



UWG PARTNERS WITH LOCAL BREWERIES FOR CUSTOM BEERS

TUCKER COLE
Contributing Writer



Photo courtesy of University of West Georgia

The University of West Georgia has recently partnered with two Carrollton-based breweries—Printer’s Ale Manufacturing Company and Local Ties Brewing Company—to produce new university-branded beers, called Red Blue Brew and Love Valley Lager, respectively.

The university announced these partnerships via social media in mid October.

“There are a lot of college beers out there these days, and we just thought it would be cool to support our local university if possible,” said Printer’s Ale Owner Greg Smith.

Smith and Printer’s Ale gained some inspiration from his experience traveling to other states and encountering UWG alumni.

“It’s amazing how many UWG people I meet when I travel to different states, and I just thought it would be great if we could do something to help connect,” Smith said.

With all that in mind, they jumped on the opportunity as soon as UWG executives reached out in search of a partnership.

“I think we were contacted by someone in the university to start this process and we said, ‘yes, love to do it,’” said Smith.

It is the cooperation between the University of West Georgia and these local breweries that makes the partnership special. Smith said that the university produced the

graphics for the cans, as well as providing input on the style of beer the Red Blue Brew would be.

Additionally, a portion of the revenue from the sales of Red Blue Brew go directly to the university, so, as Smith said, “You can help the college by drinking a beer. [It’s a] win-win.”

As for Local Ties, a management executive was not immediately available when asked for a comment, but the company described their new brew via social media.

“Love Valley Lager is a deliciously simple American lager, brewed to be enjoyed by all,” the company wrote. “Light, crisp, and clean in every way.”

The young brewing company, located just off Adamson Square in the center of Carrollton, was just opened in July of 2022. It is owned and operated by Alex and Tori Griffin, as well as Chief of Brewing Operations, Justin Schellhorn. In the same social media post, the company gave thanks to UWG for thinking of them in partnership.

“Thanks to UWG for thinking of little old us when they wanted a beer for the people of West Georgia,” the company wrote.

Local Ties also hosted a release party for Love Valley Lager on Oct. 19, selling UWG-branded glasses as part of the promotion.

For those interested in trying out Love

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Valley Lager, Local Ties has the custom brew on tap at their headquarters at 119 Bradley Street in Carrollton. They are open Wednesday and Thursday from 4-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon-10 p.m. and Sunday from 1-6 p.m.

As for Printer’s Ale’s Red Blue Brew, Smith said the specialty brew is being sold right now at package and convenience stores in Carrollton including Cheers, Bankhead Beverage, Carrollton Beverage, Braves Beverage Warehouse, as well as other stores that will have it in stock soon. Red Blue Brew is also available at Shucker’s Oyster House.

“WRITE YOUR HEART OUT” EVENT SUPPORTS HEALTH AND WELLNESS ON UWG CARROLLTON CAMPUS

CAROLYN MONCRIEFFE
Contributing Writer

The “Write Your Heart Out” event manifested after a hours-long brainstorming session among the thirteen-resident assistants at the Center Pointe Suites here on the UWG Carrollton campus. The event was held on Monday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. in the Center Pointe Suites Classroom. The event focused on creating a space for students to de-stress by writing about any issue weighing on their heart.

In line with Housing and Residential Life guidelines, all Resident Assistants are required to organize and lead at least one student event per semester. Planned events must align with one of three educational pillars that support the model of Housing and Residential Life. The pillars are Placemaking and Belonging, Health and Wellness and Academic Achievement.

These pillars serve to ensure the Housing Directive that each student has a well-rounded campus experience.

Student events are planned and hosted by Resident Assistants who live in one of the eight Residence Halls on campus.

“Write Your Heart Out” leader Daisy Rowser-Grier defines herself as an Engagement RA.

“An Engagement RA focuses primarily on ways to get other residents involved with the many student planned events on campus,” said Rowser-Grier. “[It gives me] more control over what takes place on campus.”

