HANNA WINS SUPERINTENDENT

Caroline Kirk
Editorial Editor

Rocky Hanna was elected on Nov. 8 as the first Leon High School graduate or former principal to take office as Superintendent of Leon County Schools.

Hanna won with 54 percent of the vote. Jackie Pons, who had been superintendent for the last decade, received 36 percent of the vote. Republican Forrest Van Camp got 9 percent and NPA Patri- cia Ann Sunday received 1 percent.

“I am hoping to recreate the magic that we have at Leon and bring it to all of the other schools,” Hanna said.

This goal, along with a desire to eliminate unnecessary district spending, put money directly into the schools and classrooms, and address teacher morale, has propelled Hanna to achieve the dream he has had since June 29, 2012.

On June 28, 2012, Hanna was removed from his job as principal of Leon High School. With the recent turn of events, Hanna reflects on his removal.

“You don’t just treat people that way,” Hanna said. “Decisions were being made for political gain rather than for the benefit of our school system.”

So, in response, Hanna lifted his spirits and decided to chase his goal for the next four years of being elected superintendent. He quit his job to run for office, risked retirement and remained unemployed for a few months.

“Sometimes you have to be willing to take risks to accomplish your goals,” Hanna said. “I learned work ethic 35 years ago at Leon High School as a student-athlete, and still am not a quitter.”

Hanna’s major focus is on the children and teachers. He wants the focus to be on the school system, rather than on politics.

Principal Billy Epting worked as assistant principal under Hanna back in 2008.

“Rocky’s strong suit is that he is a cheerleader - not just for Leon,” Epting said. “He really likes working with kids. That is his strength because he relates really well to them.

“He will be really good as superintendent because he will be positive to pump up the school system.”

Leon custodian Luvine Gaines has been close with Hanna ever since he was a hall monitor at Leon and she appeared in a few of his campaign commercials.

“I was as happy as could be when he won because we need change and change is what he promised,” Gaines said.

“His love for the kids is the most important thing in his life. Not the superintendent title. Just his love.”

Hanna expressed that his campaign was full of energy and hard work. It was a hard-fought race that included scandal and controversy between the candidates.

“We outworked, out-prepared and out-executed the competition,” Hanna said.

“Everyone may have a few defining moments in their life that they will look back on and be proud of. This is certainly my next moment after being named Leon’s principal.”

The leading print and online news source for all things Leon since 1931
Maribeth McClenny and Emma-Lea Reed
High Life Staff

If a criminal is convicted of killing a woman who is pregnant with a child, he or she will be charged with double-homicide. If a woman chooses to terminate her child’s life, it is condoned by pro-abortion rights activists.

Since 1973, more than 56 million recorded unborn babies have been murdered due to abortion. This number is equivalent to the population of Spain. One baby is murdered every 30 seconds. We believe this is murder on a genocidal scale.

By definition, pro-life advocates con- tend that every individual is a defenseless life of a defenseless human being. Arguments based on “choice” or “privacy” miss the point entirely. This debate involves one question: What is the unborn?

The unborn, beginning from fertiliza- tion, is alive because they grow. They also exhibit other forms of life, such as cell division, metabolism and response to stimuli. In fact, the only thing the unborn need to survive are adequate nutrition, a proper environment and an absence of fatal threats. The dictionary definition of life is “the condition that distinguishes or- ganisms from inorganic objects and dead organisms, being manifested by growth through metabolism, reproduction and the power of adaptation to environment through changes originating internally.”

Many people argue for pro-choice because it is a woman’s choice to decide what to do with her body. As women, we agree that we do not want someone telling us what to do with our lives and bodies, but it is not just the woman’s body — it is another human being’s body that has the capacity to live, and the woman and men who are making a choice for that person. These babies are left without a voice. This viewpoint is a bit contra-dictory, considering the adults are also choosing for someone what to do with their body.

The pro-abortion advocates’ biggest argument is that since the embryos and fetuses are not “independent, self-determining beings,” the mother should have the choice whether or not to termi- nate pregnancy, since the baby is liv- ing off of her body instead of its own. The babies are dependent on their mothers for life, but so are diabetics on insulin.

In response to that point, even when a child leaves its mother’s womb, it is still unable to live on its own. Have you ever seen an infant who can feed itself? Protect itself? No, because that isn’t some- thing that a young child is capable of doing. Does this mean that killing toddlers should be legal, since they cannot keep themselves alive on their own? Being anti-abortion does not mean that we are anti-feminist.

From the beginning, the leading feminists were anti-abortion. The first woman to receive a medical degree from an American medical school, Dr. Eliza- beth Blackwell, was reluctant to become a doctor because she wanted to end abor- tion by providing women with real health care.

“Fertility is not a disease that we should try to swear off…”

Fertility is not a disease that we should try to create new life, and we think many women take advantage of it through abortions. Reading stories of women who are not able to become preg- nant or have suffered from many miscar- rriages is heart-breaking. These women desperately want to have their own baby, but they cannot. Meanwhile, other wom- en are choosing to kill theirs.

In January of 2013, President Obama claimed that he is “deeply committed to protecting this core constitutional right [abortion]” because the “government should not intrude on private and person- al family matters.” I do not know whether Constitution President Obama is reading, but it clearly is not the one that was rati- fied in 1788, seeing as murdering an un- born child is not outlined in it.

