



PHONE SCAM ON THE RISE IN CARROLL COUNTY MICAH NOEL Contributing Writer



Photo: Micah Noel, The West Georgian information can make the scam more believable.

A new scam has emerged within Carroll County, and law enforcement wants you to stay safe.

On Sept. 13., the Carroll County Sheriff's Office posted a new scam alert on its Facebook page. With a quick repost, the Carrollton Police Department shared the alert with its followers. A handful of citizens warned others of the honorable figure within the community seeking money. This scam is one of the phone varieties, and it all starts with a voicemail.

A citizen misses a call and is left a voice message. The person who leaves the dire message is Officer West, a trusted official within the community. Panicked, the citizen calls the officer back, and when they do, they are quickly told to call 911. Immediately after 911 is dialed, the citizen is given two options: Press 1 for the jail or 2 for warrants. For trusting citizens, this call can seem normal. However, this is not the case. Officer West is not a real officer but rather an individual soliciting money.

This scam, which is plaguing the Carroll County public, is under the category of Imposter Scam. This occurs when a scammer goes undercover as a trusted individual or group gaining access to private information. False names, phone numbers and easily accessible personal

"Scammers are good," said Detective Glenn Lyle of the Carrollton Police Department. "They gain your confidence by slick talking and having the answers to all your objections to it."

When a scam call is found within the city limits, the Carrollton Police Department's Cyber Unit takes over. This unit's responsibility is to aid other departments with any investigation that could possess digital evidence. Scam calls are among some of the trickier cases as they can get around fast, and information can take months to gather.

"If people are victims and here in the city, we do act upon those as far as we can," said Detective Lyle. "Our problem is a lot of times we chase that scam...by serving subpoenas or search warrants, and we backtrack it, and then it goes out of the country or goes to another state, then we have to hand that investigation off to somebody else."

Although tracking down scams can be a hassle, learning how to avoid them can be beneficial. Many have fallen victim to scams, but there are tell-tale ways to protect themselves from one and avoid becoming a victim.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," said Detective Lyle. "The

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other thing is if the person is hounding them to make a decision right now. In law enforcement, we're never going to pressure you over the phone."

Ranging from older people to college students, anyone can get scammed. One must be on their guard regarding this type of con. If you believe you are being scammed, the CPD encourages you to contact them immediately or call 911 to report it.

"The faster we can get on the scam, the better," said Detective Lyle. "We'll do anything we can to put you at ease that you are not being scammed."

UWG FOOD PANTRY BECOMES BASIC NEEDS CENTER

CAROLYN MONCRIEFFE Contributing Writer

Two years ago, when Bridgette Stewart, M. Ed. became Chief Wellness Officer, she noticed whenever someone overseeing the food pantry would leave the program, the program would die with the vacancy.

"The food pantry, however, evolved and needed a home," said Stewart. "Whoever is over that space if they retire, if they leave the university for whatever reason, the program doesn't just fade away. Especially since the need still exists."

One of the changes made by Stewart, who also serves as Director of The Center of Integrative Wellness, has been to house the food pantry under the direction of The Center. The Center oversees the pantry in partnership with the student organization known as

Students Helping to Influence Fulfill and Transform (S.H.I.F.T). S.H.I.F.T is an organization for Community Health and Wellness Majors, and is run by Jamie Brandenburg, M.P.H., LPN, DE.

"Underneath the umbrella of Howl Against Hunger, is our Basic Needs Center," says Stewart. "The food pantry became the Basic Needs Center to reflect the fact that food was no longer the primary item dispensed when aid was requested."

Stewart understood and initiated the need for elevation and revitalization of the term food pantry. The pantry was no longer just a food supplier, but a supplier of hygiene goods, toiletries, personal care items, academic supplies, and there are plans



Photo: Carolyn Moncrieffe, The West Georgian

to ultimately broaden inventory to include baby items as well.

"It takes a village to run and maintain the Basic Needs Center," says Stewart. "We work very closely with Student Affairs. Dr. Jennifer Jordan Ed.D. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, partners with The Center in all things wellness. The Center is able to accomplish so much more with Dr. Jordan's guidance and input."

"When a need is identified the C.A.R.E. Team reaches out to The Center to assist with aid for students

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in need,” continues Stewart. “Dr. Lakiesha Rawlinson, Ph.D. Associate Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students, heads the Campus Awareness Response and Evaluation (C.A.R.E.) Team.”

Students can be referred to the Basic Needs Center by any member of the UWG community.

