



The West Georgian

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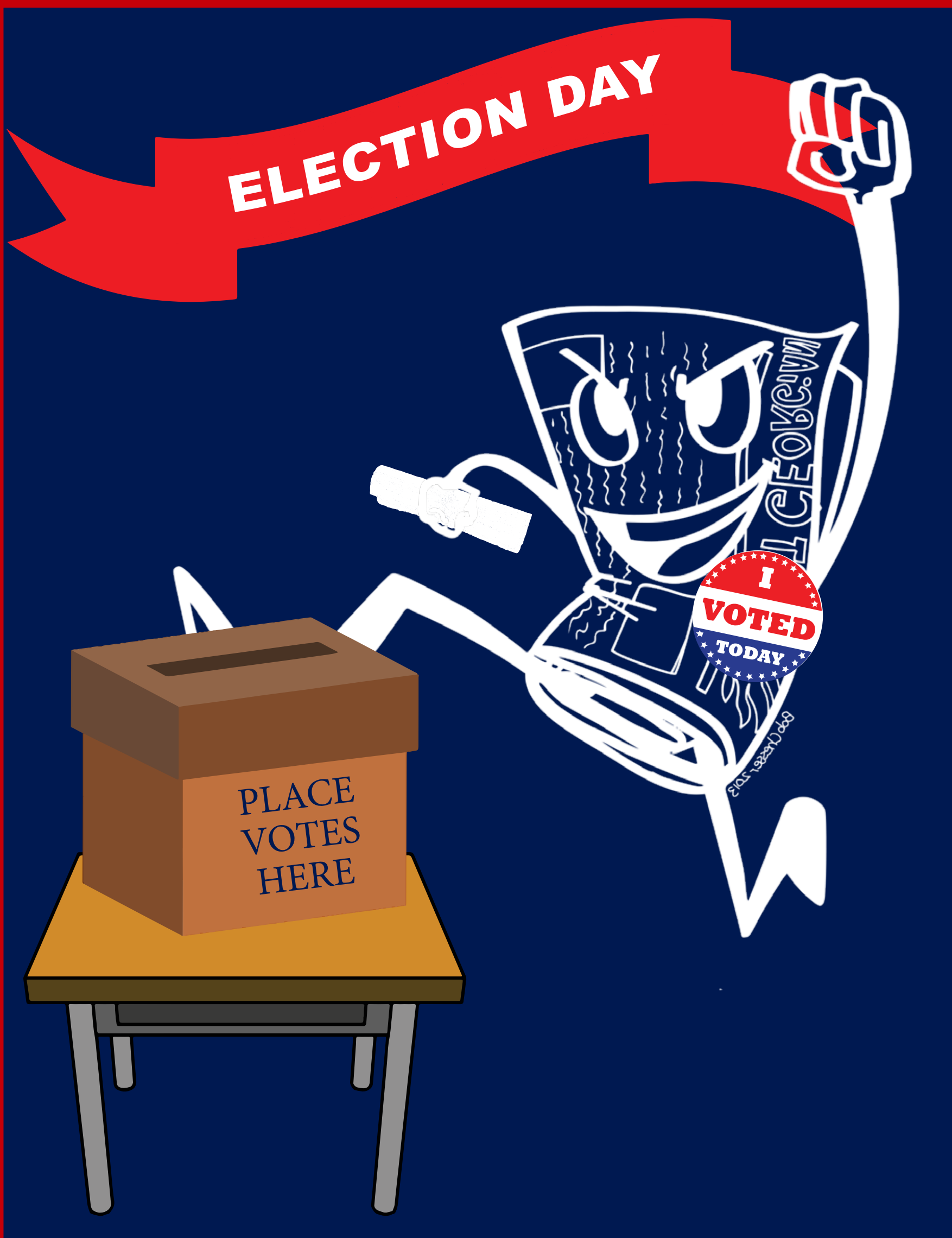
Even the Midterms.

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#WOLFPACKWOES

HEY WOLVES...

Why Does Your Vote Matter?

