



Rapha Clinic Hosts The 10th Annual Sound Of Medicine At UWG

Emma Swales
Editor-in-Chief

Rapha Clinic, a West Georgia based non-profit medical organization, is hosting the 10th annual Sound of Medicine fundraising event and musical concert on Thursday, Sept. 26 in the Campus Center Ballroom.

The Christian faith-oriented medical clinic was established in 2010 in efforts to bring proper medical and dental care to locals that are uninsured. The organization is run by volunteers and medical professionals to deliver high-quality medical aid through walk-in visits and scheduled appointments. Every year, Rapha Clinic hosts Sound of Medicine, created and organized by Rapha Medical Director Dr. Amy Eubanks, to encourage the Carrollton community to experience a vast amount of musical performances while raising money to support Rapha's efforts in caring for those in need.

"This is our 10th year doing The Sound of Medicine and we keep looking for ways to raise funds that people enjoy doing," said Eubanks. "We have had great responses from the community in the past and this will give folks a chance to help support the clinic while including some other things they enjoy doing in life, like music.

"We have a fairly large number of physicians in the area that are musicians as well, so we came up with the idea for a series of musician performances," Eubanks continued. "Each group performing has a physician or a healer of another kind in it."

The musical performances will include Dakota Dodge Band featuring Dr. Howard Seeman, Carroll County Wind Ensemble featuring Dr. Jonathan Goodin, McPherson Street featuring Dr. Eubanks, and a solo performance by Rapha Board Member Bishop Sam

Sauls.

Alongside the musical performances, there will also be a silent auction and multiple donation opportunities. The Sound of Medicine will also showcase patient testimonials and heartfelt messages from people in the West Georgia area. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar will also be available for those attending the event.

"With the private donations and the money we raise through fundraising, such as Sound of Medicine, it really does help fund our operation costs throughout the year," said Eubanks.

"This performance concert is actually the largest fundraising event we have every year. Thankfully it allows us to aid the operational costs so we can focus the grants we receive on specific programs and needs at the clinic."

The event is open to the entire community, not just donors. Eubanks explained that Sound of Medicine helps bring people together through music and provides a good opportunity to spread Rapha's spiritual mission statement.

"We will have great performances so it is a lot of fun for everyone," said Eubanks. "It's not just sponsors and donors, anyone in the community can come and we encourage everyone to experience this event and just enjoy the night. It is a wonderful way to see what we are all about and hopefully reach more people in need so they can receive the best and most comfortable care possible."

The Sound of Medicine begins Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. and will last until 9 p.m. To make donations or become an event sponsor, please visit www.raphaclinic.org or call 770-562-4501.

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Photo courtesy of Rapha Clinic

Living West

UWG Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month With Vibrant Events

Cindy Martinez
Copy Editor

The University of West Georgia (UWG) kicked off September by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with engaging events to celebrate the rich cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities throughout the month. The month began on Sept. 1 with a lively Hispanic Market, organized in partnership with the Latin American Student Organization (LASSO) and the Center for Student Involvement and Inclusion (CSII). The kickoff event included activities and created an atmosphere of culture and community spirit. Attendees enjoyed games like lotteria, delicious food and live music showcasing Hispanic culture's vibrancy. This event had different stations, and each table had a different activity for attendees.

"I had an amazing time at the Hispanic Market! It was so great to see our culture celebrated in such a vibrant way," said Daisy Gonzalez, president of LTA and the multicultural Greek council. "I'm excited to participate in the events

honoring Hispanic Heritage Month. Connecting with others with similar backgrounds and experiences feels wonderful. Also, all the events are always fun, and I meet new people across campus."

When asked about her favorite part of the event kickoff, Gonzalez expressed her love for the games, food and meeting other people.

"Yeah, my favorite so far has been playing lotteria," said Gonzalez. "It is like bingo, but the cards are only in Spanish. I had a good time. It was fun supporting the organizations that helped put this event together. I also will say the food was delicious. My favorite was the tacos."

Throughout September, the university plans to host various events such as fruitful celebrations of Hispanic heritage, fiesta into the future and other fun events throughout September. As the university highlights the contributions of Hispanic and Latino individuals, students and community members are encouraged to participate in the month's activities.