The Basic Needs Center is housed inside the Health Services building. Hours of operation are in the process of being re-evaluated to be more inclusive of the needs of the student body.

Students can anonymously contact The Center of Integrative Wellness for shopping access, a 917 is required should the need arise.

The Basic Needs Center Lite is located within The Momentum Center. It is stocked with a limited supply of items students can access upon request during the hours of Momentum Center operation (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

There is also recovered prepared food available for pick up from Wolf Haven. Wolf Haven is sponsored by the Wolves Don't Waste student

organization. Refrigerators are located on the first floor of the Campus Center behind the rock wall. Food is available for the UWG community. All meals are packaged and sealed with use-by dates. Microwaves and silverware are available in the TLC building lobby.

UWG is committed to meeting and supporting the basic wellness needs of its community. Growing partnerships among UWG departments form a village, providing a positive experience and enabling students to function and thrive in a healthy environment.

THE COLORFUL HELP OF SOURCES OF STRENGTH

GIANNA WILCOX
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Sept. 30, the University of West Georgia's Department of Sport Management, Wellness, and Physical Education and Central High School are hosting the Sources of Strength 5K Color Fun Run and Walk here at the University of West Georgia. At 9 a.m., the half-mile fun run will start for the kids. Then, the 5K will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The Sources of Strength 5K Color Run is different from a regular 5K because of the color aspect. In a color run, the runners are doused in colorful powder throughout the race.

“So, at the start of the race, everyone will get a color packet,” said Jamie Brandenburg, the Sources of Strength Grant Leader and Organizer of the race. “When we all start, we'll throw our color packets up. Then, as you're going along the race trail, there'll be people there to spray even more color on you.”

You will definitely be colorful at the end of this 5K. Although the 5K is the main event, there will be other activities for everyone to enjoy.

“We're going to have all sorts of inflatables, axe and dart throwing that are inflatables, and face painting. There will be a food truck doing crepes and a photo booth,” said Brandenburg. “Then, there'll be a few community resources, like family connections and things like that.”

The Sources of Strength Color Run will have something for everyone, whether it be for entertainment or assistance. The term “Sources of Strength” is more than just a phrase, it's a program.

“This is a peer-led program that focuses on building hope and they help teach how to lean into your strengths,” said Brandenburg. “So, the idea with Sources is that we use it as a prevention program for suicide and we use it for normalizing help-seeking behavior.”

“It is also the idea that you're creating this positive network at the school and that it's okay to ask for help,” continued Brandenburg.

This student-led, evidence-based, nationwide program is dedicated to teaching young adults how to cope with stress, anxiety and depression. A big part of the program is the Sources of Strength color wheel. The color wheel is split into eight different colored sections with the strengths they teach young adults to use on it. One of the strengths is physical health.

“This color run is part of that Source wheel that's bringing the physical part,” said Brandenburg. “It's creating an opportunity for students at the high school and the community and West Georgia to use or see how physical health can be something that you can use as a strength for when times get difficult.”

The color run has been in the



Photo: Gianna Wilcox, *The West Georgian*

works for over a year at this point, and it is all because of the students. Everything that Sources of Strength does comes from the students and peer leaders.

“These students are coming up with this stuff on their own. They've done some amazing things,” said Brandenburg. “This was one of the big things they talked about last year because our color wheel is colorful.”

So now, after months of planning, Sources of Strength is proud to present its Color Run to the West Georgia community. It's a great way to learn about the program and have a good time.

To learn more about Sources of Strength, visit <https://sourcesofstrength.org/>.

LOCAL EDUCATORS SPEAK ON EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AT MOBILIZE RECOVERY EVENT

TUCKER COLE
Contributing Writer

The Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia bus tour made an important stop in Carrollton on Wednesday, Sept. 20, and local education figureheads from the University of West Georgia, Carrollton City Schools, Carroll County Schools and West Georgia Technical College were part of a large cast of local speakers.

Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia

is a tour intended to bring together Georgia policy makers, local officials, and a group of over 800,000 Georgians who are living in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder.

“I'm extremely proud that leaders across Carrollton and Carroll County are recognizing the urgency of substance abuse and rallying around, banding together and supporting

people in recovery,” University of West Georgia First Lady Tressa Kelly said.

Kelly listed resources available at the University of West Georgia to help in recovery, including free and confidential services, hotlines, online support services and group counseling.

