



CUMBRE VIEJA VOLCANO ERUPTS FOR OVER A MONTH; WHAT IS HAPPENING?

BY BRITTANY MERSFELDER
News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

The Cumbre Vieja volcano located on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands has been erupting since Sept. 19 and continues to erupt resulting in destroyed property around the island. This eruption is the first in 50 years. Many around the world believe that this eruption, given its length, that the world is coming to the “end of times.”

“This is not the end of times,” said Ryan Currier, Associate Professor of UWG’s Geology Department. “Compared to other volcanoes, this one is really small. This eruption will have minimal impact and it’s not dangerous.” Currier states that this event is purely nature at work.

The Cumbre Vieja volcano has become strombolian, which is a type of volcanic eruption. This type of eruption is where there are small blasts of lava and incandescent cinders coming from the volcano. These are mild in nature and are also the smallest form of explosive eruptions. Given the layout of the islands around that of La Palma, it is possible the Cumbre Vieja volcano is over a hotpot in the mantle.

“Volcanologists and researchers noticed a pooling of magma under La Palma,” said Currier. “They knew there was a disturbance in the area.”

When there is a suspicion of an eruption related to hotspots, the youngest volcano is typically the one to create an eruption. The Cumbre Vieja is the youngest in that area of Spain. An example of hotspot related islands would be those of Hawaii. They are a chain of islands that have formed because of the plate tectonic theory. The major difference between the Hawaiian Islands and the Canary Islands is that Hawaii is much calmer when erupting.

“Hawaii’s islands are much gentler than what we are seeing at La Palma,” said Currier. “Hawaii’s volcanoes are also not strombolian like what we are seeing in the Canary Islands.”

The volcano is said to not be as violent as prior eruptions such as that of the Icelandic eruption of the 17th century. The Icelandic volcano eruption caused the entire world to go into a cooling phase, causing droughts and famine around the

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world. This is entirely because of the amount of sulfur dioxide that went into the atmosphere.

“Nothing like Iceland will happen in La Palma,” said Currier. “[We would see] a clear change in signal from the volcano before any fear would be present.”

This volcano may not be as violent as others in the past, however it still reaches onto the Volcanic Explosivity Index or VEI. Cumbre Vieja is only a two on a scale maxing out at eight, meaning the volume is far smaller than what would be of Yellowstone.

“[Cumbre Vieja] started at a zero on the VIE scale and is now at level two,” said Currier. “As long as you are not directly next to the volcano, you won’t be affected.”

The only way the United States would be affected is if wind patterns changed, causing a mixture of ash and sulfur dioxide to be overhead, according to Currier.

“[Cumbre Vieja] is not the longest eruption we have ever seen,” said Currier. “Some erupt for three to 100 years. It is a neat volcano.”

NEWS



STRANGER THINGS BLOCK PARTY HELD IN DOWNTOWN DOUGLASVILLE

BY EMILY ALLEN
Copy Editor

Photo Courtesy of Visit Douglasville

Douglasville Connection and Visitors Bureau hosted a block party for the fans of the Netflix series “Stranger Things” on Saturday, Nov. 6, in honor of “Stranger Things Day”. Some areas of Downtown Douglasville were transformed into the town of Hawkins, Indiana where the show takes place. Fans could enjoy festivities such as selfie spots, arcade games, trivia, cosplay and more. The event took place from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. followed by a showing of the movie “Back to the Future.”

Selfie Spots include Starcourt Mall, Melvald’s General Store, Benny’s Burgers, Alphabet Wall, The Upside Down, Hawkins Police Station, Hawkins Post and Palace Arcade. Each of the selfie sports are a filming location used throughout the show.

Cardboard cutouts of the characters in the show were

placed around each selfie spot where visitors could take a selfie with their favorite characters. The event brought in a large crowd, people of all ages came out to enjoy a night to explore fun fan-favorite moments.

