Road to the White House
23 USFSP students travel to New Hampshire for a course on a campaign

By Samantha Putterman
Staff Reporter

Twenty-three USF St. Petersburg students set off for New Hampshire on Sunday afternoon to work on the campaigns of seven presidential candidates.

For the next 10 days, the students in the university’s quadrennial “Road to the White House” class will split up and join campaigners for Democrats Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton and Martin O’Malley and Republicans Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush.

The six-credit course is offered every four years during presidential primaries. It is directed by Dr. Judithanne McLauchlan, who has worked on five primaries in New Hampshire.

This year’s trip marks her fourth, and largest, group of students.

“I usually have every campaign covered, which is my goal,” she said. “But I let the students pick (their candidates) themselves. (When) you’re up there, going door-to-door in the snow, you want to believe in the candidate. I wouldn’t want to put somebody with someone they might not prefer. It wouldn’t be the same.”

Registering for the course wasn’t as simple as typing in a CRN course code in Oasis. Students had to go through an application process first.

“I look at their resumes so I know their year, GPA, major, academic standing, if they’ve worked on campaigns before, who they want to work for and why,” McLauchlan said. “Not everyone I accepted knew who they wanted to work for, and that was fine. They didn’t have to know. But most of them had an idea.”

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Campus club raises awareness about gender issues, equality

By Evy Guerra
Crow’s Nest Contributor

In spring 2014, Katie Wagner and Kristina Sonstroem realized USF St. Petersburg didn’t have a club devoted to feminism or the empowerment of women – they wanted to change that.

That fall, they held their first Women Empowerment Club meeting.

The club now brings about 20 people to its meetings and has 10 dedicated members. It is sponsored by Dr. Judithanne McLauchlan and has garnered the support of local politicians and organizations.

“The goal of the Women Empowerment Club is to raise awareness about gender issues on campus and to promote gender equality,” said Wagner, the club’s president. “In my opinion, the most important part of the club is having a space on campus to discuss gender issues – an open, welcoming, nonjudgmental space.”

The club meets biweekly on Thursdays. The first meeting serves as an open discussion on a particular issue, while the second features a speaker. The club aims to invite guests who are experts on the topics discussed to add to the club’s conversation.

The group also holds special events in partnership with organizations such as the League of Women Voters, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Planned Parenthood, and Business & Professional Women’s Foundation to present the public with relevant information on women’s issues.

Sonstroem, the club’s vice president, finds CASA to be one of the more beneficial talks they have.

“I like when CASA comes, it is one of the more beneficial talks they have.”

On Jan. 26, an expert panel was invited to educate people on human trafficking and its effect on the Tampa Bay area. They group discussed the laws and behaviors that surround the issue, and provided contact information for those who find or suspect someone is being trafficked. The club worked with the League of Women Voters to bring the speakers to campus.

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Anti-Semitism, hatred in the world

By Marla Korenich and Katherine Wilcox
Crow's Next Contributors

The statue was to memorialize one of Hungary's most prominent 20th-century figures. Elie Wiesel was a historian and government official whom admirers call a scholar and statesman. With the blessing and financial help of the Hungarian government, they planned to honor him with a statue in Székesfehérvár, a city west of Budapest.

Balint Homan was also a Nazi collaborator who supported the deportation of half a million Hungarian Jews during World War II and died in 1951. Opponents condemned plans to honor him.

One of them was Mark Weitzman, director of the Task Force Against Hate and Terrorism at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in New York, an international Jewish human rights organization that carries the name of the famous Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter.

In a speech last week at USF St. Petersburg, Weitzman described how the Wiesenthal Center joined the U.S. State Department, leaders of Congress, diplomats from other countries, and several members of the Hungarian cabinet to persuade the government to scrap the statue in December.

"Even when we didn't think it was possible, we succeeded" in convincing a message, Weitzman said. "It meant that history should not be tampered with ... We may have let it (murderous anti-Semitism) happen before, but we certainly won't turn a blind eye in the future."

The statue is just the latest sign that anti-Semitism, hatred and anti-government extremism are thriving in the United States and the world, Weitzman told more than 200 people in the University Student Center ballroom.

