1-30-2019

The Parthenon, January 30, 2019

Heather Barker

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Dance team members find home among teammates

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Huntington resident Mark Connelly talks with Damon Core, an executive board member of SEIU 1199, about the hospital board deal ordinance outside the Huntington City Council meeting.

By DOUGLAS HARDING
ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Despite being met by a "Stop the Sell Out" rally, Huntington City Council voted 8-3 Monday, Jan. 28, to accept an ordinance giving up the city's right to appoint three members to the Cabell Huntington Hospital Board of Directors in exchange for $1 million for general city funds.

Members of Service Employees International District 1199, which represents workers of Cabell Huntington Hospital and workers fighting for the right to unionize at St. Mary's Hospital, and other concerned residents showed up at city hall an hour before the start of the meeting to make their voices heard.

"I'm against the sale of these seats, because these seats do not belong to the city of Huntington," said Damon Core, an executive board member of SEIU 1199. "They belong to the citizens of Huntington."

When council members' voting records show they ignore the voices of union workers and their residents, Core said, constituents will remember whose voices in the next elections which council members voted to approve and which ones voted to reject the ordinance.

"Healthcare is not about making money," Olson said. "It's about treating people and their problems. Healthcare is a human right, and we will defend it at all times."

After close to an hour of public comments and questions from council members, Councilwoman Rebecca Howe (Democrat, at-large) began the voting period by rejecting the ordinance, followed by Councilmen Charles McComas (Democrat, District 2) and Tom McGuffin (Democrat, District 8). Howe, McComas and McGuffin were the only council members who voted to reject the ordinance.

As the final votes on the ordinance were cast and the council began a 5-minute recess period, several residents who attended the meeting began filling out the two exit doors of the chamber, chanting, "Vote them out. Vote them out."

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@marshall.edu.
Moonlight Cookies delivers sweet treats to satisfy evening cravings

By ANNA MARSH
THE PARTHENON

For those who may be craving late night sweets, Moonlight Cookies delivers.

Moonlight Cookies is a new business at Heritage Station which opened last Halloween.

“We feel like Huntington needed a late-night cookie place. I’ve seen it work in other cities,” Molly Paxton, co-owner of Moonlight Cookies, said. “After doing some odd jobs and going to college for a while, I felt that I could open up a small business, because I had enough people in the Huntington community behind me.”

The business started at a local grocery store in the West End. Paxton said she would work there during the day, and in return, they let her use the commercial kitchen for free. She said she saw how the community of Huntington responded to late night cookies, and as time went on, she made enough money to open a shop in Heritage Station.

Paxton only delivered before moving to Heritage Station, and now there seems to be more foot traffic, Kathy Paxton, Molly Paxton’s mother, said.

“We know what young people like, but we also have ties to all ages in the community. I think we can suit the needs of a wide age gap,” Paxton said.

Kathy Paxton said her and her daughter found a passion for baking together and opening Moonlight Cookies was a way to put that passion into a career.

“We both have enjoyed cooking our whole lives,” Kathy Paxton said. “We get to enjoy both music and cooking together while having fun.”

At Moonlight Cookies, local products like eggs, flour, butter and pure vanilla are used.

“We know the importance of supporting local businesses,” Paxton said. “Huntington is so good at supporting local businesses, which has really helped our business.”

Heritage Station differs from Pullman Square in that every business at Heritage Station is locally owned. Whenever people shop at Heritage Station, money is going back into the community, Paxton said.

Moonlight Cookies also partners with other businesses in Heritage Station, such as a pairing with TAP, where the businesses offered four beers and four cookies. Moonlight Cookies also has made cookies for the yoga mommy and me class at Brown Dog Yoga.

“Partnerships have really helped with the take-off of the business,” Kathy Paxton said.

The winter hours of operation are 5-10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays. The business is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

For delivery, those interested may call or text at (304) 362-7656 or order through Facebook or Instagram. Moonlight Cookies accepts payment through cash, credit card, PayPal or Instagram.

Anna Marsh can be contacted at marsh43@marshall.edu.

Visiting writers to present Appalachian literature

By JESTEN RICHARDSON
COPY EDITOR

In connection with the A. E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series, two Appalachian authors will read from and answer questions about their work at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 in the Shawkey Room of Marshall University’s Memorial Student Center.

The A. E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series is a series of reading events, which allow new and established writers to share their work and voices with the Marshall and Huntington communities, series coordinator John Van Kirk said. He said the series was founded in 1989 by Marshall English professor and poet Art Stringer, and since its founding, the series has had five to eight events a year.

This event, which is sponsored by the Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts, like others in the series, will be free and open to the public, Van Kirk said.