Early in American history relatively few people were allowed to vote. Unless you were a white male who owned property, you could likely not vote or hold office. One of the great dramas of our history has been the gradual expansion of voting rights to groups that were originally excluded from the electoral process, including African Americans, women, Native Americans, and young people. Often, groups attained the right to vote only after long, hard, and bitter struggle. So one reason to vote is to honor the sacrifices of those who fought and sometimes died so you could have this right. On a more practical note, your vote matters. Elections can be very close, and there are numerous examples of elections in which a few more votes for one candidate or the other would have changed the result. Even if a candidate you vote for is unsuccessful, the size of his or her vote can make a difference in how the outcome is interpreted. A strong showing for a losing candidate makes an impression on the winner and can influence him or her to be more accommodating to the other side's views. Finally, by the simple act of voting you are making a clear and important statement: "I am a citizen of the United States of America and I am exercising my hard-won right to participate in the system and have my voice heard."

On Election Day, it is crucial that you go to the correct polling place. To check to see where you should vote on Tuesday, go to the Georgia Secretary of State's website.

- Dr. Steve Goodson

Voting is important because it's a chance to use your voice to work towards a legacy. Also, if you don't, the Ancient Athenians would call you an idiot.

- Hannah Page

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ALL ELECTIONS MATTER

Dylan Logan

Copy Editor

Georgia's statewide general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018. Republican nominee Brian Kemp and Democratic nominee Stacey Abrams are among the gubernatorial candidates.

Georgia's candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives will also be on the ballot. One candidate will be elected from each of Georgia's 14 districts – Georgia's 3rd District services the West Georgia area. Other statewide offices will also be determined. If necessary, a runoff will take place on Dec. 4, 2018, and Jan. 10, 2019 for federal races.

Although Georgia is coming off a nationally speculated special election between Democratic candidate Jon Ossoff and Republican Rep. Karen Handel in 2017, generally these do not gain a fraction of the attention that a presidential election would.

Potential voters may feel like their vote would not make a difference. Some may feel overwhelmed by the voting process in general. Students, veterans and others who are registered to vote elsewhere wonder how they can cast their ballot from miles away.

Local and statewide elections do not get the buzz of a national one because they simply do not have quite as much significance, but that does not mean that these do not have national implications. To those who think their vote does not matter, it is quite the contrary.

These more localized positions create a more audible platform for individuals to be heard. National races are more significant because they affect more people, but these general elections deal with issues closer to home. Also, people from around the country cannot vote in these elections. Voters must cast their ballots in respect to the polling location in which they are registered. A voice is louder in a less crowded room.

The race between Ossoff and Handel was the most expensive congressional campaign in history. The outcome was a key determiner of each party's control in Congress, but only voters registered in Georgia's 6th District were eligible to cast a ballot.

Ossoff lost with 48.1 percent of the vote.

Many who voted in the 2016 presidential election between President Donald Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would not need to register to vote because a voter's registration remains active if they have voted in at least one general election every four years and have not changed any pertinent information, such as their address.

Others can use an official state election office's website to register with the information that can be found on a driver's license. The local municipal clerk's office also registers those eligible to vote until 5 p.m. or close of business (whichever is latest) on the Friday before election day.

Absentee voting began with a focus on military and overseas voters outside of their legal voting residence. These ballots are handled by the federal government and are usually cast by mail-ins.

However, absentee and early voting have become a useful way for many citizens outside of their legal voting residence to cast their ballot. Mail-in and in-person absentee voting accommodates any voter unable to get to their polling location due to illness, injury or disability, vacations, business or attending college.

The best place to view Georgia's voting rules: check polling locations and register to vote is on the official state election office website. The municipal clerk's office also provides this information.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is another useful tool to help potential voters through the process.

Each vote cast in a governmental campaign holds significance. It represents decisions made from core values and principles the individual voter finds most important. People have differing ideas. Certain issues are more significance to some. Others never pick a side. Indecision is a decision within itself.

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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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KNOW YOUR VOTE: WHO IS ON THE BALLOT?

Robert Moody

Editor-In-Chief

Nov. 6 is the final day to cast a vote in the 2018 Midterm elections. In Georgia, the office of governor has been the most highly contested position, gaining national attention and pulling endorsements from numerous celebrities and politicians. The following are brief synopses of the three leading candidates based on the major policies and ideas from each of their websites.