The misconception that the child cannot feel pain during an abortion was proven incorrect by former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson, who became a prominent pro-life advocate. His docu- mentary, The Silent Scream, graphically displays the sonogram of a 12-week old fetus being aborted by the suction method. “We see the child’s mouth open in a silent scream,” Nathanson says, as an ultrasound image is shown of a fetus shrinking away from surgical instru- ments.

When pro-abortion rights supporters argued that what the film showed was simply a response to a stimulus, Nathan- son responded that “if pro-choice advo- cates think that they’re going to see the fetus happily sliding down the suction tube waving and smiling as it goes by, they’re in for a truly paralyzing shock.”

How can a baby having a partial birth abortion not feel pain when a doctor jams scissors into the back of its skull, and then uses a vacuum to remove its brain? Some people are more concerned about global warming and saving ani- mals from extinction than the killing of humans. I will close with this fun fact: In America, it is illegal to harm or kill the egg of our national bird, the eagle. However, it is legal to murder one’s own children. Do these two facts line up? A life is a life is a life, and there is nothing that can be done to change that truth.

Abortion affects more than just one life

Choosing abortion due to rape and incest appears reasonable to many. The crime of rape and incest does not condone the crime to murder the child. A more ac- ceptable punishment would be to punish the rapist in- stead.

Once again, a child’s life is worth the same whether inside or outside the womb. The circumstances of the child’s conception do not determine the worth of a child’s life. This does not come down to women’s rights, but to whether or not life has worth no matter what stage of development or how it was conceived. A child has the same right to live just as the mother does.

America has become desensitized to the reality that abortion is murder because of the lie that this murder falls under the rights of a woman controlling her body. There is no exaggeration in saying abortion is mur- der.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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The High Life is the official student newspaper of Leon High School. The newspaper staff controls all aspects of content and design. Kirsten Olsen-Doolan, the journalism teacher and adviser, provides guidance, supervision and assistance.

The publication does not intentionally publish material that is libelous, ob- scene or that may cause a substantial and material disruption of school activities.

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Let women have the choice

Maya Levy
Editorial Editor

The act of abortion has been around in many societies for thousands and thousands of years. Yet 26 percent of humans live in a country where abortion is generally prohibited. Because of the regulations in those countries, the World Health Organization states that 47,000 women a year die from having unsafe abortions. That fact does not indicate that abortions must be stopped, but it proves that in order to protect women’s health, safe abortions must be made accessible to all women.

That is one of the reasons why I am pro-choice.

In my opinion, the matter of abortion is not something to be determined by the government. It should not be deemed acceptable or unacceptable by the general public. Essentially, it is a matter between a pregnant individual and her doctor. The government and organizations should not have the power to tell women what they can or cannot do for their own well-being.

If a woman prefers to have an abortion, she is most likely to place her child or children up for adoption, which is what most anti-abortion supporters prefer.

Adoption is an alternative, but a child is never guaranteed to get adopted.

According to showhope.org, one in six children waiting in foster care, 30,000 age out every year without families.

The psychological effects and disorders created from growing up an orphan are many. One of the many is reactive attachment disorder.

This disorder causes children to have difficulty forming relationships later in life.

Another disorder children who have survived poor foster care can develop is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Depression and anxiety disorders are also common among orphans.

Another alternative anti-abortion supporters promote is for a mother to not abort her child and instead raise them.

Forcing a woman to raise a child she is not equipped to raise sets the mother and her child up for a potentially troubled life.

“A woman does not get an abortion on a whim.”

A study done by the University of California at San Francisco revealed that women who are denied abortions are more likely to become unemployed, on public welfare, to be below the poverty line and to become victims of domestic violence.

If they are experiencing one or more of these possible obstacles, so is their child.

Banning certain abortions will not protect the well-being of unborn children - it will put them at risk for future poverty, abuse and mental illness.

The pro-life fight does not benefit future generations. Instead, it would put them in danger of many preventable obstacles.

There are many myths pertaining to the medical side of abortions.

An abortion is the termination of a pregnancy, not a baby. The act of an abortion is not killing a baby, it is preventing the growth of a clump of cells.

According to Princeton University, fetuses are not independent, self-determining beings.

Legally fetuses are not counted in the U.S. census and a person’s age is calculated from birth date, not conception.

Even the word “person” as used in the 14th amendment to the United States Constitution does not include the unborn.

Fetuses also do not experience pain during the abortion itself.

In 2005, another study was done by the University of California at San Francisco that said fetuses cannot feel pain until the 29th or 30th week of gestation, which is long after most abortions are performed.

Also only 1.3 percent of abortions were performed 21 weeks into the pregnancy or later.

Most states have laws preventing late pregnancy abortions. The fact of the matter is that women are going to get abortions no matter the restrictions placed by the government. The abortions themselves would just get more dangerous because of low funding.

Choosing to have an abortion is not an easy choice for any pregnant woman.

Guilt plagues many women long after their abortion is performed. A woman does not get an abortion on a whim.

I think that as a community, it is our responsibility to support women’s health and rights.

Many pro-life supporters prefer. The fight for pro-choice is the fight for all women to have the option to get an abortion.

Many women would rather get birth than get an abortion and pro-choice activists support that as well.

Pro-choice activists feel that women should have the right to choose whichever option they think would best suit them.

In the end, giving women the right to choose does not benefit them but also future generations.

I stand by a woman’s right to choose

Will Rogers
Guest Writer

I firmly stand by a woman’s right to choose. I believe that contraception, sexual education and expert medical care should be similarly equitably accessible. I believe there should be no expectation of women to either have or not to have a child, but rather that it should be a decision made of their own volition. I believe that intercourse does not carry an expectation of a woman to carry a pregnancy to term. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, one in six women will be sexually assaulted in their lives and of these victims, one in 20 assaults will result in a pregnancy.