He offered a broad history of hate groups and how they have evolved -- and grown dramatically -- in number from the Ku Klux Klan of the 19th century to today'sISIS, which uses the Internet as a recruiting tool with messages like "Jews: We are coming."

Americans "tend to think of the people who belong to these (hate) groups as people who couldn't make it in society," Weitzman said. "They may have dropped out of school, work, or school, or work, and (be) embittered and looking for people to blame for their problems."

"But the reality is much worse ... The leadership core, sometimes, of these groups are groups who are educated and skillful, and that makes them so much more dangerous."

According to the FBI, hate groups in America grew from 602 in 2000 to 1,018 in 2011, he said. In FBI statistics released in December 2014, Jews were the biggest target of hate groups, "even more than Muslims, more than any other religious group."

College campuses are seeing anti-Semitism, too, Weitzman said.

He cited a 2015 online survey of 1,157 Jewish students at 55 campuses. More than half the students who participated reported having experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism in the last year. The research was conducted by the Louis D. Brandeis Center and Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

Weitzman's speech was sponsored by the university honors program and the Florida Holocaust Museum in downtown St. Petersburg. It was part of a lecture series sponsored by Debbie Sembler, a former member of the USFSP Board of Trustees, and her husband, Brent, a developer.

Staff writer Devin Rodriguez contributed to this report, which includes information from Reuters News Service and TIME magazine.

Continued from front cover

Women Empowerment Club aims to promote gender equality

"Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," the organization's next major event, will be held on March 31.

The event will invite students to walk a mile in high heels across campus to bring attention to the issues of rape, sexual assault and gender-based violence.

USFSP freshman Megan Hammer joined the club in November after attending the last meeting of the fall semester, which focused on the international spectrum of women's rights.

"Nora Khatcharian (the club's programming coordinator) gave the presentation and she rocked it," Hammer said. "Her passion for what she was talking about, combined with my interest in the subject, made me feel that the Women Empowerment Club was something I could really be a part of."

Hammer said there are important advantages to the club and the safe space it provides.

"My favorite part, I would say, (is) being able to discuss all of these different issues and educate people about things like sex trafficking, wage gap and body image," Hammer said.

"I find that a lot of people have a lot to say about these things, but have trouble finding the right atmosphere. So that's what we do,
USFSP to hold first off-campus housing fair

BY MORIAH PARRISH
STAFF REPORTER

Toward the end of fall semester, the requirement for first-year students to live on campus was repealed, according to Pamela Johnson, a Resident Life Program specialist at USF St. Pete. The reversal may be due to the lack of room that forced over 70 students to live at the nearby Hilton Bayfront hotel in the fall.

In response to numerous questions from students on living prospects apart from campus, Johnson, also the coordinator of Commuter and Transfer Student Initiatives, organized USFSP’s first off-campus housing fair.

“Students ask me all the time about finding places to live off-campus,” Johnson said. “I decided to make this fair so everyone could get a better idea of places that are available.”

On Feb. 9, 17 local apartment complexes and management companies are registered to attend the informational open house. For those who have perused the market, a few vendors may sound familiar, like Beacon 430, Fusion 1560 and Camden Living.

Since the businesses are independent of the school, Johnson said it will still be up to the students and rental companies to negotiate pricing and lease-terms.

Bright House Networks and USF’s Federal Credit Union will be providing services to help guide students in the transition to off-campus living.

USFSP Career Services helped organize the fair and will also have a booth set up to offer guidance to students who are searching for jobs, as the event is similar to the traditional career fair.

“I want students to continue to feel connected and participate on campus,” Johnson said. “Having Career Services there will be like a reminder of that.”

Johnson said she wanted to give students the opportunity to find information in a central location, so she compiled the list of vendors from the Know-It-All’s Guide, a large Facebook group open to the USFSP community.

She later conducted a poll that surveyed students who have lived off-campus and included some of the places that were already popular choices.

Last spring, USF Tampa’s student government adopted an online search engine where students can locate off-campus housing near the campus based on style and amenities.

The website also acts as a tool to meet potential roommates by allowing users to create and view other student profiles.

Johnson said efforts are being made to add St. Pete as a searchable area, and anticipates that the resource will be available to USFSP students soon.

