

THE WEST GEORGIAN

EST. 1934

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Cover art by: Christine Celestine

Changes to Campus Bus Schedule Put an End to Late-night Services

Anne Holmes
Contributing Writer

Parking and Transportation Services made significant changes to the late-night bus routes earlier this month.

On Oct. 8, Parking and Transportation officially posted new bus route hours. Students in the past have been able to take the Overnight Red Route and Grey Route buses around campus from 10:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Now the buses will discontinue service at 3 a.m. and the Blue Route bus will only run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Both of these overnight buses are the main campus shuttles, taking students around UWG as well as to and from the stadium.

“We track all riders by route, day and hour,” said Wade Crenshaw, manager of Parking Services. “We compiled all the data and found several areas where we were running too many underutilized buses. As an example, on the Overnight shuttle between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. we averaged less than one ride per day.”

They made the new times known shortly after by posting the news on Auxiliary Services’ Facebook page; announcing the new times and making them official. Auxiliary Services cited the “extensive student ridership study of our bus routes” and “careful consideration” from Parking and Transportation Services in regards to the decision to shut down the buses during those hours.

“They are posted at the parking website and in the bus shelters themselves. Parking and Housing and Residence Life also sent out emails the week before, notifying students of the change,” said Crenshaw.

Since residential freshmen are required to park at University Stadium

during the week these changes will impact them the most. Furthermore, the removal of night time bus routes leaves students with limited alternatives for when they need to park their cars late at the stadium.

“From 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. a student needing a ride to or from the stadium should call the University Police Department for assistance,” said Crenshaw.

UPD can then drive the student to a safe location. Those who do not wish to contact the police should make plans for someone to drive them on campus during the late hours.



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Ballistic Tracking Software Introduced to Campus

Sahmir Short
Contributing Writer

The University Police Department of West Georgia has recently installed ShotSpotter on campus in order to shorten their response time when a gunshot is heard.

ShotSpotter is a type of GPS technology that is designed to accurately pinpoint the location of gunshots and aid law enforcement to respond faster.

The way ShotSpotter works is with a group of sensors. UPD has placed the sensors all over campus and the sensors as a group create a net. If a shot is fired the sensors triangulate towards wherever it was heard, therefore pinpointing the shot. Within a minute ShotSpotter’s database in California can tell UPD where the shot was fired, helping the police respond within seconds.

“Before we got this system someone would discharge a weapon and if it was heard someone would pick up the phone and call,” said George E. Watson, Deputy Chief of Police. “By the time it’s heard by the complainant and dispatch handles it and puts out the call for the police, it could be five, 10, maybe 15 minutes before they get there. On campus, we have maybe a two-minute response time if we aren’t super busy, but outside of campus can be kind of lengthy. We are concerned by that, and that’s why we put this into place.”

The system itself covers everywhere from on campus to all the

surrounding apartment complexes. UPD also took the nearby gun range into consideration; since all of Carrollton’s law enforcement practice shooting at the range, the police departments have to communicate in order to make sure that residents are still safe.

UPD recently decided to test the technology once the sensors were set up. UPD sent out an email stating that they would go around campus shooting into bullet traps in order to see if the shots would be properly detected. Watson says that the department picked their best shooters to shoot into the boxes in order to keep everyone safe and make sure that the test was a success.

“We took it to different spots around campus,” said Watson. “We fired twelve rounds from a .45, 9-millimeter and a .40 cal. We also had two rifles available to us. All of that was shot into a bullet trap and the shots were then detected. The test was very successful.”

Though Watson did not know for sure if the software could tell what kind of gun was shot, he did confirm that the software can differentiate actual gunshots from loud noises that might sound similar.

Watson admits that UPD is still learning the ins and outs of the software but they are learning quickly and feel optimistic about the help ShotSpotter brings. ShotSpotter is up and ready and is active on the campus.

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CAMPUS FOOD PANTRY NEAR FINAL STAGES OF PLANNING

Rebekah Brinkley

Contributing Writer

For several years departments across UWG have been working together in an effort to start a food pantry on campus and this may finally happen in the near future.