I think it is irresponsible to ask a woman to carry a pregnancy to term should the pregnancy endanger her health. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, raising a child in the United States can cost more than $245,000. In numerous studies, it has been shown that denying a woman the right to an abortion leads to financial burdens and can result not only in the mental instability of the mother or that of the supporting guardians, but, with alarming frequency, leads to violence towards the child.

Just because an individual was not raped, a victim of incest or threatened by a pregnancy-caused illness does not make it right to deny them access to an abortion.

By regulating abortion rights, not only is the mother put at risk, but so is the child.

When limiting abortion, the control women have over their bodies is being limited as well.

The government and organizations should not have the power to tell women what they can or cannot do for their own well-being.

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I know that adoption, while sometimes effective, is incredibly flawed. According to the Administration for Children and Families, there are currently 425,910 children in foster care, with 111,820 waiting to be adopted in 2015. According to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetimes, and of these victims 45 percent said that abuse began or worsened during pregnancy.

I know that abortions are safe in the U.S. According to the National Abortion Federation, less than half a percent of women that have an abortion report medical issues. I know that simply banning abortions will not make abortions disappear, but rather that it makes an abortion an incredibly dangerous procedure as qualified doctors will no longer be performing the surgery (evident in the pre/post Roe v. Wade Decision rates and mortalities of abortions in the U.S.).

I believe that the decision to receive an abortion is one of the hardest decisions a woman may have to face, and I certainly could never put myself in her shoes. Because of this, I trust a woman’s ability to weigh her socioeconomic conditions and the positive or negative aspects of a pregnancy or an abortion. For these reasons, I am pro-choice.

Pro-choice aims not to ensure that every woman receives an abortion; rather, that every woman, should the instance arise, is given the right to determine her future and is given the right to an abortion.

Equal access to contraception, thorough sex education and expert medical attention are the only ways in order to ensure the decrease in the numbers of abortions that both sides seek. However, we continue to deny women access to any such preventive measures by allowing religious and conservative lobbies to assault preventive programs and educational bills. Rather than fighting, slandering and attacking women seeking care, would it not make more sense to educate and reform to reach the decreased abortions rates we all seek?

I implore you to study the rhetoric surrounding this issue, primarily the terminology used by either side – Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life. Abortion is a contentious and broad discussion, not a strictly black and white issue. And as such, it should be seen as inherently flawed to separate such complex viewpoints into artificially divisive binary. You, the reader, are an independent mind. You must be able to discern between the flaws in either side. It is your responsibility to support women’s health and rights.

I stand by a woman’s right to choose.
Geiger wins teacher of the year

Cristina Williams
News Editor

Alumna Mina Kaji is currently working as an intern in New York City for Cable News Network. Kaji applied for the internship online and went through an interview process.

“I was completely shocked when they called and notified me that I was chosen to work at CNN,” Kaji said.

“It was cool to see a lot of people read it,” Kaji said. Kaji works a total of 20 hours a week. She works 10 hours on Monday and 10 hours on Sunday.

“Alumna takes internship at CNN

Cristina Williams
News Editor

Alumna Mina Kaji is currently working as an intern in New York City for Cable News Network. Kaji started working at CNN in Sept. of this year. She is usually given a story to chase.

“The best days are when I get to write a story,” Kaji said. Kaji has written three online stories for CNN so far. The stories are about a store clerk not selling balloons for a police memorial, the youngest male winner of the New York City marathon and a huge car crash. Kaji’s last story about the marathon runner was posted on CNN’s Facebook page and more than 1,000 people liked it.

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“I was completely shocked when they called and notified me that I was chosen to work at CNN.”

Kaji is currently going to New York University, but she started her education at Tulane University in New Orleans where she studied finance. Kaji transferred a year ago to NYU to study journalism and political science.

“A lot of people warned me against transferring universities and pursuing journalism because it is not viewed as conventional, but you can’t listen to people who do not share your vision,” Kaji said.

“It sounds cliché, but it is hard not to be inspired by the high rises and city lights. You feel like anything is possible in New York City.”

One of Kaji’s biggest influences is tennis coach Kevin Record.

“I loved the quote of the day,” Kaji said, “and I still think about them today.”

In high school, Kaji was on The Leon High Life newspaper staff for three years. Her senior year she was named the editor-in-chief.

“She always had a smile,” Record said.

“She has a very engaging personality and she is very smart, hardworking and a great leader. Her copy was always clean, she always had multiple sources and her writing always had depth.”

In Kaji’s senior year of high school she was the first place winner of the Best and Brightest of Tallahassee, “Kaji’s journalism and Media Productions Category. Kaji graduated from Leon in 2014, and expects to graduate from college in 2018. Kaji’s dream job would be to work full-time at CNN or NBC, but she also wants to explore more job options related to politics before she graduates. “I am planning on applying to press office internships on the hill in Washington D.C. for the summer,” Kaji said.

When Kaji comes back to Tallahassee for her winter break, she plans on contributing to the Tallahassee Democrat. “I love the excitement of journalism,” Kaji said. “Every day presents a new challenge and adventure. The unpredictability of the job is addicting.”

Lead found in nearby schools’ water

Mary Sylvin Hinnant
Staff Writer

Following the discovery of large amounts of lead in the water of multiple elementary schools in Leon County, Advanced Placement Biology teacher Matthew Guyton decided to test Leon’s water on his own.

