



## HOW NAPAWF CONTINUES TO FIGHT THE OVERTURNING OF ROE V. WADE

**BRIANNA WELCH**

*Contributing Writer*

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) continues to fight the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade by protesting and bringing attention to the stigma attached to abortion.

May Thach is the Florida organizing manager for the NAPAWF. She works within the field department where the majority of their grassroots organizing happens. NAPAWF is an organization amplifying Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women's voices since 1996.

"What we actually want is access, right?" said Thach. "The fact that we don't even have the floor where it's legal for every person who can get pregnant to have the ability to access this health service, that just shows we can't make any decisions for our own body."

NAPAWF protests all over the country in states including Texas, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Florida and New York. They also have a Member At Large program where someone who organizes with them can still protest if they live outside of the states listed.

"So for us, we're not actively in protests," said Thach. "We're more just vocalizing folks and organizing folks here at NAPAWF."

Though protesting outside of buildings is not their main method of protest, NAPAWF still understands the power of protest. The organization hosts rallies in areas where they protest that invite potential supporters.

"In these places where we protest, we make our voice heard with rallies and all these things," said Thach. "We also want to make sure there's some place that the folks are then able to be plugged into to organize long-term because we know it's not going to happen just only on the streets."

NAPAWF desires to overturn the stigma behind abortion that others may view in a negative light instead of as a medical practice.

"We didn't get the chance to define what abortion is and anti-choice folks got to do that," said Thach. "They got to define what abortion is, what it actually does and what it doesn't do but it's not what



Image courtesy of Ferdinand Macatangay

it is. We failed in that realm where now when people hear abortion, they hear the worst case scenario."

NAPAWF wants people to comprehend that abortion is not a moral debate of right or wrong. It is a question of whether or not one should have access to proper and safe healthcare service for an abortion.

"That'd be so strange if I told you that getting a cast for your ankle was a moral issue," said Thach. "That's so silly but that's how abortion has been now and that's how it's been defined for us."

NAPAWF is optimistic about the U.S. Supreme Court undoing their decision in the future.

"If the whole argument in the Supreme Court is that it's not in our constitution, then let's put it in there," said Thach. "We have a process to put amendments, right? That's why we have as many amendments as we have."

The organization currently works to promote and advocate by voting for pro-choice candidates in the upcoming election in November by asking prospective voters about their views on reproductive rights.

This organization also provides information on their website, napawf.org, in various languages to reach women who require proper abortion care in states that made it illegal. NAPAWF also hosts trainings that inform people how to speak about abortion in light of the recent political stances.

According to Thach, the best way to help women who need abortion care is to donate to local abortion funds and being vocal about this issue during this election season.

"Abortion funds provide direct services to folks who need this services," said Thach. "That comes with helping people with travel, helping people with logic, helping people with actual procedural costs and anything else in between."

Thach emphasizes that the public must understand that abortion is nothing to fear, question the morality of or scorn.

"Abortion is not a bad word; abortion does not carry any moral compass," said Thach. "It's a service that should be available for all of us that want it and need it and that's the end of it."

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## ESPORTS LEAGUE ADDS OVERWATCH 2 AND SUPER SMASH BROS. ULTIMATE TO ROSTER

**JANNETTE EMMERICK**

*Feature Editor*

UWG Wolves Esports expanded their repertoire beyond League of Legends (LoL) with Overwatch 2 and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.

"Those three games are what we [were] running tryouts for," said Joseph Lee, UWG's Esports coach. "We did want to consider Valorant but that is more up in the air based upon student interest as well as talent. For now I can say in confidence: League of Legends team, Overwatch team, and Super Smash Bros Ultimate team."

Tryouts were held Aug. 25 through 28 for all three games and received over forty applications.

Last semester, the LoL Varsity teams competed for the first time at the Peach Belt Conference (PBC), a university sports centered competition that includes Baseball, Tennis, Basketball and a few other sports. PBC invites colleges throughout the "Peach Belt," including Georgia colleges like University of North Georgia and Augusta University, South Carolina universities like USC Beaufort and even Flagler College in Florida among other colleges.

Image Courtesy of UWG Wolves Esports

"[The LoL team] went to the championship, and one of our players—Colin Chambers, who goes by Lin Vale in game, was ranked number three in Support," said Lee.

"I think Esports are starting to get big because you have major professional [Esports] teams partnering with colleges. For example, you have SK Telecom T1—one of the biggest South Korean LoL teams, they partner with Penn State," said Lee. "We got partnered with the Atlanta Hawks and the Night Talon GC—their NBA 2K professional team."

The increasing popularity of gaming and Esports brings a new wave of monetary value both in entertainment and education.