The idea was sparked by the Associate Director of the Counseling Center and Accessibility Services, Maggie Tennant, while working on her dissertation for her doctorate degree.

“In 2015, Dr. Lingrell held a town hall meeting talking about retention, progression, graduation and how we best support our students,” said Tennant. “When he was asking how we best support our students I raised my hand and I said, ‘you know I really wonder about just meeting their basic needs because a lot of times when you’re hungry everything else falls to the wayside.’”

Dr. Scot Lingrell, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, loved Tennant’s idea and wanted to do some research into bringing a food pantry to campus. They spent several months creating a survey to send out to students gauging food security on campus.

“We decided to send out a survey two weeks after the start of fall semester in 2016,” said Tennant. “Typically that’s when

financial aid drops and people have money to eat and bills have been paid and the results really came back as we had thought, that in fact there is something happening here.”

The results of the survey showed that 42 percent of students skipped a meal because they did not have enough money and 42 percent also reduced the size of their meals because they did not have enough food. Toward finals week the survey was sent back out and showed similar results, proving there is a food security problem on the UWG campus.

“Once the surveys were presented to Dr. Lingrell it was really about getting a working group put together,” said Tennant. “We pulled people from Dining Services, Community Engagement, Housing and Residence Life, the School of Nursing, College of Education, Counselling Center and all over. It’s really just a big working group. We met pretty consistently for the last couple of years.”

During the time that the surveys were sent out and the working groups were meeting, people started to catch wind of the idea that a food pantry might be coming to

campus. The biggest issue Tennant and the working group were facing, however, was finding a location on campus for the pantry. The goal was to find a location that was optimal for students to comfortably come and get food without taking away from a group that might already be in that location.

“The space that has been designated is actually what is currently the commuter lounge,” said Tennant. “It’s a great space but it’s not really great for the commuter students. There was a lot of hesitation on my part because I didn’t want to take the space from commuter students.”

There has been some hesitation on using the commuter lounge and Tennant is working with the SGA president and other campus departments to find a way to make it work. The lounge is the ideal location for the pantry since it is isolated. Construction still has to be done on the space in order to protect the food from the heat of the sun that all the windows bring in.

Tennant and many others have been working for years to get the food pantry to open and things seem to point to a potential opening in the near future.

THINK PINK: UWG STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION RAISE MONEY FOR TANNER ONCOLOGY CENTER

Andy Hendricks

Contributing Writer

This October the UWG Student Nurses Association (SNA) sold breast cancer awareness t-shirts to raise money for uninsured or underinsured treatment at Tanner Oncology Center. Over 200 shirts were sold, resulting in a donation of nearly \$700. However, shirts are still being sold and the numbers may grow larger in the near future.

“October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we wanted to do a fundraiser to help emphasize breast cancer awareness,” said Brandy Sawtelle, President of SNA. “It’s really important, even for young women, to be aware of breast cancer. It can affect anyone, of any age, so just spreading the word was really important.”

While the t-shirts will help raise awareness in their own right, SNA strove to make a larger impact. They looked to donate the proceeds of the t-shirts to the most effective destination to help those with cancer in the community.

“My young neighbor was diagnosed with breast cancer,” said Tammy McClenny, SNA Faculty Advisor. “She lived with it for about ten years. I asked where the best place to donate was. She said the best places are the local infusion centers where [patients] can get medication and travel paid for.”

“It’s important if anyone can donate to a charity to try to find a cure for cancer,” said Sawtelle.

“Obviously, that’s something that our nation as a whole has spent a lot of time and resources on, but to look into your own community and find a need like a local infusion center where you are helping local people that are battling cancer is something that is important to us as an organization.”

The shirts brandish the slogan of the popular television series Grey’s Anatomy, “It’s a beautiful day to save lives.” However, the slogan in this context is meant to be deeper than just a reference to the show.

“Even people who don’t watch Grey’s Anatomy will still be interested in the shirt because it is cancer related, and we are about saving lives as nursing students,” said Allison Radin, SNA Vice President.

