



THE DREAM CITY MARKET IS BACK FOR ROUND THREE

EMMA SWALES
Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of Dream City Market

The Dream City Market will be returning this Sunday, Oct. 15 with its third pop-up shop at the Venue on Cedar in Carrollton, Georgia. This market will consist of over 20 local vendors who will be selling vintage clothing, vinyl records, locally handmade art and goods, antiques and more.

The doors will open at 12 p.m. and the event will last until 4 p.m. This pop-up shop is fully indoors and will feature a bar for cocktails and a specialty menu provided by Little Hawaiian. There will be no parking nor entry fees for customers when they arrive at the venue.

The vendors will each have their own booths set up throughout the venue, allowing customers to easily shop around. If shoppers want to take a sneak peek at what the event will look like before attending, they can check out Dream City Market's Instagram (@dreamcitymarket) for an inside look at some of the vendors and artists.

"Our Vendor Spotlight Series on Instagram has been featuring several

of our vendors these past couple of weeks," said event organizer Haley Weaver. "The Night Shift Thrift will be joining us for a 3rd time with their amazing vintage clothing finds and Sandy Entekin will feature vintage and antique furniture/housewares."

While the market prioritizes vintage and antique curators, there will also be a mix of local art and professional handmade artisans. The market will be hosting countless local artists such as Stephanie Norton, Flossy Arts and Trash Cat Print Shop.

Weaver organized and debuted the first Dream City Market in February of 2023 with only a few local vendors. Since then, the market has hosted two pop-up shops at the Venue on Cedar and continues to gain popularity. Weaver expressed her love for business and her brand Dream City Retro by bringing her passion to life with these local markets.

"Dream City Market has been something I have been dreaming up for years," said Weaver. "I took a special interest in small and local businesses while earning my business degree at The University of West Georgia."

According to Weaver, The Dream City Market will continue to expand and grow in Carrollton. There are expected to be several more upcoming events in 2024.

Although the Dream City Market is only held a few times a year, Weaver's beloved brand lives on year-round. She owns Dream City Retro merchandise booths in three antique stores in the West Georgia area. She has vintage items and antiques for sale at Checkerberry Shoppe in Bowdon, Feathers and Twigs in Carrollton and Apple Barrel Antiques in Bremen.

"The Dream City name is something I have built from the ground up and am very

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proud of, so it only made sense to share the namesake with this market," said Weaver. "I'm grateful to be able to support those kinds of businesses through Dream City Market. It takes a lot of time and effort to organize, but it is certainly worth it to see local small businesses come together, grow and have fun."

NITWITS IMPROV GROUP CRACKS CRIMES WITH COMEDY

MICAH NOEL
Contributing Writer

A crime committed, a suspect on the loose and a barrel of laughs. One of these things is not like the other, but they will come together in harmony through an improv comedy show held at a local theater company.

The Newnan Improv Troupe with Intelligent Talented Stooges (NITWITS) is an improv comedy group associated with the Newnan Theatre Company. The group started in 2008 and has been going strong for 15 years, with 8-10 shows per season.

"There are 16 of us," says Improv Director Olivia Ratliff. "We have a wide range of ages, life experiences and genders. It's a good mix of people."

Every season, themes are set by the group, and members can pitch ideas. Hosts will be chosen if approved and all involved will assist in the show's rehearsal. The show, CSI: Newnan, was pitched months prior by Assistant Improv Director Crystal Lynn Booth, who will host with fellow NITWITS member Bert Lyons III.

With the Murder Mystery show heavily relying on guessing games and scene work between partners, the improv group must perfect their skills. Rehearsals take place every Saturday, for three hours,

the NITWITS develop strategies for the overall structure of the show.

"It starts months ahead of time so we know what games we are good at and what games are new and need to rehearse more," says Booth. "It's very hard to rehearse for improv because it is improv, but you have to know the basics of the game, so whatever's thrown at you, you can handle."

The show's structure mimics the ones seen in crime podcasts that have risen in popularity recently. After a crime is committed in town, a group of friends are trying to solve the mystery. Even though the show will make fun of the typical tropes found in both crime-related auditory and visual entertainment, the group still wants the show to be rooted in realism. Booth has been in talks with crime professionals to give the show a sense of reality.

"I've been in contact with Newnan PD," says Booth. "Newnan PD is gonna help us out."

Of course, with every improv show, there is a level of audience participation. However, the NITWITS are taking involvement to a new level.