"ESports is generating 1.8 billion dollar revenue and that's projected to go up to 2.5 billion revenue by 2026," said Lee. "In terms of viewership, it surpasses both major league baseball as well as basketball. Esports is around 84 million and MLB is 79 million and NBA is at 63 million."

Participating in Esports, much like other sports, now provides students

with scholarships and financial opportunities. For instance, the Nexus certification sponsored through Skillshot Media and Georgia Film Academy, awards scholarships to Sports Management majors.

"Students who were part of the Esports program through the Esports club, the African American Gamers United club or Esports and Business Management were picked to go to State Farm Arena, where they got a behind the scenes tour to see production and management and to see the actual courts with front row seats in addition to the NBA 2K practice facility," said Lee.

The Living Learning Community (LLC), the Esports dorm on campus also had students who went to the event and participated in the Wolves Esports community.

UWG and the Esports facility offers several Esports centered courses and extracurriculars involving marketing, programming and sports management.

"For example, with Dr. Jang and Dr. Lee's esports course, they actually use Minecraft Education edition to be able to conduct research here with several other students," said Lee.

In this regard, Esports is not classified under athletics but under Academic Affairs.

While tryouts have ended, Lee states that they are willing to welcome in new players through an individual skill test before September, which is the registration deadline.

"We work with WOLF Radio, they do casting for us," said Lee. "So students who have interest and students who don't make it into varsity but want to share their knowledge, they can go to WOLF Radio and help cast for us."

The casters were able to attend PBC and receive mentoring and coaching from Esports professionals including Stephen "Returned" Johnson among others.

The community can support the Esports team on twitch or follow them on twitter and instagram at @WolvesEsports.



# LIVING WEST

## UWG TRADITION “FRIED CHICKEN WEDNESDAYS” RENAMED TO “DEEP FRIED WEDNESDAYS”

ANNA ROBERTS  
*Contributing Writer*

On Aug. 24, University of West Georgia students gathered together at West Commons on campus to honor the tradition of “Fried Chicken Wednesdays” (FCW), a celebration UWG is renaming “Deep Fried Wednesdays” (DFW).

“Fried Chicken Wednesdays” is an age-old tradition dating back over 20 years at UWG. Each Wednesday, West Commons serves a selection of their famous fried chicken with all of the fixings: macaroni and cheese, collard greens, black eyed peas, mashed potatoes and even waffles! Students look forward to this every week and flood to West Commons to enjoy food that feels like home.

“Deep Fried Wednesdays” was created to celebrate this great tradition. Along with the traditional FCW food,

the University also had a DJ, a caricature artist and free t-shirts with the DFW logo. “It was so much fun,” said student Zowie McCarty. “They really went all out! While I was there, me and my best friend Heather got our caricature done wearing our ‘chicken t-shirts’ as we call them now. While we didn’t dance, we loved watching everyone else get so into it. We even got to see some of the Divine Nine Organizations stroll which always mesmerizes me. It was the best time!”

Within the first hour the shirts were distributed and mass amounts of food was handed out. Two dance floors had emerged and the caricature artist had a line rounding the wall. Students filled West Commons, packing it to the brim to celebrate what began as a recurring menu item because of student enjoyment, to now a large part of UWG’s culture.

This was not just a celebration of delicious food but also what FCW means to students all across campus.

“‘Fried Chicken Wednesdays’ made me feel less homesick as a freshman,” said student Heather Wright. “College is about four hours from home for me and one of the things I miss most is the home cooking. This is the closest thing I’ve had to that since I moved



Photo: Anna Roberts, *The West Georgian*

here and I loved celebrating it with all the other students. I haven’t seen campus so full in a long time and it finally is starting to feel like it did before Covid.”

The celebration of “Deep Fried Wednesdays” was the perfect way to introduce the incoming freshmen class to this long-standing UWG tradition and all students to celebrate a small part of their college experience.

## ROCK BAND “I PREVAIL” DROPS NEW ALBUM “TRUE POWER”

BRITTANY MERSFELDER  
*Editor-in-Chief*

For years, I Prevail teased their fans by dropping singles every so often. The last full album released was titled *Trauma* and dropped in 2019. I Prevail began their music journey in 2013. The band released the album *Heart Vs. Mind* in 2014 and a cover of Taylor Swift’s “Blank Space.” The band grew quickly and dropped their album *Lifelines* in 2016. *True Power*, their most recent album, is an amazing album that shows what they are capable of while allowing for room to grow.