O’Neal Plaza turned into the Upside Down where there was Demogorgon Chalk Art, fog and lights. The Palace Arcade is a local arcade in Hawkins including a variety of games including Pac-Man and Dragon’s Lair that were available for free play until 8 p.m.. Just in case anyone got hungry, The Vine Café and Market served Eleven inspired waffles and Kuumba Coffee served Demodogs. Each food item was inspired by the show.

A cosplay contest was free to enter for anyone over the age of 14. Participants of the contest were required to choose any “Stranger Things”

character to dress up as. Each costume had to be handmade. Contestants had to sign up to participate at the Starcourt Mall by 8 p.m. before walking across the stage striking a pose. Each contestant was judged on their costumes by the audience and received either first, second or third place.

“Stranger Things” trivia was free to all visitors after the cosplay contest was over. To end the night, the Starcourt Mall presented a movie called “Back to the Future”.

The Stranger Things block party was a great way for fans to celebrate “Stranger Things Day” and tour the iconic filming locations that were seen in the show.

“The event was strange but very cool to see all of the filming locations that were used throughout the show,” said Karen Allen, a visitor of the event.

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NEWS



**QUAIL FOREVER:
CARROLLTON’S
LOCAL RESOURCE
FOR CONSERVATION
AND LAND
MANAGEMENT**
BY JANNETTE EMMERICK
Reporter

Quail Forever is a local Carrollton establishment that aids in conservation and land management around Carroll County and the surrounding area. Quail Forever is a branch from their parent organization Pheasant Forever, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Both organizations work to conserve the uplands and grasslands, specifically working with private landowners to conserve wildlife in their backyards.

“Quail Forever’s mission is to conserve quail, pheasants and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education and conservation,” says Miranda Gulsby, Quail Forever’s senior farm bill wildlife biologist.

West Georgia resides in the up-land south, including the Appalachian Mountains and Chatahoochee River where a wealth of wildlife flourish. “Up-land” refers to the habitat’s higher elevation where its colder, rockier and faster freshwater waterways; over the decades, Georgia has greatly lost grasslands and open woodland habitats. Quail Forever works with other nonprofits, federal and state partners, stakeholders in local communities and they especially work with private landowners to conserve vital wildlife and work against invasive species.

According to Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), 93% of Georgia’s landscape is privately owned. Under Georgia’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

the organization is able to provide funds for private landowners who have wildlife species such as gopher tortoises, hellbenders and bobwhite quail living in their land because these species and many others are endangered or protected. Quail Forever aims to work with landowners for the benefit of both the landowners and conservation.

“Land management is not a one-size-fits-all; it greatly depends on the current status of the habitats on private properties,” says Gulsby. “That is why we build relationships with private landowners and meet them in person on their property to provide wildlife habitat recommendations that are to tailor their property.”

Quail Forever and Pheasant Forever involve biologists across the country and together, they work to improve habitats, ecoregions and land uses.

“One of the biggest limitations for landowners is the knowledge of what programs and recourse are available for their property,” says Gulsby. “Our biologists provide their expertise of programs and wildlife habitat management to landowners and help land managers design and complete quality habitat projects from start to finish.”

In partnership with NRCS, GADNR and Georgia Forestry Commission, Quail Forever is also able to assist landowners navigate habitat management on their property and cost-share programs from federal and state conservation.

“A goal of Quail Forev-

er is educating and engaging our communities through outdoor recreation, habitat conservation and shooting sports and hunting,” says Gulsby.

Education remains a crucial tool in conserving wildlife in West Georgia’s community. Additionally, educating landowners and biology students about organization opportunities offered by Quail Forever and other organizations. While Quail Forever focuses on birds and private land, they still work to connect with the broad wildlife conservation community.

“Our staff in Georgia have wide ranging background and interests in the wildlife field and personally one of my passions is for the conservation of our reptiles and amphibians in Georgia,”

Quail Forever recently partnered with Bear Creek Nature Center for their Reptile Rally event on Nov. 13 along with Georgia Reptile Society, Georgia Herpetologist Association and Rescue, GADNR and Southern Conservation Trust.

