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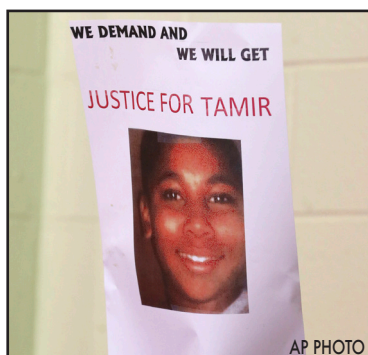
THE PARTHENON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 | VOL. 119 NO. 48 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

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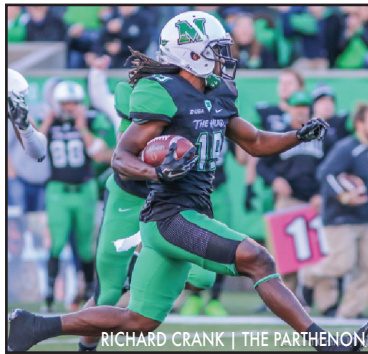
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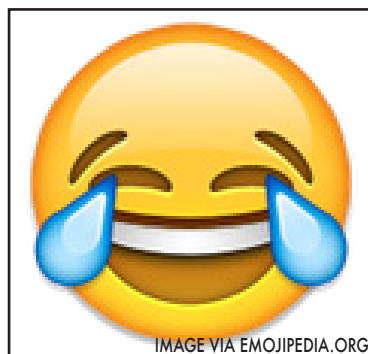
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Lighting up Huntington

Christmas tree lighting, holiday performances at Big Sandy Superstore



MATTHEW PRANDONI | THE PARTHENON

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams and his wife, Mary, pose with the city of Huntington Christmas tree outside Big Sandy Superstore Arena. Williams was responsible for lighting the tree during the ceremony Tuesday evening.

By **MATTHEW PRANDONI**
THE PARTHENON

Mayor Steve Williams lit the City of Huntington Christmas Tree Tuesday at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena to end the ceremony.

This is an annual event at the Big Sandy. This year Williams wanted to make sure Huntington looked good for the upcoming holidays.

"We are not going to copy what everyone else is doing,"

Williams said. "What we want is when people come into the downtown in 2015, they are able to say 'you should have seen what it started.'"

Before the lighting, Cabell Midland's Huntington Dance

Theater and the Cabell Midland Show Choir performed Christmas themed music and dance in the entrance of the building.

Most of the people in attendance were family members

of those who were performing. More than 50 people were in attendance.

For the most part, people were there because of the

See **TREE LIGHTING** | Page 2

Marshall participates in #GivingTuesday



PHOTOS BY ROB ENGLE | THE PARTHENON

By **ROB ENGLE**
THE PARTHENON

In an address at Marshall University's Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, Mayor Steve Williams issued a proclamation designating the Tuesday after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday as "Giving Tuesday" for the city of Huntington.

Giving Tuesday is a globally celebrated day that began in 2012 dedicated to philanthropy and volunteerism in communities. Giving Tuesday also brings together nonprofits, civic organizations, universities, businesses, families and individuals to encourage and amplify acts of kindness in the community.

Griffin Talbot, Program Director for the University Fund, said this day is particularly fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

"It is a purely social event where the hashtag '#givingtuesday' is used throughout social media," Talbot said. "It's an opportunity for not only Marshall alumni but people around the world to give to a cause of their passion."

LEFT: Huntington Mayor Steve Williams participates in the Marshall University #GivingTuesday activities at the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall Tuesday. RIGHT: Williams issues a proclamation designating the Tuesday after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday as "Giving Tuesday" for the city of Huntington.

See **#GIVINGTUESDAY** | Page 2

Final Coffee with the Mayor for the fall semester

By JOHN COLE GLOVER
THE PARTHENON

Mayor Steve Williams returned to Marshall University's campus Tuesday for the final Coffee with the Mayor event for the semester.

Williams said talks with students this semester have confirmed that students are residents of the city and not just Marshall.

"Students are more aware of what is going on in the community," Williams said.

Williams said students are not just interested in what is going on at the university, but are more interested in what is happening in the downtown area and other areas near campus.

Williams said many of the issues Huntington's citizens have mentioned to him in meetings have also been brought up by students.

Many of the improvements around campus come directly from talks the mayor has had with students, such as additional lighting near campus and rental property inspections near Marshall.

Williams mentioned the Huntington Innovation Project, which is part of the plan to revitalize the city.