Guyton experimented with two samples of water: one from the Nettles building and another from the main building. Both samples contained lead, but not enough to be hazardous.

Lead is a contaminant that negatively affects brain cells. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, levels of lead above 15 parts per billion need to be fixed immediately. However, the American Pediatric Association states anything over one ppb is too high.

“The county has people that are coming out to test the water officially before Thanksgiving,” Guyton said. “I wanted to test the water first because we hadn’t heard anything from the county. If I didn’t watch the local news, I wouldn’t have heard anything about it. Leon County tested 16 elementary schools. However, our water came out at a low single digit number.”

Principal Billy Epting was glad to hear the numbers were low.

“Unfortunately there’s going to be stuff in our water no matter what,” Epting said. “My standpoint is to make sure our levels are below the federal guidelines. We do regular maintenance checks and will continue doing them.”

Guyton plans to get students involved with the water tests at other schools. “We are either going to have our AP Biology class or National Science Honor Society work with the people.

The Leon High Life
Junior passionate about baking

Nadaley Jones
Staff Writer

Junior Mallory Morgan has been baking since she can remember. She began making cookies with her mother, and started cake making this past summer when she was asked to make a cake for her niece’s 13th birthday party.

Morgan fell in love with cakes soon after. Morgan’s sister Kirsten Strickland asked her to make the cake because she knew of Morgan’s love for baking and her talent.

“She works to make every single detail perfect, and it is so impressive. Anytime we have a celebration, she makes the cakes and they are just beautiful and delicious.”

Morgan’s sister and family were so impressed with the cake’s design and taste, Strickland asked Morgan to make her a cake for her own birthday, and was impressed once again.

Jan Morgan says her daughter has always had a natural talent for baking. Mallory always helped her mom bake, whether it was icing the cookies or actually mixing ingredients.

“She has never had to measure anything. She automatically knows when a cake is too sweet or not, and she just has such an eye for design, it’s amazing,” Jan said.

Mallory experiments a lot with her baking, and that is the key to being a good baker.

Mallory is also collaborating with local resident Leah Livingston to make her first wedding cake. Livingston says she reached out to Mallory after hearing about her cakes from her younger sister, who attended Leon and is close with Mallory.

“Working with Mallory eased all my nerves,” Livingston said. “Her cakes are beautiful and she’s putting our wants and needs first, and is working hard with us to please us, and she is extremely talented.”

Livingston says they are sticking with a simple design, a four-tiered white cake, and hopes to keep it elegant, simple and delicious.

“I think that’s what separates my mom from others - not many people can say that they are always in their kitchen with their mom,” Patrick said.

Patrick gets cooking inspiration from a variety of famous chefs like Julia Child, Paula Dean and Gordon Ramsey.

Some of the best dishes that Patrick makes are a range of Italian cuisines.

“Cooking is my happy place,” Patrick said. “It makes me forget about all my troubles.

“It’s an amazing feeling to know that you have the ability to create something.” Patrick likes to make a variety of different dishes, mostly Italian cuisine.

Patrick hopes to go to college at Keiser University in hopes of becoming a chef. He would like to become the manager of a restaurant.

Patrick also has hobbies outside of cooking. Patrick plays guitar for Leon’s guitar ensemble that he had to audition for. It mostly consists of types of classical music.

Mongeon successful in cooking show audition

Junior may have the opportunity to appear on ‘Chopped Junior’

Ava Jackson
Features Editor

Junior Patrick Mongeon made it to the final round of the “Chopped Junior” tryout competition for a chance to win a $10,000 scholarship to Keiser University.

On Oct. 30, Tallahassee hosted an audition for the famous TV show “Chopped Junior.”

This was the first time Tallahassee had ever hosted a cooking competition like this.

With over 100 contestants, Mongeon was able to make it past the first round, semifinals and finals.

Patrick Mongeon will have a Skype interview with the executive producer of Chopped Junior to see if he will be able to appear on the show.

The contestants were asked to make a dish with waffles, candied apples and black-eyed peas as the ingredients.

Mongeon made grilled Marsala chicken with apple and spinach stuffed portobellocaps and cherry tomatoes in a balsamic candy reduction.

This was the dish that got him to the finals.

“My parents didn’t know what to think about it, and they didn’t expect me to win,” Mongeon said. “But once they narrowed it down to 60 kids in the semi-final round of the ‘Chopped Junior’ competition in Tallahassee, they knew I actually had a chance of winning.”

Mongeon culinary’s teacher taught him many things, such as how to make the five mother sauces and yeast breads. He also learned safety and sanitation practices.

Culinary teacher Christie Beam suggested the contest to Patrick and two other Leon students. Although Mongeon’s culinary teachers didn’t help him prepare the dish for the competition, they did judge his food before hand.

“Once they tried my food they thought I could win,” Mongeon said.

Patrick Mongeon (far left) competed in the first “Chopped Junior” competition in Tallahassee. Mongeon was able to make it past the first round, semifinals and finals they knew I actually had a chance of winning.”

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Leon welcomes the largest number of new teachers ever

Longest working Lions

Allen Rice
Science, 24 years

Stacy Raley
Math, 23 years

Ed Prasse
Guitar, 22 years

Mindy Fulton
English, 22 years

Art Skelly
Math, 19 years

Scott Brown
Social Studies, 18 years

Chancy says farewell to Leon

EmmaLea Reed
Double-Truck Editor

One of Leon’s most beloved teachers, Diane Chancy, is saying farewell to her Lion family after 18 years of imparting her wisdom to students.

