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## The Parthenon, September 3, 2015

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# THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 | VOL. 119 NO. 4 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

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DON GURDA | SUBMITTED PHOTO



## COPS + COFFEE: HPD URGES CITIZENS AVOID GIVING TO PANHANDLERS



Officers from the Huntington Police Department meet with citizens and discuss community concerns Wednesday at Huntington's Kitchen.

MACKENZIE KYLE | THE PARTHENON

By MACKENZIE KYLE THE PARTHENON

Huntington's Kitchen hosted a 'Coffee with a Cop,' a forum to allow locals to have one-on-one conversations with several members of the Huntington Police force, including Chief Joe Ciccarelli.

Several topics were discussed throughout the meeting Wednesday including vandalism of local businesses, the removal of city trees, the city's cross walks and bicycle traffic. Heavier topics such as Huntington's ongoing battle against drug addiction and

prostitution had a large role in the discussion.

Ciccarelli led most of the discussion, beginning with sharing some statistics about crime rates in Huntington. According to Ciccarelli, downtown crime is down 14 and a half percent from last year. Police officers have arrested as many people from the months of January to August 2015, than in all of 2014 combined.

"One dilapidated house at a time, one addict at a time is how we're gonna win this," Ciccarelli said.

Ciccarelli stressed the importance of helping those

with drug and alcohol addictions, as well as mental health issues, the treatment they need.

Panhandling was another topic largely discussed by the residents and business owners at the meeting. Many expressed their concern that those soliciting money hurt downtown commerce by deterring locals from the area.

"Do you know why we have panhandlers?" Captain Hank Dial asked. "We hire them to be there. If we didn't pay them, they wouldn't be there."

The city of Huntington has an immense amount of

resources for the homeless of the area, including the Huntington City Mission and the various local churches that provide free meals to those who are down on their luck. Officers told those at the meeting that they believe those panhandling were more than likely looking for money to feed their addictions.

"There's not a cop in Huntington that would walk away from a man or woman who is hungry," Dial said.

Dial and Ciccarelli stressed that Huntington citizens should not give money to panhandlers, no matter

what their story might be. Residents who feel the need to give should donate to local charities directly.

The HPD believes that if city residents make the active decision to not give money to panhandlers, they will eventually go away. They also believe that riding the city of panhandlers will decrease the drug activity in the city.

"I don't believe in feeding the addiction," Dial said. "We've got to stop handing them money."

Mackenzi Kyle can be contacted at [kyle33@marshall.edu](mailto:kyle33@marshall.edu).

## Marshall Clay Club plans general interest meeting

By TAYLOR POLING THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Clay Club is having a general interest meeting Friday at 11 a.m. in the Art Warehouse Ceramic Studio.

The Clay Club is a student organization at Marshall that focuses on the use of ceramics. Courtney Childers is a senior ceramics major from Milton, West Virginia. Childers said the meeting will discuss future events.

The club will also discuss Clay Club sales, future club meetings, visiting artists and conferences for members to attend.

According to Childers, the club attends the annual National Council on Education for the Ceramics Arts conference. The conference was previously held in Providence, Rhode Island but is moving to Kansas City, Kansas this year.

"It was crazy to be surrounded by thousands of people who are all there because they are interested in this same material as you," Childers said.

The club will be holding a demo by local ceramic artist, Noelle Horsefield, this semester as well.

Childers said the club exists for convenience.

"Not everyone has time to take ceramic classes or declare a ceramic major but they still have an interest in clay or desire to learn more about a material that has limitless possibilities," Childers said.

The club is open to all majors and students at Marshall.

"It also promotes an insanely strong community within the studio, becoming a place for people to work together on individual or collaborative projects," Childers said.

Professor Frederick Bartolovic's interest in clay has led him to become the Clay Club advisor. Bartolovic is an Assistant Professor in Ceramics at Marshall. According to his website, Bartolovic works in geography, corporeal, entomology, hybrids and functional ceramics.

Bartolovic's office is located in the Art Warehouse across Third Avenue from the Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Taylor Poling can be contacted at [poling37@marshall.edu](mailto:poling37@marshall.edu).