This impressive accomplishment may only be the beginning for SNA. There are aspirations to make this fundraiser an annual project, possibly focusing on other types of cancer as well. With further planning SNA can make an even larger impact on cancer patients and the Carrollton community as a whole.

“I’m very thankful to do this fundraiser with SNA,” said Radin. “My family is affected by multiple types of cancer, so I’ve seen firsthand the expensive treatment. Being a part of SNA is about incorporating community into the school and just making things better as nurses.”



Photo Credits: Andy Hendricks



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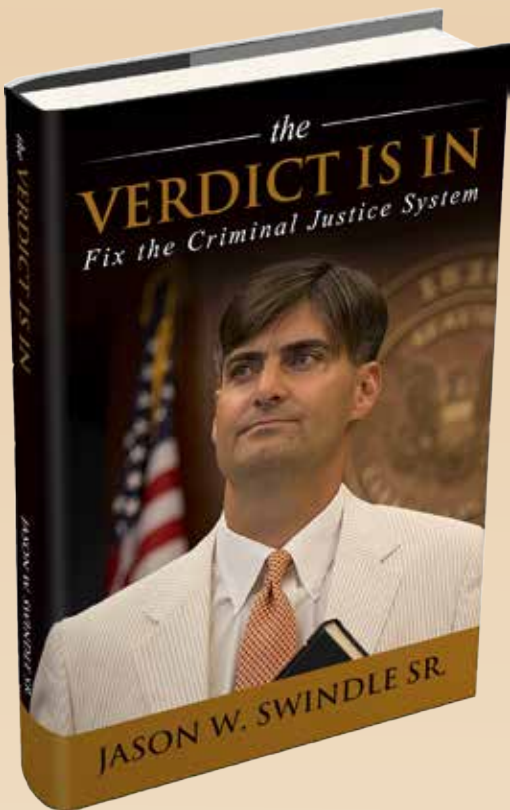
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Former Poet Laureate of Georgia David Bottoms Returns to UWG to Deliver Chilling Reading

Andy Hendricks

Contributing Writer

David Bottoms, former Poet Laureate of Georgia and UWG alumnus, returned to UWG on Oct. 18 to deliver a reading from his newest collection of poetry, *Otherworld, Underworld, Prayer Porch*.

Bottoms was laid back at the reading, reciting his poems to the audience with graceful informality.

He spoke as if the audience members were all long-time friends that he was casually catching up with. He seemed to have no difficulty sharing personal stories and memories to strangers. His dry sense of humor leaked into his reading and allowed the audience to share some of the pleasure associated in his work.

His poems focused on nature, southern culture, childhood, fatherhood and the loss of loved ones. The authenticity in his work was easy to be found. Every word and image felt plucked from experience and long nights of contemplation.

Razor-sharp details and poignant descriptions that only Bottoms could conjure up shook audience members into his world. Examples include Bottoms' father smelling the breath of his uncle to determine it was sour, his newborn daughter finally sleeping on his wife's breast and the acres of land that were his childhood home, which are covered by restaurants and supermarkets today.

Bottoms' poems felt short and succinct. Meaning and depth were crammed into several lines instead of stretching and waning over several pages. Even poems broken up into multiple parts were compact with emotion.

His work also felt aged. These poems were not the material of an angry teenager or a man in a mid-life crisis. They were the passion, grit and reflection of a man who has lived a full life. There was a sense of wisdom in his work. When audience members heard him speak they knew they were listening to a man who watched many things begin and end in his lifetime. Bottoms himself even described his new book as an "old man's book."

Bottoms' wife, Kelly Beard, was also a participant at the reading. She read a section of her new memoir, *An Imperfect Rapture*. She shared the same aura of sacredness that her husband carried.

In the portion she read she described being sent to the famed faith

healer Kathryn Kulhman as a young girl. Beard's careful words and firm storytelling put every audience member front and center in her childhood memory.

After the reading ended Bottoms and Beard took questions from the audience. One audience member inquired how one knows what to write about. Bottoms answered, "What's important just kinda comes out," summing up his tone of informal grace and honest expression into a single phrase.