Stacey Abrams

Stacey Abrams, the former minority leader for the Georgia House of Representatives, is running as the Democratic Party candidate for the office of Georgia Governor under her “We Are Georgia” campaign.

Abrams’ campaign highlights a progressive Georgia that focuses on higher levels of inclusion and lower barriers for citizens to receive many government benefits that may currently evade specific communities. This is evident in many of Abrams’ policies that call for simplified access to government programs for low-income families and minorities.

On the economic spectrum, Abrams intends to help keep more money in the pockets of low-income families through proposed tax credits, provide capital assistance to small businesses and support strong job security in local businesses as well. She also plans to invest in the state’s education systems and overall infrastructure to increase the number of jobs available to Georgians, decrease the skills gap between job applicants and to improve the overall efficiency of public services such as public transportation.

Abrams’ campaign is also focused on the concept of social justice and making Georgia a state in which minorities, low-income families and other at-risk people groups have the ability to succeed and be represented. Many of her policies focus on creating legal barriers to combat discrimination, simplifying the process of voter registration, expanding the reach of Medicaid, providing more affordable housing for impoverished Georgians, state-funded mental healthcare programs and readily accessible healthcare opportunities in underserved communities. All of these emphasize her desire to create a more open Georgia.

Lastly, Abrams intends to bring attention and improvement to education on nearly all levels. Her proposed educational policies include scholarship programs that would cover the use of high-quality childcare for families and the expansion of the HOPE scholarship and other needs-based financial aid for college students. She also intends to improve public schools and protect them from privatization by attempting to fully fund them using resources available to the state.

Ted Metz

Ted Metz, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, is running for the office of state governor of Georgia with the mission of being a watchdog of the government.

Metz’s campaign for the governor position is based largely upon the ideals of the Libertarian party and its approach to self governance and holding elected officials accountable for their actions. This is clearly seen in many of Metz’s primary policies which call for the decriminalization of some existing laws and the oversight of a number of governmental operations while also incorporating elements of both far-reaching and localized change.

Metz’s call for keeping the government accountable for their actions is also a call for changes in pre-existing laws and the criminal justice system. Metz has stated that his first proposed policy as governor would be to decriminalize marijuana in order to allow the state to benefit both economically and agriculturally from the production and sale of the natural depressant. Further, he plans to prevent the Attorney General from protecting elected officials from punishment for criminal activity while also blocking lawmakers from creating laws based upon the special interests of government officials.

Should he become governor, Metz also plans to move the focus of many government responsibilities away from the state and to the local level. These proposed changes include moving the government away from the realm of education, reopening rural hospitals to serve as family clinics and creating an environment in which businesses can thrive by removing many government regulations which currently prevent growth and decrease the number of potential jobs.

Brian Kemp

Former State Senator and current Secretary of State Brian Kemp is running for the office of Georgia’s governor as a member of the Republican Party under the initiative to “Put Georgians First”.

Kemp’s emphasis to serving Georgians above others is highlighted by his goals of making the state among one of the best for small businesses to thrive, a desire to reform the state government, provide improved services to rural areas and to give Georgians a greater sense of safety and security from crime and other issues that threaten the success of citizens.

Economically, Kemp plans to reduce regulations and taxes that place a heavy burden on local businesses in order to give them the ability to grow, expand and compete with larger corporations. He also intends to cap government spending and lower the tax burden placed on Georgians while also providing incentives to move away from big government and toward the private sector.

Kemp’s plans for the expansion and improvement of public services has also been a key factor in his campaign for governor. He intends to use the technology currently at use to make high-speed internet available in rural communities and to also provide students in rural schools the ability to utilize virtual learning experiences that would not have been available to them before. Furthermore, Kemp has set his eyes upon the improvement and longevity of rural hospitals and health providers in order to give locals better access to adequate healthcare.

Lastly, Kemp’s goals to provide safety and security to Georgians from gang violence and sex trafficking has served as one of his most poignant policies in the campaign. He intends to work with prosecutors to disband gangs and also to end sex trafficking in Georgia by increasing the penalties applied to all crimes related to these two issues.