The plan includes the revitalization of areas near campus, such as along Hal Greer Boulevard and the Highlawn area.

The plan will bring green infrastructure to reduce street flooding, provide new recreational areas and construct additional housing for Marshall University medical students.

The plan aims to replace dilapidated housing with newer, more vibrant housing near Hal Greer Boulevard and the Fairfield neighborhood. Street upgrades and additional improvements for pedestrians and bikers were also mentioned.

Williams spoke of an interview with Vice News, who were in the state during President Obama's trip to discuss drug dependency.

"I hope they take away that we are trying to save lives," Williams said. "The community is banding together and doing what cities several times our size are doing."

Although next year is an election year for the mayor, Williams said he still plans to be on campus for Coffee with the Mayor events.

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

Continued from page 1

The Foundation's goal is to receive donations from 250 donors by the end of the day. Talbot said the money collected from donations will go toward the Marshall University Foundation Grant for West Virginia Students, a need-based fund for in-state student residents.

"Giving Tuesday gives us an opportunity to do that which we know isn't just necessary, but our responsibility," Williams said. "Those of us who attended this university have a gift that was provided to us that keeps on giving. Frankly, anyone who spent a moment

on this campus, their lives are changed forever. Today gives us the opportunity to change other people's lives."

One life that has been changed by donations to Marshall is nursing student Tori Burdette, who spoke about how she was able to attend Marshall because of her donor.

"Because of your generosity, many students are able to take their dreams to the next level," Burdette said. "For me personally, my dream would have never been achieved if it hadn't been for my donor. You may think of yourself as some

ordinary person, but to those students, you're a blessing. I pray I am able to give back to Marshall the same kindness I have received."

Williams echoed Burdette, saying people should consider donating to the university because often times they were financially assisted.

"As we have an opportunity to speak with anyone who spent time on this campus, you give because the gift was given to you," Williams said.

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TREE LIGHTING

Continued from page 1

performance, but were excited to see the tree being lit.

"I think the ceremony went fairly well," said Taylor White, whose son performed at the event. "As far as the performance and everything, the ballerinas looked sharp, it looked like they were having fun."

"The Christmas tree looks nice, it was a very good decision," said Eric Sargent, whose daughter was performing. "The highlight for me was seeing the countdown for the tree being lit."

"I think the Christmas tree is gorgeous, it's about time for a new tree and decorations," Frances Adams, a grandmother of the performers, said.

According to Cara Hedrick who is a

marketing and sales manager at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena, this year a fake tree was used instead of a real one like in years past.

The tree itself can be added to and will be reused for the future events.

More than 170 lights and 600 bulbs were used on the tree. The tree is about 19 feet tall. On top of the tree, a white star was placed for decoration.

Huntington Municipal Authority purchased the tree and its decorations, which were placed on Fourth and Fifth Avenue.

After the ceremony the tree lights were turned off.

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MATTHEW PRANDONI | THE PARTHENON

The 19-foot-tall Christmas tree at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena has over 170 lights and 600 bulbs.

@MUParthenon

Local businesses and people give back to charities this holiday season

By KALYN BORDMAN
THE PARTHENON

People and businesses throughout the community are teaming up with holiday charities to help give back this holiday season.

This time of year, the malls are crowded and the parking lots are full. While some get caught up in shopping and sales, others are giving back to the community.

"We are participating in a macaroni and cheese drive that several law firms in the area are participating in, and it is kind of spearheaded by a firm, Vital and Vital, and it goes to the area food bank," said Janie Pavlis, firm administrator for Offutt Nord Burchett law firm.

Pavlis said the firm participates in an annual coat drive and they adopt angels off of The Salvation Army's Angel Tree.

Many businesses choose certain holiday charities to

support this time of year. For example, Sun Tan City participates in Toys for Tots, which is run by the United States Marine Corps and gives toys to children whose parents can not afford to buy them any.

The Dollar Tree asks customers to donate to Operation Homefront, which provides toys for military children.

The Huntington Mall as well as many local grocery stores have chosen The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. These businesses allow bell ringers from The Salvation Army to stand outside and collect donations in the red kettles. Many other stores and businesses participate in holiday charities this time of year as well.

Students on campus are also doing what they can to give back this holiday season.

The Rec Center does its own version of the Angel Tree through Rec the Halls.