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events and ways to get involved in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Visit their website for more information on Hispanic Heritage Month events at the UWG, or follow LASSO's Instagram page @uwglatinx to keep up with upcoming events.



Photo courtesy of UWG LatinX Instagram

Arts and Entertainment

Decatur's Very Own Lunar Vacation Releases Powerhouse Sophomore Album

Emma Swales
Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of Violet Teegardin

Indie-pop sensation Lunar Vacation released its second studio album, *Everything Matters Everything's Fire*, on Sept. 13 with a live performance inside Criminal Records in Little Five Points, Atlanta. Guests attending the listening party had the opportunity to buy the in-store exclusive album on bitter orange vinyl.

Lunar Vacation is an Atlanta-native alternative band based out of downtown Decatur. The group consists of vocalist and guitarist Gep Repasky, guitarist Maggie Geeslin, keyboardist Matteo DeLurgio and drummer Connor Dowd. Together the band strays away from commercial conventions by crafting an effortless blend of pop and indie through dreamy vocals and mellow instrumentals.

"We all went to the same high school and we started this band when we were 16 back in 2016 and it just kept going from there," said Geeslin. "We decided to take it more seriously after we graduated college. We all live together now and we are fully doing it and now on our second album."

The band's new sophomore album, *Everything Matters Everything's Fire*, contains nine singles, including the previously released EP, "Set The Stage." Lunar Vacation's performance at Criminal Records, located at 1154 Euclid Ave., highlighted all of the newly released songs, as well as some of the band's greatest hits.

Geeslin explained the long process

behind the making of the album and how the band came together to turn their unique ideas into reality. She expressed that everyone in the group moved into a house in downtown Decatur and turned the living room into an in-home studio to start forming *Everything Matters Everything's Fire*.

"It took about a whole year to write it," said Geeslin. "We set up our home studio and worked out all the songs together. It was more natural and it was taking what our instincts were to play and honing in on them from there."

I think every song on the new album has its own identity. They are all living in the same world but in different parts of it. Making music like this is all we have hoped for," continued Geeslin.

Lunar Vacation plans to continue promoting the sophomore album with a headlining tour starting in early 2025.

"We had a show in Athens right after the listening party and now we have a few weeks off," said Geeslin. "Then we will be supporting the Manchester Orchestra on tour from the end of October through November. This weekend we are announcing some headlining dates for next year for the album. We will be doing the touring mostly next year."

Lunar Vacation's second album has finally hit all streaming platforms and has proven to be a successful release. Geeslin described the work to be very emotional and lyrically driven.

"A lot of this album is about acceptance and moving on," said Geeslin. "Hopefully the lyrics can speak to people and help them move forward. I want everyone to take away what they want to. I want people to hear it and apply their own meanings to the song and just enjoy it."

For more information about Lunar Vacation's newest release, merchandise and future tour dates, please visit <https://www.lunarvacationband.com/>.

"The Forge" Presents a Heartwarming Story of Becoming a Man

Breanna Tillie
News Editor

Many moviegoers find coming-of-age films to be such stimulating and powerful works of art. Unlike other types of films that are driven by constant action and intense rushes of adrenaline, coming-of-age films are driven simply by a gripping, complex, and often relatable main character. The plot merely exists to aid the exploration into the transformation of this character.

"The Forge," released in theaters on Aug. 23, is a coming-of-age film that is sure to touch the hearts and encourage the souls of its viewers as they witness this young character transform from a boy to a man with the assistance of a faithful community.

This story begins with 19-year-old Isaiah Wright, lacking any set plan for his future and further lacking the motivation to develop such plans. With his days consisting of playing video games and neighborhood basketball, his mother grows increasingly frustrated with what she perceives to be laziness and absence of

responsibility. Here lies a small, yet meaningful detail that can be appreciated.

Isaiah is not throwing wild parties, addicted to substances, or getting in trouble with the law. The film saw no need for such extremity in Isaiah's origin. It was not necessary because many young people around Isaiah's age who understand the struggle of lacking direction in life are not involved in such behavior. Their self-destructive habits are not so dramatic, but rather they are subtle and stem from stagnancy. The film depicted this beautifully.