Photo Credits: Associated Press

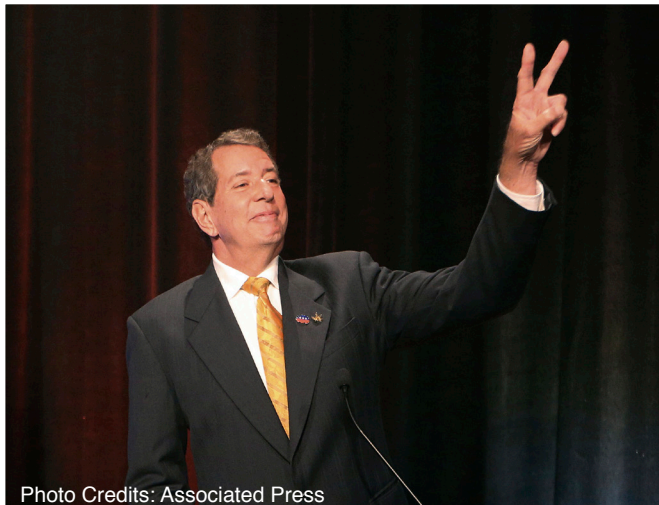


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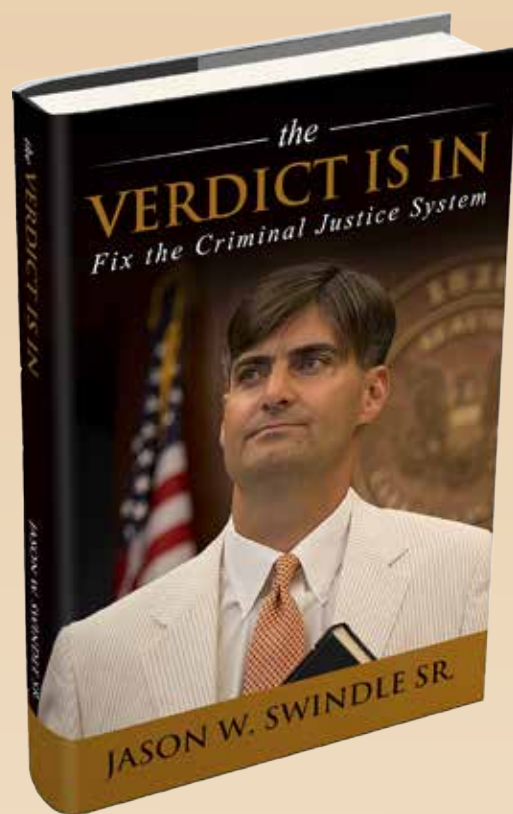
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Campaigning in Carrollton: Stacey Abrams Visits Cultural Arts Center

Tiffany Maynard
Contributing Writer

Gubernatorial candidate and Georgia State Representative Stacey Abrams stopped in Carrollton on Oct. 25 for her “We Are Georgia” bus tour. The Democratic Committee of Carroll County held a fundraiser dinner and a rally, inviting Abrams to be the speaker.

Many citizens showed up in support of Abrams, her running mate Sarah Riggs Amico and the Carroll County Democratic Committee. Jamie Biddle, Chair of the Democratic Committee, facilitated the event and is supportive of Abrams’ platform.

“The main thing that it boils down to is, she is for the people. A lot of folks don’t get that,” said Biddle. “Her platform is for the middle class, it’s for the working poor, it’s for everybody. People use that term, ‘pull yourself up by your bootstraps,’ but you have to have the bootstraps to pull yourself up by to begin with. I think that her platform and her issues will allow that to happen if she’s voted in.”

Biddle’s beliefs differ greatly from many of his coworkers, friends and fellow Carroll County residents. According to the Election Summary Report for the 2016 national election more than 75 percent of registered voters in the county cast a ballot, and more than 65 percent of those that voted, voted for the Republican nominee, President Donald Trump.

Though most voters in Carrollton have voted for Republicans in the previous few elections not many showed up in protest of Abrams, but her opposition was still present.

Three protesters stood on the sidewalk of Cliff Street, beside the Cultural Arts building. The protesters’ supplies were plenty of literature, and two flags -- the Confederate Flag, and the old

Georgia state flag designed like the one that was representative of the state from 1956 to 2001; this design included the “Stars and Bars”, which is commonly associated with the Confederate flag. This is the same design of flag Abrams admitted to burning in 1992.