## Search for new MU president continues

By ASHLEY SODOSKY THE PARTHENON

The search for a new university president is still underway and is expected to wrap up by the end of the semester.

After a long search process by the Board of Governors and the choosing committee, the search has been narrowed to six candidates. The presidential search committee consulted with AGB Search Inc. in May to ensure a selection of what the board refers to as the best candidates.

"Our goal is to find the best person to be our next president and we wanted to be certain we had explored every possibility," said Michael G. Sellards, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the Presidential Search Committee on the presidential search webpage.

The search started with a number of applicants and outreaches. AGB selected a pool of 11 candidates and after vetting those candidates, the board has short-listed its search to six people.

The pool of candidates includes at least one sitting university president and other academic officers with successful terms as interim presidents. Confidentiality is a key part to this point of the selection and names of candidates have not been released.

The search committee will hold off-campus interviews in September for all six candidates. From these interviews, the pool will be shortlisted to an expected three to four candidates.

In the final stage of choosing each of the final candidates will hold on-campus interviews. The possible presidents will hold conversations with various members of Marshall University, including the students.

The name of the final recommended candidate will be chosen by the Board of Governors and sent to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for final approval.

The decision has been worked on since summer and is anticipated to finalize before spring semester. Student body president Duncan Waugaman said it is important that the process has taken its time.

"This is the most lasting decision I will make as student body president," Waugaman said. "The main priority has to be the students, that's what I'm looking for in a president."

The presidential search is consistently updated on the university's webpage. Ashley Sodosky can be contacted at [sodosky@marshall.edu](mailto:sodosky@marshall.edu).

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# NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## New to Huntington, syringe exchange program could prevent diseases

By JOHN COLE GLOVER  
THE PARTHENON

Huntington's syringe exchange program, allows drug users to bring in used syringes for new ones in an effort to prevent diseases from spreading.

The exchange is located at the Cabell-Huntington Health Department at 703 Seventh Avenue.

The program received 15 patients on their first day who were looking for clean syringes or help from drug counselors.

"The community has been hugely supportive," said Dr. Michael Kilkenny, who works with the exchange program.

The exchange is part of Mayor Steve Williams' two-year drug plan, which focuses on rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.

Kilkenny said Huntington has come together looking for a way to solve the drug problem in the area and they have been receiving support from several agencies.

According to the city of Huntington's website, Fruth's Pharmacy has already donated 13,500 syringes to start the program.

"We can't ask for more support than they have given us already," Kilkenny said.

One main goal is education about disease prevention. Diseases related to drug addiction are debilitating and can be easily spread

by reusing or sharing needles. Two of the people seen at the program had drug related infections.

"These are people who are used to being harassed," Kilkenny said. "We treat them like everybody else. We treat them like human beings."

The exchange is part of a larger program designed to help give people hope and options other than abusing drugs. The plan would allow addicts to essentially restart their lives without drugs and try to find meaningful employment, which could give them an incentive to not relapse.

The staff was confident and focused on building trust with the patients, who they hope will return each week to continue safe practices and to look into getting help with their addictions. Three people at the program spoke with recovery coaches about leaving drugs completely.

The Health Department is hopeful that at least half of their patients will seek out a referral for treatment at a local recovery center.

Kilkenny said that he is hopeful they will receive additional funding from private philanthropy groups, which will allow the exchange to continue.

**John Cole Glover can be contacted at [glover39@marshall.edu](mailto:glover39@marshall.edu).**



Participants of the exchange were asked to take number and wait.

MICHAEL BROWN | THE PARTHENON



The syringe exchange took place at Cabell-Huntington Health Department

MICHAEL BROWN | THE PARTHENON

## POLICE BLOTTER

All information provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

By SAMANTHA GODBY  
THE PARTHENON

### Petit Larceny

Aug. 25, an iPhone 5S was reported stolen by a student on campus. The value is claimed to be around \$300. The case is still under investigation and the Marshall University Police Department has no suspects so far.

### Breaking and Entering Auto

The evening of Wednesday, Aug. 26 an unidentified person broke into a Subaru parked in a campus parking lot between 10:20 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. The vehicle owner claims a chemistry textbook, a Surface tablet and a pink North Face backpack were all taken from the vehicle. MUPD viewed tapes from the lot cameras and saw

one person walking by the vehicle during that time frame. No suspects have been determined at this time.