The two authors featured at the event will be Robert Gipe, who will read from his 2015 illustrated novel “Trampoline,” recipient of the Weatherford Award in fiction, and Savannah Sipple, who will read from her not-yet-released poetry collection “WWJD and Other Poems,” said Cody Lumpkin, associate coordinator of the series. Both authors have a connection to Appalachia through their ties to eastern Kentucky, he said.

Both authors also have a connection to Appalachia through their subject matter, Lumpkin said. He said he has taught Appalachian literature in the past, and though he has not taught these particular books and the authors were not held to any particular theme, their work relates to a theme he has seen in Appalachian literature.

“I think, generally, what seems to be going on in Appalachia is the idea that Appalachia is a place of extraction,” Lumpkin said. “Things are taken away. That seems to be, at least in the classes I’ve taught, that that’s the great theme in Appalachia. You take coal, you take lumber; you take water. It’s like a colony — it’s something that you take things from. And that gets reflected in the literature.”

Lumpkin said this theme is even reflected in the people of Appalachia, with some people moving away or joining the military because there are no opportunities for them. He said human labor and capital, as well as culture and music, are taken, repurposed and used for profit.

see WRITERS on pg. 10
Bible course offered to students

By MEREDITH O’BARA
THE PARTHENON

Perspectives, a movement sweeping the United States, offers college level courses to communities to teach members to unite Christians and “live a life of purpose.” Katelyn Hannan, a community member and Perspectives organizer, has brought the course to Marshall University in the hope to give members that opportunity.

“We must not sacrifice obedience together on the altar of our personal theological biases,” Hannan said. “I am excited about the Perspectives course because it is an intercultural, intergenerational, interdenominational experience that unites Jesus followers to discover and explore God’s heart to bless the world.”

Hannan, who said she learned about the course through a friend, said it allows Christians to come together to discuss the ways they are different in a safe space.

“There are plenty of peripheral issues Christians choose to disagree on and cause division, so I want this class to be a space where we have rich discussions about our differences and still work together on the dear commands of Jesus upon which we call all agree,” Hannan said.

The 15-week course is through the organization, Frontier Adventures, and has four parts which Hannan said are, biblical, cultural, historic and strategic.

“It is ultimately through Frontier Adventures, which is based out of California, but the Perspective movement in general is just a course designed to mobilize the church, mobilize Christians of all denominations, all generations, all races,” Hannan said.

Each week guest instructors, both local and out of state, teach participants about a different aspect to the four categories.

“There are 15 different guest instructors that come in every week, some local, some farther away, who have ministry experience and overseas missionary experience,” Hannan said.

see BIBLE on pg. 10

Huntington included in ‘51 Affordable Discoveries’

By TREY DELIDA
THE PARTHENON

After being named America’s Best Community in April 2017, Huntington was recognized as one of “51 Affordable Discoveries Across America 2019” by an article on a travel-related website.

The article, published by Budget Travel on Dec. 31, 2018, listed “amazing budget destinations in each state, plus Puerto Rico,” according to the website. Huntington was chosen to represent West Virginia on the list.

“Once a coal town, and before that, the westernmost terminus of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, Huntington sits on the banks of the Ohio River at the tri-state junction of West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio,” the Budget Travel article said.

The article referenced Marshall University and other landmarks that may be familiar to Marshall students and residents.

“Home to Marshall University, with a historic downtown district, a recently revitalized riverfront, and a nationally recognized public park with a rose garden, it’s a community on the up and up,” the Budget Travel article said.

Tyson Compton, the president of Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he was surprised by the designation.

“The designation came as a surprise to me overall,” Compton said. “But it didn’t surprise me that they found Huntington to be the number one city in West Virginia to meet their criteria.”

see HUNTINGTON on pg. 10

‘Super Saturday’ returns to Huntington Feb. 2

By PIPER WHITE
THE PARTHENON

The United Way’s 19th Annual Super Saturday Event is expecting a big turnout this Saturday. Last year, over 500 children, parents, and caretakers attended this free event.

This annual event consists of free activities, games, snacks, prizes, and more, which will take place at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lena Burdette, director of United Way of the River Cities said.

Local organizations will be attending the event to focus on the kids while educating parents/caregivers on the “12 Tips for Raising a Healthy Child.” Cabell Huntington Health Department, Heart of Appalachia Education Opportunity Center and MedExpress Urgent Care will be attending to present at this event, Burdette said.

“The parents and caregivers who attend this event and put tips learned into practice will impact our community beginning with their own homes and children,” Burdette said. “We all know a handbook for raising children doesn’t exist, so we are sharing ideas to help ensure each child has a healthy start.”