"We collect tags, wishes

from seven to eight different agencies in the area and it is partnered with the first year residence halls," said Dan Belcher, assistant director of Facility Operations at the Rec Center.

Belcher said the residence halls and the Rec Center have trees set up and students and staff pick whatever wish they want from the tree and they will bring it back.

"We are able to give over five to six hundred gifts back to the agencies that we adopt," Belcher said.

Some local high schools are also participating in holiday charities such as Operation Christmas Child. Locals will gather together and fill shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and other small gifts. Once the shoebox is full, the box will be wrapped and sent to a child in need.

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Officer says he told boy to show hands before fatal shots

By JOHN SEEWER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A white Cleveland patrolman who shot a 12-year-old black boy carrying a pellet gun told investigators that he and his partner continuously yelled "show me your hands" before he fired the fatal shots, according to the officer's statement released by prosecutors Tuesday.

The rookie officer said of the estimated two-second encounter that Tamir Rice didn't obey his commands and that he saw the boy pulling a weapon out of his waistband.

"I knew it was a gun and I knew it was coming out," officer Timothy Loehmann said in the statement given to investigators.

It turned out Tamir was carrying a nonlethal, Airsoft-type gun that shoots plastic pellets when Loehmann shot him twice outside a recreation center on Nov. 22, 2014. He died a day later.

A grand jury will decide if Loehmann or his field training officer should be charged criminally for Tamir's death.

Prosecutors in recent weeks released a frame-by-frame analysis of the surveillance camera footage from the shooting, along with expert reports that called the shooting justified.

Attorneys for the Rice family have asked Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim McGinty to step aside and allow a special prosecutor to take over the case. They called the prosecutor's presentation to the grand jury "biased" and "improper" after releasing the reports that found no fault with the officers' actions.

They said Tuesday that allowing both officers to make unsworn statements that won't be subject to cross examination "further taints these proceedings."

The statements from Loehmann and patrolman Frank Garmback describe in detail action that the surveillance video shows took about



TONY DEJAK | ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Dec. 8, 2014 file photo shows a person holding up a sign for justice for Tamir Rice during a news conference in Cleveland. A white Cleveland police officer had no choice but to fatally shoot a 12-year-old black boy carrying a pellet gun, an expert on police use of force said in a report released publicly Thursday, Nov. 12, by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. Retired Florida police officer W. Ken Katsaris is the third expert who has concluded that patrolman Timothy Loehmann was justified in shooting Tamir Rice outside a Cleveland recreation center Nov. 22, 2014.

two seconds.

They were responding after a 911 caller reported that a man was waving a gun and pointing it at people. The caller told the dispatcher that the gun might not be real. The call also said the man might be a juvenile, but that information wasn't passed on to the officers.

Loehmann said he and his partner thought Tamir was going to run as they drove up to him, but Tamir turned toward the cruiser.

"The suspect lifted his shirt, reached down into his waistband. We continued to yell 'show me your hands,'" Loehmann said in the statement. "I was focused on the suspect. Even when he was reaching into his waistband, I didn't fire. I still was yelling the command 'show me your hands.'"

The rookie officer said he was getting out of the cruiser

when he saw a weapon in the boy's hand coming out of his waistband. "The threat to my partner and myself was real and active," Loehmann said.

He said he fired two shots and heard his partner still yelling "show me your hands" after Tamir fell to the ground.

Garmback, who was driving the cruiser, said in his statement that he wanted to keep the boy away from the recreation center and that the patrol car slid when he hit the brakes. The car didn't stop where he intended, Garmback said.

He said he saw the gun Tamir was carrying when Loehmann opened his door. "I thought the gun was real," Garmback said.

Subodh Chandra, an attorney for Tamir's family, said Tuesday that the officers' statements were contradictory and did not make sense.

"Loehmann, for example, insists that he observed things and took action that would have been physically impossible for any human being to do in the under two seconds it took him to shoot a 12-year-old child," he said in a statement.

Chandra also noted that Loehmann said he issued at least three commands to "show me your hands," but that Garmback said he thought the cruiser's windows were rolled up as they drove toward Tamir.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Herd drops game against rival Ohio, falls to 0-4



Marshall men's basketball coach Dan D'Antoni directs his team from the sideline.

THE PARTHENON | MEGAN OSBORNE

By **IMANI SPRADLEY**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University's men's basketball team fell to 0-4 after its 85-70 loss Tuesday to Ohio University.