Now that first-year students are no longer required to live on campus, Johnson said there may be enough room to alleviate the need for non-university spaces.

“I’ll be interested to see if the dorms will still be full next fall.”

Award-winning author exposes poor pig farm conditions at campus lecture

BY INDIHRA SUERO ACOSTA
CROW’S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Should people give up eating bacon?

The question remains after Barry Estabrook — journalist and author of “Pig Tales: An Omnivore’s Guide to Sustainable Meat” — discussed the kitchen table.

According to Estabrook, 96 percent of these animals live in filthy throughout their lives and are raised on antibiotics, making them more susceptible to diseases.

Brigitta Shouppe, a journalism and media studies graduate student, said she thought Estabrook made a lot of good points.

“Do we want to make the ethical decision to spend our money on a fancy pair of pants?” Shouppe said. “I am going to try to eat less pork.”

Lorienn Mattiacci, also a journalism graduate student, said she enjoyed the presentation.

“I like to know where my food comes from and it was interesting to find out,” said Mattiacci.

Estabrook ended the presentation by commemorating farmers who raise their pigs in healthy conditions and free of antibiotics — factors that lead to higher-quality meat.

He said if you are going to eat meat, eat it better.

The decision is ours.

Award-winning author Barry Estabrook spoke at USFSP on Jan. 25 about the poor conditions found at pig farms as part of the university’s yearlong Food for Thought lecture series.

The decision is ours.

Continued from front cover

The class will work for seven candidates in both major parties in New Hampshire

The group is comprised of multiple majors: political science, international studies, mass communications and psychology.

After their flight landed Sunday, the class was scheduled to have a group dinner, which would serve as their last “what to expect” meeting.

“Since Monday’s (Iowa) caucus day, we aren’t going to have a long meeting that morning,” McLaughlan said. “We’re just going to get everyone to their placements as fast as we can.”

Results of the Iowa caucuses, a much-heralded event in the long campaign, will be out on Monday night.

The class has an online blog that will serve as a one-stop-shop to see highlights from the various campaigns, while students will update their own personal blogs.

Three of the course credits serve as a seminar about the history of politics of presidential campaigns, with the remaining three designated to the fieldwork campaign internship.

“Generally, we’re going to have seminars in the morning, and by lunchtime, I’ll drop them off,” said McLaughlan. “Then they’re at their placements the rest of the day, into the evening, and so on.”

The group rented two 15-passenger vans. Twelve students are in Salem, where they will work on the Sanders and Clinton campaigns. The other 11 will be in nearby Manchester, the headquarters for Bush, Rubio, O’Malley, Cruz and Trump.

Most of the students’ voter contact work will involve door-to-door canvassing, phone banks and campaigning on street corners with signs. The New Hampshire primary is Feb. 9.

“We’ve got a very aggressive agenda,” McLaughlan said, “but we will be overlaying that with stops to see candidates interacting with real voters, taking tough questions — not just television advertising and 30-second sound bites.

“I’m excited for my students to get out there and see it. It’s real grassroots, retail politics.”

To follow Dr. McLaughlan’s class in real time, view the course blog: http://www.rtw2016.blogspot.com/ or visit the student blogs at http://www.usfsp.edu/road-to-the-white-house/2016-student-blogs/
Festival of Lanterns

By Tamacle Williams
Staff Reporter

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Multicultural Activities Council (MAC) hosted the Festival of Lanterns on Jan. 26. The official Chinese New Year is Feb. 8. The on-campus event was organized for students to experience Chinese culture as they brought in the year of the “Fire Monkey.”

Students participated in a few Chinese traditions such as creating a “sky lantern.” Students wrote a prayer or a wish, then placed it in the sky lantern while a candle was lit at the bottom. Sky lanterns are released in traditional Chinese New Year ceremonies and the prayers inside are thought to be sent to heaven, bringing luck for the new year.

2016- Year of the monkey


For those of you who are superstitious and born in the year of the monkey, be careful with love, money and your health.

According to chinahighlights.com, the year of one’s birth sign is believed to be the most unlucky during the zodiac 12-year-cycle.
Dog friendly brewery opens in St. Pete

At Pinellas Ale Works, both humans and canines are welcome

By Devin Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

For two years, Dennis Decker and Matthew Brown have dreamed of opening a brewery where they could bring their dogs, Jim and Remick.