One of their future projects involves working with a local Wildlife Management Area to remove invasive plant species including the kudzu and return the habitat to native species.

More information on Quail Forever can be found at their website quailforever.org and their parent website pheasantforever.org. Additionally, more information on Georgia’s Private Land Program (PLP) can be found here: <https://georgiawildlife.com/privatelandsprogram>.

LIVING WEST



**UWG THEATRE
PRESENTS:
MISS BENNET:
CHRISTMAS AT
PEMBERLEY**

BY KINADI DILL
Copy Editor

Students, staff and the local community are encouraged to come out and support the University of West Georgia theatre department this month as they present “Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley” just in time for the upcoming holiday season. The play, written by Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon and directed by Amy Cuomo is a sequel to Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” and is set two years after the novel ends.

In the play, the Bennet family comes together to celebrate Christmas at Pemberley, as it follows Mary Bennet, the unmarried, obedient middle sister of the family who has grown tired of her role. As the play progresses and events unfold, Mary begins to discover her sense of self and even embraces true love. Audience members can expect notes of comedy, drama and romance in

this rendition of the play.

“The day in the life of a director is sort of on a timeline,” said Amy Cuomo, director and professor of Theatre-Playwriting at UWG. “The concept for the show is set early and the goal is to figure out the approach for the show. The design team usually gathers and talks through ideas for the show, which later leads to casting, rehearsals, and overall preparation for the play. “For this specific show, we actually had a dialect coach because the story is set in 1815 England and there was also movement coaching in place for the actors,” continued Cuomo. Usually we work about five weeks out but for this show we started working back in August because of the dialect and went into full rehearsals by October.”

The show is set out for opening night on Wednesday, Nov. 10. The follow-

ing dates are the upcoming performance dates; Nov. 10-13 and Nov. 16-19 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Richard Dangle Black Box Theatre. There is also a matinee showing for Nov. 14 at 2:30 p.m. as well. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 dollars by students at the Townsend Center box office or purchased online. The Townsend Center Box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

“I’ve been a director for the UWG theatre department for 21 years,” said Cuomo. “The experience has been great. I love working with my students, and watching them grow and discover themselves. It really is a lot of fun.” Auditions for the next show “Heathers: The Musical” is set to begin Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Black Box at the Townsend Center. Those interested in participating are encouraged to audition.

LIVING WEST

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDING FREE COVID VACCINES TO UWG COMMUNITY

BY EMMA PENCE

The COVID-19 vaccine is available now at the University of West Georgia through the Health Services on the Carrollton Campus. UWG's students and faculty can make an appointment through Health Services which will be available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Not only is the vaccine available to students and faculty but it is also available to immediate family members of employees that are over the age of 12 years old.

The Manager of Media Relations, Sam Gentry, was unavailable to comment in regards to questions about the vaccine and its availability.

According to the University Health Center, students and employees are not required to get the vaccine; those who choose not to get vaccinated are encouraged to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

UWG's Health Services offers the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer-BioNTech is a two-dose series that is given two weeks apart. Those who have received their first dose at another location are welcome to get their second dose at Health Ser-

vices by appointment only.

Getting the vaccine has been made easy by allowing employees to get vaccinated during work hours and having a simple process to make appointments over the phone. There are zero costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the CDC, getting vaccinated prevents severe symptoms such as possible hospitalization, death and helps reduce the spread of the virus in the community. Although the vaccine cannot prevent people from getting COVID-19, it can still be contracted and transmitted.

UWG has administered COVID-19 over 4,000 vaccinations as of October 2021.