Photo: Micah Noel, *The West Georgian*

"CSI has a lot of audience participation, and the audience and games in the first half are writing the second half of the show," says Booth. "They will choose locations, activities and topics. Before the show, they are going to choose our suspect's names." The show will feature the group's current lineup, who will play the roles of the suspects. The hosts and the audience will play the part of the podcasters. The NITWITS are hopeful for a nice cohesive story in the end, but with improv, the outcome is always a little unknown.

"We don't know the crime, we don't know when...we don't know how," says Booth. "Means, motive and opportunity will be picked in the first act of the show. It's a crime mad lib."

If you think you have what it takes, CSI: Newnan will be performed at the Newnan Theatre Company on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. Visit the theater website for more information.

DISCOVER THE ART AND HISTORY OF QUILTING AT CARROLLTON'S SOUTHEASTERN QUILT AND TEXTILE MUSEUM

ALEX DUCEUCOUBLIER
Contributing Writer

Nestled in Carrollton's downtown district lies a museum that showcases pieces of history, while teaching the next line of quilt makers.

The idea for the museum came about in the late 1990s, when members of The Georgia Quilt Project and The Georgia Quilt Council advocated for the creation of a new quilt and textile museum in the southeast.

Carrollton was eventually chosen in 2009 because of its proximity to Atlanta while maintaining a small-town atmosphere.

Founding members met with the commissioner at the time, who allowed the museum to use a portion of the historic cotton warehouse in Carrollton's downtown area for the project.

The Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum formally opened its doors to the public on September 15, 2012.

Aside from displaying various quilts, the museum hosts classes for all levels of quilt makers. In addition to this, they have a yearly summer camp for kids older than nine years old. During this summer camp, kids can learn to use a sewing machine, how to hand sew, and learn the basics of quilting.

The museum is also host to a number of feature exhibits that change regularly. There are currently three different projects that are on display.

The first is Susan Lenz's installation of The Cocoon, which is a large fiber installation that is meant to challenge

viewers to make a plan about their families textile possessions through the use of previously discarded items such as vintage textiles, buttons, lace, doilies and household linens.

Next is another work of Susan Lenz, which is called The Clothesline Installation. This exhibit is described as a visual representation of taking care of a household, especially during the pandemic, as it was created during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The last installation that is currently on display is the Bess Miller Memorial Exhibit, which features embroidery work by Bess Miller made from 1971-2009. This work will be displayed until October 28.

"Every year we add a few more quilts that we collect from all over the southeast, and it's really important that we have unique quilts that have personal stories that come along with them," said Amy Loch, the assistant director of the museum, when speaking about the museum's collection. "We have a wide variety of styles and patterns, and our exhibits range widely, everything from contemporary art to traditional, and we change them out every three months."

For just \$5, those who are interested in quilts, or the art of quilt making can take a tour of the 1220 square feet of gallery space.

The Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum is located at 306 Bradley St., STE C, Carrollton, GA 30117, and is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

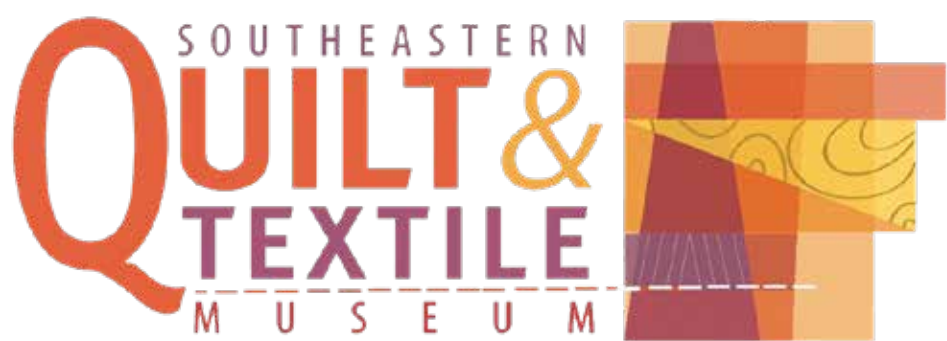


Photo courtesy of Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum

A MAGICAL PRE-SHOW ENCOUNTER: DISNEY ON ICE VIP MEET AND GREET AT STATE FARM ARENA

SAL LARocca
Contributing Writer

I recently had the privilege of attending the VIP Meet and Greet event at State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia, on Sept. 20, 2023, before the Disney on Ice performance. This exclusive gathering allowed families to enjoy a special moment with the beloved character, Minnie Mouse, and engage in creative activities with their little ones.