Super Kids, Super Families, Super Saturday is a product of Success By 6, an education initiative of the United Way of the River Cities, Burdette said. This program seeks to ensure that all children are ready physically, emotionally, mentally, developmentally and socially to begin kindergarten.

This event is sponsored by Cabell County Schools, Hoops Family Children’s Hospital Superstore Arena this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lena Burdette, director of United Way of the River Cities said. This program seeks to ensure that all children are ready physically, emotionally, mentally, developmentally and socially to begin kindergarten.

This event is sponsored by Cabell County Schools, Hoops Family Children’s Hospital at Cabell Huntington Hospital, and The Herald Dispatch, Burdette said.

United Way of River Cities is a nonprofit organization that partners with the local community to fight for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs for every person in Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, and Wayne counties in West Virginia, as well as Lincoln County in Ohio.

Piper White can be contacted at white741@marshall.edu.
Geography Department experiences growth

By JESTEN RICHARDSON
COPY EDITOR

An increased number of graduate students. Less class cancellations. Changes in professors’ workloads. More diversity of students.

These are all changes Marshall’s University’s Geography Department has seen over the last few years, and which professor and department chair James Leonard attributes to the department taking education beyond the classroom and going fully online with its bachelor’s, in the early 2010s, and its master’s, in 2018.

The amount of graduate students in the Geography Department doubled between fall semester of 2017 and spring semester of 2019, according to data from Leonard and Marshall’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning’s. In fall 2017, eight students were enrolled in the MA/MS Geography degree program, according to Office of Institutional Research and Planning’s data. At the start of this semester, 16 students are enrolled in the program, Leonard said. This is the highest number of graduate students the department has seen since 2010, according to the data.

“It’s kind of interesting,” Leonard said. “Right as the year was ending, 2018, I had a flood of emails saying ‘I want to get in your program’ [and] ‘Can I apply and get accepted and start by January?’ And I mean flood for us, we’re a small department, a flood for us is like 10 applications, but there were maybe six, eight, 10 applications, I don’t know exactly, that got approved right at the end of last year, the beginning of this year so people could start in the program.”

The number of undergraduate students has also increased, according to data from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning and Leonard. This number, along with the total number of students majoring in Geography, is the highest since 2015, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning and Leonard’s data indicates. Additionally, of the department’s 57 geography majors, in spring 2019, 18 of the 41 undergraduate students are online, and 11 of the 16 graduate are online, Leonard said.

The amount of online students has changed the workload of the professors within the department and how they teach, Leonard said. Part of this change in workload comes from the fact that the Geography Department has tried to avoid canceling classes, both online and in-person, in the past few years, by combining classes of online and in-person students, he said.

“It does make more work for us, because it’s not quite as simple as walking into a classroom and giving a lecture,” Leonard said. “You walk in the classroom, and you’ve got to record it, you’ve got to have double the papers to grade, you have to put all your assignments in electronic format. A lot of classes, you may just give a verbal assignment, but it has to be written out and provided to every student then.”

Kevin Law, a professor who has worked in the Geography Department for 13 years, said he has changed the way he teaches because of online students as well.

“It [adapting to having online majors] just requires a little bit more planning and creativity whenever you do your lectures,” Law said. “I know I’ve created kind of a virtual lecture, so where I recorded myself and then uploaded those lectures that way students can watch those and kind of feel like they’re actually in the classroom.”

Both Leonard and Law said the Geography Department going online has increased the diversity of students within the department and a larger number of students enrolled at the university. Leonard said he has been contacted by people both from outside of the tristate area and from outside of the country who were interested in the online majors and who the university may not have been able to reach without online programs. Marshall’s Geography Department has even been able to create “two plus two agreements” with other colleges where students can start a pathway to a BA by starting at a community college and finish at Marshall online, Leonard said. He said Marshall currently has four of these agreements: one with a college in California, two with colleges in Tennessee and one with a community college in West Virginia.

The online degrees also provide a convenient option for students who are working while in college, Law said.

“From what I hear from students, they definitely like just the way that they [online classes] are set up, and it’s just the convenience factor, that a lot of students actually work at the same time they’re going to school,” Law said. “So, whenever they’re able to enroll online, they’re able to kind of keep their work schedule. So, there’s definitely a convenience factor there. And I think, in today’s kind of economy, you have a lot of students in that situation, so I think that’s just a plus that we offer [them].”

Jesten Richardson can be contacted at richardso164@marshall.edu.
It’s ‘more than just dance’ for Marshall’s Price, Allenger

By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University dance team means more than just a regular dance team to juniors Elizabeth Allenger and Hannah Price. It is a sense of family and it feels like home at Marshall University.