VIRTUAL MEDICAL CARE RISES, CREATING A DECLINE IN TRADITIONAL DOCTOR'S VISITS

BY AMANDA CLAY

Health Correspondent



Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

Using virtual medical care has become a mainstay in the medical field because of COVID-19. Telemedicine has become a popular mode for physician-patient interactions and is on track to become a substantially huge business internationally. The Global Telemedicine Market Size is expected to grow to \$431.82 billion at a compound annual growth rate of 26.5% by 2026, according to a GlobeNewswire article released in August. There are certainly advantages to this mode of medical care, particularly in rural areas where physician shortage issues have become increasingly more severe. However, many doctors have concerns about medical errors and patient privacy with telemedicine. The Deloitte 2018 Health Care

Consumers and Physicians survey found that although many doctors felt that telemedicine brought important benefits, 36% had concerns that important diagnoses would be missed. Other concerns cited in the survey were lack of appropriate technology, privacy of patient information and disruption of practice workflow. The survey was done prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and general perceptions of telemedicine by the healthcare community may have shifted; but the concerns raised in the survey are relevant even in the age of COVID-19. Providers using telehealth are not able to physically examine patients. There are some online systems that allow for the measurement of vital signs but this can result in inaccuracies.

Most malpractice claims related to telemedicine involve medical error in diagnosis. A study released by The Doctor's Company, a medical malpractice insurer, found that 71% of all telemedicine related malpractice claims involved inaccurate or missed diagnosis. 11% of those claims were related to inappropriate treatment management and the other 7% inappropriate surgical aftercare, according to the study. The lingering question is, what are the future implications of a healthcare system dependent on technology in the evaluating and treatment of patients? Physical in-person contact is a critical part of quality healthcare. While telemedicine should continue to play a role in patient care, it should not be a replacement for in-person visits.

EDITORIAL



OPINION:
CHALLENGES ON TEX-
AS ABORTION LAW
BRINGS HOPE TO
WOMEN FIGHTING
FOR THEIR RIGHTS
BY EMMA PENCE
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 1, Texas passed a new law preventing abortions past the six-week mark. Texas put a stop to all of their abortion care and has restricted access to abortions for those who are less than six weeks pregnant.

This law stripped women of their right to have control of their bodies. Most women do not even know they are pregnant until after six weeks, with 85-90% of Texan women that receive an abortion being over six weeks pregnant. Between not knowing about your pregnancy and weighing out your options and deciding what is best for mother and baby, that is not enough time. Not only is this law affecting pregnant women but also anti-abortion activists and the support system of the woman seeking abortion care. People who are helping a women obtain an abortion illegally can be fined heavily, those providing the procedure and anyone else present. Some anti-abortion groups have set up hot lines where people can call in and

give anonymous tips on doctors or clinics who are found to be violating the new law.

On the night before the law went into place, Texas abortions clinics did what they could to help those in need by staying open until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 31.

“Texans, like everyone else in this country, should be able to count on safe abortion care in their own state,” said Amy Hagstrom Miller, president and CEO of Whole Woman’s Health and Whole Woman’s Health Alliance. “No one should be forced to drive hundreds of miles or be made to continue a pregnancy against their will, yet that’s what will happen unless the Supreme Court steps in.”

As many were enraged by this new law there was a hearing for two challenges against Texas’s new law, which is the country’s most limiting for abortion care. The challenges state that the law is against a constitutional right that was put in place nearly 50 years ago with Roe v. Wade in 1973, which gave

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

the right to access abortion.

Elizabeth B. Prelogar, the U.S. Solicitor General argues “no constitutional right is safe” if federal justices allow this Texas law to stand. What will be the next right that will be taken from our country? The goal by challenging this law is to stop an unconstitutional law from judicial scrutiny.

As women continue to wait for the outcome of the hearing, the current law still stands. There are many circumstances that women can be in where they do not want to bring a child into this world and they should have the choice to do so. Think about rape victims, drug addicts, mentally disabled or financially unstable women and families who know that a child would not flourish in that environment. It is a very hard decision for these women and families to make but they should have the choice to make that decision. With Texas’ strict laws in place, it is not preventing abortions but it will bring an end safe abortions.