Being an event planner also helps Rowser-Grier understand what type of lessons or objectives need to be shared with the incoming student body. She chose the Health and Wellness pillar to create a

safe space for students to come together, socialize and write about anything that may be a pressing issue. Although Center Pointe Suites houses mostly incoming freshmen the “Write Your Heart Out” event was open to all students.

Attending students were given journals which they could then decorate with various decals and colored markers before placing their words on paper. Rowser-Grier created an open space which encouraged healthy student interaction lining up with support of student Health and Wellness.

Student engagement was highlighted as students creatively signed each other’s journals as discussion focused on how and why each attendee chose to design their journal. The room became almost silent as the sound of pencil hitting paper filled the CPS Classroom.

“Many times students have feelings they are not willing to share out loud and writing allows them to de-stress without fear,” said Shea Hott, one of the RA’s involved.

Afterwards, students were given the opportunity to share their writings with other students if they so choose.

“As a form of healthy release, it is a good idea for students to write out feelings they choose not to express verbally,” said Hott.



NEWS

BARBIE BEACH: A QUIRKY ROADSIDE ATTRACTION IN SMALL TOWN GEORGIA

ALEX DUCOULOMBIER
Contributing Writer

Since 2006, Barbie Beach has been catching the attention of unassuming drivers and locals passing through Turin.

The roadside installation is located at 4397-4679 GA-16, Senoia, GA 30276 near the intersection of highways 54 and 16. There are signs that draw the attention of passersby, and parking for about four vehicles if necessary.

The funky installation in Turin, Georgia, was started by Steve and Lynda Quick almost 17 years ago in celebration of the 2006 Olympics that were held in Turin, Italy. Though, having recently passed, Steve Quick has left the influence of Barbie Beach to Lynda. Nonetheless, it appears that Barbie Beach will carry on as it always has.

The so-called beach is a very small plot of sand just off of highway 16 which is the home to many Barbie and Ken dolls, among others. The theme of Barbie Beach changes regularly, with new props, dolls and signs added every so often, following notable events, sports and holidays. Currently, it is adorned with skulls and spooky dolls for Halloween. However, there is also a separate group of dolls to highlight the heated college football rivalry between the Georgia Bulldogs and the Florida Gators.

Making use of dolls and other trinkets that have been donated over the years, the Quick family has been making the majority of the community smile since its creation. Though not everyone is a fan, as it has been noted that some neighbors dislike the



Photo: Alex Ducoulombier, *The West Georgian*

Barbie party and the traffic and attention that it brings to the area.

The Quick family is aware of their critics, but they attest that their exhibit is one of free speech and that they have never intended to degrade any group. They hold that it is simply there to make people smile, and this is backed up by the 5,000-member strong Facebook group that is solely dedicated to information and pictures regarding the roadside stop.

If you ever find yourself in Senoia or the surrounding area, make sure to stop by Barbie Beach to see what they're up to next. With Thanksgiving coming up, expect to see the dolls celebrating the harvest feast.

WGRLS' NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH CHALLENGE

GIANNA WILLCOX
Contributing Writer

The West Georgia Regional Library System (WGRLS) is presenting its second annual challenge for National Novel Writing Month, also informally known as NaNoWriMo. National Novel Writing Month originally began in 1999 as a simple challenge to write 50,000 words of a novel in thirty days. Chris Baty, a writer, accidentally founded National Novel Writing Month and has overseen its growing success as the event spread to 90 different countries.

"National Novel Writing Month typically takes place in November, but this year, we did something a little different," says Kali Dallmier, the Marketing and Outreach Manager of the West Georgia Regional Library System. "We decided to give participants the chance to prepare for the novel before starting the challenge by starting in October with 'Preptober.'"

'Preptober' allows participants in the challenge to prepare for the novel during the second half of October. The prep process began on Oct. 20, and then the actual challenge started on Nov. 1. For this challenge, there are not many requirements for the participants.

