

The West Georgian

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WALMART'S GUN RESTRICTIONS FOLLOW SHOOTINGS

Allison Lee
Cosntributing Write

With the recent developments of the mass shooting at the Walmart in El Paso, Texas on Aug. 3, 2019, a ban has been placed on openly carried firearms and on certain ammunition sold in Walmart stores. There were 22 people killed and many injured at this crime scene. The suspect was believed to have committed this act as a hate crime. This was a tragedy that should be prevented in the future and deserves this attention from communities, not just Walmart. Walmart is taking a stand by enacting this ban, but they cannot prevent all violence within their stores.

Walmart has been known to update it’s security and has recently put employees at the entrances to check for items that are not in bags in case of robberies at the Villa Rica, GA Walmart and many other stores. They scan the items that are not in bags and check the receipts. They have added more security cameras in the grocery lines as well. The employees at the front of the Walmart store are essentially their first line of defense against shoplifting, but having employees doing this job is not necessarily protecting these individuals. This could make customers feel safer, but the ban seems to be all they can do in the fight against many forms of violence.

Considering that Walmart is a widely used store, there are still bound to be flaws within this new ban or updated security. It seems as though Walmart is trying to make customers have less fear going into stores, but they have not banned concealed carry within stores. A concealed carry permit or open carry license is required to have firearms in public areas in the state of Georgia. Since these are two different permits, some people are limited in their carry now within Walmart. We have a right to bear arms according to the 2nd amend-ment, but restrictions are in place for where we can carry a firearm anyway. Does Walmart have the authority to make such a call and is it making customers feel more secure?

If Walmart wanted to stop more violence from guns in its stores, it could be easier to just ban any kind of gun carry altogether. However, Walmart sells guns and ammunition in stores. It would be bad for business to completely ban any kind of carry from Walmart or ban the sale of guns in its stores. This might affect customers in their demand for guns and ammunition too. With our 2nd amendment right in question, this scenario would not work.

Supposedly, this was intended to be a hate crime which means we can do more as communities to come together to stop gun violence in stores and hate amongst different groups. We can promote a safer environment for convenience stores by telling them what we want in convenience stores. Walmart is supposed to have almost everything that you need in your day to day life. How often do we need guns? We all have wants and needs, but the convenience store has always been more focused on needs.

Consumers could always buy guns at a gun shop instead of a convenience store, but Walmart is more of an all encompassing business. Guns being readily available at Walmart could be beneficial or harmful, but we have just as much of a say in a corporation’s business as they do in the long run. After all, there would be no business without consumers of their products. Businesses and customers have to work together to insure that we see less of these violent events take place.

SPORTS

THE STORY OF UWG DEFENSIVE BACK LATRELL GIBBS

Sam Okodua
Contributing Writer

Getting knocked down does not define who someone is. The real test of one’s character is brought to light if they get back up and how they get back up.

Latrell Gibbs’ football journey began at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, GA, where he was awarded First-Team All-State in his senior year at North Cobb.

Gibbs is a senior defensive back at UWG but has played a few different positions growing up. Gibb’s football aspirations began when he was young.

“Since I was little everyone kept telling me that I need to play football and that I’m going to make it big,” said Gibbs.

Gibbs was awarded a scholarship to play for Appalachian State University, a Division-1 college in Boone, N.C. immediately after high school. Gibbs recorded seven interceptions on the 2015 season and was named to the All-Sun Belt first team during his freshman year in college. Gibbs’ success came to a halt in 2016 when he was declared academically ineligible.

“I was more focused on football than I should have been,” said Gibbs. “I was more of an athlete than a student-athlete.”

Gibbs was working during the two years that he was not in school. It was not until a former high school teammate by the name of Tyler Queen reached out to Gibbs about another opportunity to play football for the Wolves.

“I thought about playing football all the time,” said Gibbs. “So when Tyler Queen reached out to me it was the final factor of me deciding to play for West Georgia.”

The two years that Gibbs took off also allowed him to regain focus on school. In the summer of 2019, Gibbs achieved a semester GPA of 3.5.

“I’m going to try and get The Dean’s List this semester,” said Gibbs. “I am going to use the summer semester as motivation for this semester.”

Gibbs has a lot of confidence for this season. He believes that the previous season has shed light on how good this football team is. The Wolves went 10-2 last season, losing in the first round of the playoffs to

Wingate Bulldogs.

“I feel like we’re going to be pretty good. The defense looks good. The offense looks good,” said Gibbs. “As long as we play how we’re supposed to play and prepare how were supposed to prepare it should be another successful season.”