The Herd started off the game strong and went into halftime tied with the Bobcats, 36-36. Senior forward James Kelly poured in 12 points in the first half, including the first nine points of the game for Marshall.

However, the second half was a different story as the team shot just over 38 percent from the field and 22.2 percent from 3-point range in the final two quarters.

In contrast to Marshall's subpar shooting, the Bobcats shot 56.3 percent from the field after halftime to go along with 16 free throw attempts.

Marshall head coach Dan D'antoni said he hopes challenging his young team will make it more competitive going forward.

D'Antoni said his inexperienced team began playing sloppy during the final 10

minutes, which cost the Herd the game.

"We got to figure out how to win," D'Antoni said. "This loss is on us. We stopped ourselves. Once we get them all on the same page, we will see if we can make progress. It's a young team."

Freshman guard C.J. Burks, who was named Conference USA Co-Freshman of the Week Monday, led the Herd with 20 points, shooting 9-17 from the field. While Burks was able to get his points, he said overall Ohio played a lot better than he expected. However, Burks said he thinks his team is a work in progress and will improve as the season goes on.

"The first half we played with energy," Burks said. "The the second half we lost our energy."

Junior forward Ryan Taylor, who totaled eight points on 3-9 shooting to go along with eight rebounds, five assists and five turnovers, said the team has to keep working and sticking to D'Antoni's game plan.

"We took some tough shots toward the end trying to put it on our back instead of playing team ball," Taylor said. "We just gotta use our team and our teammates around us. We all can make shots, and we all can score the ball."

The Herd managed just four assists in the second half and 11 for the entire game.

Burks and Kelly, who finished the night with 18 points on 7-15 from the field, were the only Herd players to eclipse double digits.

Ohio was led by guard Jaaron Simmons who poured in 25 points, grabbed five rebounds and dished six assists. Forward Kenny Kaminski scored 15 points and center Antonio Campbell pulled down 15 rebounds.

Marshall's next game is set for 7 p.m. Friday at the Cam Henderson Center against the University of Akron.

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Reaves receives weekly Conference USA award for second time this season

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Deandre Reaves was named the Conference USA Special Teams Player of the week for his performance in the Herd's 49-28 loss to Western Kentucky University Friday.

The senior kick returner opened the scoring for the Herd with a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the second quarter. Reaves found a crease on the play before bouncing the return outside and sprinting down the right sideline for the score.

Reaves' day consisted of much more than a single return, however, as he totaled 221 kick return yards to set a new single game school record. In addition to his return duties, Reaves also caught two passes for 45 yards from his slot receiver position.

For the season, Reaves ranks third in the nation in kick return average at 30.5 yards per return and has also averaged 12.7 yards per punt return on 14 attempts. Reaves has returned two kickoffs and a punt for touchdowns this season. His three return touchdowns are tied for second in the FBS.



Marshall returner Deandre Reaves returns a punt for a touchdown against Florida International University Nov. 14.

THE PARTHENON | RICHARD CRANK

Column: The Price is wrong

MLB pitcher David Price's freshly signed contract is fiscally irresponsible on the part of the Red Sox

By **ZACH WRIGHT**
THE PARTHENON

Just a month ago, the Kansas City Royals claimed its first World Series since 1985. The Royals, a team built on a high-octane bullpen, the best defense in baseball and a stingy offense that puts the ball in play provide a blueprint for future generations of champions. Devoid from this winning formula is a frontline starting pitcher.

The ace pitcher is no longer needed in this age of Major League Baseball. The Royals proved the value in a dominant bullpen, essentially turning nine inning games into seven inning games by boasting a stable of incredibly productive bullpen arms.

Despite this, the Boston Red Sox reached deep into its pockets to sign ace pitcher David Price Tuesday. Price, a Cy Young Award recipient, 20-game winner, five-time all-star and one of the true upper echelon pitchers in MLB, signed for a record-seven year, \$217 million contract.

However, this deal doesn't plug the holes in the Red Sox. Tying \$30 million per year into one player, albeit a great one, doesn't solve the issues with the present team. The starting rotation of the Red Sox is an easy punching bag for pundits, but the staff performed admirably after a horrid start to the season. The 4.44 ERA in the first half ranked 27th in the MLB, while the 4.21 second half mark landed 15th overall. Red Sox pitchers suffered from a .309 BABIP (Batting Average on Balls in Play), ranking them 25th in the league. An outfield replacement and a rebound performance at key defensive positions will continue the improvements made by the team in the second half.