This new album gives the same rock feel fans are used to, with a new style introduced on one specific song titled “FWYTYK.” The message the band pushes mainly focuses on mental health and wellbeing, handling toxic people and



Image courtesy of Fearless Records

dealing with your emotions. I Prevail starts their album off strong with a song titled “There’s Fear In Letting Go.” It discusses pushing yourself to be the best you can be and be unafraid of who you are even when nothing is permanent in life. The song is what you would expect from the emo rock band; the guitar rips beautifully accent the grungy vocals.

So far, my favorite song on this album has to be “Body Bag.” In this song, they are vocalizing that no matter how you spend your life, we will all pass in the end. The chorus has almost a punk rock vibe to it. “Behold your empire of dirt” is a very memorable lyric in this piece.

I Prevail always writes songs that their target audience can relate to. Many of their fans

can relate to their new song “Self Destruction.” This song pushes the agenda about working ourselves to death until we die. In the chorus they say “We go 24-7 until we’re six feet deep. Head in the clouds but our heart’s concrete. Burn the whole thing down while they got cold feet. Yeah they can try and copy but they can’t compete.”

For rock fans that can’t digest screaming, “Bad Things” and “Deep End” are not as aggressive as their other songs volume wise. They both have a softer-rock feel for a majority of the song.

Jumping to the song that is definitely a different genre, “FWYTYK” still has their signature sound but with a blend of rock and dubstep. It is very rap heavy which isn’t entirely uncommon for I Prevail. The message in this song focuses on not listening to what others have to say. Much of the time, those criticisms are wrong about you. I believe that I Prevail absolutely rocked this new genre mix.

*True Power* is a great example of the work I Prevail has been putting in over the years. I am enjoying this album and each song is so different from the next. The variety is wonderfully done. I look forward to seeing them in concert again, when they come to Atlanta on Sept. 28.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## JID GIVES HIS NEWEST ADDITION TO ATLANTA’S RAP SCENE

ALANNA KING  
*News Editor*

Atlanta rapper JID released his third solo studio album on Aug. 26. JID is one of the Dreamville label’s fastest rising stars and *The Forever Story* proves he’s a force to be reckoned with.

*The Forever Story* is jam packed with Atlanta sound, featuring notable names such as 21 Savage, Kenny Mason, and EarthGang. He also spotlights several female artists like Ari Lennox, Baby Tate, Ravyn Lenae. JID maintains his notable groovy sound paired with passive yet brisk rhythm, inspired by the funk music and 90’s rap he listened to as a child. He pairs melodies with creative beat switches, keeping listeners on their toes.

Many songs on the project are a love letter to the city that is clearly recognizable to his audience. “Dance Now,” featuring Kenny Mason, takes listeners on a bouncy ride through daily Atlanta life. “Can’t Punk Me” featuring EarthGang is another hometown rep, with JID saying, “the audacity to think that I surpassed them from Atlanta streets, you must be crazy.”

“Crack Sandwich” tells the story of JID’s coming of age, with lyrics like, “I ain’t got cheeseburger money, make a sandwich / Why you being bad? See, your Dad’ll get ya a—whipped / Seven cracked head



Image courtesy of Dreamville Records

bad kids in a Caravan,” as JID grew up the youngest of seven children. He isn’t afraid to get political, rapping about life as a black man and police brutality in the community.

JID doesn’t shy away from skits, and even adds church imagery into “Kody Blu 31.” This song features him singing for the first time on the album. It’s a slower song reminiscent of a church choir with a praise-like undertone. “Radar” gives a peek into JID’s past life as a football player at Hampton University, with bits and pieces of a football game between bars.

One of my favorites in the album is “Surround Sound” featuring 21 Savage and Baby Tate. JID’s 90’s influence is apparent here as the song samples “One Step Ahead” by Aretha Franklin, a classic move of golden-age hip hop artists. The song switches between Franklin’s soulful melodies and

each of the artist’s hardcore verses. While “Surround Sound” was previously released as a single, the song still ties the album together very well.

I also loved “Can’t Make You Change” featuring Ari Lennox. The song is an intimate, jazzy duet with both artists bringing their classic honest lyrics to the table. Ari Lennox never fails to give her strong, gorgeous vocals. It features another sexy beat change that I loved.

The only song that was a flop to me was “Bruddanen” featuring Lil Durk. I liked the soft beat and the family message, but Lil Durk’s voice and flow did not mesh well with JID’s.

Overall, I believe that *The Forever Story* earns its place with Dreamville’s most successful records. I love how JID has maintained his genuine, classic Atlanta sound while still allowing himself to evolve and try new things.

## SMALL MAN MAKES BIG COMEBACK

CJ LATTORE  
*Contributing Writer*

Bryan Small, basketball director for Archer Athletic Association in Gwinnett County, retires from his position after four years. Small has a love for the game of basketball and is knowledgeable enough to run a league of his own. He has enjoyed the journey that comes with his title while bringing together a once loose-knit community.