The VIP Meet and Greet took place just before the breathtaking Disney on Ice spectacle was set to begin. Families with VIP tickets eagerly gathered in a designated area, buzzing with excitement as they anticipated their encounter with the iconic mouse. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation, and it was evident that the children and parents alike were in for a memorable experience.

Upon entering the VIP area, it was heartwarming to witness the joy on the children's faces as they laid eyes on Minnie Mouse. The character was impeccably costumed, and her friendly demeanor instantly put everyone at ease. Families were encouraged to take photos with Minnie, and the staff was more than willing to help capture these precious moments.

One of the highlights of the VIP Meet and Greet was the opportunity for children to engage in creative

activities. There were tables set up with art supplies, allowing kids to unleash their imagination and create drawings inspired by their favorite Disney characters. This interactive aspect of the event added an extra layer of enchantment, as it encouraged kids to express themselves and connect with the Disney magic on a deeper level.

Throughout the pre-show meet and

greet, Minnie Mouse remained a gracious and patient host, taking the time to interact with each child. It was evident that this experience was a dream come true for many of the young fans in attendance.

The Disney on Ice VIP Meet and Greet in the State Farm Arena provided families with a truly magical experience before the main event. The opportunity to meet Minnie Mouse and engage in creative activities added a layer of enchantment to the evening, creating lasting memories for children and their parents alike. It was a heartwarming testament to the enduring magic of Disney, and it left everyone with smiles that would last long after the curtains went up for the main show.



Photo: Sal LaRocca, *The West Georgian*

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BLUE 42, BLUE 42 SET HIT!

GIANNA WILCOX
Contributing Writer

On July 12, Netflix released the first season of the sports documentary *Quarterback*. *Quarterback* follows three NFL quarterbacks during the 2022-2023 NFL season: Patrick Mahomes for the Kansas City Chiefs, Kirk Cousins for the Minnesota Vikings and Marcus Mariota for the Atlanta Falcons.

The documentary allows football fans a genuine behind-the-scenes look at some of the most notable NFL quarterbacks. The documentary showcases the realistic highs and lows of being an NFL quarterback with the world's eyes on them.

In the first episode, the documentary provides an overview of each quarterback, their family and some background about their football career. For example, the viewers learn that Marcus Mariota and his wife, Kiyomi, found out they were pregnant on April Fools Day, and he played for the Tennessee Titans and Las Vegas Raiders before joining the Falcons in 2022.

The documentary dives deeper into the lives of the three quarterbacks. The documentary also shows aspects of the quarterbacks' past that pertain to the present, allowing the viewer to better understand where each quarterback is coming from and how that has shaped them into the person they are today.

In particular, Patrick Mahomes' dad was a pitcher for the New York

Mets, and initially, Patrick played baseball. He even wanted to be a professional baseball player like his dad. Obviously, that didn't happen, but some of his baseball skills have transferred into his football career.

One of the best aspects of the documentary is that, in between clips from the NFL season or footage from their everyday lives, there is video of the quarterbacks in more personal interviews. In these interviews, the quarterbacks give some insight into how they were feeling in the clip just shown or provide information about what the audience just saw.

In Kirk Cousins' case, he was the most hit or sacked quarterback at a certain point in the NFL season, and the documentary does almost too good of a job of making that clear to the viewers. Multiple clips throughout the documentary show Cousins getting hit by the opposing team's defensive line.

After a particularly bad hit to his ribs, the documentary jumps to Cousins in the confessional describing exactly how that hit felt. It makes the entire experience more real for the viewer.

The quarterbacks' wives, and other friends or relatives, also get the chance to share their side of things and how they feel. For example, Kiyomi compared watching Marcus play every week to watching someone get into a car accident.

Overall, the documentary is very well done and entertaining. However, one problem is that as the NFL season and the documentary proceed, the viewers see Patrick Mahomes more than the other two quarterbacks. I understand it is because Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs won the Super Bowl while Kirk Cousins, Marcus Mariota, and their teams fell short of the playoffs, but they could've shown how Cousins and Mariota prepare for the next season.

Nevertheless, that one problem does not mean that *Quarterback* is not a good documentary. *Quarterback* is an excellent watch that showcases the realities of being a quarterback in the NFL. I recommend this docuseries to all those football fans who lash out at quarterbacks after they make a mistake. NFL quarterbacks are regular human beings like you and me.