“Georgia Code section 50 - 3 - 9 says you can not do that, under penalty of law,” said Billie Bearden, protester at Abrams’ event and Carroll



Photo credits: Times Georgian

County resident. “... She stood up on the capitol steps, violated Georgia law, and is now running for governor.

“We stand here with the flag she burned to remind her that people are still proud of it,” continued Bearden. “It’s not a racist thing ... it was only created to honor the dying Confederate veterans of the State of Georgia.”

This is a concern many conservative voters have with the Democratic nominee. Many conservative voters see Abrams as “extreme” due to her alleged connections with far left political leaders and ideology.

Though two vastly differing opinions shared the same space, all attendees were peaceful and respectful.

“It’s easy for me to walk out there and see that and get angry,” said Biddle. “That flag stands for nothing but hate ... despite the fact that this represents hate, they do have a First Amendment right to peacefully protest. They assured me that they would be peaceful, and I respect that. We may have a vast disagreement about what that flag stand for, but because of the fact that he can respect the First Amendment and what it stands for, I have to respect that.”

Many of Abrams’ other supporters shared Biddle’s response to the protesters.

“They have a right,” said a UWG professor in attendance. “It’s important. I am a true believer of the First Amendment, and it is important for us to defend their right, and my right to say ‘I think you’re crazy.’”

UWG students had a presence at the event as well. Xavier Jennings, a graduate student at UWG and President of the UWG Young Democrats helped plan the event and is an avid supporter of Abrams as well.

“She wants to expand the HOPE Scholarship,” said Jennings. “It keeps us out of debt ... I think that’s one thing all students and Americans want is less debt. She’s also relatable; she took the time out to come here and speak with us. She’s not trying to divide people, she actually cares.”

Carroll County Child Advocacy Brings Awareness to the Community

Chelsea Newton
Contributing Writer

The Carroll County Child Advocacy Center exists to champion the needs of sexually, physically and emotionally abused children in Carroll, Haralson and Heard County through means such as prevention, intervention and collaboration.

The first programs were built and launched in 2012, and in 2013 the first advocacy center opened. With the help of the University of West Georgia, this program was able to take off.

“We are in the process of building child-focused programs, not only into the Carrollton community, but also the Haralson, Heard and surrounding counties as well,” said Taylar Jackson the Child Prevention Coordinator and the Family Advocate for the Advocacy Center. “It is a process. We typically make surrounding counties aware by sending emails and letters about our training

opportunities. Especially to daycare centers, churches and schools.

“We have had several staff, professors and professionals from the University of West Georgia that have been willing to help lend a hand to the development of this awareness,” continued Jackson. “Without their willingness to help we would not have grown to the substantial amount of awareness that we are today.”

The program and training also offers four Add-On Modules: Talking with Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse, Healthy Touch for Children and Youth, Bystander Protecting Children from Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

The Carroll County Child Advocacy Center is one of several foundations predicated to spreading awareness of abuse. These include Darkness to Light,

an outreach event that stems from children’s training programs to assist in the recognition and strategies used to aid children who have been sexually abused; and the Stewards of Children Curriculum is embedded in several degree programs in the Department of Education and Tanner Health System School of Nursing at UWG.

“These programs are worth taking the time to investigate,” said Jackson. “We strive to make anyone who is willing to learn knowledgeable about these concerning issues.”

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UWG Raises Over \$600,000 in 'A Day to Give West' Campaign

Andy Hendricks

Contributing Writer

A Day to Give West, UWG's largest giving campaign to the university's Annual Fund, raised over \$640,000 this year.

A Day focused on donations made from students, faculty, staff and community members. Donors can designate their contribution towards a specific college, scholarship, project or program.

"This year for the 36th Annual A Day we focused on refreshing tradition," said Allyson Bretch, Director of Annual Giving. "Our team spent time in the Library Archives looking at old pictures, reading A Day history and learning about what A Day has been and should continue to be all about. We met with community members and past A Day chairs from the community and faculty and staff. Once we gathered this context, we began to look at how we could revive traditions that were significant to A Day.

We made calls, sent emails and connected with the full UWG community. This is why, in my opinion, A Day felt more vibrant this year."