Gibbs believes his defensive teammates Chad Price and Korie Rogers are going to make a significant impact on defense along with some other teammates who are going to shock fans.

With this being Gibbs last season as a college athlete, he looks forward to his future on or off the field.

“I want to be a coach,” said Gibbs. “I feel like that could be a thing I would want to do if football doesn’t work out.”

Gibbs’s passion for the game runs deep and he is proud to play his last season of college football at UWG.

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34.” said Gibbs.

Photo Credit: UWG Athletics



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News

JULES AND JAMES BOUTIQUE NAMED BEST BOUTIQUE

Nicole Kirkman

Jules and James is a local boutique in the Carrollton area and it has now become one to compete against all over the state of Georgia.

The boutique was named the “Best Boutique for the State of Georgia” and “Best Online Boutique for the State of Georgia.” Located on Maple Street, it has been open for around four years and has gradually become one of the most sought after according to Boutique Hub.

“This year there were almost half a million votes cast, so for Jules & James to win was such an honor,” says owner Allison Grooms.

The boutique consists of one store in Carrollton and during the holiday seasons they travel doing pop-up shops in Newnan, GA and Warren, Ohio. The store has not only gained traction in-store but also online where they do the majority of their business.

“We do about 95% of our business through

e-commerce, so at this time we are not focused on expanding our brick and mortar locations, but that could change in the future!” says Grooms.

Jules and James Boutique has worked hard to provide online resources to their customers because they know just how cared for each customer feels when they can buy on the go. They have an app specifically for the usage of online shopping customers who need to buy their clothing quickly. They not only have an app but they also have a full website that gives buyers the opportunity to search via computer. The plan for this boutique did not come from years of planning, but introduced itself to the owner through a dream session one day. The owner herself was not in the business career field upfront.

“I actually went to school for education and was a teacher for a few years. In 2014 I had my daughter, Juliette,” says Grooms. “I knew that I wanted the flexibility and the option to stay home with her. I was a fully committed stay at home mom for about one year before I was itching to get back to work. I still wanted the flexibility to be with my daughter, so I decided to start my own business so that I could work from home. I quickly found out that starting a business would mean that I would work harder than I ever have worked in my entire life, but this time I was in charge of my time and my schedule so I was still able to be a mom first. I was selling boutique items for competitive prices and it was a niche that was not being met by any other retailers.”

Jules and James was Alison’s way to still be a mother but work from her own restrictions, and there was no thought in her mind that it would skyrocket to success. When she first started her business career she actually owned a monogramming business and then a facebook group that sold boutique clothing at incredibly competitive prices.

“After a couple of years we rebranded and changed our business model - Jules & James Boutique was born,” says Grooms.

There is a real focus in having genuine relationships with customers for Alison and finding a staff that would be able to bring that honest yet hardworking demeanor was important to her.

“I have the most amazing staff. I would put them up against anyone’s team - I feel that confident in them! We have gone through ups and downs together. We really are like a big family,” says Grooms.

There has been so much support for the Jules and James staff from the beginning. Alison loves her team which consists of really great women and men that devote their time to what they do.

“I tell my staff all the time that

I never really wanted to be anyone’s boss so they have to be patient with me. I just wanted to start a (small) business so that I could have a little extra money and then somehow I ended up with over 40 something people calling me boss!” says Grooms.

The Jules and James boutique crew are extremely thankful for these new honors and hope to continue to serve the Carrollton area for years to come. Grooms makes sure that her team is rewarded no matter what because she believes they have helped her bring her dreams to life.

“I was so happy, because my staff works so hard, so I really wanted this award for them,” says Grooms.



Photo Credit: Allison Grooms
Grooms and staff members

UWG RANKED AMONGST MOST AFFORDABLE ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

Justin Hodges
Editor In Chief

In recent rankings done by affordableschools.net The University of West Georgia has been ranked among the 25 most affordable online master’s programs in the fields of nursing education and public administration for 2019 by. The rankings were published on the organization’s website in April.

UWG was ranked sixth and ninth, respectively. These rankings were created using the National Center for Education Statistics’ College Navigator database, U.S. News and World Report, and each school’s website. The 25 best colleges were selected and ranked based on in-state tuition, student-to-faculty ratio, and national rankings.

“Our online programs meet the same high academic standards as our traditional ones and are as affordable as you will find among accredited schools,” says Dr. Micheal Crafton, UWG Interim President. “We are incredibly proud to be recognized by Affordable Schools for not just one, but two of our online master’s programs.”