The rise in the production from the starting pitching staff can be at least partially attributed to the improvement of the defense. The defense was outstanding outside of two expensive players. The worst fielder in baseball last year, Hanley Ramirez, will be relegated to first base. His replacement, Jackie Bradley Jr. would only need to provide league average offense to be an incredibly valuable player because of his defensive prowess. Ramirez' expensive counterpart, Pablo Sandoval, can't possibly be much worse at third base after owning a steady track record of defensive adequacy before this season.

Following the Royals' blueprint for success is possible by directing the \$30 million per year given to Price to other players instead of one large piece. Darren O' Day, a shutdown reliever, would cost around four years, \$28 million and could join Koji Uehara and Junichi Tazawa to form a powerful back end of the bullpen. Scott Kazmir, another player who has thrived in the American League East division, could probably be had for four years, \$55 million, and step in as a solid starter behind Clay Buchholz. Lastly, the Red Sox could have its pick between Tyler Clippard, Anotonio Bastardo, or Ryan Madson as another productive reliever that could be had reasonably (three years, \$20 million for any of the three).

The team would spend about \$28 million per year for all three of the aforementioned players. However, the Dombrowski-led team invested that entire amount to one player. David Price is a great player, but the price isn't right for this Boston Red Sox team. I pray they prove me wrong.

Marshall baseball announces new recruiting class

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team's head coach Jeff Waggoner announced the program's 2016-17 recruiting class Monday.

The class consists of five junior college players and seven high school seniors who will join the Herd for the 2017 season.

The junior college signees include four pitchers- Jacob Niggemeyer (Powell, Ohio), D'Andre Knight (Orlando, Florida), Parker Beine (Millstadt, Illinois) and Sidney Duprey (Guayama, Puerto Rico) - and one infielder Will Ray (Evansville, Indiana).

Joining the Herd from high school are five pitchers - Braden Scott (Jasonville, Indiana), Jacob Bradley (Nitro, West Virginia), Hunter Sexton (Jackson, Ohio), Mark Meyer (Massillon, Ohio) and Branden Knorr (Ann Arbor, Michigan) - plus infielder Ozzie Millet (Miami,

Florida) and infielder/outfielder Matt Harrison (Nitro, West Virginia).

"We are extremely excited for this class to be a part of the Herd baseball family," Waggoner said in a news release. "Coach (Tim) Donnelly and (Josh) Newman did an excellent job finding the right kids for our program. This group will play an integral part in helping carry on the tradition and prestige of our program in this great Conference USA."

Waggoner said this year's recruiting class adds key offensive players that will complement the team.

"This group has several players who have grown up playing on winning teams together and their bond coming in already is very strong," Waggoner said. "We look forward to them being part of the Marshall Baseball family and representing Marshall University with class and integrity."

OPINION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

THE PARTHENON

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

BE HERD: GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

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WHEN SOMETHING
HAPPENS ON CAMPUS?
PROBABLY ON TWITTER.



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For the latest in campus news

Using that ominous phrase "the media" and what that really means



MARK REIS | THE GAZETTE VIA AP

Members of the media gather outside the El Paso County Terry R. Harris Judicial Complex in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Monday, during the first court appearance for Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood shooting suspect Robert Dear. In the background of this photo is the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

People love to make broad statements about "the media" and what they're generally referring to is the news media (broadcast journalism, newspapers and the like). But those of us in the biz realize that "the media" refers collectively to all forms of media including movies, television shows, magazines—and any dissemination of information, really—band we make up a rather small portion of it.

Something people don't seem to realize is we, as journalists, are the form of media with the least ability to make broad statements (at least those of us who

do it right, not the Fox News variety of "journalism").

So when people say "the media" don't report on the facts, they fail to realize that we depend on sources and documents for our facts. For example, if one looks at the recent Planned Parenthood shooting in Colorado and says to oneself, "that's a clear-cut case of domestic terrorism, why isn't the media calling it such?"

What doesn't come into thought is the limitation journalists have in a hard news story. The reporter cannot take it upon his or herself to call something an act of terrorism. In a hard

news story, we are dependent on the information given to us by investigators and if they aren't treating the investigation as one of domestic terrorism, the reporter can't label the instigator a terrorist, even if the reporter thinks that person is a terrorist.

Think of another example to make it a little clearer. If a reporter is covering a KKK rally and they interview a participant in the rally, the reporter can't call that person a racist (even though most would agree with that label). Instead, they would call the interviewee a participant in a KKK rally or a member

of the organization.