Isaiah's mother actually tells him that he must begin paying rent, meaning he must get a job to come up with the money or he will be kicked out of his mother's house. He, like so many people, had no other option but to change. The film realistically portrays the struggle of breaking poor habits such as Isaiah showing up late on his first day, but he is held accountable by his boss, who also takes an interest in mentoring him.

This is a highly respectable aspect of this story. The film does well in displaying how the job gave Isaiah a sense of purpose, suggesting that many people who appear to be lost in life need something to be a part of, someone counting on them, and someone to take a genuine interest in them. They are not necessarily just lazy, unmotivated, or undisciplined.

Isaiah's transformation reaches its peak when he begins to embrace a life of faith and spirituality, much to the joy of his praying mother. His newfound spirituality creates a vulnerability within Isaiah, laying the groundwork for the introduction of perhaps the most poignant insight into why he is the way that he is.

Isaiah sees his father, who abandoned him as a child, and he makes the brave decision at the film's climactic moment to lay down the anger he feels towards his father. In the words of the movie, he took all of that frustration and rage towards his father and "gave it to Jesus." This moment in the

film is a turning point done so well, because it is after this that Isaiah's change becomes clear and evident. This film sends the message that forgiveness is ultimately for the growth and wellbeing of the wronged person.

While the storytelling and character development in this film was nothing short of spectacular, the acting was somewhat mediocre. There were scenes where the acting seemed like it would have been more appropriate for a stage play rather than a movie.

However, the sub par acting can be excused when it becomes clear that the acting must only be believable enough to communicate the message that the film is trying to send. The message of this film was indeed communicated marvelously, as viewers will certainly walk away feeling inspired and edified.

Sabrina Carpenter Creates 2024 Summer Soundtrack With Her Album Short n' Sweet

Abbie Klein
Features Editor



Photo courtesy of Amy Harris

After dominating the billboard charts for three weeks at number one, Sabrina Carpenter's new album Short n' Sweet remains the soundtrack of the summer. The bouncy pop beats behind Carpenter's raunchy lyrics keeps the album on repeat, making it one of her best works yet.

Earlier this year Carpenter released the main single of the album "Espresso." The fun pop song became an immediate hit and took over the internet with its catchy chorus earning her Song of the Year at the VMAs on Sept. 11. Shortly after the release of "Espresso," Carpenter announced the second single of the album "Please Please Please," earning just as much success as its predecessor.

After the internet's obsession with "Espresso" and "Please Please Please" the stakes for Short n' Sweet were high. On its release on Aug. 26, the album proved to be as much of a success as its singles, earning it number one on the billboard charts overnight. The 12 track album was full of upbeat

pop songs that perfectly followed the album title by being short and entertaining for the duration of the track. The album as a whole was just over a half hour, truly making it short and sweet.

While all songs were hits, immediate fan favorites went to "Taste," "Bed Chem" and "Good Graces" earning the top 3 spots on Spotify's Global Top Song chart. With all songs containing Carpenter's signature writing style, it's no wonder they charted so high. Carpenter is known for her catchy choruses and sensual innuendos which give her songs the ability to appeal to all audiences, regardless of age. Younger listeners can enjoy the upbeat rhythms and repetitive structures while older listeners can appreciate the double meanings in the lyrics of songs like "Bed Chem" and "Juno."

What really ties Short n' Sweet together is the visuals of the album. The music videos for "Espresso" and "Please Please Please" each had impressive production which showed off Carpenter's acting background and

added to the appealing visuals of the album. Each video had specific storylines to go with the song that added to the entertainment value. "Taste," which was revealed to be the last single on the album, debuted a fantastic music video referencing the 1992 Oscar winning film Death Becomes Her and starred Carpenter alongside award winning actress Jenna Ortega. The entertainment factor and distinctive color palette of light blues and pinks is shown off across the marketing and music videos for the album and really makes it stand out compared to other releases this summer.

Carpenter is beginning her Short n' Sweet Tour on Sept. 23 in Columbus, Ohio. For the first time in her career she will be performing over 20 arena shows across North America, including Atlanta's State Farm Arena on Oct. 22. For more information on Carpenter's tour and to listen to Short n' Sweet visit www.sabrinacarpenter.com.