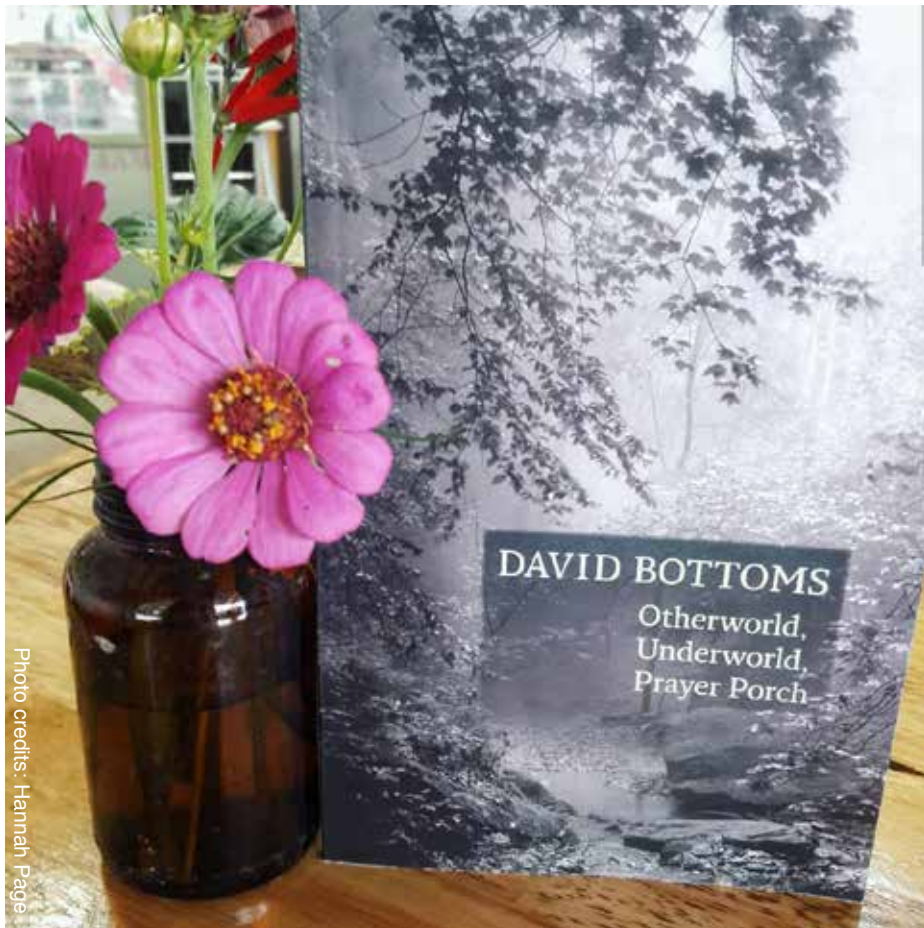


Photo credits: Hannah Page

TOWNSEND CENTER TO HOST CAPTIVATING DANCE CREW

Chelsea Newton

Contributing Writer

Catapult Entertainment was first seen on Season eight of America's Got Talent. Now, the University of West Georgia will behold this beautiful form of art at the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 30 from 7:30 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m.

"Catapult Entertainment is collaborative by nature and one of the ways that we live up to our unusual name is by launching ideas at each other," said Anjuli Bhattacharyya, Director of Catapult Entertainment. "These ideas land with a thud and sometimes they explode and blow us away. When ideas explode they change the creative landscape and there is great rejoicing as we run around like kids exploring and playing in our newly expanded world."

Catapult is essentially a group of dancers who engage their bodies with shadows and light to become entertainers that creatively swoon their audience using powerful images to tell a story.

Catapult Entertainment was created by Adam Battelstein in 2008. The dancers must transform their bodies into breathtaking, captivating images. Catapult has even been a part of film productions and performed live for corporate events around the U.S.

They aspire to showcase their shadow dances to make the audience love the human body's ability to transform.

"Artists are booked from all over the world to come perform at the Townsend Center," said Brooke Hunter, the Townsend Center Administrative Assistant. "Each contract is different, so artists' times range from one-to-three days in Carrollton. In the case of Catapult the artists will arrive the night before and leave after the show the

next night. This is the first time Catapult has been presented in Carrollton."