"To participate, you only have to be able to write the novel within the frame of November first through the thirtieth," says Dallmier. "It has to be original, and it can't be something you already started working on. And, of course, have fun with it."

The only real requirement is that if someone is participating virtually through the library system's Beanstack platform, they must be at least 13 years of age. Other than that, anyone and everyone can participate in the challenge.

As I mentioned before, this is the second year the WGRLS is presenting this challenge. However, that does not mean that this is only the second year the libraries are doing something for NaNoWriMo. Each branch has something special going on for the challenge.

"This is our second year doing it from a regional level, but our libraries tend to always do something for National Novel Writing Month," says Dallmier. "This year, Neva Lomason, the branch in Carrollton, is having a 'come in and write' space in the cafe so that people working on the challenge have somewhere to come and write.

"On Nov. 16, they're also having a halfway point for writers to come in and share their progress, talk about any challenges or struggles they're having,

stuff like that," continues Dallmier. "Then, on Nov. 30, they're hosting a wrap party for writers to discuss the project and how they felt about the experience."

Although the point of this challenge is to encourage people to write and to have fun, some participants have gone on to publish the novels that they wrote during the challenge.

"There's been quite a few that have gotten their novel published, including one of our library managers, Rachel Bonds," says Dallmier. "She wrote her novel during NaNoWriMo and published it."

So, this challenge is beneficial in several ways. It allows people around the world to be creative, and gives a chance for new authors to get published.

For information about National Novel Writing Month, visit <https://nanowrimo.org/about-nano> or <https://nanowrimo.org/national-novel-writing-month>.

For some popular books written during previous National Novel Writing Months, visit <https://bookshop.org/lists/books-written-during-nanowrimo>.