“We know that the majority of students who go to college aren't there just to finish an education, but also to further their lives, their careers and their passions,” said Kelly. “Drug abuse interferes with a student's ability to be successful.”

West Georgia Technical College President Julie Post also addressed how addiction can hinder students' ability to further their education.

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“There’s a saying that the two most important days in your life are the day you’re born and the day you figure out why,” Post said. “And for many people, choosing higher education is a way to figure out their ‘why,’ but that can be clouded with addiction.”

Post continued, “We are powered by partnerships, and we’re here to be all-support, wrap-around services to help our students to be successful and get ready to enter great careers. So, being a part of a community like this in Carroll County and the City of Carrollton, our students are blessed, and West Georgia Tech is blessed.”

At the K-12 level, Carrollton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Albertus addressed helping both students and their parents through recovery.

“I can tell you that things in education have changed over the years, but we really are trying to eradicate the stigma of recovery and help our kids that are going through some of this and our parents, as well,” Albertus said. “A big piece of that is communication, and we have so many resources in the community that help us with that, and we are doing a great job of communicating, and ultimately, it helps children.”

Carroll County School Superintendent Scott Cowart had a similar message, also noting that the education system is one of the parts of the community that can be most impacted by addiction and substance abuse.

“We’re excited to be able to participate in this event and to be a part of a community that understands the importance of this topic,” said Cowart. “This is a topic that

affects not just those in one segment of our community, but in all segments of our community, and obviously education is one of the most powerful pieces where the negative impact can be felt. So, the work that’s being done will help our students, help our staff, help our community as we grow together.”

Cowart reiterated a message similar to many from the day — emphasizing a commitment to partnership and breaking down the stigma of recovery. In his words, “We’re committed to working together, committed to making this community a better place, and committed to making recovery something that everybody understands is a positive that can help everybody,” said Cowart.

Mobilize Recovery Georgia’s 50-stop bus tour concluded on Saturday, Sept. 23.

LIVING WEST

8TH BIENNIAL ALUMNI ART EXHIBITION AT UWG ANTICIPATES A CREATIVE SPECTACLE

LANCE GOINS
Contributing Writer

The 8th Biennial Alumni Art Exhibition, a display of alumni ability and originality, has the art community at the University of West Georgia vibrating with anticipation. The selection process will be overseen by respected Juror Bruce Bobick, a retired chair of the Department of Art and Emeritus professor at UWG. This year’s event is expected to be nothing short of extraordinary. This outstanding exhibition, which will be held in the Visual Arts Building Gallery from Aug. 28 to Sept. 29, 2023, is open to art lovers, alumni, UWG students, and the general public.

The Biennial Alumni Art Exhibition, a valued UWG event, is evidence of the school’s dedication to supporting the artistic endeavors of its graduates. It honors the creativity and ingenuity that former students of UWG offer to the world.

This year, Bruce Bobick’s participation as the juror gives the selection process for the show considerable significance. The curating approach benefits greatly from Bobick’s history as a UWG professor and previous head of the Department of Art. He is in a position to create an amazing presentation thanks to his keen eye and in-depth knowledge of the institution’s artistic legacy.

The Visual Arts Building Gallery, the ideal location to take in the varied and imaginative expressions of UWG’s

exceptional alumni, will serve as the focal point of this artistic celebration. The contemporary and roomy design of the gallery serves as the ideal setting for this creative investigation.

There is a tangible sense of expectation for this occasion. It serves as a cultural delight for the entire community, as well as a platform for aspiring artists, alumni reunions, and sources of inspiration. Each piece on exhibit tells a different tale and captures the journey and experiences of the artist since their time at UWG.

From paintings and sculptures, to mixed media and digital art, expect to see a wide variety of artistic mediums. This exhibit demonstrates the range and development of artistic expression

among UWG graduates. It promises to be a visual feast that will enthrall viewers with its originality and brilliance.

The 8th Biennial Alumni Art Exhibition is a celebration of community spirit as well as art. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the event, partake in the creative spirit, and see the extraordinary talent fostered at UWG.

The excitement increases as the exhibition goes on. The University of West Georgia’s 8th Biennial Alumni Art Exhibition is set to be a celebration of creative legacy, a showcase for alumni achievement and a chance for the local community to become immersed in the world of art. Don’t miss this outstanding performance, which is sure to leave an impression on everyone who attends.

Please note that the event will take place from Aug. 28 to Sept. 29, 2023. The community, alumni and art enthusiasts have plenty of opportunities to view and appreciate the outstanding works of art on show during this month-long exhibition.