What started as a homebrewing project became Pinellas Ale Works (PAW).

Decker and Brown opened the brewery on Jan. 16 on First Avenue S and 20th Street.

The two placed doggy bowls throughout the beer garden, to invite patrons to bring their pups.

Their dogs influenced the brewery’s ambiance from the paw print logo to its canine-named beers like the Milk Bone Stout and the Sit Amber Ale.

Since opening a few weeks ago, Decker and Brown said the biggest issue is running out of beer.

“It takes as much time to make the beer, as it does to sell out,” Brown said. “We’ve been brewing nonstop.”

They said the larger brewing system in their warehouse is roughly 95% percent complete.

“We are missing a few pieces for our 15-barrel system,” Decker said. “It takes as much time to make 25 gallons of beer as it does 250 gallons.”

It will be a few weeks before everything is up and running.

Once in motion, PAW will be able to experiment with new beers.

“The brewery’s completed just over six brews that circulate through the tap room, while also offering select beers from other breweries in the area.”

The two said the beer they expect to be canned first is a wheat lager.

“We expect our most popular beer (will) be Harold’s, an easy-to-drink wheat beer. In fact, it’s named after the previous owner who passed away a few years ago. “We wanted the 50 years of heritage to stay in the building. We bought this place from his daughter.”

Decker and Brown said they opened their doors to bring great beer to the public and that they aren’t going to go to gimmicks.

“We don’t want to be the court jesters,” Brown said.

University holds “topping out” ceremony for Kate Tiedemann College of Business building

By Jason Saab
Staff Reporter

The Kate Tiedemann College of Business received exciting news on Thursday when it was announced that businesswomen Ellen Cotton and her partner Kate Tiedemann donated an additional $1 million.

Tiedemann had previously donated $10 million, the largest gift in the school’s history.

The donation will be in the form of an endowed scholarship to help students focus on their studies without having to worry about finances.

The announcement came during the ‘topping out’ ceremony that marked the midpoint of the building’s construction which included a signing of the building’s final beam.

USF system president Judy Genshaft attended the event to thank Tiedemann and Cotton for their contributions to USF St. Petersburg.

Cotton will also have an atrium named after her in recognition of the donation, strengthening the pair’s connection with the campus and its students.

USFSP’s Regional Chancellor Sophia Winniewska told the Tampa Bay Times, “Often, students will reduce their course load or even skip a semester because they may not have the funds to continue in a progression that would allow them to graduate in four, five, six years. This kind of scholarship gives them the leg up that they need to continue on a path to graduation.”

Information from the Tampa Bay Times was used in this report.

App review: Wunderlist

A to-do list that syncs with all major devices

By Ryan Callihan
Staff Reporter

We’re a month into the semester now. Are you back into the swing of things yet? Me either. Thankfully, I’ve found an app that will have you productive as ever.

Have I mentioned it’s free?

Wunderlist is a to-do list and task manager that’s compatible with most any device you can think of. iPhone? Yep. Android? You bet. Windows Phone? Sure. It’s even available on the web, so you can access it from your computer without having to download the application.

Wunderlist helps keep your entire life organized, and it’s dead simple.

When the user creates an account, the app suggests a few lists to help organize tasks.

The ability to create and rename as many as you want, allows users to move and place certain tasks in the appropriate topics.

Need to study for a test? Put that task in the school list. Need to buy milk? Put that task in a grocery list.

Creating a task is simple – just find the blue button at the bottom with a plus sign on it – and click it to make a new task.

From there, you can choose the list you want to place the task in, your desired due date, and when you want to be reminded to get it done.

Wunderlist’s reminder feature is where it really shines.

There are other task manager apps that lack the option to send notifications. What good is a list of things you need to do if you’re not reminded to do them?

If you tell it to, Wunderlist will send you a notification at the time you specify, and can be delivered as an email or phone alert.

You can even set a recurring reminder – like going to the gym at 7 p.m. every Monday.

The hardest part about using a task manager application is remembering to use it in the first place.

Here’s a tip: Set Wunderlist to remind you of things you know you’re going to do anyway.