As a 34-year veteran of teaching, Chancy has been a four-time Teacher of the Year award winner, making her an established and proven instructor.

Here at Leon, she is best known for “dressing up, dancing and throwing Mardi Gras beads at pep rallies.”

Teaching the stereotypical is not Chancy’s forte. She uses the anecdotal method, which receives a far more positive response from her students, and makes the experience more enjoyable as a whole.

“Storytelling is a time-honored tradition of teaching,” Chancy said. “It still works despite the onslaught of technology because of the human connection – something we are losing in these digital days.”

The enthusiasm that Chancy has for her job inspires learning in the students.

“Mrs. Chancy is the most impassioned teacher that I’ve had at Leon,” senior Michael Parkhurst said. “She’ll drop anything to talk to you – she’s a counselor, as well as a teacher.”

During her time at Leon, Chancy has taught all levels of freshman English, humanities honors and creative writing.

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Chancy has a special passion for her humanities class, which she has been teaching for five years.

“In humanities, we get to search for the archetypal patterns in the lives of human beings from all over the world and throughout all time,” Chancy said.

When asked what she would miss most about Leon, Chancy did not miss a beat in replying, “the students.”

“The best thing about teaching is not the subject; it is the subject of the subject – the students,” Chancy said. “I get to meet 150 personalities a year. That involves some soul smashing, brain bashing and heart crashing psychic dancing.”

Chancy’s fondness for her students does not go unnoticed.

“She showers everyone with unconditional love,” senior Hunter Dowling said. “And candy. Lots of candy.”

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Introducing 22 new faces

New teacher strives to make students better people

The Leon High Life

November 2016

Leon welcomes the largest number of new teachers ever

Caroline Sipple
Double-Truck Editor

The new theater teacher and therspians director at Leon, Lea Marshall, seeks to not only make her students better actors, but also better human beings.

“We don’t need a bunch of actors in the world, we really have plenty,” Marshall said. “But we need a bunch of great human beings because we don’t have enough great human beings.”

Former students of Marshall feel that she has accomplished this feat.

“Her daily goal is to have her students leave her room a better person than they were when they came in,” Tyler Jones said. “And I feel that she not only achieves, but over achieves that goal every day.”

According to Marshall, the only reason she teaches theater is because she thinks it creates more wholesome people.

Marshall helps to accomplish her goal by having weekly quotes, and teaching improvisation.

She believes improvisation is a good skill to have because that is what life is, and people should be able to add to the conversation or situation they’re in.

“I think theater is all about creating a character and applying the physicality and emotion to that character, and in life you want to create your character,” Marshall said.

She believes that people are constantly telling stories with their actions, and theater helps to tell a better one.

A normal day in Marshall’s class is run to embody a theater experience.

Her class has warm-ups, an exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and denouement.

Marshall was sitting at an event where political strife in the United States was being discussed when someone brought up empathy. This was the moment she realized that empathy and theatre were something she wanted to teach.

“I thought, the only place you really learn empathy is in theater class,” Marshall said. “That’s the only place where you put yourself in somebody else’s shoes and realize ‘oh they have different thoughts and reactions and emotions than I have.’”

Marshall was shy as a child, and felt like she wasn’t noticed sometimes. Because of this, she makes a point to greet every single one of her students daily to create a personal connection.

“The second you walk into a room she lights up your day and you just can’t help but smile,” sophomore Jackson Knight said.
Junior gains recognition from Instagram

Ava Jackson
Features Editor

While most students use Instagram as just another social media pastime, sophomore Grace Munson relies on it for her business.

The summer before her sophomore year, Munson set off her booming Instagram career when she was offered an opportunity with Hot Kiss Clothing to model the company’s clothing. Munson so far has received 28 opportunities to model on social media. She has been sent outfits and jewelry from stores like Zaful and Shop Missing Austria.

“Basically companies see my posts on the explore page and see the content I post,” Munson said. “Then they direct message or email me and send me free products. In return, I post pictures of myself in their clothing on social media.”

However, it isn’t as simple as one may think. Companies provide her with specific guidelines and captions that she must use. Munson is paid by how many likes she gets and how many pictures she posts. Munson was once sent three different pairs of sunglasses and was paid $100 for how many posts she made wearing the sunglasses.

“Instagram is a place for people to express themselves through photos,” Munson said. Munson uses her Canon Rebel T3i and takes the pictures herself with the help of her parents and friends. She gets most of her inspiration from the brand Brandy Melville. Munson also gets her ideas for poses by Alexen Ren, Scarlet Leithold, Eva Gutowksi and many other famous models and YouTubers.

“My style of photos are a mix somewhere between beachy, to street style, to just poses that promote a product,” Munson said.

Munson gets sent items that range from jewelry products to body scrubs on a regular basis.

“It’s always fun trying out new products, especially products like skincare and body scrubs,” Munson said.

One of the most recent and biggest opportunities that Munson has had was with the company Henrigirl, a brand geared towards college girls. Munson reached out to the manager who wanted to do a photoshoot with her. Promptly, she was able to be a part of a photoshoot in an apartment complex in College Town.

“I wasn’t surprised at all that Grace got the Henrigirl job,” sophomore Nell Wilhite said. “I was so excited for her and I could definitely see it helping her become a model for bigger businesses in the future. Also it’s very cool being able to say that one of your best friends is a model.”

Along with her thousands of followers, Munson also gets support from her parents and many of her friends.