A similar logic can be applied to those we might deem terrorists, if they aren't associated with a known terrorist organization and law enforcement isn't treating it as a crime of terrorism, a reporter has to be careful about making those judgment calls.

This isn't to say that the media are never at fault in its use of sensitive terminology or coverage of hard news events, but there are times when the media can't make those kinds of claims in a hard news story. The news media can, however, express their views in a staff editorial.

STATE EDITORIAL

The Charleston Gazette-Mail on West Virginia voting against the Clean Power Plan



DAVID GOLDMAN | AP PHOTO

Superintendent Jackie Ratliff, a coal miner of 25 years, holds coal running through a processing plant Oct. 6, in Welch, West Virginia. Central Appalachia's struggle is familiar to many rural regions across the U.S., where middle-class jobs are disappearing or gone and young people have no other choice than to leave to find opportunity. But the problems are amplified in coal country, where these difficult economic and social conditions have gripped the region for decades and where there is hardly any flat land to build anything.

All of West Virginia's members of Congress voted to "defend pollution," a group called the Evangelical Environmental Network says. All five voted to kill the administration's Clean Power Plan, which will limit power plant fumes, starting in 2022.

Although the effort passed the Republican-controlled Congress, "President Obama will simply veto this political stunt," the evangelical organization said.

It noted that three coal-state senators — Republican Mark Kirk of Illinois and Democrats Mark Warner of Virginia and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania — had enough courage to support the pollution-control plan, even though it will crimp the coal industry in their states.

America's struggle over carbon emissions from coal is a long, painful battle — but the outcome seems certain: All modern nations eventually will reduce smokestack fumes which form a "greenhouse" layer in the sky and heat Earth's surface, causing violent storms, ocean rise, droughts, wildfires, floods and other evils.

Writing in The New York Times, Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said conservatives in Congress "like to blame what they call President Obama's 'war on coal'" for the

relentless decline of the U.S. coal industry — but that's a false premise.

"Coal companies are struggling, largely because domestic coal is not economically competitive with the country's cheap and abundant natural gas," Grijalva said. "That would be true no matter who was president or what climate quality standards we had in place. The 'blame Obama' argument essentially boils down to ignoring economics."

The representative continued:

"For all their sound and fury on the importance of American coal mining, some of my colleagues have boxed themselves in so tightly by denying the science of climate change that any solution is impossible for them to support."

For example, he wrote, Congress can't pass "clean coal" efforts because conservative members won't admit that air pollution is a problem. "We can't have that discussion as long as climate change is treated as a hoax."

It's time to face reality. America's energy economy is shifting. Killing pollution controls wouldn't restore the coal industry to health — and it certainly wouldn't solve the growing menace of global warming.

LIFE!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Oxford Dictionary names an emoji Word of the Year

Is this a sign that society is too addicted to technology?