Set a reminder to feed your pets, take out the trash or go to class.

Using the app for tasks you generally remember is a great way to develop the habit of using it throughout the day.

Whether you desperately need to be reminded to get stuff done, or you just want a little more organization in your life, Wunderlist is the best task manager around.

You’ll never forget to do anything ever again. Probably.
Graduation situation

By Jason Saab
Staff Reporter

When I started at USF St. Petersburg back in the summer of 2012, graduation seemed like a lifetime away – and for 18-year-olds, four years is around 22 percent of their lives. Now, looking toward my last year of formal education as I prepare to step away from my student-identity, I have to constantly remind myself that I will never stop learning. People, as diverse and complex as we all are, experience college differently. Some may participate in events or join interesting clubs, others may do neither. A few of us have more control over the experience than others, whether it be financially or otherwise. I've never been a fan of school, but to this day, I'm glad I chose this growing campus in the middle of downtown St. Petersburg. It's become my home.

Almost from the beginning, residents had complained about the color, taste and odor of the water. But city officials, followed by state officials and then the federal Environmental Protection Agency, shrugged off the complaints.

For most U.S. citizens, the words "federal emergency" usually mean a natural disaster like an earthquake, drought or hurricane. But that has not been the case for the residents of Flint, Michigan. Nearly two years after the city switched its water supply from the Detroit system to the Flint River to save money, the water was corrupted when government officials finally acknowledged that the water streaming into the homes of 100,000 residents contained high levels of lead. Health officials say the lead, which leached into the water from lead pipes, poses a significant health risk, especially to children under 6, who could suffer irreversible damage to their developing brains and nervous systems.

Almost from the beginning, residents had complained about the color, taste and odor of the water. But city officials, followed by state officials and then the federal Environmental Protection Agency, shrugged off the complaints. While many people are pointing fingers at Gov. Rick Snyder for belatedly responding to the crisis, some also contend that environmental regulators opposed adding anti-corrosive agents when they knew that lead was contaminating the pipes. This saved state government a substantial amount of money, but is now costing the federal government and American taxpayers $80 million.

In the United States, we often link human rights violations to child trafficking and illegal labor practices in developing countries. Unfortunately, we need not look further than one of our own cities to find a violation of what the United Nations calls a human right – accessible and affordable water. The city of Flint, which was once the second largest automobile manufacturing city in the U.S., now has 8,000 children under the age of 6 whose long-term health may be imperiled. This national emergency has brought in the National Guard, along with other organizations, to try to clean up the government-imposed mess.

Cher, the Burlesque star herself, has partnered with Icelandic Glacial to donate 180,000 bottles of water to the city. The Dearborn, Mich. nonprofit Muslim organization "Who is Hussain?" has also donated 30,000 bottles so far. USFSP can help the Flint community by donating to the Flint Water Fund or to the multiple GoFundMe campaigns.

Elisa Duka is a senior majoring in global business and international studies. She can be reached at elisa.duka@yahoo.com

The failures of the Flint water crisis

By Elisa Duka
Crow's Nest Contributor

Almost from the beginning, residents had complained about the color, taste and odor of the water. But city officials, followed by state officials and then the federal Environmental Protection Agency, shrugged off the complaints. While many people are pointing fingers at Gov. Rick Snyder for belatedly responding to the crisis, some also contend that environmental regulators opposed adding anti-corrosive agents when they knew that lead was contaminating the pipes. This saved state government a substantial amount of money, but is now costing the federal government and American taxpayers $80 million.

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USFSP 2016 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS...

Want to comment on a story or a campus issue?

Get it off your chest with a letter to the editor. The Crow’s Nest welcomes letters from students, faculty and staff. Send your letter to Ann21@mail.usf.edu.

Letters which may be edited for length, clarity and taste, must include the writer’s name and telephone number (though the number will not be published).

Sudoku #1

© 2013 KrazyDad.com
Local catering service adds some classic soul into vegan cuisine

By Angelina Bruno
Crow's Nest Contributor

Ray Milton – a boxing instructor in his mid-40s with a medium build – doesn’t quite fit the mold of the average beanie-wearing, patchouli-smelling, neighborhood vegan.