### Underage Drinking

At approximately 10:32 p.m., Aug. 28, the on duty resident advisor at Gibson Hall called to report residents drinking. Upon police arrival, five students were found drinking, all under the age of 21. Arrest citations for underage consumption were written for each. The offenders were described as follows: a white male age 20, a black male age 19, a white female age 19, a black male age 20 and a white female age 19.

**Samantha Godby can be contacted at [godby17@marshall.edu](mailto:godby17@marshall.edu).**

ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON

## Marshall welcomes newest member of the Herd family to June Harless Center

By BREON TAYLOR  
THE PARTHENON

With a farewell to staff member, Robin Leibert, Marshall University welcomes Christopher Loudon as the new secretary and financial clerk for the June Harless Center.

Loudon, a Huntington native from the Ritter Park area, said he is excited to work for the MU family. Loudon said he has been trying to get involved in the family for years and is "grateful to be here."

Loudon describes himself as easy to get along with and very approachable. He prides himself on helping get supplies for the children of June Harless and loves to influence higher learning and it's

different aspects, whether those aspects are technology or even finger-painting.

Loudon plans to try his best to meet the expectations of former financial clerk Leibert. Loudon is searching for big grants to help better the education program at the June Harless Center. Loudon hopes to keep things organized and have the center running the way it should be.

"I believe practice makes perfect," Loudon said.

Loudon compared running the center to the first time playing golf.

"At first you're not really for sure how things work but after a Little practice things will get better," Loudon said.

**Breon Taylor can be contacted at [Taylor625@marshall.edu](mailto:Taylor625@marshall.edu).**



CHRISTOPHER LOUDON

Breon Taylor | The Parthenon

## Students needed for peer mentor positions

By CASEY ADKINS  
THE PARTHENON

The opportunity to become a peer mentor is now available to all students with a GPA of at least 2.75.

"In years past, we have only accepted enough peer mentors to have only one per class," said Matt James, assistant dean of Student Affairs. "This year, anyone who met the GPA requirement was accepted. Most of the UNI 100 classes have two peer mentors."

UNI 100 is an eight-week course required for all incoming freshman. The course is designed to help those freshman adjust to college life by helping students learn study habits and informing them about different resources on campus for various needs.

The course curriculum also includes ice-breakers for students to feel comfortable and help facilitate friendships with classmates.

Students also get the opportunity to learn or practice their public speaking skills.

Among the different lessons and information given to students, some faculty members found that one of their most valuable resources are older students.

"One of the critical additions to the class is the peer mentor," James said. "They make or break the class."

"In 2010 MU adopted a new retention plan. The plan was to revise the old UNI course by basing it on feedback from students and giving the opportunity for upper-classmen to lead the classes. We're excited that the plan is fun and academic."

The idea not only places freshman in a non-traditional setting, it teaches older students leadership skills.

**Casey Adkins can be contacted at [adkins992@marshall.edu](mailto:adkins992@marshall.edu).**

## Pastorale coming to Huntington

By CHANTIL FOSTER  
THE PARTHENON

History will come to life at Marshall University's campus Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Recital Hall as two professors join together to perform the "Pastorale: Woodwinds of the 19th Century."

Oboist, Richard Kravchak, will be performing with the historic oboe and is excited to honor all the musicians that have come before him.

"Even great artist like Bach and Beethoven and Brahms need people like me to interpret their works and bring them to life," Kravchak said. "So I feel very fortunate and blessed to be able to do that."

The audience can expect an abundance of melodies from the performance including "The Fantasy on themes from Rossini's William Tell" which is better known as the theme song from the television series, "The Lone Ranger."

Kravchak will begin the concert with the oboe but later will perform with more modern instruments that will bring

a different sound to the recital hall.

"The poignant and beautiful melody of the oboe is what makes it most commonly the leader in the orchestra," Kravchak said.

"Art reflects society and society has gotten more fast paced I believe," Kravchak said. "Music of the 19th century tends to sound a little sweeter to us. We call it the romantic era for a reason. It's not harsh, it's not probing, it's just happy."