“My parents were skeptical at first, but now they’re pretty much used to it,” Munson said.

Munson’s friends claim to have always known that she would do something in the fashion industry.

“I definitely plan on growing my account and just seeing where it takes me,” Munson said. “Social media is my outlet and my way of expressing myself through clothes and photography.”

Munson would like to turn this hobby into some type of career after high school.

“I definitely want to do something in the fashion industry, like business and marketing for brands like Forever 21 and Pacsun,” Munson said.

Recently, she has added “public figure” in her Instagram biography.

“I feel like with the label I’m more likely to grab attention from businesses looking for influencers, and it actually really helps anyone grow their account,” Munson said.

Munson plans out all her posts with the app UNUM, which helps users with ordering and gives statistics on the best posting times.

“I don’t typically follow the posting times part of the app. I feel that you should post whatever you want, whenever you want,” Munson said.

Munson pulls ideas from an eccentric variety of accounts to see what’s new in the fashion world to help her figure out what will catch her follower’s eye.

“Instagram is a great part of my life,” Munson said. “It’s the equivalent to someone who loves to draw, or play a sport. Although taking photos is quite a process and tedious, in the end it is so worth it.”

Munson loves the idea of influencing other girls and boys with the same passion as she has.

Ecenia bikes to inspire and educate

Julia Chodyla
Editor-in-chief

Innovagated by his deep-set passion for preserving natural resources, alumnus Sam Ecenia spent last winter teaching young students about the current drought in California through his self-founded nonprofit organization, California Water Cycle.

However, with hopes to instill a sense of adventure in the children, he visited these schools while completing a journey, he took pictures and blogged about the bike trip rather than the water.

“Basically companies see my posts on the explore page and see the content I post,” Ecenia said. “I chose the latter.”

“Every morning we’d wake up, go surfing and then go talk to as many people as we possibly could.”

California Water Cycle is not the only project that Ecenia has undertaken. After graduating from University of Colorado, he spent six weeks in Nepal studying how glaciers can be used to observe global warming.

“We used time lapse cameras and sensors to track the melting,” Ecenia said. Currently, Ecenia works at a winery in northern California. His main goal right now is to be more self-sufficient by growing much of his own food.

“The whole process of growing food is really good for you,” Ecenia said. “There is a pride that comes from it and it is nice to know where your food comes from.”
Volleyball falls at state

Hannah Wong
Staff Writer

The Leon girls volleyball team failed to advance to the state finals after losing to Plant High School Nov. 5.

The game was part of the Class 8A state semifinals, nicknamed a ‘Final Four’ competition. Leon won the first two sets, but was defeated in the last three.

It was the Lions’ second year in a row losing to Plant in the semifinals, with the 2015 game going to five sets as well. “We were all heartbroken,” sophomore player Courtney Clevenger said. “Everyone had put their best fight.”

The team had high aspirations for this year. Many anticipated a state title.

“I think we all expected to go all the way to win state,” junior player Jordyn Goracke said.

“Everyone was on board. We just fell one game short.” Clevenger agrees.

“It was our goal for the season and what we worked towards all year - all we believed we could get there,” Clevenger said.

Leon struggled against Plant earlier in the season, losing 2-0 during a Tampa tournament on Sept. 17.

Some of the Lions believe this difficulty comes from the likenesses between Leon’s and Plant’s playing styles.

“We feel that they’re most similar to our team out of all the teams we’ve played,” Goracke said.

Leon had spent months gearing up to face Plant in the semifinals. Many had been waiting to get redemption after the 2015 loss.

“We’ve been focusing on this since the summer, just talking about this match,” said coach Angie Strickland in an interview with WTXL.

Naturally, the loss on Nov. 5 hit hard with the Lions. Goracke says she has trouble pinpointing exactly why the team came out on bottom.

“I’ve gone through the last three sets in my brain over and over, but I can’t seem to find where we went wrong,” Goracke said.

The Lions ended their season 25-5. However, the team feels that this doesn’t take away from the overall significance of the success they had this season.

Senior captain Caroline Kirk said, “This was the most fulfilling season in my Leon volleyball career. I am in awe of the growth and success we created together.”

Cross country looks to future

Hannah Rodriguez
Sports Editor

While overcoming a projected 10th place finish in regional competition this year, the boy’s cross country team failed to maintain their 11-year dynasty.

The boys team has placed in the top ten in the state competition for the past 11 consecutive years.

With a particularly young team this season, with only two senior Colter Foster and Matthew Cashin, the team was not expected to make it out of regionals.

“We definitely felt like the underdogs this year,” junior John Riley Bohnstengel said. “We just wanted to come out and surprise people and prove people wrong.”

The team achieved just that, placing fourth in the regional competition, clinching a bid to the state finals.

They attribute this success to head coach Andrew Wills.

“The night before Regionals, [Wills] pulled us all into a hotel room,” Bohnstengel said. “He just told us ‘I know you’re better than these teams tomorrow. The race will be won tomorrow if you guys just do your jobs.’”

According to the team, the preparation Wills was so passionate about is what got them to state.

“He’s an amazing coach,” Cashin said. “He knows what to say, and our strategy is to just run faster every mile, which works for us.”

Foster claims that every team member ran well at the state competition. However, by placing 11th, they were just one ranking short of keeping their streak alive.

“We knew that if we were going to place where we wanted, every single person would have had to run a perfect race,” Foster said.

“That’s a lot to ask of any young team,” Cashin added.