Photo courtesy of UWG

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

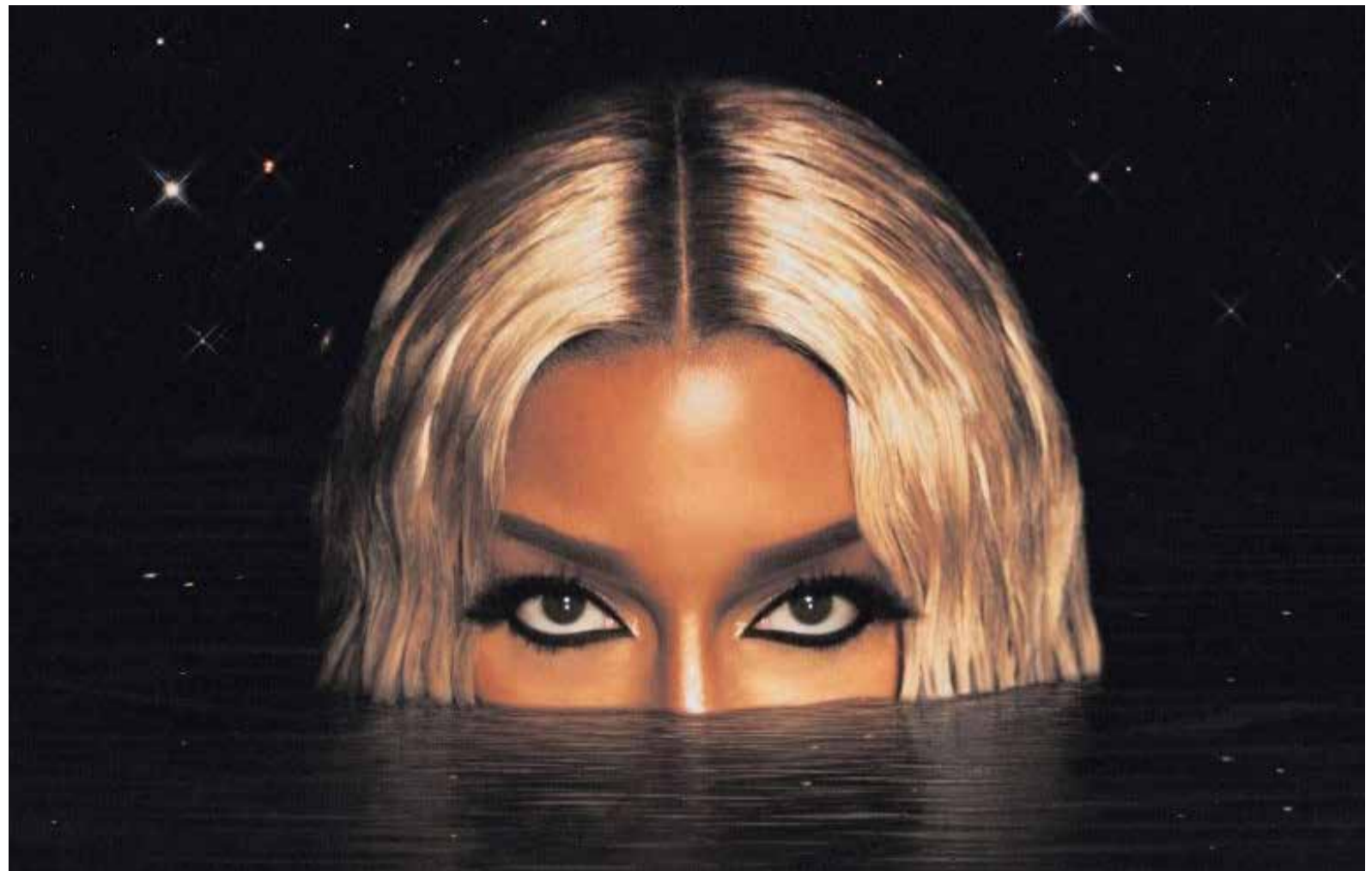


Photo courtesy of RCA Records

VICTORIA MONET SOLIDIFIES HER SUPERSONIC PERSONA WITH JAGUAR II

NEVAEH BROWN
Contributing Writer

Three years and five singles later, Victoria Monet finally bridges the gap between the funky, disco-infused extended play JAGUAR (2020) with what she's described as its predecessor's 'voluptuous big sister' JAGUAR II.