Ranked among the top graduate nursing programs in the country, the affordable online Master of Science in Nursing at UWG is a 36-credit-hour program that can be completed in two years or four semesters of study.

Students can choose from role options in either health systems leadership or education, and coursework is available entirely online. Specifically, the nursing education track address innovations in strategies, instructional skills, and curriculum as well as educational evaluation and assessment.

Students also investigate the use and development of educational technology in the field of nursing instruction. Graduates of this low cost online M.S.N. degree program develop expertise in college and University teaching, professional development, patient education and health promotion and education.

The affordable online Masters in Public Administration offered by UWG is designed for students seeking a position in nonprofit or government agencies or for those who are currently working in the public service. The online master’s degree curriculum is comprised of 36 credits, including seven core courses in areas such as human resource management, administrative law and procedures, policy analysis and program evaluation, budgeting and financial management, organizational theory, and research methods.

The inexpensive online M.P.A. program culminates in a comprehensive research project involving a research paper that analyzes a program or policy in public administration. Students with no experience in the field are required to complete an internship in public administration.

One of the largest appeals to those considering attending UWG is its moderate cost of tuition. The top-notch value of the university’s programs and academic staff make the tuition costs an incredible bargain and that is being recognized on a national scale. The concept of online master’s programs may seem unconventional, but UWG has prioritized them as legitimate options for grad-school students.

UWG NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

Kimberly Wooten
Contributing Writer

UWG National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) held its annual Convocation on Sep.11 in the Campus Center Ballroom. NPHC is a collaborative organization of nine historically African- American, International Greek lettered fraternities and sororities. The nine NPHC organizations are collectively referred to as the “Divine Nine”.

NPHC Convocation provides interested students with information about NPHC fraternities and sororities. Topics that were discussed included membership requirements and the benefits of joining Greek Life. Convocation also provides an opportunity for the Office of Greek Affairs to discuss important information about hazing as well as the various guidelines specific to joining an organization at UWG. Each chapter presents information about their organization’s history and values.

After each organization presented information, they either performed a step or a stroll. Strolling functions by having members of a particular Greek organization line up one after another. Similar to saluting, they begin to move forward in the same dance motions, or many times alternating dance moves. Organizations show pride in their chapters by stepping and strolling with chapters working in unity to create music through their steps and calls.

Stepping is a performance that melds folk traditions with popular culture and involves synchronized percussive movement, singing, speaking, chanting, and drama. Developed by African American fraternities and sororities, it is now practiced worldwide. This tradition gradually became to be used to celebrate initiations into the world of Greeks.

The chapters would gather on campus and sing uplifting songs and cheers about their fraternity or sorority. In later years when the Greeks sung songs, they added movements such as walking in a circle and clapping hands. The sororities were singing songs up to the early eighties, and all of the sororities still have traditional songs that they sing today.

UWG only has only seven out of the nine which include: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, founded in 1906 on the campus of Cornell University, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, founded in 1911 on the campus of Howard University, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, founded in 1914 on the campus of Howard University, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, founded in 1920 on the campus of Howard University, and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, founded in 1922 on the campus of Butler University, and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, founded in 1963 on the campus of Morgan State University.

Convocation also provides an opportunity for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) to NPHC fraternities and sororities participate in a requirement process called Membership Intake. Before a student can join a NPHC organization, the student must have accumulated 12 or more semester hours at UWG, earned a 2.5 cumulative GPA, be in good standing with the university.

UWG THEATRE PREPARES FOR FIRST SHOW

Emily Conklin

Contributing Writer

UWG Theatre Prepares for first show!

Emily Conklin

The Gospel at Colonus as Oedipus is a theatre performance that will be opening on Oct. 8th at the Townsend Center for the Performing ArtsMainstage (TCPA) and runs through Oct 13th. This theatre performance is all about transformation and will include laughs, claps and dance that will make the audience want to jump out of their seats.

Saani Parham is a marketing assistant for the theatre department who is also in the cast of The Gospel at Colonus as Oedipus. Preparing for a theatre performance requires many rehearsals, full run-throughs and preparation for the audience in attendance.

“When preparing for a show, our cast of student performers has to rehearse a lot,” said Parham. “We get about seven weeks of rehearsal time before the first performance, so we rehearse every day except for Sunday.” [Text Wrapping Break]Although seven weeks may seem like a long time, it is actually very limited with all of the requirements that are included in the production of the show. There are a lot of misunderstandings as to how hard those who are in theatre have to work in order to make the rehearsals run smoothly. Many do not realize that there is a lot that goes into having those amazing performances that we all see.