Flutist Wendell Dobbs and other faculty member, pianist Henning Vauth, will be alongside Kravchak for the evening.

Dobbs is looking forward to joining his colleagues on stage and adds another performance out of many under his belt.

"Right before I graduated I played in the United States Army Band in Washington D.C. and I did that for seven years," Dobbs said. "At the end of that, I had a two-year scholarship to study in Paris and then I came back and I free lanced in Washington until I came here in 1985 and I've been here ever since."

**Chantil Foster can be reached at [foster170@marshall.edu](mailto:foster170@marshall.edu).**



## SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Birdsong's journey to Marshall



Quarterback Michael Birdsong runs through a drill during practice.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

By **MALCOLM WALTON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After a change in the coaching staff and being told he did not fit the team's new offensive scheme, Michael Birdsong left James Madison University last year after spending the first two years of his college career with the school.

Despite throwing for nearly 3,000 yards and more than 20 touchdowns his sophomore year as the starting quarterback for the Dukes, the Matoaca, Virginia native, who credits his family for sparking his passion for football, remained positive following the new coaching staff's decision.

"I just didn't fit what they had in mind going forward," Birdsong said. "And that was fine, no hard feelings there. I got word that I had some other schools interested in me soon after that."

One of those schools was Marshall University.

With help from former James Madison coach J.C. Price, who

joined the Herd's coaching staff in 2012, Marshall landed the 6-foot-5, 240 pound quarterback during his first visit with the university.

After sitting out the 2014 season as a redshirt, Birdsong won the starting quarterback position for the upcoming season.

The position became available after the departure of four-year starter Rakeem Cato, the Herd's all-time leader in passing yards and touchdowns, graduated in the spring.

"It's huge to come through and follow a guy like that," Birdsong said. "But I'm just going to go out and be the player that I am and not worry about what he did. The things he did out on that field were tremendous, but that's not me. I got to play the game the way I play it."

Marshall running back Devon Johnson said Birdsong has quickly gained the trust of the locker room during his time with the team.

"He's very confident," Johnson said. "You can tell he started before on the college level. You can tell by the way he takes the field, and that's what you want from your quarterback."

Head coach Doc Holiday said Birdsong has shown improvements the past couple of weeks and that he has confidence in the quarterback as he prepares for his first regular season game as a member of the Herd.

Johnson added that he would not want another quarterback leading the team on the field Sunday against the University of Purdue after what Birdsong has shown his teammates this offseason.

"I have a great feeling about Birdsong," Johnson said. "Just hearing the way he talked and led us during camp, I got a feeling this guy is going to be special."

**Malcolm Walton can be contacted at walton47@marshall.edu.**

## HERD FOOTBALL TEAM YET TO ANNOUNCE STARTING KICKER FOR SEASON OPENER

By **JOSHUA HUGHES**  
THE PARTHENON

As the 2015 Thundering Herd football season approaches, position battles have been won and lost.

However, the starting kicker position is one that still needs filled before the season opens against the Purdue Boilermakers on Sunday.

Last season, kicker Justin Haig proved to be a valuable piece to the Herd's conference championship puzzle. Haig converted on all four of his field goal attempts en route to a 26-23 victory over Louisiana Tech.

With Haig's graduation last spring, the team has two kickers that are battling to become the week one starter.

Amoreto Curraj, a redshirt sophomore, is competing for the starting job against another redshirt sophomore, Nick Smith. Both players were backups to Haig last season.

With Haig primarily kicking extra points and field goals, Curraj, who is from Tampa, Florida, joined the team as a walk-on kickoff specialist in 2013. He belted a total of 52 touchbacks that year, ranking fourth in the nation. In 2014, Curraj was redshirted due to reoccurring back and groin injuries.

Nick Smith was also a walk-on in 2013, but the Plain City, Ohio native was redshirted when Amoreto Curraj was put on kickoff duty.

However, he gained an opportunity to show his worth in last season's Conference USA Championship. Smith assumed kickoff duties for the game but had just three kicks. He also kicked in last season's Boca Raton Bowl against Northern Illinois University, when he had two touchbacks on nine kickoffs in the victory.