Of the sum total raised, \$155,706.71 was contributed from faculty and staff; approximately 24 percent. The Richards College of Business and the Department of Chemistry both reached a 100 percent giving rate, representing that every member of the college or department contributed to A Day. The overall staff giving rate was about 47 percent.

While the numbers of the campaign are admirable, they were not possible without proper planning and preparation. Campaigns of this magnitude require several months of planning in advance; in fact planning for the 2019 A Day has already begun.

"We began planning in Spring semester of last year and worked diligently throughout the summer to create a plan and documentation to help guide us through the campaign," said Bretch. "But our team is always planning and asking people to support UWG through their time, talent or treasures. It is a constant process that is supported by so many in this community. It is also hard work, but our students, UWG's passion for education and all of our initiatives make the story a transformative one to tell."

However, while planning is a vital aspect of A Day, its success ultimately depends on the diverse effort of those who support the university and its students.

"I am so grateful to be a part of such an incredible UWG tradition, but more importantly, I am so grateful for our community, faculty, staff, students and businesses," said Bretch. "They are truly who made A Day a success."



Photo credits: UWG Annual Giving

Police and Media: Department of Criminology Hosts Panel Discussion

Ashley Dorsey

Contributing Writer

UWG's Department of Criminology hosted a Police and Media Panel in Bonner Lecture Hall on Oct. 24.

The Police and Media Panel discussed how complex the relationship between law enforcement and the media is. The panelists discussed this along with other issues that affect students.

"This panel included several different types of professionals and scholars in the area of media and criminology and criminal justice," said Mateja Vuk, Assistant Professor with the Department of Criminology.

This year's panelist included Times Georgian Crime Reporter Isabella Alves; Public Information Officer Sgt. Ashley Henson; Dr. Michael Hester from the Center for Diversity and Inclusion; Criminal defense attorney Cawanna McMichael; Senior Partner of Swindle Law Group Jason Swindle; and Department of Criminology Associate Professor Dr. Frank Wilson.

"The goal of the panel was to discuss several different topics like: what is the relationship between the media and law enforcement, how media influences people's perception of law enforcement and the role of the media in criminal investigations," said Vuk.

The panel discussion was mainly for Criminology majors, but all UWG students and staff members were welcome to come and sit in on the discussion.

"The panel was open to the entire student population and it was offered as extra credit to Criminology majors in certain classes," said Vuk.

The Department of Criminology puts on a variety of events for their students, but this was the first time that they have hosted a panel discussion.

"Normally we have one guest speaker, that is a criminology scholar, come and share their research," said

Vuk. "This year we wanted to do something different and have something more interactive that students would hopefully like better."

The panelists were prepared for a series of questions, but the best part according to Vuk was at the end when the audience got to ask their questions.

In 2018 the media plays a big role in how people perceive law enforcement. This panel was a great way to start the discussion on how people can change these perceptions.

"This was an important topic to discuss because these topics were relevant to things we see in the media today," said Vuk. "For example we are seeing things about high profile shootings, incidents with police using excessive force and news stories about African Americans and their experiences with law enforcement."

During the panel they also discussed a topic called the CSI Effect and how it influences many Criminology students.

"Every year we have students who want to study criminology, but they may not have the correct perspective of what really goes on and this called the CSI effect," said Vuk.

The CSI Effect is when the exaggerated portrayal of forensic science on crime television shows such as CSI influences public perception.

"Our students watch these forensic crime shows and then come into our programs with a preconceived notion of what they think police work is," said Vuk. "What we want is for our students to have a realistic perspective of what really goes on, and that is another reason why we thought this panel was so influential."



Photo Credits: Ashley Dorsey

Carrollton Mainstreet Unites Traditions

Anne Holmes

Contributing Writer

Carrollton Main Street hosted its annual blues festival this year with a twist. An estimated 2,500 people gathered in Adamson Square throughout the day to celebrate Carrollton's first Boos + Blues + Brews festival, a new combination of Carrollton's Blues and Brews Festival with Oktoberfest.

On Saturday, Oct. 27 Boos + Blues + Brews brought in more guests, sponsors and activities than last year's festival with the added bonus of Oktoberfest and other Halloween-themed festivities. While this is the first event of its kind Carrollton Main Street has been hosting an annual blues festival since 2016.