“Our weekly schedule consists of music rehearsals on Mondays and Thursdays, choreography rehearsals on Tuesdays, blocking rehearsal on Wednesdays and Fridays,” said Parham. “We round out our weeks with an early afternoon rehearsal on Saturdays to review. Outside of rehearsals, we have what I like to call ‘actor homework,’ which is just a little extra preparation for our roles.”

With Oct. 8th quickly approaching, everyone who is involved in The Gospel at Colonus as Oedipus is buckling down to ensure that every part of the show is on par with expectations. Costumes are being made, sets are being built and actors are trying to memorize their lines and places on the stage.

“Long before a show starts rehearsal, the design team will hold meetings with the director because a lot more work and preparation are put into building a set and costumes,” said Parham. “At the first rehearsal, we have a show and tell, and all the designers show us what the show will look like. While the cast is in rehearsals, another collection of people is working with the designers to build the set and put together the costumes and lights.”

It is important for everyone to work together in order to make this big production become cohesive and

understandable to all who are watching. All of the small intricacies of the set, costumes and makeup truly make the show what it is.

“When audiences come to see this show, we want them to join us in celebrating the many things we discover on our journey through a glorious transformation,” said Parham. We want our audiences to allow themselves to experience empathy as we tell the story of how compassion trumps cruelty.”



Photo Credit: Emily Conklin UWG The Department UWG Theatre Performing

MUSIC MIDTOWN 2019

Ariana Carter

Contributing Writer

Music Midtown is an annual music festival that takes place in Piedmont Park in Atlanta. This year the festival celebrates its 25th anniversary after going on a hiatus from 2006-2011. Since 2011 the jam-packed lineup and schedule have been the main attraction.

In recent years, the festival has brought some of the biggest acts in music to Piedmont Park for one of the biggest parties of the year. Mainstream artists and indie artists all play on four different stages calling music lovers from across the board. This year the festival pulled out a pretty hard lineup with diverse headliners. The main headliners included: Panic! at the Disco, Travis Scott, Billie Eilish, Cardi B. and Vampire Weekend. What sets these acts apart from one another, besides genre is not much at all but here are the ones that definitely live up to the hype.

Cardi B has become a household name thanks to social media and with the release of last year’s debut, Invasion of Privacy, she skyrocketed into fame after climbing the Billboard charts both as a solo artist and a featured artist. Exactly a year ago she was in the top five of the Billboard Hot 100 with her single ‘I Like It’ and ‘Girls Like You’. She has a fan base that expands to all ages and just wants her fans to have a great time. Her laugh is infectious and her honesty is what makes her so relatable to those who listen to her. The lyrics to her songs are just as unpredictable as she is and that is what makes watching her set so much fun. Cardi has star power and it shows and gives an unforgettable performance.

The year of Lizzo has taken full effect and there’s no stopping her. Her single ‘Truth Hurts’ is number one on the Billboard charts and she has started a movement. She affectionately and aggressively encourages her fans to love themselves and put themselves first. When she takes the stage she demands the attention of the fans in a way that’s different than other artists. She comes from a place of love and it shows. Her and her big girl dancers command the stage from start to finish and that makes it hard to look away and hard to stand still. Between the infectious beats and positive lyrics that make a Lizzo song so great, it has become pretty clear that she is here to uplift others and make sure it stays that way.

Following the release of her debut album that dropped earlier this year, Billie Eilish has had quite an amazing year. The young artist had excellent visuals during her set and has a fan base that cannot get enough of screaming her lyrics at the top of their lungs. She is dedicated to giving her all no matter what as she donned a walking boot for her hour set and still gave her fans an incredible show. As an artist who believes she does not fit into one genre, she projects a certain level of honesty with her lyrics and holds a special connection with her fans that not many get to experience.

Travis Scott took everyone to Astroworld and did not disappoint one bit. Scott’s third studio album Astroworld climbed the hip-hop charts after its August 2018 release and has created some of the greatest shows in the past year. A Travis Scott show is no average hip-hop concert and that is what sets him apart from the rest. Throughout his entire, set fans circle around in a mosh pit and go all out to every song. He brought out guests Offset, from the rap group Migos, and rapper Playboi Carti. Scott closed out an incredible two-day weekend and left fans wanting more.

Music Midtown is a festival that should be experienced at least once. Over thirty artists across four stages all for one price is an amazing experience both physically and spiritually.