Head coach Doc Holiday said both players have made strong cases for themselves

in training camp. Holliday declined to name a starter at his weekly press conference on Tuesday.

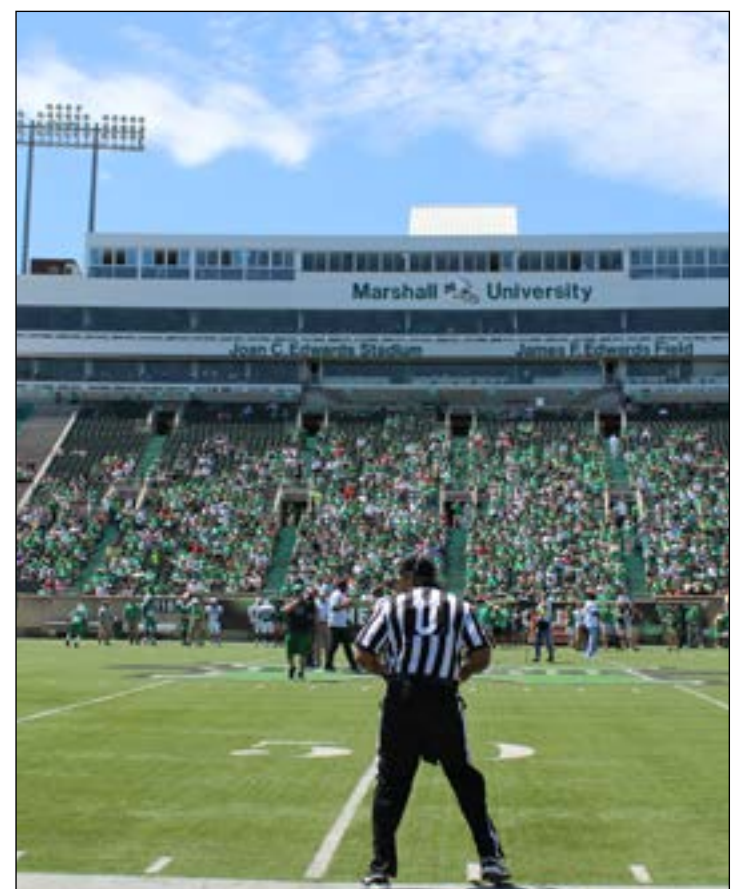
Todd Goebbel, who was initially hired as the team's tight ends coach this past February but has, instead, filled the role of special teams coordinator throughout the offseason, said the starting kicker position will be a competition.

"Right now, Amoreto Curraj is the leader in the clubhouse," Goebbel said. "When you've got two talented young men that are vying for a position, you've got to keep competition at the position. That's how we're going to move forward."

Goebbel said Curraj's lead does not mean he has been named the starting kicker for Sunday's opener, as an official decision will not be made until later this week.

**Josh Hughes can be contacted at hughes261@marshall.edu.**

"When you've got two talented young men that are vying for a position, you've got to keep competition at the position. That's how we're going to move forward."  
- Todd Goebbel



The Herd takes the field during a scrimmage. PARTHENON FILE PHOTO last year.



# OPINION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

| THE PARTHENON |

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## THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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

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## EDITORIAL

# Kim Davis: an issue of church and state



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY | AP PHOTO

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis, right, talks with David Moore following her office's refusal to issue marriage licenses at the Rowan County Courthouse in Morehead, Ky. Tuesday. Although her appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court was denied, Davis still refuses to issue marriage licenses.

Kim Davis is a reminder that the legacy of George Wallace lives on, though this time we're dealing with same-sex marriage rather than racial integration, and rather than standing in front of a school door, Davis is gatekeeping through her job as county clerk.

Davis started denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples immediately after the Supreme Court ruling on June 26 and has since then been ordered to issue the licenses, but has continued to avoid doing so.

Her reasoning? She is exercising her freedom of religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Davis's argument is problematic in that in this situation, as an elected official she is acting as the state and therefore her religious views should be separate from her work, something also guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Same-sex couples in Rowan County should be able to obtain a marriage license in their own county and not be forced to get a license from a county over, not just for convenience, but because Kentucky law explicitly states this as the procedure for marriage licenses.