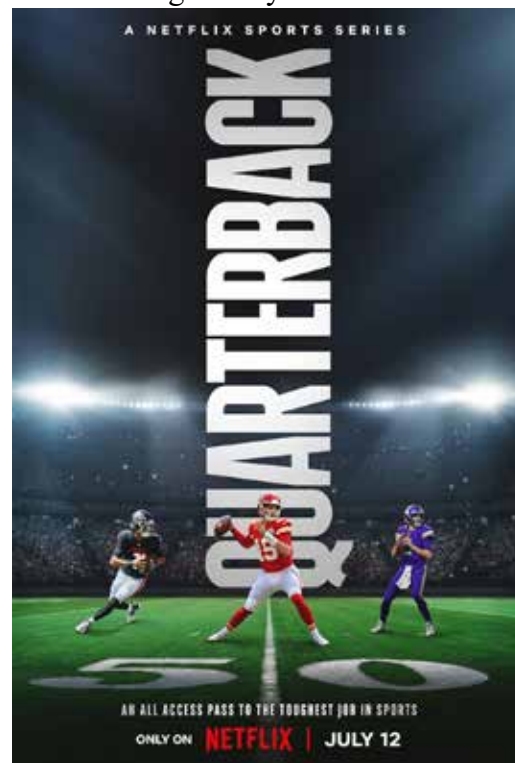


Photo courtesy of Netflix

LIVING WEST

2ND ANNUAL HORROR FILM RACE CREATES HEALTHY COMPETITION AMONG UWG STUDENT FILMMAKERS

CAROLYN MONCRIEFFE
Contributing Writer

The 2nd Annual Horror Film Race kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 5 p.m. in Miller Hall Room 1309 and runs through Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Teams of students will randomly draw a genre for their horror film. Each team will have one week to create a short horror film from scratch. This includes writing the script, getting actors, filming, editing and presenting completed films on Oct. 18. This year there are currently fourteen teams slated to participate in the race.

"The Film Race is a good thing for students, kind of like an exercise in filmmaking," said Dr. Patrick Clinton, Associate Professor. "Most students think the goal is to make the best film, which is great – but ultimately the real challenge is to finish the project. To make a five-minute film in seven days is a lot and the quality has been great."

Dr. Clinton is extremely enthusiastic about the School of Communication, Film and Media, and his hope is to draw students who have never taken a film course as well as the SCFM seniors.

The biggest challenge is for students to complete their film. The Horror Film Race is one entity, screening of submitted works is the second entity, aptly titled Horrorfest. The screening of submitted films is held Tuesday, Oct. 31 in Boyd Lecture Hall 5:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Horrorfest is free of charge and open to the UWG Community for viewing.

After the screening, there is an award ceremony. Awards include some goofy categories such as Best Scream and then there are more serious awards like Best Film, Best Directing and Best Acting. Screening gives students the opportunity to view each other's work, get excited about the films that are being produced and to cheer each other on. Awards are also given to audience members who come dressed in the best Halloween costumes.

"Horror is one of the few genres of film making left in the world having a tight fan base," said Clinton. "Films can be made with almost no budget and can go all the way towards achieving success, especially when ingenuity is used."

"There is a playfulness in horror films as well as beauty from a shooting standpoint," continued Clinton. "The film maker can do

very beautiful things with horror, which allows students to be experimental and playful with the genre."

UWG students have embraced the race series and look forward to participating in Spring and Fall Races.

"Students are hungry for learning that is active and not passive," said Clinton. "This program is pertinent."

"The SCFM program here at UWG is incredible and SCFM just signed a partnership with Great Point Studios which is a big deal and an incredible opportunity for UWG students," said Clinton.

Clinton, along with colleagues Associate Professor Christopher Renaud and Professor Deon Kay know that connections students will make through this association will create a program like no other in the state. Students will make real connections in a real studio atmosphere.

UWG's Horror Film Race creates the opportunity for students to use their films as stepping stones to receive their first credits as a cinematographer, a director, an actor or as a writer. The Horror Film Race allows students to produce quality films with the opportunity to showcase their work, receive awards, as well as community recognition.



Photo: Carolyn Moncrieffe, *The West Georgian*

CARROLLTON PRIDE FESTIVAL FOR ALL TO CELEBRATE PRIDE

LANCE GOINS
Feature Editor

Over the course of the weekend, local communities came together on the scenic grounds of The Carroll County Agricultural Center for the Carrollton PRIDE Festival 2023, a lively celebration of diversity and inclusivity. This event has expanded in scope and become a benchmark for shifting mindsets and a dedication to promoting inclusivity in Carrollton, Georgia.