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ATLANTA SKATES'OUT

Arvon Bacon

Contributing Writer

Friday marked the tenth year anniversary for Skates’ Out skating. Skates’ Out has been the leader in revamping the skating community in North Georgia by hosting weekend skating lessons.

Since the early 2000’s no more than 19 percent of Americans were actively roller skating leisurely, unlike the height of past time in the 60s and 70’s. Skates’ Out has raised their skating lessons attendance 48 percent since introducing the idea in 2009.

“We started in September of 2009 and it started off as a shocker, we ended up having 13 kids and 10 adults in our first class ever,” said Antwane Kelly, Skate Instructor at Sparkles Family and Fun Center “Now we are averaging about 15 in our adult class and 20 in our youth.”

Teaching older generations and the younger generation will not only jump start its attendance in the short term but will also spark future generations to make skating an enjoyable pastime.

“It is truly a blessing and honor to teach a diversity of people,” said Kelly. “Personally I think skating is still growing, I have seen more of the younger skaters showing more of an urgency to get lessons on how to roller skate, and just the experience of skating makes you want to continue and evolve as a skater.”

Prior to Kelly becoming a teacher for Skates’ Out at Sparkles, the love for skating was passed to him from his dad, the owner of Skates’ Out. “The biggest influence on me picking up skates would be my dad,” said Kelly. “Skating in my mind means stress free, skating is some you can do after a long week of work and gives you a peace of mind.”

Because Kelly had the love of skating introduced to him at an early age, it has helped him genuinely lookout for the best interest of his students by determining what would be the best way to help them obtain their skating goals.

Due to success of the brand, Netflix reached out to Skates’Out and owner Coach AK was invited to come on set teach actors and actresses how to fall safely as well as teaching them key techniques on how to improve their skating.

“Leaving a legacy for the future of roller skating is what drives me,” said Coach AK. This is accomplished when you personally get to know the person who struggles to stand on skates and then transform them into capable skaters.”

Skates’ Out is located in Smyrna, GA near Cobb County and offers skating lessons to youth beginners and adult beginners.

TASTE OF CARROLLTON NEWS

TASTE OF CARROLLTON: BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Katelynn Johnson

Contributing Writer

The 28th annual Taste of Carrollton event was hosted Sept. 12 on Adamson square, where many local restaurants and food trucks offered small servings of their best-selling dishes.

The Taste of Carrollton is a great marketing opportunity for many businesses in Carrollton. Every food vendor is given the opportunity to show off their tasty recipes, and what makes their food the best. Tickets to purchase food were very reasonably priced, each ticket being only a dollar, and all food at the event being three tickets or less.

Each year the Taste of Carrollton has awards for winners for best restaurant on the square, including Restaurant of the Year, Best Restaurant Around Town and Favorite Food Truck. Four community members are chosen to taste small servings from each vendor to judge. When chosen, the vendor is awarded a plaque to place within their business.

“Our pork carnitas were voted best in town,” said Michael Perkins, Director of the Mustard Seed Café. “It is a lot of work to prepare food for this event, but in the end, it is very rewarding.”

The Mustard Seed Café, which is located inside of City Station, has participated in the Taste of Carrollton for two years now. Fish tacos have been the most popular item at the Cafe, but the restaurant offers a variety of items on their menu and they have daily specials. This year at The Taste of Carrollton, Mustard Seed offered pork carnitas, homemade chips and chipotle turkey sandwiches.

Butter’dudder, a newly opened dessert business on the square, offered samples of their homemade ice cream at the event. They are known for making all of their ice cream in house, and offering baked goods along with coffee.

“I was so excited to hear Butter’dudder was coming to Carrollton,” said Chelsea Church, an event participant. “Their ice cream is absolutely delicious!”

Printer’s Ale was the local beer vendor who offered many beer options for purchasing at the event. Printer’s Ale brewery is located on Columbia Drive in Carrollton, GA, and has been open to the public since 2017. Printer’s Ale is the only brewery in Carrollton and is very popular in the community, many businesses support them by purchasing their beer to resale to customers.

“Printers Ale offers many beer selections,” said Blake Souvergnis, an event attendee. “They have a beer for everyone.”

Food Trucks were located on Alabama Street during the event. Tropical Smoothie was offering samples of their best-selling drinks from their food truck this year. Blue Nomad, 302 South Street and O’Charleys were also food truck participants.

The Taste of Carrollton is a fun event that brings the community together by encouraging friendly competition between all local restaurants. It is also a great way for restaurants to introduce themselves and their food persona to Carrollton.