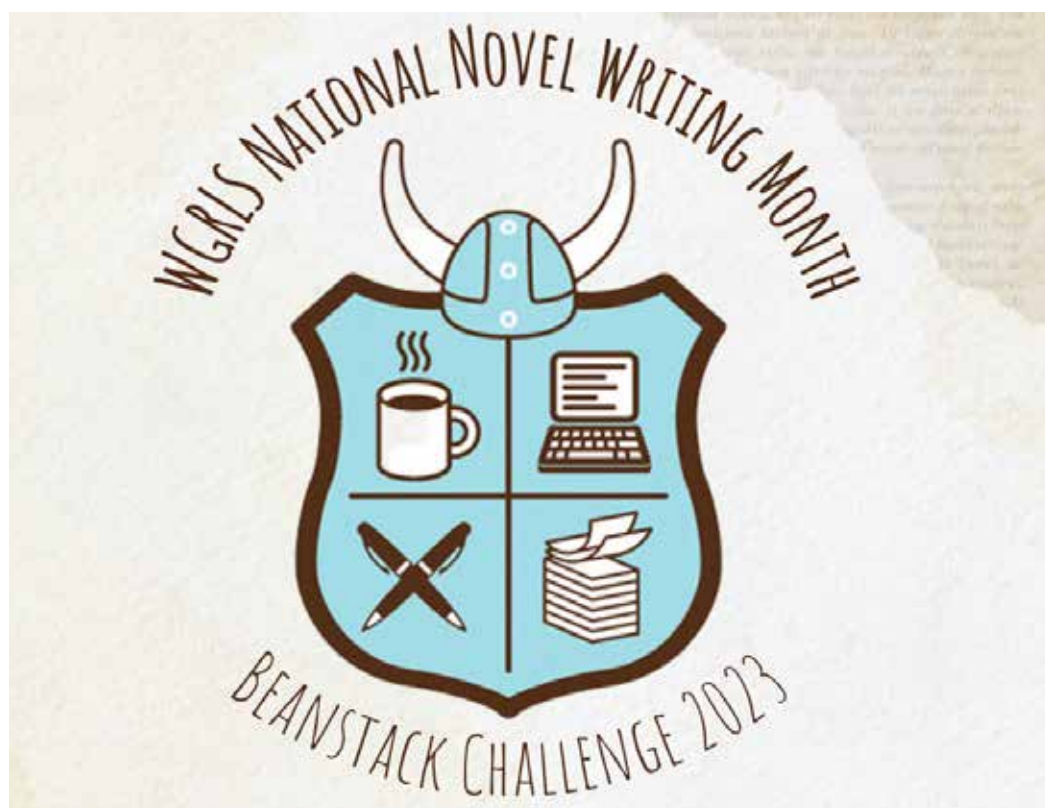


Photo courtesy of West Georgia Regional Library System

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

LOCAL HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN PUPPET SHOW “GRASSHOPPER TEA AND THE BASEMENT OF WONDER”

MICAH NOEL
Contributing Writer

What would you do if the power went out at grandma’s house? The puppet show “Grasshopper Tea and the Basement of Wonder” answers that very question for Emma and Lavonne as they wander into their grandmother’s basement following a storm. There, they discover a storyteller who takes them on a journey through West Georgia’s History.

45-minutes long, the show is a joint creation between the Carrollton Center for the Arts, the Community Foundation of West Georgia and the Neva Lomason Library. Director and co-writer Scott Foxx and writing partner, Mimi Gentry, spent over a year researching for the show’s material.

“We sort of did a lot of basic library research,” Foxx continues. “We looked at the New Georgia Encyclopedia as well as online sources... local historical museum spaces. We went from there, identifying for our purview of educating the third-grade, fourth-grade-aged students, what was appropriate content to examine more closely.”

The choice to have the primary audience be mid-level elementary students was an intentional choice by the team. Being a mixture of tall tales and historical facts, the show aligns with state curriculums for grade levels. Both third and fourth-grade students are learning to comprehend and write stories, identifying messages, lessons and morals through details found within stories.

Activities aligned with the curriculum are provided to educators when attending a show. The team also recognized that for a comprehensive account to take place, older children are the ideal audience, as their attention span can handle the show’s duration.

“To include all the content the show we knew was going to have end up being 45 minutes,” Foxx continues. “Third-grade fourth-grade age range... they are still children enough to have a little bit of suspension of disbelief and have that magical experience people have with puppets.”

One can imagine that the directing of a puppet show is different from directing a show with live actors. Rather than finding individuals who can master both the voices and the movements, Foxx opted for a professional recording of both the dialogue and sound effects, allowing the movements to be the focus in rehearsals.

“So that allows me to say I need three or four puppeteers,” Foxx continues. “Whoever you are, you play whatever character suits that scene.”

The puppeteers performing in the show are all local talents. With the show coming back every season, the cast does change, bringing in new performers. Performers of all levels are used within the show.

“The script stays the same, the puppets don’t get old, so as long as I can train somebody into one of those spots, everything keeps rolling along,” says Foxx.

The show always kicks off its season with a public performance at the Carrollton Arts Center in August before visiting elementary schools in the West Georgia area. Other than the educational message, Foxx hopes that children and adults alike will take away the importance of understanding local history and the part one plays in it.

“[Carrollton] has been there for a long time,” Foxx continues. “Important things and important people have come from here.”

For more information on “Grasshopper Tea and the Basement of Wonder,” visit the Carrollton Center of the Arts website.



Photo: Micah Noel, *The West Georgian*

THE REDEEM TEAM RESTORED THE STATES’ OLYMPICS FAITH IN ‘08

NEVAEH BROWN
Contributing Writer

The Olympics is as a great unifier for American NBA fans. It plays directly after the NBA season. Players such as LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony, band into a superteam; this is Team USA.

Netflix’s “The Redeem Team” chronicles the nostalgic perspectives of the late great Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and other revered players on this Olympic roster.

It shows archival footage of media coverage, scrimmages and the highs and lows of losing to Argentina in 2004. Every man featured has their way of telling the stories of the grit and hard work it requires to get to the Olympics. With Team USA’s rich history of winning the gold, it became the standard.

With NBA players making their way into the Olympics in the 1992 Barcelona Games, the star shined even brighter for America’s team, hence the arrival of international athletes like Pau Gasol.