Because Davis is an elected official, she is expected by the

people of Rowan County to uphold her duties as county clerk, which includes, among other things, issuing marriage licenses according to the state and federal law. It is not her job to interpret those laws to cater to her own beliefs in practicing her job.

If an elected official cannot fulfill the position he or she was elected to do because of a personal belief, he or she should not have opted to run for the position in the first place. Granted same-sex marriage was made legal after Davis was elected, Davis should step down because she can no longer fulfill

the duties prescribed as Rowan County clerk.

LGBTQ individuals have faced and still face adversity and prejudice every day. The LGBTQ community has worked tirelessly for years to be seen as equals in terms of marriage. To deny those in Rowan County Kentucky what the rest of the country has finally achieved is a slap in the face at best.

One day Kim Davis will take her place in the history books, right next to George Wallace, as the face of prejudice against LGBTQ individuals and the force against the struggle for equality.

# #FeministThursday: You might be a feminist.

**By JOCELYN GIBSON**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Feminism is a misunderstood term. So many people are against the movement and only a minority of those against it knows what being a feminist means. Many more agree with the values of feminism but believe sternly they are not one.

This column aims to clear some of that ambiguity up. First, it is important to note that feminism doesn't mean the same thing to every feminist. So, just because one doesn't agree with every belief of another who identifies as feminist, doesn't mean either person is wrong.

Feminism broadly equates to the belief that all sexes are equal and deserve equal rights. Now, for some that means women should assimilate to male culture to achieve equality. For some, that means the rights should be equal but adjusted to the individual needs of the genders.

I personally ascribe to the second version. I believe women should receive equal rights but by being uniquely female, not by assimilating to the male-dominated culture.

In my mind, men and women

deserve equal status in society but men and women are not identical in all aspects of life. A man would not likely need leave from work to give birth, however, men should be given time off for paternity leave when a partner gives birth. The end result of time off is the same but the reasons are different.

Men and women have different needs but those differences don't make one superior and one inferior. There are feminists, however, that believe that in order for women to achieve equality, they need to embody more masculine standards.

I know other feminists who don't want children, who are career-focused, who wouldn't ask for time off for a "female" reason and that's totally fine. That's the choice for the individual to make.

I am a little more traditional. I do want children and I let that affect my career choices because it's a priority in my life.

The one agreement feminists need to come to, however, is that both of those choices are valid. My choice to fill the traditional female role shouldn't be seen as less than the choice of a woman who wants to focus on her career.

I will fight for her rights to break the glass ceiling and take leadership roles formerly only men held and I hope that she would fight for my right to stay home and raise children who are socially aware. I would also support the rights of a woman who chose to do a little of both. I would hope that all feminists see the need for reproductive rights of all kinds because they support all the possible life choices a woman could make—access to birth control, abortions, choices for maternity care and affordable health and child care.

I have also heard the argument: "being a strong woman doesn't make me a feminist" and I would argue that it only doesn't make you a feminist because you don't want to be labeled a feminist.

Just like feminism, everyone has his or her own definition of what being a strong woman means. For me, being a strong woman means that I am a feminist and it also means that I am aware of what makes me female and I take both of those concepts into consideration when I fight for women's rights.

I have also spoken to men who tell me they agree with

feminism, but don't feel like they will be welcomed into the movement by women and my response to them every time is that if you encounter women who count you out of feminism just because you are a man, those women are not feminists.

Feminism is a movement for everyone. It is meant to help men and women create a better society in which to live—one where gender roles aren't as rigid and we can all achieve in equal measure.

My version of feminism involves fighting for the rights of men as well. There are gendered issues that only negatively affect men. For example, many feminists are also part of the anti-circumcision movement. Feminists want to create a world in which men don't have to feel boxed in to society's idea of masculinity.

Before making the assertion that you are not a feminist, just think about your beliefs when it comes to gender and equality. If you feel ill at ease with the status quo, you may just be a feminist.

**Jocelyn Gibson can be contacted at [gibson243@marshall.edu](mailto:gibson243@marshall.edu).**



## Big Rock and the CandyAss Mountain Boys continue Black Sheep residency

By **NATHAN THOMAS**  
THE PARTHENON

Long running Huntington funk string band, Big Rock and the CandyAss Mountain Boys, continue their monthly residency at Black Sheep Burritos and Brews with a performance Thursday.