“I love the hominess of Marshall and its campus,” Allenger said. “I love the people here. I decided to (join) the dance team because it was my main criteria for looking for a school. I had seen other schools that didn’t have a dance program at all, or it was combined with cheer.”

Third-year head coach Laura Phillips has strived to get the dance team known and recognized at Marshall.

“For the longest time (we were looked upon as) the JV cheerleaders, a part of cheer and not (our) own entity,” Phillips said. “We have really worked trying hard to establish the difference and getting the girls to be able to do the amount of stuff that cheer(leaders) get to do and be recognized.”

As for Price, she had known she wanted to be a part of the Marshall dance team since she was nine years old. She has been dancing since she was three years old.

“I actually decided when I was nine years old, I was going to come and be on Marshall’s dance team,” Price said. “That was my brother’s freshman year and two of his really good friends from high school were on the dance team. They danced at my studio and were the big girls when I was little.”

Price remembers coming to Marshall’s homecoming parade that year and her brother’s friends ran up to her. She then looked at her mother and told her that she wanted to be on the dance team for Marshall and do what they were doing.

Being on the dance team has brought Allenger and Price opportunities to dance at football and basketball games, but the two also have gained skills such as time management, friendships and working together with different people.

“You need to learn how to work together to make a good team and a uniformed team,” Price said.

Allenger said that she has not only gained friendships but has learned to develop conversational skills.

“It’s almost kind of like being a PR person by just having to chat with different types of people (with) different ages and everything,” Allenger said.

Coach Phillips has made an impact on the dance team with the time and effort she puts in to make the team be successful.

“Our coach is really awesome,” Allenger said. “She dedicates a lot of her time to this (team). It would be a different experience if we didn’t have such a passionate coach.”

The Marshall University dance team is looking to get more people interested in joining the team.

“(We just want to get more people realizing that) There is a dance team at Marshall,” Phillips said. “Anything we can do to get (the) dance team more prominent on the Marshall campus would be awesome. I’m sure there are a lot more dancers out there that know we have a dance team.”

Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at huddleston16@marshall.edu.
Herd women’s basketball heads south for Texas two-step

By MILLARD STICKLER
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall Thundering Herd women’s basketball team will travel to El Paso, Texas to face off against the University of Texas at El Paso in the first of a two-game stretch on the road that will see the Herd take on two Conference USA rivals in the Lone Star State.

Marshall head coach Tony Kemper said that the Herd needs to play better defense in Texas.

“Against Southern Mississippi, (USM) shot well over 50 percent in the field and that is too easy,” Kemper said on Tuesday. “We need to go back to playing tough defense, forcing tough shots and then rebounding.”

The Herd is coming off a loss at home where it was defeated by conference rival Southern Miss, 64-52, and Kemper said that the Herd needs to play more consistent.

“There are always some things you do well, and we played well in stretches of that game,” Kemper said. “But we didn’t play well in long enough stretches of that game. We need to play a little bit better on both sides of the floor against the (University of Texas at El Paso) and the (University of Texas San Antonio).”

Despite the loss to Southern Mississippi, Kemper said the atmosphere around the team is determined.

Marshall tabs Aganus as next head volleyball coach

By SYDNEY SHELTON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall University named Ariana Aganus the school’s new women’s volleyball head coach Wednesday.

“Our goal is to bring Marshall back to a winning volleyball program,” Aganus said. “Beyond that, it is to get our athletes graduated, and we want them to have a great experience (at Marshall).”

Agnus comes to Huntington from Grand Canyon University, where she was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Aganus worked for the Lopes for three seasons.

Before her time at GCU, Aganus was the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the University of San Francisco. During the 2015 season, the Dons went 17-14, including a 13-match winning streak.

“I have coached under some of the most experienced men and women,” Aganus said. “I have been at every level, and I have been able to mold a coaching style that I believe is going to be the most successful for Conference USA and Marshall, specifically.”

Agnus also was the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Clemson for one season. While she was there, the Tigers went 18-13 overall, and she assisted in the addition of five new players.

Prior to her time with the Tigers, Aganus spent one season at Wofford. She worked primarily with the defensive specialist. She also served as the team’s recruiting coordinator, travel coordinator and film specialist.

Agnus’ collegiate playing career started a Kishwaukee College where she led her team to its third consecutive NJCAA Division II National Championship. While at Kishwaukee, she was team captain and All-Arrowhead Conference selection, as well as finishing 56-3 overall. She finished her last two years at North Alabama, where they went to the NCAA Division II Tournament both seasons. Aganus made the transition from player to graduate assistant at North Alabama in 2011, where she remained for two years.

“I know a couple people that have gone to Marshall, and they bled a distinct piece of green that I never really understood before,” Aganus said. “When I saw that the job was open, and got an understanding that it could be a future for me, it was a no-brainer because of the pride that is here at Marshall.”