UPCOMING ALBUMS AND MOVIES

ALBUMS

Future- Mixtape
Pluto

Katy Perry- 143

Keith Urban- HIGH

Neon Trees- Sink Your Teeth

Katy J. Pearson- Someday, Somehow

Bright Eyes- Five Dice, All Threes

FIDLAR- Surviving The Dream

Midland- Barely Blue

Jamie XX- In Waves

Nubya Garcia- Odyssey

Blossoms- Gary

Nelly Furtado- 7

Nightwish- yesterwynde

The Waeve- City Lights

MOVIES

Transformers One

The Substance

Never Let Go
What We Find On The Road

A Mistake

Devara Part 1

Feature

UWG student Carlie Pair makes ESPN+ debut

Courtney Bixby
Contributing Writer

University of West Georgia student Carlie Pair made her ESPN+ debut in late August when the Wolves tackled their first Division I win of the season.

Carlie Pair is a senior at UWG and has ambitions to join the sports media industry after she graduates in the spring semester. When she learned about the recent transition to Division I, enabling UWG to play in the Atlantic Sun Conference, she knew she had to jump on the opportunity to be an ESPN+ sideline reporter for the first game of the season. "Being Division I elevates your resume," said Pair. "It sets a standard and we have a lot more exposure now to make a name for ourselves."

As Pair was growing up, she and her father would watch sports together. This fueled her love for sports media and her ambition to be on television. Pair said she chose UWG because of its communication programs and on-campus opportunities. Pair is involved with Wolf Sports Network, a compilation of news, radio and video to highlight sports at the university. She is currently the Assistant Sports Program Director.

The network has given her the opportunity to sideline report basketball, volleyball and football games while learning about the sports media industry and possible career opportunities. Her first time on the sideline was only a few months into her freshman year, allowing her to gain the most experience possible over the following years.

"This is truly a college where you get so much individual attention and hands-on experience that you may not get at larger colleges," said Pair. "We are Division I but we are still able to give individual attention and affordable education."

Pair is currently the only female working at the sports network and she is encouraging other females interested to join, emphasizing that oftentimes people underestimate her knowledge because she is a woman in a male-dominant industry.

Her very first opportunity to sideline was a basketball game and she was nervous to introduce herself to the opposing coach, knowing she had to enter with confidence. In the past, coaches have had the opportunity to deny an interview during the game, but with the transition to division I interviews are more crucial and necessary for both teams and will also provide more experience for reporters such as Pair.

"I just knew my parents were watching," Pair said. "I later found out my dad took a video of the whole thing on this phone."

The Wolves made history by winning their first Division I football game on Aug. 30 against the Samford Bulldogs. Pair was able to do some research before her interviews as well as review approximately 30 pages of game notes to be as prepared as possible.

Half an hour before the start of the game she introduced herself to Coach Hatcher with the Samford Bulldogs and explained she would be doing the sideline reporting during the game covering interviews, injury reports and halftime reports. Pair explained one of the new challenges is being neutral.

With the games now streaming on ESPN+, reporters must avoid phrases such as "we" or "our" to avoid having bias towards one team or the other as well as wearing neutral colors to avoid siding with one team.

"There are just so many firsts I get to be a part of," said Pair. "Next time I want to take more initiative to talk to players, assistant coaches and even the athletic trainers when there are injuries."

During halftime, Pair says she likes to be specific about what is going on in the game with each team's defense, specific players and let the coach expand on what they are doing well at and what needs improvement. After the game is



Photo courtesy of Hailey Wilkinson

over the questions should be more open ended. The coaches will explain how they are feeling and what that game meant for them.

The first game of the season was important due to the fact that it was Coach Taylor's first Division I win with the wolves. UWG will continue to expand and learn about the ESPN+ production and give their students as many opportunities as possible.

"I am in West Georgia at such a pivotal time," said Pair. "There are higher stakes, and much higher rewards."

THE WEST GEORGIAN

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Wide Receiver Duo An Early Powerhouse For UWG

Brandon Dyer
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The West Georgia Wolves wide receivers Karmello English and Dylan Gary have more in common than one might originally think: they both committed to Division 1 Football Bowl Series (FBS) schools, they both play the same position and they both are making an impact on the field for the Wolves early in the season.