Monet's long-awaited debut album arrives off of the heels of the release of the 2000s-inspired track and music video for her final single "On My Mama" featuring a sample of the Southern classic "I Look Good" by Texas rapper Charlie Boy which has raised generations at this point.

The track itself was released on June 16, the video was filled with lowrider Cadillacs, extra-extra-large white tees, Girbaud jeans, even Atlanta's—namely Dem Franchize Boyz— 2006 dance craze, the pool palace. With nostalgia and choreographer Sean Bankhead's eight-counts to fond over, you can't scroll on TikTok without hearing the Billboard charting song.

Simply, the praise of the video introduced a new sect of Victoria Monet fans, amassing 6.6 million views after its Aug. 15 release. 10 days later the album was released and I was awake promptly

at 3 a.m. Eastern Standard Time to experience what I had been waiting on since I discovered the first extended play in the fall of 2020.

It simply got better by keeping the sultry atmosphere of the EP stepping through the door with her third collaborative effort with R&B vocalist Lucky Daye with their hazy collaboration titled "Smoke" and a collaboration with reggae rapper Buju Banton on the party track rightfully titled "Party Girls."

The journey this album takes you down displays the new richness of her voice which she credits to motherhood. She is also influenced by her producer-songwriter D'Mile, and songwriter Piranhahead's love for string and horn throughout this album.

These were apparent in the sultry empowerment track "Cadillac (A Pimp's Anthem)," which personally excited me seeing the release of the album's track list before its Aug. 25 release. Cadillac is punctuated by a bass riff and a lilting flute reminiscent of JAGUAR's track, "Dive."

Throughout the track Monet affirms that the pimping ways close to Underground

Kingz' Pimp C can most certainly belong to a woman, even bragging that we are slicker in our ways than men.

She expressed the same sentiment in the Kaytranda-produced future club banger "Alright" except over a clap-laced, drowsy, EDM track about moving through life with romantic partners as she chooses to. Thanks to the freewill she's allowed herself, life is just that, alright, not being bound by anyone's expectations but her own.

While loving her freedom, she appreciates the love and connection she and her partner share in "How Does it Make You Feel" punctuated in the chorus with shimmering xylophones and Piranhahead's violins. Then, she pleads her case that she's the right person for her partner by an angel escort in the string-heavy track "I'm the One."

Victoria Monet closes out the album with a beautifully written track titled "Good Bye", written as a letter to the persona she's curated. While I'm sad to see the Jaguar venture off somewhere else, this album has been in consistent rotation since its release, feeding a range of my emotions, from brazen sass to being completely smitten. R&B is a variety of lenses and a range of stories being told. This album shows the multiplicity of layers to the woman that is Victoria Monet.

ATLANTA'S CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY MAVERICK - KYLE NADLER

SAL LARocca
Contributing Writer

Atlanta, GA - In a place where everyone is a potential photographer thanks to their smartphones, standing out as a professional photographer requires more than just owning a camera. It takes talent, dedication and a unique perspective to capture moments that resonate with people. Enter Kyle Nadler, an Atlanta-based photographer who specializes in concert photography.

Nadler's career in concert photography took an unconventional turn when he stumbled upon an opportunity through the publication

"Exclusive Access." Recounting his first encounter with the publication.

"I was sneaking my camera into a free Lil Wayne show in Atlanta, and I was with one of my best friends," said Nadler. "When we walked in, I met a photographer who introduced himself and mentioned he had this publication called 'Exclusive Access.'"

Little did Nadler know that this encounter would set the stage for his future in concert photography. Nadler's journey didn't stop at chance encounters. He actively pursued opportunities to work with artists and venues.

"The publication is how I get most of my events," said Nadler. "I reach out to publicists on behalf of 'Exclusive Access', showcasing my previous work and expressing my desire to collaborate."

His persistence has paid off, leading to numerous exciting opportunities. While Nadler's journey began with basic photography courses, his true learning experience happened in the field.

"I didn't really know what I was doing until high school," said Nadler. "I decided to get involved in school and take a class in it, but I didn't learn much from the class, so I had to self-teach using YouTube and Google."

Nadler's preference for live concert photography became apparent early on.

"I don't like studio work that much,"

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said Nadler. “I want to be out there capturing something; I don’t want to be inside a room with 20 different flashes. That does not sound fun to me.”

Nadler’s portfolio is a testament to his ability to capture raw emotions and energy in his photographs.