The majority of the shows presented by the Townsend Center sell out. The quality of the artists, location of the venue and comfort of not having to travel out of town help to sell tickets quickly. The first show of the season, Catapult, only has 100 seats left and it is expected to sell out before the start of the show.

Marketing Townsend Center shows reach many counties in Georgia and even into Alabama and Florida.

"Because the Townsend Center does not receive any student fees, these shows do not have free tickets available for students," said Hunter. "The prices are kept

at the lowest possible levels in hopes that students, faculty, staff and the community can enjoy professional artists usually seen in bigger cities."



Photo credit: Catapult Entertainment

ESCAPE WOODS AND STRANGER THINGS

Rebekah Brinkley

Contributing Writer

Escape Woods is an outdoor escape room and the home of three Stranger Things scenes located on Sleepy Hollow Farm in Powder Springs.

Sleepy Hollow Farm has been a part of the Powder Springs community for almost 40 years and is open year round. The farm owners introduced the concept of outdoor escape games to their 60 acres of land about two and a half years ago. The farm features many activities for people of all ages to do, from pumpkin patches to corn mazes to escape games. Currently, there are Halloween themed games available such as “The Clown: Big Top Terror” and “The Cabin: Fun House Massacre.”

“Every year for the Halloween season when people want to do something a little more scary and intense we do release some scarier games,” says Brad Kimmel, one of the owners of Sleepy Hollow Farm. “This year we have three new games that we launched for the October season. Sometimes the October games become year round games if they’re popular enough.”

One of the popular games, “The Cabin,” started as an October game and became such a hit that they decided to keep it

around for two years. Recently, the theme of that game was changed as it has been around for a while. Kimmel explained that they do change the clues around occasionally in the games so that people can play it again without feeling they already know the answers.

“We bought a huge piece of property on the back side of our property about five years ago, so we started doing a corn maze and pumpkin patch too,” says Kimmel. “Stranger Things was also filmed on our property, so we do some tours of some of those locations on special nights.”

The Stranger Things tours have been such a hit at the Escape Woods that they are almost sold out for the season. The tours have been selling out extremely fast, and only a few tickets remain for the October dates. For fans of the show, they will be able to recognize some landmarks at the farm that were included in the show.

“Merrill’s Pumpkin Patch is in our pumpkin patch,” says Kimmel. “If you’ve seen the show, all the rotted pumpkins were filled on our property. There’s a scene where Hopper walks through the corn maze and gets scared by a crow. That was also on our property. The final spot of the tour

is Hopper’s cabin in the woods.”

Aside from giving Stranger Things tours, there is an escape game available for fans to play at the farm. While the game is themed after the show, people who have never watched it before can still enjoy the escape game without needing knowledge of the show.

“The game is called ‘The Bunker: Stranger Things at Hawkins Lab’,” says Kimmel. “That one has become one of our more popular games since there are a lot of Stranger Things fanatics out there. If you’re a fan of the show, you’ll appreciate the game clues.”

Sleepy Hollow Farm and Escape Woods is the perfect Halloween destination, located just outside the Atlanta area. Anyone looking for a scary thrill with a little bit of mystery can check out the different games available for the season. Once October passes, keep an eye out for Sleepy Hollow Farm to begin selling their annual Christmas trees.



Hellfest Fails to Impress

Jeremy Brown

Contributing Writer

Hellfest is a Slasher-like horror Film directed by Gregory Plotkin starring Bex Taylor-Klaus, Amy Forsyth, Reign Edwards, Matt Mercurio, Courtney Dietz and Roby Attal.

A group of friends visit a Halloween theme park to celebrate the holiday together. The park is filled with men and women masquerading as monsters covered with fake blood, making the spot ideal for anyone wishing to cause harm.

Someone is brutally murdered and everything goes as stereotypically wrong as it can in this ode to 1980’s horror flicks. The main characters barely have any backstory, but all of them have their own quirks. There is the nerd, Gavin, who’s love interest is the standout main character Natalie. There is also a ‘roided-up jock named Matt and his love interest is the sexual deviant, Taylor. The throwaway main character is Natalie’s best friend, Brooke.