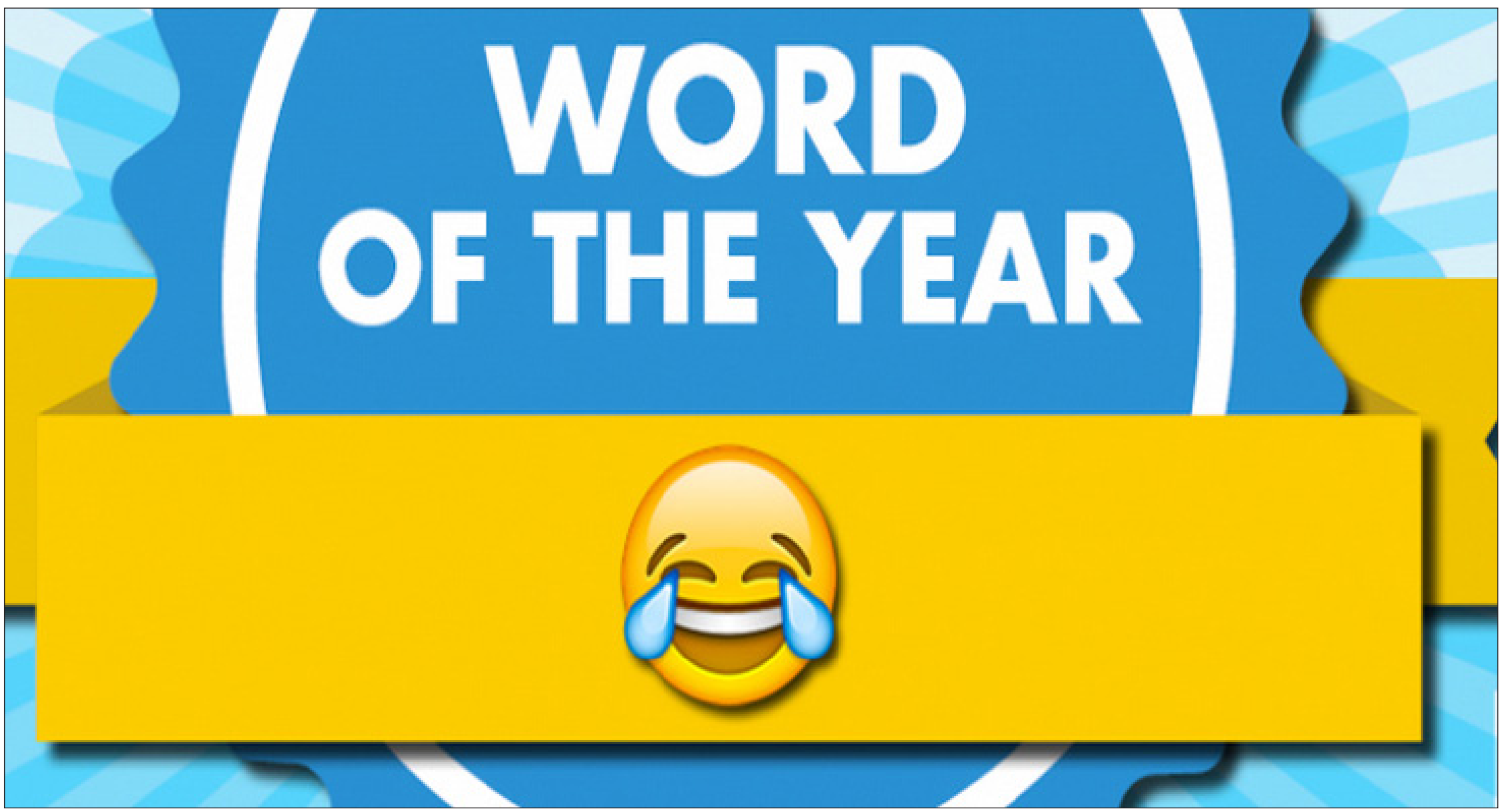


PHOTO VIA ELECTRICLITERATURE.COM

The word of the year is not a word at all, Oxford Dictionary names the Word of the Year the laughing crying emoji.

By SAMANTHA GODBY
THE PARTHENON

As technology grows and improves, society learns what we can do and create incredible connections all across the globe. However, it seems to have taken over the way we process and interact with the world around us.

A lot of college students love to get connected, and technology makes it easier than ever. With hashtags, emojis, tweets, posts, likes and favorites, there are endless ways to make your opinion heard.

"It's sort of an artificial connection," said psychology professor Steven Mewaldt. "People feel like they're more connected than ever before because they have so many friends and things that they communicate with, but the data also shows that they are actually lonelier than ever before. So it's

really an artificial kind of connection instead of the face-to-face kind of conversation and interaction that involves real people and not virtual people."

Studies have shown many people in American culture have become addicted to cellphone usage. A simple search on Google will turn up endless social experiments with results that show just that, addiction.

"People that have tried and have said, 'go one day without your cellphone', people feel nervous and really upset about this difficult task of going one day without that kind of connection," Mewaldt said.

Some Marshall students did not argue with those results. "I definitely think I'm one of those people, but I think it's more because I don't have anybody to contact," said geology major Sadie Ulmen. "Because nowadays it's a lot harder to

find like a landline that you can contact somebody, it's all digital. I think that's the major problem, if you don't have your phone then you can't contact anybody if you need to."

Even Oxford Dictionary has catered to the digital age. The dictionary claimed this year's Word of the Year to be, not a word at all, but the laughing crying emoji.

"I think that's true," Ulmen said. "I think that the more that cellphones grow or even technology grows. I think we're going to start to get unconnected with each other."

Technology has provided people with the ability to connect with one another across the world, however sometimes it makes it hard to keep the connections that are right in front of you.

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Emojis : Editor's Pick

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Jocelyn



Megan



Sara



Will



Malcolm



Shalee



Kaitlyn



Brad