Sydney Shelton can be contacted at shelton97@marshall.edu.

Athlete of the Week: Victoria Walter, tennis

Marshall’s Victoria Walter made an immediate impact upon entering the Thundering Herd’s lineup. A native of Vienna, Austria, Walter tied a freshman record for most wins in a fall season with nine earlier in the 2018-19 campaign, then proceeded to earn Conference USA Player of the Week honors following Marshall’s first week of play.

Through the fall semester and Marshall’s first three matches of the spring season, Walter leads the Thundering Herd in singles wins (12) and combined wins (16). Walter has dropped just two sets in singles play through the first three spring matches on her way to an undefeated 3-0 record with wins against Kentucky, Wright State and West Virginia State.

The win against Kentucky’s Lesedi Jacobs, which earned her C-USA weekly honors, was Marshall’s only win of the match against the SEC program, while her wins against Wright State’s Luisa Pelayo and West Virginia State’s Laura Isbey came in a doubleheader sweep on Saturday.

Walter and the Thundering Herd return to the court for home matches against James Madison on Friday and Charlotte on Sunday.
Journalism, much like technology and other forms of communication, is ever changing. Media outlets strive to be the first to break a national story, as soon as possible. This can sometimes lead to errors and incomplete reporting. Last week, we experienced this firsthand, with the case of Covington High School students and a Native American protestor. At first, we saw one of these students in a Make America Great Again hat with a smirk on his face as he was at a standstill with the Native American elder, who was playing a drum.

The first headlines of these breaking stories commented on the students’ hats and their apparent aggression toward the Native American man. This lasted for days. This was not the full story. Later, additional videos emerged showing another chapter to this story. Members of the Hebrew Israelites were seen yelling obscene and inappropriate remarks at the Covington students. Apparently, Nathan Phillips, the Native American veteran, had tried to intervene between these two groups by playing his instrument, to try and drown out the hateful exchanges. Of course, the students were probably filled with too much adrenaline and excitement at this point and could not be calmed. From the first videos, we assumed the students were taunting Phillips. We were wrong.

Assuming is dangerous in journalism. It is better to be accurate than to be fast, this cannot be denied, but in the age of instant gratification and fast-moving social media, journalists must try and adapt the best we can. However, in the race to be first, dangerous mistakes can be made. These have the potential to lead to every journalist’s worst nightmare: being labeled as fake news. We are just trying to do our job and serve the people in ways that are successful and reach wide audiences.

What we can learn from the Covington situation

What we can learn from the Covington situation. First, to always strive to learn the full story before hitting send on a tweet or publishing an article online, and without suggestive headlines that may be pushing an agenda. Though we may not be first to break a story, we may be the most accurate. Second, focusing, and sometimes obsessing, for days at a time on a single issue is not healthy for anyone. Page views and shares are not worth overlooking other stories that need to be told. Lastly, errors in reporting and fact checking do not equate to fake news. This is more so for non-journalists to remember.

Journalists are not perfect, we are only human, after all. But if we are to serve our public fairly and how they deserve, we must be forgiven for our previous mistakes. We cannot be constantly attacked. It is a learning experience for us all, young and old, in a field that is trying to adapt to public needs the best we can.
By AMANDA LARCH
MANAGING EDITOR

With their recent performance on “Saturday Night Live,” the rock band Greta Van Fleet has been receiving a lot of buzz and attention. From comments on Rolling Stone magazine’s article about the performance, though, you would think the band tanked and sounded terrible. I have never seen so many hate comments as I have whenever Rolling Stone publishes an article about Greta Van Fleet. It appalls me, really. Those people leaving these hate-fueled comments are mostly older, who complain about Greta ripping off the likes of Led Zeppelin. Okay, and what about it? Are we going to continue ignoring the claims that Zeppelin ripped off artists as well when they were first getting started? Yes? Just checking.

Greta Van Fleet is composed of young kids, barely older than I am. They are all immensely talented; look at the mark they have already made on the music industry. Sure, their sound brings to mind rock and roll giants from the 1970s, but they are in no way a cover band or a cheap imitation. These guys write and record their own material, play their own instruments and sing without help from autotune. What other successful commercial artists can say the same? Few, if any. Greta Van Fleet are popular because they are authentic. (Yes, they do have many fans, including myself, you just won’t find them on Rolling Stone’s social media.)

I really admire this band and how they are reviving classic rock and roll. After watching their “Saturday Night Live” performance, I did think it was a bit awkward, but that is to be expected from such an up and coming band. Once they find their place and perfect their stage personas, they will be unstoppable. They are almost there already, with sold out shows, successful albums and tours.