Families, allies and LGBTQ+ people of all ages attended the event, which offered a wide range of activities, live music, and informative booths. More than just a festive occasion, the Carrollton PRIDE Festival makes a strong statement about embracing love, acceptance and understanding in a generally conservative neighborhood.

Lauren Ridley, a graduate student at the UWG and a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, spoke exclusively about the significance of hosting such an event in Carrollton. Ridley, who has been actively involved in the festival since its inception, emphasized the festival's role in creating a safe and welcoming environment.

"In Carrollton, where conservative values have often prevailed, the festival represents hope and acceptance," said Ridley. "It serves as a powerful reminder that love and understanding can transcend

differences."

Ridley highlighted the festival's dual role as a celebration and an educational platform.

"The festival is not just a party; it's a space for creating difficult conversations and learning," said Ridley. "It's an opportunity to start conversations and bridge the gap in understanding."

The festival included a broad roster of gifted artists presenting their work, food trucks serving up a range of foods, a community market with more than 60 local exhibitors selling goods, advocacy organizations, and health service providers. Attendees also had access to information booths from neighborhood LGBTQ+ groups and supporters, providing services and help for those in need.

UWG places a special emphasis on the Carrollton PRIDE Festival because it exemplifies the university's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The university's participation in the festival demonstrates its dedication to empowering students like Lauren Ridley, who are ardent supporters of social justice and LGBTQ+ rights.

"The festival is a way to show how Carrollton is evolving in its attitudes and

commitment to diversity," Ridley pointed out. "It's a moment for us to come together, celebrate our differences, and strengthen our inclusive community."

The 2023 Carrollton PRIDE Festival came to an end as the sun sank over The Carroll County Agricultural Center, leaving a neighborhood full of thanks and optimism for the future. The Carrollton PRIDE Festival is getting bigger every year, highlighting the cultural shift in Carrollton and reaffirming the belief that love, acceptance and unity are strong foundations for a more welcoming community.

The festival's planners, along with ardent supporters like Lauren Ridley, remain committed to the cause and see a time when Carrollton's way of life fully embraces the celebration of diversity. The legacy of the Carrollton PRIDE Festival will endure for years to come, inspiring reform and promoting inclusivity in the community.



Photo: Lance Goins, *The West Georgian*

CSII AND LCS CELEBRATE HISPANIC COOKING

NEVAEH BROWN
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 29, West Commons continued Hispanic Heritage Month festivities by hosting Cantina Night by way of the Center of Student Involvement and Inclusion.

The entire purpose of the night was to celebrate the month through several Hispanic countries' popular cuisines.

"It's a night to celebrate all of the different kinds of foods from Latin countries as well as give participants activities to engage in and have something to take home with them," said student assistant Dannya Pacheco.

Cantina Night was CSII's last major event before the other Hispanic and Latin American Organizations were due to host their own.

During Cantina Night, the Latino Cultural Society had a table of art sets from watercolor painting on mini ceramic bowls to emulate the Mexican tradition of Talavera pottery clay bowl tiling or painting, to coloring sheets with quotes from activist Caesar Chavez to astronaut Ellen Ochoa.

Cantina Night represented Mexico with elote, which is grilled corn on

the cob coated in a mayo cream sauce garnished with seasonings, white queso cheese, and lime juice.

Alongside the popular side dish, they served chicken flautas, which is a rolled taco with a tomatillo or Mexican husk tomato salsa. Then a Mexican dish called calabacitas, a traditional pork dish sautéed in some form of fat mixed together with chili and corn.

Cuba's cuisine was represented with ropa vieja which is shredded beef garnished with grilled tri color peppers, onions and a plethora of spices. Cuban rice and black beans and Cuban sandwich sliders, which can be labeled as two favorites in this part of the world, especially the south.

"...We also have aguas frescas and horchata, which we usually drink after dinner," said Pacheco as she rattles off notable details on the night's various menus.

Since the night was all about food, a company called Spice It Up brought to the university via an entertainment agency held a spice-making demonstration.