Cashin and Foster placed 8th and 30th overall, respectively.

According to Foster, disappointment hit the team quite hard.

“When you’re just one place off, and you’re that close, you definitely start going back and questioning what you could have done different,” Foster said.

However, both Cashin and Foster are maintaining a positive outlook for the future of the program.

“We just want to show them the way,” Cashin said. “If they take care of their body, school and listen to what Coach Wills has to say, they’re going to be great.”

The two seniors went on to state that the freshman class this season is easily comparable to Sukhi Kohsla, and alumna known for his success, and his record breaking runs.

“Compared to me when I was a freshman, they are exponentially better than I was,” Foster said.

“They have a legit shot at winning state if they all commit, and trust Coach Wills.”

One game at a time

Hannah Rodriguez
Sports Editor

I live for the feeling that comes when I’m looking at Chiles or Lincoln volleyball players staring back through the net.

I love hearing the roar of our fan section, and the underlying pressure of taking on a rival.

However, for our team, it was just another game. We took our season one game at a time, focusing on whoever we played next, and nothing more.

I believe that is what separated us from our competition this season. During matches, we tried to play evenly the whole time, which I believe is what allowed us to win most of our district matches in straight sets.

Teams who celebrate like they’ve won state every time they score a point always burn out by the last set – and that wasn’t us.

We stayed focused on our goals, which of course involved beating our rivals, however that was just a piece of the puzzle that took us to where we wanted to be.

Does anyone want to lose to Lincoln? Of course not.

However, we knew that if we took a loss to either school, it wouldn’t be the downfall of our season.

We had much bigger ideas and goals that were much bigger than just Lincoln and Chiles.

I’ve seen girls from other schools who are focused on playing us weeks in advance - and for good reason.

However, both Cashin and Foster are maintaining a positive outlook for the future of the program.

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“Compared to me when I was a freshman, they are exponentially better than I was,” Foster said.

“They have a legit shot at winning state if they all commit, and trust Coach Wills.”

The Leon boys cross country team placed eleventh at the state finals competition.
swimming duo dominates competitions

Junior and freshman swimmers continue to break records and earn medals throughout their season

Hannah Rodriguez
Sports Editor

The duo of junior Olivia Kercheval-Roig and freshman Virginia Russell are not only the two female swimmers to make it to the state competition, but have both medaled at state, as well as gone on to break records.

Kercheval-Roig placed seventh overall in both of her events, the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly.

Russell placed sixth and tenth overall in the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle, respectively.

Kercheval-Roig has broken the 100 butterfly record, one that her sister Olivia Kercheval-Roig set in her time swimming at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kercheval-Roig has not only broken the 200 freestyle record once during the regular season, but rebroke her own record at the state competition, showing her best time .

Russell has similar success, setting the new 50 freestyle record at regionals, and re-breaking her own record at state.

The two had high expectations of themselves from the beginning of the season, not only expecting to earn their way to the state competition, but placing well and medaling.

In fact, on the morning of the state competition, Kercheval-Roig met her goal almost immediately, and was seeded higher than her original goal of eighth going into competition later that night.

“I decided I wanted to reach that goal instead,” Kercheval-Roig said. “Why not go for fourth or third?”

Although she did not meet this new goal, Kercheval-Roig is proud of her accomplishments at state due to her high expectations.

“Very unusual for a freshman, Russell’s accomplishments at state were a shock to everyone but herself,” Kercheval-Roig said. “She didn’t act like it was a huge deal,” Kercheval-Roig said. “Meanwhile everyone else was losing it.”

Due to her early birthday, Russell is 15, while most freshman swimmers are only 14, which she feels may give her a leg up in competition by having more experience.

However, she feels as though this puts more pressure on her as a freshman on the team.

“There can definitely sometimes be more pressure,” Russell said. “I’m expected to do a lot more, like attend 4:30 a.m. practices. That usually isn’t expected of a freshman.”

Kercheval-Roig adds that this extra year will only add to Russell’s talent as she gets older.

“She’s the person on the team that makes sure everyone is getting along and tries to keep drama out of the team,” senior Patty Prather said.

According to Prather, Carter has been on the soccer team with Carter since she joined and appreciates the time they have gotten to spend together.

“It’s going to be really sad, having to play without her once I graduate,” Prather said.

“I have loved getting to watch her grow as a player and as a person.”

Carter verbally commits

Soccer player plans to continue career

Alena Nash
Sports Editor

Junior Kate Carter recently committed to play at Stetson University, which was a goal Carter had set for herself for this year.

The university’s coaches saw Carter play at a tournament and invited her to an identification camp. She fell in love with the campus and the city of DeLand.

“It’s a really good soccer program and I just love everything they’re about,” Carter said.

Being able to play soccer in college is very important to Carter and committing to Stetson was her biggest achievement.

“The two had high expectations of them- selves from the beginning of the season, not only expecting to earn their way to the state competition, but placing well and medaling.

“Soccer is something to get me through college,” Carter said. “I kind of just wanted to go to school where I would get to play.”

The girls’ soccer team just began their season, but Carter has been busy balancing both soccer and varsity volleyball.

Although the sports are in different seasons, the volleyball postseason overlaps with the soccer pre season.

“It can be pretty hard to stay on top of things when both sports are going on,” Carter said.

Soccer and volleyball are both special to Carter and it can be hard for her to have to choose.

“They are both different and the same,” Carter said. “I don’t really have a favorite, both sports are really competitive and I feel like I thrive in competitive environments.”