So, the Led Zeppelin comparisons are overplayed, almost as much as “Stairway to Heaven.” Don’t get me wrong, I love Zeppelin, and they are one of my favorite bands, but I think it is time to accept the fact that they will never tour again and will never release new music. Why not give our rock albums that have been played time and again since 1971 a break, and support this band, and many others, who are doing their best to save rock and roll? Plus, the members of Greta Van Fleet have admitted that Zeppelin is one of their favorite bands, and they are paying tribute to a band that has inspired them. We should not put them down for that. Instead, we should rock out with them, reminiscing of the glory days of Zeppelin, The Who and The Rolling Stones, and be thankful rock and roll is here to stay because of bands like Greta Van Fleet.

Long live rock.
Amanda Larch can be contacted at larch15@marshall.edu.

Ginger’s Guide to: Greta Van Fleet

By RILEIGH SMIRL
COLUMNIST

I was lucky in high school. Most of my peers had no clue what they wanted to study in college or what careers they dreamt of having. I knew from the time I was in my sophomore year that I wanted to create online content; whether that consisted of news or videos or a combination of both, I knew that’s what I wanted. I was so certain of this that when it came time to declare a major before my freshman year began I didn’t have to think twice when I wrote “journalism” on that sheet of paper.

Now, I’ve been taking journalism classes for barely a full school year, and the inevitable changing of career goals has affected me as well. Every adult in my life told me it would happen at some point, that I’d either change my major or realize I want a different career path entirely, and I never believed them. Yet, now I think they probably knew what they were talking about.

While I’m not changing my major, I have decided to pursue a very different career than what I originally decided on all those years ago. The influence to change actually occurred on my second day of classes my first semester of college. Crazy, right? You’re in college for two days and you begin to second guess everything. One of my professors shared her changing career path that she followed throughout her adult life, and I realized I wanted to do what she had done. After that first day, I called my mom and told her something I’m sure I haven’t told her enough: “You were right.” She told me for years growing up that I would make an “amazing lawyer,” and I never thought of that as something I would want. Whenever my boyfriend and I have the occasional argument, he always says “Rileigh, you’re too good at this” or “You’re starting to sound like a lawyer.” So, I guess now I’m saying that everyone else was right and I was wrong. Not only did I end up changing what I want to do with my life, I changed it to a career that nearly everyone in my life has suggested to me at one time or another.

So, I’m going to law school after college, for now anyways, and honestly, I can’t wait. Once I made the realization that I wanted to change my goals, I became more excited and passionate about them than I had ever been before. Maybe I’ll change those goals again before I graduate, or maybe I’ll change them 20 more times. But no, I know that changing your dreams isn’t as scary as I thought it was, and it can sometimes give you that extra motivation you need to reach them.

Rileigh Smirl can be contacted at smirl2@marshall.edu.

Welcome to self-proclaimed “groovy ginger” Amanda Larch’s new weekly column.

SMIRL MEETS WORLD: Changing Plans

By RILEIGH SMIRL
COLUMNIST

I was lucky in high school. Most of my peers had no clue what they wanted to study in college or what careers they dreamt of having. I knew from the time I was in my sophomore year that I wanted to create online content; whether that consisted of news or videos or a combination of both, I knew that’s what I wanted. I was so certain of this that when it came time to declare a major before my freshman year began I didn’t have to think twice when I wrote “journalism” on that sheet of paper.

Now, I’ve been taking journalism classes for barely a full school year, and the inevitable changing of career goals has affected me as well. Every adult in my life told me it would happen at some point, that I’d either change my major or realize I want a different career path entirely, and I never believed them. Yet, now I think they probably knew what they were talking about.

While I’m not changing my major, I have decided to pursue a very different career than what I originally decided on all those years ago. The influence to change actually occurred on my second day of classes my first semester of college. Crazy, right? You’re in college for two days and you begin to second guess everything. One of my professors shared her changing career path that she followed throughout her adult life, and I realized I wanted to do what she had done. After that first day, I called my mom and told her something I’m sure I haven’t told her enough: “You were right.” She told me for years growing up that I would make an “amazing lawyer,” and I never thought of that as something I would want. Whenever my boyfriend and I have the occasional argument, he always says “Rileigh, you’re too good at this” or “You’re starting to sound like a lawyer.” So, I guess now I’m saying that everyone else was right and I was wrong. Not only did I end up changing what I want to do with my life, I changed it to a career that nearly everyone in my life has suggested to me at one time or another.

So, I’m going to law school after college, for now anyways, and honestly, I can’t wait. Once I made the realization that I wanted to change my goals, I became more excited and passionate about them than I had ever been before. Maybe I’ll change those goals again before I graduate, or maybe I’ll change them 20 more times. But no, I know that changing your dreams isn’t as scary as I thought it was, and it can sometimes give you that extra motivation you need to reach them.