Yet, at least in Milton’s eyes, he’s a popular pastry chef in downtown St. Petersburg.

Today, he owns the unique Ray’s Vegan Soul, a vegan catering service that travels to farms, festivals and bars around Tampa Bay. That’s right, even bars.

Milton serves up vegan soul favorites like mac and cheese, pierogies and pumpkin chili outside of downtown’s hipster hang, The Bend.

“I knew the owners, Matt and Victoria, and after serving food at the Bernie Sanders party they had here, they asked me to come back,” he said. Though he has been serving at The Bends for about two months, this isn’t his first gig.

Milton has been a vegan chef and caterer for four years and is a vegan himself, citing that the diet has helped him reverse symptoms of onset diabetes and eliminated his need for prescription medication.

Ray’s Vegan Soul was created to prove healthy food can taste good. “I do this to show people that you can eat vegan food and still keep your strength, your manhood, everything,” Milton said.

One man who is doing just that – professional boxer Keith Thurman. Milton was recently hired by the WBA welterweight champion as his personal chef, and now cooks vegan meals for the athlete daily.

Thurman’s trainer, Dan Birmingham, also trained Milton in boxing when he was a teenager, and recommended the catering service to the Thurman.

“When you go in between fights, you won’t blow up in weight,” Milton said. “You will see his next fight. He’s going to be very aggressive.”

Milton recently locked in a location on Central Avenue and 26th Street N for a brick and mortar storefront which will serve weekly meals for takeout and hold classes on nutrition and healthy living.

He plans to expand the business into a full-service restaurant with a vegan buffet.

Milton says he has developed over 2,000 vegan recipes and credits the success of his business and health by remaining creative and original.

“Be yourself...Don’t be afraid to go outside the box.”

Campus bookseller has become a familiar face

Melanie Carling’s life is an open book

By Jeffery Zanker
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has purchased or rented textbooks from the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore, has probably chatted with Melanie Carling.

Carling wears glasses and her hair short with a long, thin braid that drapes down the back of her Barnes & Noble T-shirt.

She has become a familiar face to USF St. Petersburg students and is known to spark conversations with customers at the checkout counter, often sharing her knowledge of books and telling stories.

Carling, 57, has been in the book business for over 30 years and has worked at the campus bookstore since 2009. From librarian to book-selling at the now-defunct Bookstop in 2002 and worked at the Barnes & Noble superstore.

“Be yourself...Don’t be afraid to go outside the box.”

Vegan Soul, a vegan catering service that has become a familiar face to USFSP’s bookstore is less hectic, but to Carling it is “stranger than fiction.”

Through her years with the company, Carling said she has witnessed eccentric and obscene behavior, particularly at the larger stores.

“Tavern was always something going on at the restrooms or the religion section,” she said. “The restrooms are ground zero for strange activities.”

Incidents include flashers, panhandlers, intruding customers and sexual activities.

USFSP’s bookstore is less hectic, but to Carling it is “stranger than fiction.”

“When I first worked here, it looked liked Alice in Wonderland because hardly anything happened here,” she said, pointing out the odd, docile atmosphere.

But the past followed her. She noted a couple of flashers and other absurd occurrences had made appearances at the store over the years.

Her favorite Florida author, Tim Dorsey, writes crime caper stories that are set in the state. His books are notable for the protagonist Serge A. Storms, a serial killer who has been compared to the front runner in Showtime’s popular series, Dexter.

“He (Dorsey) got to the character first,” she said.

She admires Dorsey’s research on Florida’s indigenous areas. His book “The Big Bamboo” mentions a local bar where celebrities, criminals and even Carling’s parents once visited.

“If anyone wants to know more of Florida, his books are the best.”

Carling is currently reading “Hitler’s Furies,” which details a German women who joined the Third Reich.

Though books have filled her with knowledge, Carling said she’s not as in tune with the digital world. Being labeled a “non-techno person,” she has shown some resistance with technology since computers became mainstream.

But after realizing the advantages of technology, Carling has attempted to catch up with the new trends – buying herself a flip-phone, tablet and, most recently, a laptop.

Aside from selling books, she describes the store as her soapbox, where she can “contribute to the greater good.”

Store manager Jay Hartfield said Carling is the store’s “number one asset.”