“I moved to Gwinnett in 2007 from New York,” said Small. “People categorize New York as a basketball mecca and growing up in Brooklyn, I learned a lot about it.”

Small played basketball up until his senior year in high school. “I did not go to college for it but I still studied all aspects of the game because I loved it,” said Small.

Still, having a burning passion for the sport he played, Small would

be a head coach for four years in the Archer league.

“I enjoyed coaching until the year 2019 came around,” said Small. “The Archer league was at an all-time low. From participation to how the league was run, no one wanted to step up to be the new director.”

The previous director left the league in disarray. Small stepped up when no one else would, considering if no one took the position promptly, there would be no little league basketball for the year.

After Small became director, the community stood by him and trusted that he would turn the league around.

“As a league, we improved in many areas,” said Small. “The most important being participation.”

Small knew children and teens wanted to participate in the sport. He improved the schedule and communication, giving reassurance to parents.

Many parents loved seeing their children enjoy the game. This gave them confidence in Small.

Ultimately this led to the community as a whole supporting Small in any way possible. Parents saw that Small wanted to elevate the community as a whole.

Filling the void that was then the basketball director has done much more for the school system than just bringing in money. An influx of participation and professionalism brought together a community.

“After four years of being the director, it’s unfortunate that this will be my last year,” said Small.

A successor will be chosen to take his place in the coming months. Small accomplished his goal of fixing the league. Since he has met his goal, he feels that the league can function without him. The next director will have a blueprint for maintaining an athletic league in a professional way and will have a supportive community.

“As I look back on the previous years, it brought joy to see children not only competing but enjoying the game,” said Small.



# SPORTS



**UWG  
KICKS OFF THE  
2022  
FOOTBALL  
SEASON**  
**SAMIRA BARNETT**  
*News Editor*

Photo courtesy of UWG Football Team

The Wolves ranked 10th nationally in the annual pre-season Division II football poll, breaking into the top 10 for the first time since 2017.

The Wolves finished the 2021 season in the second round of the Division II NCAA Playoffs, ranking among the top 15 in their league. The head football coach for the University of West Georgia, David Dean, expects the program to be very strong this year.

“We want to play well each week,” said Dean. “Well enough to get into the playoffs, then our ultimate goal is to win a national championship.”

Harrison Frost, record breaking quarterback from the 2021 season, will be returning for his final season playing as a Wolf.

“As far as what we can do offensively, we are going to do more with him,” Dean said. “We put a lot on him as far as checks and getting us in the right situation.”

“Because he understands the game so well, we are able to do that,” Dean continued. “That is a big positive for us from an offensive standpoint.”

A few freshman recruits who joined the program this fall will help lead the team to victory while also making an impact at the University of

West Georgia. Micah Thurman from Northside Warner Robins will play linebacker, Carson Yancy from Alabama will play cornerback, Cameran Brown from Northside Warner Robins will play as a backup quarterback and Festus Davies from Dacula will play outside linebacker.

“The rest of our signing class that we had last year were fortunate enough from a depth standpoint,” Dean said. “We could register those guys and let them have an opportunity to grow in the program.”

The Wolves have a chance to go undefeated this season after going nine to three last season.

“Ultimately an undefeated season is our goal,” Dean said. “We have to stay healthy, have a lot of luck and a lot of things go our way.”

“This league is very very hard,” Dean continued. “Hopefully in the end when we finish our 10 game regular season we will be 10 and 0 and headed to the playoffs.”

Valdosta State is one of the team’s main rivals. Since 1983, West Georgia and Valdosta State have played each other in the Gulf South Conference. Their last competition was held on Nov. 27, 2021. Valdosta won with a 66-35 score. The

Wolves will attempt a comeback against Valdosta in the Hall of Fame game on Oct. 22.

West Florida, West Alabama and Delta State are some other competitive teams.

“Valdosta State had a great year last year, beat us twice,” Dean said. “We got to get in a position where we can knock all those guys off this year.”

“The two top premiere teams for us right now according to preseason polls are Valdosta and West Florida,” Dean continued. “That is always a positive when you can play teams like that at home.”

The season opener against Carson-Newnan was held yesterday, Sept. 1. The Wolves will face Morehouse in their next matchup on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Tickets can be purchased at [uwg.athletics.com/tickets](http://uwg.athletics.com/tickets) or via the Hometown Fan App. Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets online for a quick and secure process due to the stadium going cashless at the gates for the 2022 season.

“I am really excited about the season, I think we have a good group of players,” Dean said. “They play the game because they love it, it is going to be an exciting group to watch each week. I can promise folks that.”