West Georgia head coach Joel Taylor noted his impression of the two receivers at his weekly press conference on Sept. 10. "Dylan Gary is one of my favorite guys...He's really smart and has a huge catch radius," said Taylor.

Gary heads into his junior season, transferring this off-season from the University of Kentucky, where he signed in the 2022 recruiting class. He spent his high school years playing for North Gwinnett High School, with his senior year being his lone one that he started. In that year, he had 37 catches for 600 yards and five touchdowns.

After not seeing playing time in his two seasons in Kentucky, Gary made the move to West Georgia. Now, Gary finds himself leading the Wolves in receiving yards this season with 278, while hauling in 15 catches and three touchdowns.

On the other side of the offense, it didn't take long for

English to make an impact for the Wolves, catching a 71-yard pass on the first play of the game in the season-opening win against Samford.

English came out of Phenix City Central High School in Alabama as the No. 178 overall player nationally, the No. 25 wide receiver and the No. 15 player in the state. Listed as a four-star recruit, he held offers from multiple Division 1 FBS teams, including Georgia, Alabama, Michigan and Auburn.

English originally committed to Auburn, but decommitted and wound up in Ann Arbor, Mich. as a part of the Michigan Wolverines. He totaled one catch for four yards on the eventual National Champions last season. He decided that he would enter the transfer portal and wound up at The University of West Georgia.

The wide receiver has seen his numbers skyrocket in his first three games at UWG, totaling 19 catches for 251 yards, but hasn't been able to make his way into the endzone yet this season.

Together, the duo has combined for 74% of the receiving yards that the team has this season.

Upcoming UWG Sports Schedule

Volleyball

Friday Sept. 20
vs University of Idaho

Friday Sept. 27
@ Stetson University

Sunday Sept. 29
@ Florida Gulf Coast University

Thursday Oct. 3
vs Queens University of Columbia

Womens Soccer

Sunday Sept. 22
vs Central Arkansas

Thursday Sept. 26
vs North Florida

Sunday Sept. 29
vs Jacksonville

Thursday Oct. 3
@ Stetson University

Football

Saturday Sept. 28
vs North Alabama

Men's Golf
Monday Sept. 30
@ Ironwood Collegiate Classic

Women's Golf
Monday Sept. 30
@ Pirate Collegiate Classic

Local High School Football Sept. 20

Carrollton BYE

Central @ Mundy's Mill

Mt. Zion vs Pike County

Villa Rica vs South Paulding

Bowdon BYE

Bremen vs Model

Douglas County BYE

East Coweta @ Perry

Collins Hill vs Central Geinnett

North Gwinnett vs Parkview

Alexander vs Rome

Chapel Hill vs Manchester

Paulding County vs McEachern

Westlake vs Hapeville

South Paulding vs Villa Rica

Creekside vs Mays

New Manchester @ East Paulding

Langston Hughes vs Dutchtown

College Football Sept. 21

Georgia BYE

Georgia Tech @ 19 Louisville 3:30

Alabama BYE

Florida State vs Cal 7:00

21 Clemson vs NC State 12:00

Florida @ Mississippi State 12:00

6 Tennessee @ 15 Oklahoma 7:30

5 Ole Miss vs GA Southern 7:45

11 USC @ 18 Michigan 3:30

3 Ohio State vs Marshall 12:00

Oregon BYE

1 Texas vs UL Monroe 8:00

Georgia State BYE

12 Utah @ 14 Oklahoma State 4:00

16 LSU vs UCLA 3:30

Colorado vs Baylor 8:00

Kentucky vs Ohio 12:45

Auburn vs Arkansas 3:30

NFL Sept. 22

Falcons vs Chiefs 8:20

Packers vs Titans 1:00

Dolphins vs Seahawks 1:00

Chargers vs Steelers 1:00

Texans vs Vikings 1:00

Eagles vs Saints 1:00

Broncos vs Buccaneers 1:00

Giants vs Browns 1:00

Bears vs Colts 1:00

Panthers vs Raiders 4:05

Ravens vs Cowboys 4:25

Lions vs Cardinals 4:25

49ers vs Rams 4:25

MNF

Jaguars vs Bills 7:30