Spice It Up is essentially a business

created by one of the founders known to his audience as El Gringuito, Lee, his real name, was a Latin dance performer before the pandemic three years ago, hosting dance events with over 10,000 participants. Due to 2020's unforeseen circumstances, he and his wife Kat pivoted their fondness for the Latin cultures of their choreography roots and brought them into homes via a talent agency that caters to universities nationwide with the sole purpose of traveling to colleges and educating college students.

One of his demonstrations was for a Latin American adobo picante seasoning where the spices provided were pepper, cilantro, chile, sumac, achiote and seasoned salt.

The other was a recipe for Mexican hot chocolate with dry milk, cacao powder, powdered Nesquik, ancho chili powder, ground coffee and for an added flare of spice, cayenne pepper powder was provided.

In the midst of the demonstrations he doles out trivia questions ranging from Hispanic Heritage, the origin of spices originated from Spanish civilizations to even the effect some spices have on animals, with prizes at the ready.

"A college is a great place to bring a show that's fun but also educational, giving students a chance to learn," said Lee.



Photo: Nevaeh Brown, *The West Georgian*

NEWS

DUNCAN USES PERSONAL MOTIVATION FOR ALTERNATIVE BASEBALL ORGANIZATION

TUCKER COLE
Contributing Writer

Diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at four years of age and facing social stigma while playing the sport he loved, Dallas, Ga. native Taylor Duncan and his Alternative Baseball Organization are now fighting for community integration for the differently abled in many local communities.

Duncan is the Founder of the now national Alternative Baseball Organization, which is a nonprofit that provides “physical and social enrichment, excitement, and empowerment for teens and adults with disabilities like himself through an inclusive, authentic baseball experience.”

The organization has recently been on a tour around the Carrollton area with their “Community Empowerment” event, which features players with disabilities participating in a traditional-rules charity baseball exhibition with almost no adaptations. The group held a special exhibition in Paulding County in which participants played alongside and against local community leaders, with every event working toward the goal of raising awareness on the benefits athletics can have in the lives of those with disabilities.

Duncan’s inspiration for starting this organization, which he founded in 2016, was a very personal one that originated from an early age.

“I faced speech issues, sensory issues, anxiety issues, and on top of all that, as I got older, I faced a lot of preconceived ideas — perceptions from other peers

and those who thought they knew what somebody with a disability can and cannot accomplish,” Duncan said. “That often precluded me from playing typical youth sports.”

Duncan’s personal experience playing youth sports had its ebbs and flows, but it was his experience with one coach that eventually served as an important piece of motivation to start the Alternative Baseball Organization.

“I had one great year in youth baseball,” Duncan said. “The coach took me under his wing — taught me all of the basics — and it made me much more of a confident person to be able to take into the outside world.”

What Duncan heard next seemed to leave a mark on him for a long time. “But the next year, a new coach came aboard,” Duncan said. “After the first practice, he looked me square in the eyes and told my mother I didn’t have what it took — that I had no business being on a baseball diamond — that I was too much of an injury risk.”

After that, in 2012, due to the lack of available baseball programs in the area, Duncan turned to play slow-pitch softball for a local church league, but once he told the coach he had autism, he was often benched during games and rarely saw any playing time.

From there, Duncan began to recruit players and established his own team. The next year, in 2013, he took his new and inclusive team to the championship game of their league playoffs, and a few

years later, he created the Alternative Baseball Organization to pass down the knowledge and experience he had gained to others.

Beyond baseball, Duncan says athletes’ experience in the Alternative Baseball Organization also helps build social skills, work ethic and positive motivation for employment, mastery of life skills and other means of participation in society.

“The chances to learn and grow through gentle participation in sports can have that positive effect in translating the knowledge and lessons learned in our other hobbies, and even employment,” Duncan said. “There are people like myself who want to make the most out of our own lives. We want to be taught so we can do things to the best of our own ability. We don’t want to accept government welfare as a daily part of our lives. We want to become positive, powerful, productive members of society.”

According to their website, the organization now has programs in over 12 different states with more soon to come. Their Community Empowerment tour was scheduled to come through Carrollton at Carrollton High School back in September, but it was canceled due to weather and is still pending rescheduling.

Other stops included in the tour were Chattanooga, Rome, Paulding County, Newnan, Macon and Columbus.

Duncan’s closing remarks on his organization summed up what they seek to accomplish every day.

“By providing an opportunity where there’s never been an opportunity before, you are not only redefining what it means to be an athlete for tomorrow — you are redefining what it means to become a powerful productive member of society,” Duncan said. “All it takes for us is one chance.”



Photo: Tucker Cole, *The West Georgian*