Placed upon the selected team through the media and to their international opponents, Americans were the pinnacle of basketball greatness. Ranging from college students

to Michael Jordan after ring number two, America dominated basketball.

LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade, being the poignant trio in the film, had the most egregious first Olympic experience than their predecessors. The team’s overall second loss throughout the sport’s span in the Olympics, it is safe to say it was not enjoyable.

One of the most revered basketball coaches in Coach Mike Krzyzewski, famously known as “Coach K,” trained a team of individual stars to represent the country through play and pride.

The FIBA world semi finals was their first game as a squad coached by Coach K. The team was stacked with playmakers, but was unfortunately bested by Greece 101-95.

To add some depth, Bryant was called into the fray, and he could have used a second chance extensively.

During the lead-up to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Wade was coming off a knee injury, and the best of the best in the NBA curated a culture about themselves as Team USA as if they had all played on the

same team for years, like many of their international rivals.

History and patriotism are threaded through this film, but social and cultural responsibility is emphasized.

The Olympics isn’t just about winning the competitions, getting the medal and going home. These men didn’t take their job too seriously and supported other athletes in other events, soaking in the fact that they were in the presence of the best in the world.

Having fun with the game they love, playing with pride and playing against teammates they admire. Even with messiness inside and out, some of the most revered players of my generation are being lamented as the greatest Olympic team in the history of the games.



Photo courtesy of Netflix

“VJERAN TOMIC”: THE SPIDER-MAN OF PARIS

LANCE GOINS
Contributing Writer

Directed by Jamie Roberts, the documentary “Vjeran Tomic: The Spider-Man of Paris,” is a captivating look at a master art thief with bold antics that rocked the art world. It’s another addition to the ever-growing field of documentaries. This documentary, which is available to stream on Netflix, explores the life and crimes of Vjeran Tomic, revealing a compelling story.

The narrative commences with Tomic, an apparently modest person who gained notoriety as “The Spider-Man of Paris” due to his remarkable aptitude for scaling the walls of some of the most globally esteemed art establishments. His motivations are all the more mysterious given that his crimes were motivated by a passion for art rather than a desire for money.

Jamie Roberts, renowned for his skill in crafting gripping stories for documentaries, skillfully leads viewers through Tomic’s life, emphasizing his bold robberies that astounded the art world. Roberts creates a visual tapestry that vividly depicts Tomic’s story by skillfully fusing archive material, powerful reenactments and interviews with important participants. His subtle technique gives the story depth and creates a nuanced picture of the mastermind behind the art robbery.

The way the documentary is set up guarantees continuous interest. It gives us an overview of Tomic’s upbringing, his first experiences in the art world and develops to his audacious exploits in Parisian galleries and museums. Interviews with specialists, police officers and even Tomic himself give viewers an inside look at the thoughts of a criminal who was also an art enthusiast. The level of tension and fascination keeps growing as we

examine how each theft is carried out.

The documentary conveys a sense of urgency and anxiety through the masterful recreation of the heists themselves. As Tomic moves through the dimly lit corridors of Paris’s cultural treasures, viewers can almost feel they are right there with him because of Roberts’ meticulous attention to detail. These fascinating and engrossing reenactments transport us to the high-stakes realm of art theft.

Tomic’s intentions, his familiarity with art history and his elaborate escape plans are all made evident. His boldness in peddling pilfered artworks to gullible buyers is thoroughly examined, illuminating the murky underbelly of the art world.

The documentary also explores how Tomic’s acts have affected the art world and the efforts made by the French government to prosecute him. Here, Roberts deftly draws a distinction between the two facets of the protagonist’s life—one motivated by a deep love of the arts and the other by crime. The story becomes more intricate as a result of this striking contrast.

“Vjeran Tomic: The Spider-Man of Paris” stands out as a documentary that not only reveals the specifics of an incredible criminal career but also delves into the mystery of a guy who blurred the borders between art and larceny in a world where true crime stories are becoming more and more prevalent in movies.