The killer is extremely similar to Michael Myers of 1979’s classic slasher film *Halloween*. The only thing separating them in appearance is the that the newer assailant wears a hood over his mask.

Where the film succeeds is the atmosphere and mystery surrounding the murderer himself. He comes into contact with the

main characters many times either in passing or just to slightly harass them as the rest of the costumed employees do by hiding in plain sight. These moments are tense and the film’s soundtrack adds to that intensity. His motives are almost unknown, but throughout the movie it is hinted that there are the smallest things that draw him to a potential victim.

Though the movie successfully introduces a mysterious killer, it fails in nearly every other plot point. The storyline involving the main characters is of poor quality, not because there is zero character backstory, but because there is zero character building. Situations go from fun, to quizzical, slightly fearful and thrilling in an attempt to bring on a heightened, more matured version of the character; which fails as it portrays amusement and fun for the killer. Moments when the heart is to be jumping are replaced by the dull repetitive nature of characters walking into obvious traps.

Insanity completes the film. The same thing is done, and the same gruesome consequences are reaped to the point where the film goer is almost rooting for the killer to be finished with these high school kids so his story can be delved into. *Hellfest* is a B-rated horror film boasting a solid atmosphere and an interesting antagonist, but everything else pales in comparison.



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A LOOK INTO UWG WOMEN'S TENNIS PROGRAM: FALL 2018

Jordan England

Contributing Writer

Even in the off-season the UWG Women's tennis team maintains a busy schedule of workouts, practices and competition matches to excel at their sport.

The team traveled to their first competition of the fall semester and competed from Oct. 12-14, at Georgia Gwinnett College where they challenged players from DI, DII, DIII and NAIA programs. Their next competition has the team traveling to Montgomery, AL from Oct. 26-28 to compete in the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

Entering his sixth season coaching tennis for the UWG Women's team, Michael Coleman has high hopes and expectations for the girls this fall and spring.

"The GGC tournament was a tough test for us as our first competition of the year. This tournament always has players from DI, DII, DIII and NAIA programs that are nationally ranked. It's always a good test to be pushed and see how our players react, especially the freshmen who may not have seen this level of play before," said Coleman. "I was pleased with the grit and fire everyone showed in their matches at GGC, win or lose."

With the upcoming Gulf South Conference Tournament Coleman feels more confident in doubles teams and singles line-ups and is looking forward to seeing the girls fight hard to compete and win matches in Montgomery.

"As we move to the Gulf South Conference Tournament in late October I'm looking for us to become more comfortable under the pressure of match play. Our conference is one of the toughest in the country and that's a good thing. It pushes us to improve and fight," said Coleman.

The GSC Fall Tournament is a new event being hosted this

year for all of the GSC tennis teams, with six singles brackets and three doubles play brackets.

"All GSC teams submit a roster of players listing 1-6 for singles and 1-3 for doubles play. All singles line 1 players go into a bracket to compete against each other and so forth for line 3-6 players. At the end, there will be a champion in each fight. This will allow players to shine on an individual basis as well as a team," said Coleman.

Coleman emphasizes the hard work, dedication and overall personality that the tennis team has as a special aspect of UWG.

"I don't think most are aware of the commitment and dedication our athletes put forward in this program," said Coleman. "From 6 a.m. workouts to daily practice while taking full class loads is difficult to balance. Several of our athletes work part-time jobs and many are also involved in campus activities from sororities to student athlete advisory councils.

"Time management is something I always stress to the girls and they do a good job at it. Our team GPA was a 3.4 last year, one of the highest in all sports at UWG," continued Coleman.

With a challenging spring schedule, the UWG women's tennis team will continue their hard work on and off the court this fall and expect to make big improvements to their game and out of conference play.

"We have a talented group of girls on the tennis team and we are looking forward to our Spring season," said Coleman. "The girls set high standards for themselves both on and off court and I'm excited about the upcoming season."



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