Last year Carrollton Main Street hosted Blues and Brews at the same location, with the added perk of sampling the local craft brews all day.

"For the past two years, we've done one event on the third Saturday of October and one event on the last Saturday of October," said Aundi Lesley, director of Carrollton Main Street. "Instead of competing with Oktoberfest and all the different events going on throughout Carrollton and the West Georgia community, we decided to make it one fun-filled event, all day long."

The event took over Adamson Square starting at 11 a.m., shutting down Bradley

Street all the way to the corner of Maple and Alabama Street. Local businesses offered candy to children dressed in costumes outside their storefronts, and large inflatables for the kids to jump around on took up the streets.

Families made their way around the inflatables, old cars perfect for photo ops and tents from organizations like Parks and Recreation as well as churches in the area. Children could also enter in a costume contest with prizes for first, second and third place.

At 3 p.m., the blues and the brews portion began at The AMP. Carrollton Main Street invited guests to migrate towards Bradley street where tents and a beer tap truck provided craft brew samplings to ticket-holding guests.

Tickets were on sale in advance for \$30 online and \$35 at the event. Participants received a blue wristband and a Carrollton Main Street plastic cup, giving them access to more than thirty beer staples like Printer's Ale, Carrollton's own brewing company, as well as others like Southbound, New Realm, and Sweetwater Brewing Company.

Regional artists including the David Pippin Group, Tyler Neal, The John Pagano Band, Rick Fowler, Andrew Black and Lola The AMP kept festival-goers entertained for



Photo Credit: Anne Holmes

the rest of the day. Boos + Blues + Brews went on into the night ending a little after 9 p. m., and the square's local businesses invited guests to shop and eat while downtown. Events like these increase foot traffic for restaurants and boutiques on the square.

"A lot of families came early that morning, stayed throughout the costume contest and even stayed to listen to the live music at the end of the day," said Lesley.

The date for the next fall and blues festival has yet to be determined but after positive feedback from the community Lesley believes that the two events will be combined again next year.



Seeking comic artists!

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FAITH AND FABLES: UWG SENIOR PUBLISHES NOVEL

Alyssa Martinez

Contributing Writer

A. E. Costello is a student at the University of West Georgia who has published her first fiction novel. Costello is a senior who is majoring in English. She published her book, *The Other Side* through Amazon's self-publishing service.

The Other Side is about a 17-year-old African American male in a small town in Georgia. Jaxon Reeves lives a normal life with his friends and girlfriend and goes to church with his family. This is until he goes out of town and gets attacked by a werewolf and becomes one as well.

"Upon coming home he faces discrimination and prejudice, joining this world within a world that he never knew," said Costello. "He confronts his humanity, or loss of humanity, as his faith

is thrown into question and he has to reconcile himself as his parents' son and the son of God."

Costello worked on the book for seven years before she got it published. Those seven years were full of periods of time where she would write every day as well as days where she would procrastinate. She also had an exercise to develop her characters where she would interview them.

"I would talk to the main character, Jaxon Reeves, about his feelings, his relationships with other characters, with God and make sure I was writing his decisions properly," said Costello.

While Costello currently has the goal of being a novelist this was not always

her career path. Originally she wanted to be a veterinarian like her aunt, however, around the age of six she discovered her love of writing and her innate talent for it.

"I've been writing every day without fail. Being a novelist is my main career, but I also will be a comic artist and graphic novelist," said Costello.

She started writing *The Other Side* in 2011 after she got out of high school and she continued writing it when she got into college in 2013.

"Degree first, career second. This means that papers, projects, assignments and readings all had to take priority over my novel, which was very hard sometimes," said Costello. "A novelist career is very important to me but getting my English degree

has to come first as I'm not a full-time writer yet."

Most writers tend to draw from their own lives in some way for inspiration for their writing. Costello based the setting of her novel from her real-life surroundings.

"I basically based it off my town that I grew up in, since moving from New York to Georgia," said Costello.

Moving forward in her writing career Costello will be switching self-publishing companies. For her future books she will be using a company that will allow her books to be in bookstores and libraries. Costello is currently working on her second fiction novel which will be called *Dorgia*.

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