This documentary, which is available on Netflix, gives viewers a chance to enter a world where art and criminality coexist. Anyone interested in crime, art or the complex junction of the two should not miss this exciting and thought-provoking cinematic adventure.

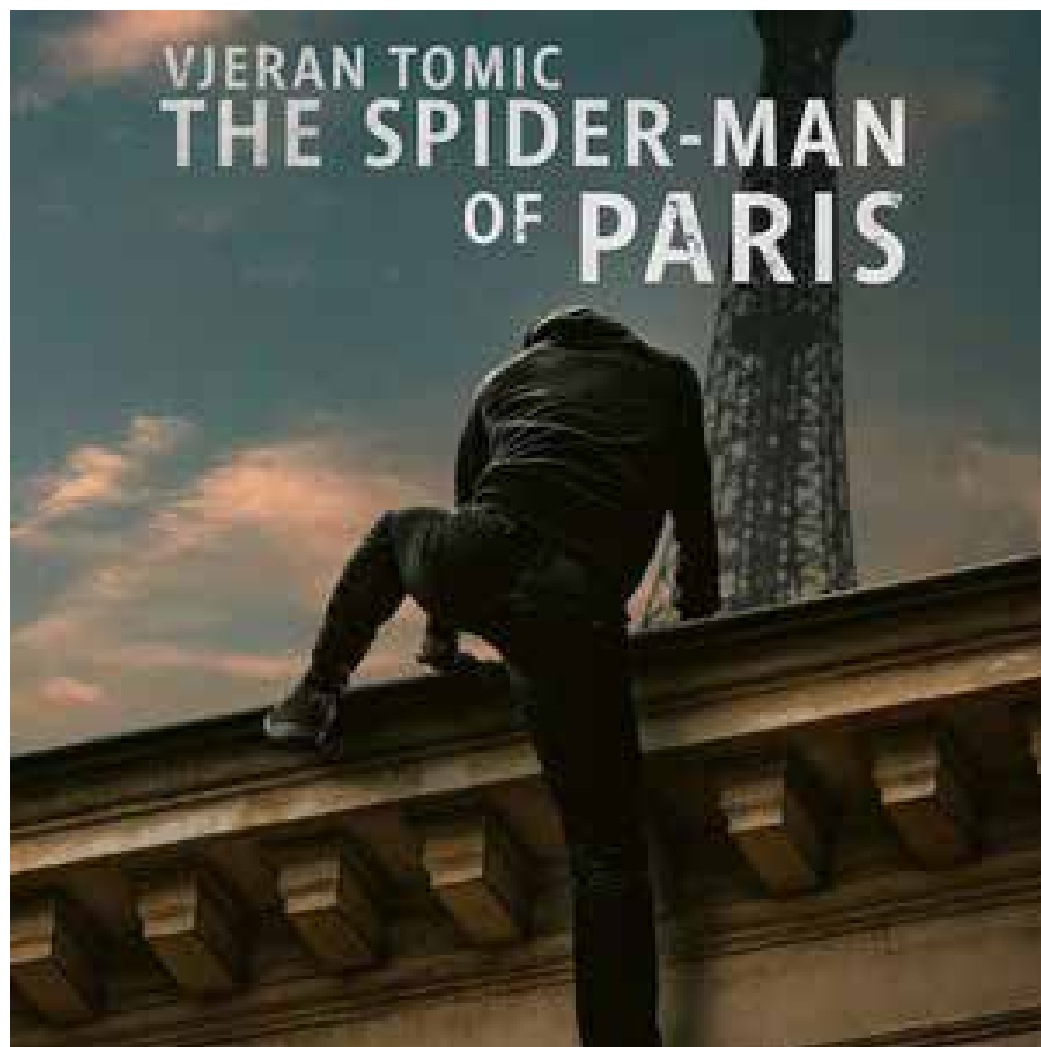


Photo courtesy of Netflix