Rileigh Smirl can be contacted at smirl2@marshall.edu.
HUNTINGTON cont. from 4

Being nationally recognized as a city to visit could attract more visitors to Huntington, Compton said. “I think it’s very exciting for Huntington to make this list,” Compton said. “People will pay attention to this, and we’ll see new visitors to our area because of it. Although we promote Huntington across many platforms, it would be difficult to buy this type of advertising.”

The Huntington community has been making efforts aimed to revitalize the area. Through initiatives such as the Open to All campaign, as well as through being named America’s Best Community, Huntington has expanded its reputation beyond West Virginia. “Huntington has been going through a revitalization over the past few years,” Compton said. “With Pullman Square and the Third and Fourth Avenue business growth, we’ve seen a surge of people coming back downtown. While we are not without our issues, Huntington has been in the national spotlight for the positive way we are dealing with those issues.”

The article “51 Affordable Discoveries Across America 2019” can be viewed at budgettravel.com. Trey Delida can be contacted at delida1@marshall.edu.

WRITERS cont. from 3

Both works the authors will read from during the event deal with current issues, Lumpkin said. He said Gipe’s illustrated novel “Trampoline,” as is about a teenager girl, her relationship with her grandmother and their fight to deal with mountaintop removal. Sipple’s poetry deals with being LGBTQ+ and with perceptions of body imagery and one’s own comfort in one’s body, as well as identity and coming out and living in a world that may not accept you for who you are or allow you to be yourself, Lumpkin said.

Lumpkin said he thinks it will be useful for Huntington, as part of Appalachia, to have writers from within Appalachia come and show thoughtful creative work that is coming out of the area and pushing against the stereotypes and assumptions people may have about the region.

BIBLE cont. from 4

The course, which can count as a college credit, invites community members from all ages and backgrounds to come together to explore the Bible.

Marshall student Logan Foster said he found out about Perspectives through Hannan on Facebook and decided to take the course to learn more about how he can take the lessons from the Bible and bring it to those around the community.

“One of the biggest things to me in my life was seeing the Bible’s continued story from Genesis to Revelations and how God calls us to go to the people and just like tonight, we are talking about the first book in Genesis and how God has sent one man to be a blessing to all nations,” Logan Foster, senior Marshall student, said.

Foster said he wants to unite Christians and local churches and hopes this course can achieve that. “I want unity but also within this class, for example my name tag says First Baptist of Kenova, but there are other churches here to and we are all coming together under the world church that God envisioned,” Foster said. “Through that there is unity and it is hopefully going to impact Huntington and like the drug epidemic and combat that going forward.”

Hannan said her biggest hope for the course is to unite Christians in the Huntington community and to bring awareness to the international students on Marshall’s campus. “I also deeply long for the course to have the practical outcome of more people loving and serving the internationals in our community as Jesus commands his followers to do,” Hannan said. “I especially desire it to open student’s eyes to the international student community at Marshall to which they can show hospitality and befriend during their time here.”

The course is Thursday evenings from 6-8:45 p.m. at New Baptist Church on Fifth Avenue. The price for the course is determined by the level taken. The Key level, which is the basic, is $290. Participants taking the course for a college credit or a certificate pay $550. Students receive $60. Registration for this course ends Jan. 31.

For more information about how to register visit the Perspectives Huntington Facebook page. For more information about other courses in the area visit www.perspectives.org.

Meredith O’Bara can be contacted at obara@marshall.edu.

BASKETBALL cont. from 7

“I think we are hungry,” he said. “Our last time out against Southern Miss, we didn’t quite play as well as we wanted to. So, I think we are focused on trying to come back and playing a little bit better.”

Kemper said that the Herd has played some pretty good players this past week and they are going to play some pretty good players this weekend.

“We need to try and make them do things they are not comfortable doing,” he said. “The biggest focus is on the defensive end and whether or not we can turn it up and make it hard on them to score.”

The Herd will take on the University of Texas at El Paso Miners Thursday at the Don Haskins Center. Tipoff is slated for 9 p.m.

The Herd will also take on the University of Texas San Antonio Roadrunners Saturday at the Convocation Center in San Antonio. Tipoff is slated for 3 p.m.

Millard Stickler can be contacted at stickler16@marshall.edu.

Stacey Abrams to give Democrats’ response to State of Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stacey Abrams, the rising political star who marshaled the power of black women voters but narrowly lost the Georgia governor’s race, will deliver the Democratic response to President Donald Trump’s State of the Union address, congressional Democrats said Tuesday.