“My goal is to show what it was like to be there during the performance,” said Nadler. “The energy of the crowd, the intensity of the artist; I want my photos to convey the complete experience.

“Even for smaller artists, I want to create images that can live beyond the artist, much like iconic photographs of classic rock legends,” Nadler continued. “I like to think that concert photos can capture moments so strongly that even those who don’t know the artist can feel

the emotion. It’s about encapsulating a moment in time, something that goes beyond the music and lingers in the minds of viewers.”

In an era of evolving photography styles, Nadler emphasized his preference for natural photography. However, he isn’t averse to experimenting creatively.

“I use tools like prisms, star filters, and even unconventional methods like holding a broken filter in front of my lens to create a diffused look,” said Nadler. “Creativity has no bounds.”

Nadler offers some valuable advice for aspiring photographers.

“Care less about what others think, especially in the beginning,” said Nadler. “Stay true to your style, even if it’s not popular. Capture

what’s important to you. Don’t do it to impress someone; do it because it matters to you. If there’s a will, there’s a way.”

In a world filled with photographers, Nadler stands out not only for his talent but also for his unwavering commitment to capturing the essence of music and emotion. His journey from sneaking into shows to collaborating with renowned artists and venues serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through dedication and passion.

In the end, it’s not just the music that lives on through his lens; it’s the memories, emotions and stories that make Nadler’s work truly exceptional. As Nadler’s career continues to flourish, his photographs promise to leave an indelible mark on the world of concert photography.

BRE KENNEDY SCREAMS OVER EVERYTHING WITH NEW ALBUM AND TOUR

EMMA SWALES
Editor-in-Chief

After taking a long drive from Southern California to Nashville, Tennessee, an up-and-coming artist found herself at the beginning of something great. Folk-pop singer and songwriter Bre Kennedy traveled across the country in her Nissan Altima to discover her voice and quickly established her music career. Through her music, she shares the struggles that life brings and the difficulties in navigating through emotion. Kennedy’s striking vocals and powerful lyrics have allowed her to tell her story and create a place for herself in the world.

The Nashville-based singer was inspired to create music from a young age. Kennedy grew up watching her dad become electrified while playing blues music and constantly found herself digging through his collection of vinyl records. She was heavily influenced by artists such as Stevie Nicks, Tom Petty and Lauryn Hill.

“I grew up like double-sided tape, I was listening to so much music and so many different genres that there is a little bit of everything in me,” said Kennedy.

Her musical passion brought her

to Nashville, where she discovered a community that shared her love for music. She soon established her unique voice and began playing shows in different venues across the city.

“Nashville is such a small and beautiful fertile ground for artists to grow and I feel like I just started to build a fan base here,” said Kennedy.

So far, she has crafted a strong discography and continues to make music. Kennedy has recently announced her sophomore album, “Scream Over Everything” to be released on Nov. 10.

She gave her fans a sneak peek at the new album with the release of “Side A” on July 28, which includes the first five songs that are featured on the new album. These songs include, “Retrospect,” “Meantime,” “Navigating,” “Keep Going Back” and “Ahead of Myself.” The songs on “Side A” tell a vivid story of troubles that come in your late twenties and working to find the strength to grow and change for the better.

“I wanted to start with ‘Retrospect’ as a way to say hey, this whole album

is about me needing to unpack the last two years,” said Kennedy. “I wanted to have an anthem to being present in it and I wanted ‘Side A’ to be really fun, upbeat, and inviting because the songs on ‘Side B’ are very vulnerable and raw.”

Kennedy expressed her encounter with deep emotions and the unknown aspect of change. She claims that “Scream Over Everything” allows people to see that they are not alone in their struggles and that being afraid is a very normal human experience.

“I spent pretty much the last year of my twenties pulling out these parts of myself that seem scary or being afraid to admit that maybe I am outgrowing something,” said Kennedy. “I wanted to go into a different place in my life, and so writing ‘Scream Over Everything’ was just finding the voice inside me that maybe was a little afraid to grow.”

Kennedy will promote her new album by hitting the road for her first headlining tour on Sept. 28, beginning in Atlanta, Georgia. She expressed her love for being on the road and looks forward to being in front of people and pursuing her passion.

“Getting to promote ‘Scream Over Everything’ on my first headlining tour is really exciting,” said Kennedy. “I remember growing up and listening to artists and thinking wow, they are just screaming their emotions and I realized I wanted to do that.”



Photo courtesy of Tabitha Turner