah have not been completely healthy for years.

12. Milwaukee — Khris Middleton's injury is a killer that prompted scrambling for wing help. The Greek Freak at point guard, thought? That will be appointment viewing.

FACING LONG ODDS

13. Orlando — Vogel landed with the Magic and he has all kinds of defensive weapons at his disposal. That will be essential because scoring may be difficult to come by.

14. Philadelphia — You have to be kidding us with the Ben Simmons injury. Hey, at least Joel Embiid is healthy. Please keep it that way.

15. Brooklyn — Move over Philly, there's a new basement dweller in the

East! Sean Marks and Kenny Atkinson are well thought of, but it's going to take time to get this thing turned around.

WHAT TO KNOW

LEBRON'S LEGACY: The last time James did not appear in the NBA Finals was 2010 when the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Celtics. James' Cavaliers were eliminated in the East semifinals by the Celtics, and he signed with the Heat that summer.

WALL AND BEAL: Much has been made of the chemistry, or lack thereof, in Washington's backcourt. If John Wall and Bradley Beal are on the same page, the Wizards are dangerous. If they can't find a way to harmonize, Washington could plummet down the standings.

NEW FACES: Brooks in Washington, McMillan in Indiana, Vogel in Orlando, Atkinson in Brooklyn and Jeff Hornacek in New York start their first seasons as coaches after a summer of upheaval in the conference.

SCHRODER TIME: The Hawks traded Teague to Indiana to open the door for Schroder's slashing game. He's been waiting for this chance, and his ability to run the team, play defense and knock down the occasional jumper will be critical to Atlanta's chances.

ROOKIE WATCH: Only three of the top nine picks in the draft went to teams in the East. Youngsters to keep an eye on include Jaylen Brown in Boston, Jakob Poeltl for Toronto, Thon Maker in Milwaukee and Denzel Valentine in Chicago.

**EXTRA,
EXTRA!**

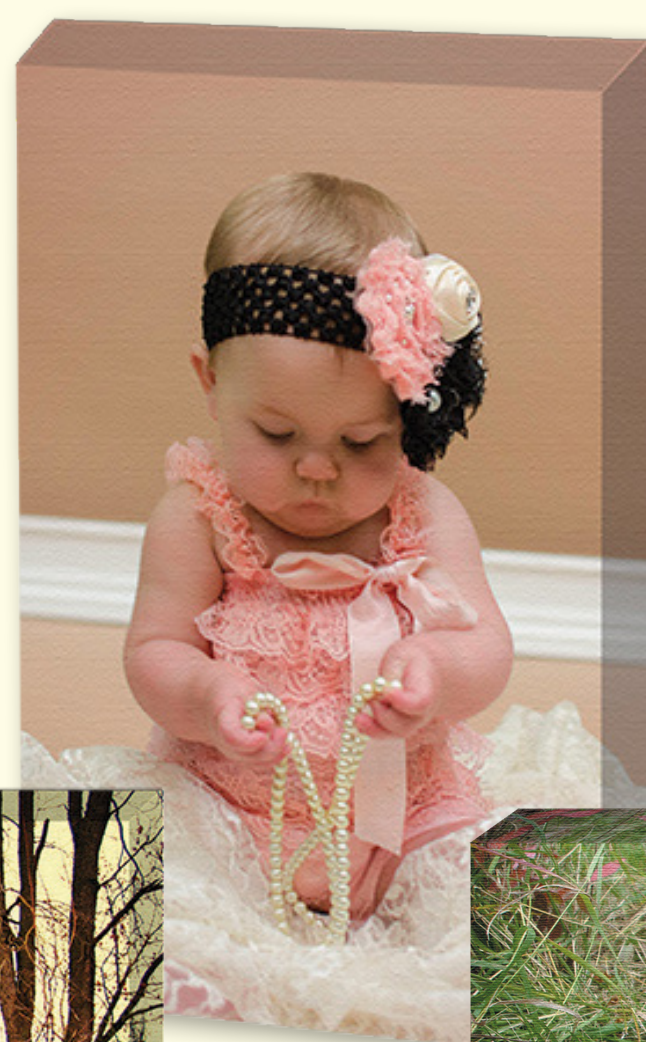
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