The choice elevates Abrams in Democratic politics as the party looks to keep core supporters, such as black women who anchor the base, energized ahead of the 2020 congressional and presidential elections. It also sets up an implicit contrast with Trump, who has a history of questioning the intellect and integrity of nonwhite politicians.

“She is just a great spokesperson. She is an incredible leader. She has led the charge for voting rights, which is at the root of just about everything else,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who, along with other Democrats, is urging Abrams to challenge Republican Sen. David Perdue, one of Trump’s most outspoken allies on Capitol Hill.

“She knows what working people, the middle class, go through.”

For her part, Abrams said in a statement that she intends to “deliver a vision for prosperity and equality, where everyone in our nation has a voice and where each of those voices is heard.”

Abrams narrowly lost the governor’s race to Republican Brian Kemp after a protracted challenge over blocked votes. A group backed by Abrams filed a federal lawsuit this month saying Georgia deprived many low-income people and minorities of their voting rights with Kemp, then secretary of state, overseeing the 2018 election.

The Democrats’ selection of Abrams is intended as a visual and philosophical counter to Trump’s speech to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 5 in the House, which Democrats control. Trump has a history of making inflammatory remarks about black and brown Americans, as well as Muslims and immigrants. He’s questioned the intellect of Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters of California, now chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee. He’s referred to black Florida gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum as “a thief” because of an undercover FBI investigation into his acceptance of Broadway tickets.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a Democrat and former member of the House, will deliver the Spanish-language response to the State of the Union, according to Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.
‘Evita’ brings Latin flare to stage at Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center

By EMILY PHIPPS

The Tony Award-winning biography musical “Evita” brought hundreds to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in downtown Huntington Monday. Yael Reich starred as Eva Perón, wife of army general and Argentina’s president Juan Perón. Together, composers Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice combined Latin, jazz, pop, and traditional influences to create a two-hour production with close to no spoken words.

Eva Perón, originally from a small town with dreams of becoming a singer, became a leader in her own right throughout the production. The musical began with the death of Eva Perón, who was known for her charity efforts and fashion.

Narration by Ché Guevara [Lance Galgon], an Argentine revolutionary and historical figure, brought contrast to the overwhelming love most Argentinians felt for Eva Perón. Costumes were fitting to the period and were not elaborate. Reich started the show in simple clothing, but gradually wore more stylish clothing as her character became more well-known for her fashion.

Reich is a known face in the broadway industry. She has performed in national tours of “Rent” and “Mamma Mia!”; regional tours of “West Side Story”, “Man of La Mancha”, and “Winter Wonderettes”. She graduated from University of Florida in 2015. Reich studied music and acting at Fullerton College. He is a singer and song-writer with music on several streaming platforms.

Emily Phipps can be contacted at phipps14@marshall.edu.

The musical “Evita” brought award-winning actresses and actors to Huntington Monday evening.
The Huntington Museum of Art is not only a place of viewing art but also a place to learn. The museum showcases a variety of artists from across the country, with an emphasis on the tri-state area.

“The museum really tries to promote art within the community, especially in an area that is not as artistically diverse like other cities,” Maizie Plumley, a Huntington Museum of Art intern, said.

Every fourth Tuesday of the month, there is an event related to the current exhibits. The next featured exhibit will be Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. This is a Macy’s free Tuesday event. The duration of the Patterns of Inspiration exhibit is Feb. 23 to April 7. March 7 to May 26 will be Walter Gropius Master Artist Series Presents: Jeff Shapiro. The artist will present and discuss his work as well as have a three-day workshop for attendees.

Another upcoming event is the Museum Ball on Feb 16. It will be hosted by Cabell Huntington Hospital, and the proceeds will go to paying bills and keeping the lights on at the museum. “Art exhibits bring people in not only to the museum but to Huntington, and that helps local shops, as well as restaurants, in the community,” Plumley said.

The museum offers a plethora of classes that range from kindergarten-age to for 99-year-olds. Not only does the museum present art but it also teaches those same skills that are presented.

The museum allows observers to interact with the artists on a personal level as well as a professional level when they come to the museum and see the art, said Madeline Pinkerman, security and receptionist for the museum.

“Oftentimes we view artists as just their work, when, in fact, getting to know the creator teaches you more about the piece than your eye ever could,” Pinkerman said.

The museum is located at 2033 McCoy Road. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admissions for entry are $5, excepting Tuesdays, when admission is free to the public.

“Creativity shapes every aspect of life and is so essential to innovative thinking,” Pinkerman said. “In short, I think that the Huntington Museum of Art brings education, diversity and creativity into our community.”

Anna Marsh can be contacted at marsh43@marshall.edu.