“I believe Taste of Carrollton is a great idea, and every food business should consider participating,” said Church. “It gets better every year.”



Photo Credit: Katelynn Johnson
Great visit in Carrollton

IT CHAPTER TWO IS SCARY FUN - BUT TOO LONG

Logan Landers

Contributing Writer

IT Chapter Two was released on Sept. 6, 2019. Being the sequel to the revitalized franchise in 2017 which was critically acclaimed, this film had big expectations by fans and critics alike. The movie has a total runtime of two hours and fifty minutes which by typical movies in this day and age is quite the stretch. With long movies, the entire film must be captivating in order to be interested from start to finish. With this film, however, some parts are better left out.

Pennywise the clown continues to be the main attraction of this franchise. Pennywise feeds off the fear of his victims, and in Chapter Two he pursues the same seven people affected by him 27 years ago. Bill, Stanley, Eddie, Richie, Beverly, Mike and Ben also known as the Losers Club all come back to Derry, Maine where the film takes place. These friends come face to face with the dastardly clown once again, but this time their intentions are to kill the evil entity once and for all.

The majority of the film takes place in a dark setting, which is a common trait for all horror movies. However when the few instances of sunlight come onto the screen it seemed everyone in the theater had to shield their eyes to avoid being blinded by the light. A confusing part during the film was when Mike brought up the idea of a ritual that would help kill Pennywise. In the end, however, this ritual ends up being a useless part of the plot as the execution of the ritual is quite a letdown and a low point in the film.

A big impression that was felt about this film was that it was hysterically funny in scenes involving Richie, who was a fan-favorite character. This sequel took a lot more adaptation from the novel than the first movie with some parts working excellent while others fell flat.

A downside to the film is the overall amount of flashbacks. Having a few throughout the runtime can work brilliantly as it reminds the viewers of what happened in the past, however Chapter Two has an egregious amount. On the other hand, a new scene that was not adapted from the book, that is very well shot with gorgeous lighting and marvelous special effects, is when Bill goes to a carnival in an attempt to save a small child from Pennywise.

All in all, the movie was pretty good, however, certain parts could have either been cut out entirely or shortened substantially. The most notable takeaway of the film should come from the scares or creepy situations and this movie has enough to make you leave the theater with nightmares. While it wasn't as good as the 2017 version it was a solid movie altogether. Despite the long run time, this is a good horror movie that is sure to scare during this upcoming Halloween season.

LIVING WEST

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS EVENT

Imani Feagin

Contributing Writer

Quamari Brown, a senior at The University of West Georgia (UWG), a Psychology major, and Co-President of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, is organizing an interactive fundraising event on Oct 30 to bring awareness of mental health to the UWG student body.

The exciting event will be split into two parts. It will be in the form of a Halloween maze and a free throw shooting contest that requires an entry fee of three dollars, which will then be donated to a non profit organization whose main focus is mental health support. It will not only be an entertaining experience, but it will benefit students by helping them realize and understand the importance of dealing with unusual behaviors they may have been experiencing since entering college or in general.

Brown finds it important that encouraging students to seek help is okay and shouldn't be frowned upon. She believes that finding a support system can be the necessary motivation to prevent an individual from hiding in the shadows of their sorrow.

“Mental health is important to me because from studying psychology, I’ve learned how it affects our daily lives, how we think, feel, and behave,” Brown explains. “People, especially those in college or those who have made huge live transitions, do not take their mental health into consideration as much as they should which leads to a lot of those students living damaged lives that they try to hide behind smiles.”

The nonprofit organization the event will be donating to is Active Minds, founded by Alison Malmon, a University of Pennsylvania alumni. Active minds has become the leading organization influencing college students around the country and their mental health. This organization reaches over 600,000 students every year on more than 700 college campuses through awareness campaigns, outreach, events, and many more.

On the University of West Georgia’s campus, there are counseling services that cater to those students who may be struggling with mental health, but there are no organizations that help support as a group. The goal that Brown would like to reach after hosting this event, is to one day inspire the students and student organizations on UWG’s campus to produce an additional organization that serves as a comfort zone for those who struggle with their mental health.

She believes that no one should have to struggle or suffer alone, and by raising funds for this nonprofit, it helps to globally enforce change and spread more awareness. Until the event takes place in October, if you are a student interested in participating or donating to Active Minds, visit the Active Minds website where the option to donate will be on display.



Quamari Brown,
Event Organizer
Photo Credit: Imani Feagin
Mental Health Event



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