The girls’ soccer team is full of talented players this year and the goal is to play for the state title.

“State would be a dream come true,” Carter said.

“We have so much skill on this team from the incoming freshman to the returning seniors that I think we can do it,” Carter said. “They are both really talented players this year and the goal is to play for the state title.

“It’s going to be really sad, having to play without her once I graduate,” Prather said.

“I have loved getting to watch her grow as a player and as a person.”

Swimming duo dominates competitions

Junior and freshman swimmers continue to break records and earn medals throughout their season
**Former Lion played at advanced level**

**Volleyball coach excelled collegiately and tried out for Olympics**

Christina Hoffman
Sports Editor

Leon volleyball coach Annemarie Chin not only attended Leon, but also tried out for an Olympic volleyball team this past year after graduating from High Point University. She has wanted to try out ever since her freshman year in college.

“I wanted to experience volleyball at a higher level,” Chin said. “I wanted to compete and challenge myself.”

In preparation for the tryouts, Chin trained extensively. According to her, she did strength and conditioning exercises on her own.

She also had help from her coaches who trained her for defense in individual one-on-one practices.

Although Chin did not make any of the three Olympic teams, she is grateful for the opportunity to challenge herself and grow as a player.

“I loved every second of playing and getting the chance to put myself out there, no matter the result,” Chin said.

“While I didn’t make any of the teams, I am extremely proud of all the girls that did.”

After graduating from High Point University with a Bachelors degree in graphic design, Chin moved back to Tallahassee.

Meanwhile, Leon was having their summer volleyball camps.

During what was supposed to be a quick hello to her former coach Angie Strickland, Chin agreed to help out with the volleyball camps that summer.

“Helping out at the camp ultimately led me to become a coach at my alma mater,” Chin said.

Currently Chin works at Peter Mitchellell Associates, a marketing and advertising agency here in Tallahassee.

“I get the best of both worlds,” Chin said, “coaching and doing what I have studied and worked hard for.”

“I have always had a strong instinct about volleyball. Being able to give back to girls who are just as passionate about the game as I am is something I am truly grateful for.”

With such a rich experience in the sport, Chin has a lot to offer to the players at Leon.

She not only has experienced what it’s like to play in high school, but she has also experienced college volleyball.

Only now instead of playing, she gets to shape young girls into great players and help them reach their goals.

“Volleyball has always been a part of who I am, and it will be a part of me forever,” Chin said.

As many generations of Lions pass through Leon, Chin, along with the other coaches, aspire to teach the girls how to become great players and great people.

“Annemarie has helped me not only gain more knowledge about the game of volleyball but she has also helped me remember why I love it,” sophomore Courtney Clevenger said.
### Football

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### Volleyball

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### Boys/Girls Cross Country

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### Boys Basketball

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<td>12/08/16</td>
<td>FAMU</td>
<td>L, 69-40</td>
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### Girls Basketball

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<td>FAMU</td>
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<td>East Gadsden</td>
<td>W, 5-1</td>
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<td>Chiles</td>
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<td>11/29/16</td>
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### Boys Soccer

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<td>11/04/16</td>
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<td>Chiles</td>
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<td>11/18/16</td>
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### Girls Soccer

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<td>Chiles</td>
<td>W, 2-0</td>
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**Students row their way to Boston**

Christina Hoffman  
Sports Editor

Six students from Leon traveled to the 52nd Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Massachusetts, which is the world’s largest two-day rowing event.

Ryan Carlton, Cannon Randle, Hannah Wong, Maya Edwards, Omie Coyne and Ali MacVicar attended with Capital City Rowing.

MacVicar and Carlton attended the race, but did not row. Carlton accompanied CCR as an alternate, in case any other rowers were injured.

Wong and Edwards took up two seats in the women’s boat, while Randle took up one seat in the men’s.

The boys raced against 84 other boats. They placed 42nd in their race, which qualified them for the Top Half which guarantees them a spot in next year’s race.

The girls did not qualify for the Top Half, but they are hoping to win the lottery again this year to guarantee them a spot next year.

Leading up to the race, CCR rowers had to run a 2.5 km in September to determine the ten rowers that would travel to Boston on both the men’s and women’s team.

“I had pretty high expectations going into the race, and it surpassed all of them,” Wong said.

“I felt more connected to not only my team but also to the men’s team and the coaches.”

---

**"LEAD," from page 4**

that are taking the water samples and running the test and maybe help them at other sites,” Guyton said.

“I think it would be interesting to incorporate high school students with elementary school students. Kindergarteners’ brains are still growing so having that contamination is not healthy.”

Guyton made the argument, however, that every school should be tested, including colleges.

Exposure to lead wrecks havoc in the brain, with consequences that include lower IQ and reduced potential for learning.

“This should be a Leon County citizen decision. The lead seems to be just at schools. The county tests the public water all the time and they have always had it below 1 ppb. It’s somewhere between where the county puts the pipes and how they come out at the school.”

W.T Moore Elementary School and Killearn Lakes Elementary School both had led levels above 15 ppb.


“I think it would be really cool if Leon students could go into elementary schools such as Kate Sullivan and explain what is happening,” Guyton said.

“Because they don’t understand what’s happening, and when some guy comes into test the water, kids are going to be freaking out. It would be great to have a high school student to explain what’s happening.”

---

**Mary L. Wakeman**  
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Heuler-Wakeman Law Group, P.L.

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Tallahassee, FL 32308-5454  
Telephone: 850.421.2400  
www.hwelderlaw.com

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