"That spot has always been special in its different incarnations," said Dave Lavender, bassist and vocalist. "Some of the older members of Big Rock, which has been around for about 15 years, had played there when it was Calamity Café a bunch of times. So when Pat Guthrie opened up Black Sheep, we were magnetically drawn to the spot."

The monthly residency began as "String Thing Thursdays" a monthly event that featured Appalachian string music and artists such as The Modock Rounders, Sasha Colette and Tyler Childers. "First Thursday of every month," said Rod Elkins, guitarist and vocalist. "It's not really a thing anymore, we're the last of the string things."

"We're in the truest sense of the word Americana," Lavender said. "Americana to me is American roots music. So we're all of that. We play old time jazz, including some West Virginia songs, obscure jazz tunes, old blues and old country, all through the instrumentation of an Appalachian string band. We do originals too."



Big Rock and the CandyAss Mountain Boys stand for a group shot.

PHOTO BY TORIL LAVENDER

"It's modern takes on old songs really," Elkins said. "A molding of old and new."

BRATCAMB is in the early stages of planning to record a new album. "The first record had that great living room feel, so we're shopping around trying to figure out where to cut a live record like that," Lavender said. "The tough thing is getting eight or nine people together at the same place at the same time."

they've been able to hold on to their crowd more-so than about anybody."

Big Rock and the CandyAss Mountain Boys perform at Black Sheep Burritos and Brews the first Thursday of every month. Sept. 17 they'll play the last Buddy's Bike Night of the season.

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"We're really just trying to nail down everyone's schedules," Elkins said.

Multiple members of BRATCAMB play in other bands; Rod Elkins is a member of Tyler Childers and the Food Stamps and Deadbeats and Barkers. Saxophonist Ted Harris, a native of Athens, Ohio is the bandleader for the Word of Mouth Jazz Band.

"I think we're all in the band to hear Bo Masullo sing," Lavender said. "She's a fantastic front woman."

"Anytime people come, they like to move and groove," Lavender said. "We turn what's usually a listening room into a full dance party. It doesn't happen all of the time, but it happens a lot of the time."

"We love them," said Ian Thornton, booker and manager at Black Sheep, "They always bring a party. A fun loving crowd.

It's so easy for things to get stale, but

## Old Main Emporium thriving after one year of business in Huntington

By **ROB ENGLE**  
THE PARTHENON

Sandwiched in a row of shops in downtown Huntington is a small boutique that packs a big punch.

Operated by Sara Deel and Sara Sturgen, Old Main Emporium specializes in all things kelly green, from apparel, to jewelry, even home goods.

But it's not just their products that make this shop what it is.

"Sara and Sara make it such a great shopping experience," said Erin Highlander, a frequent customer of Old Main Emporium.

Highlander, who describes herself as "shopping [at the Emporium] often enough that I know when the shipment truck comes," said that customers will never shop alone.

"The nice part about shopping with Sara and Sara is that you get friends. You don't need a shopping buddy because the people who own this store are your shopping buddies," Highlander said.

Highlander is an example of the kind of customer relationship Deel and Sturgen aim to achieve.

"We try to be friendly. We try to be welcoming. We want to treat everyone who walks in the door as a friend with the hope that after a period of time, they will actually become one," Sturgen said. "I think that's something you don't typically see at a lot of retailers."

It is this personable atmosphere that Deel and Sturgen believe is behind their business' successes, which most recently includes winning the Ignite Award from West Virginia Executive Magazine.

"Ignite The Mountain State" is an annual statewide contest that provides a small business operating for two years or less with marketing assistance, business training and other promotional features to help their business succeed.

According to Bloomberg Business, eight out of 10 small businesses fail within the first year but Deel and Sturgen say they have done more than just survived: they have thrived. Deel attributes this to their thorough planning.

"Sara and I are careful with our business plan," Deel said. "We've both been in business for a long time, so we're very conscientious about keeping



Old Main Emporium, located on Fourth Avenue in downtown Huntington, specializes in selling unique kelly green apparel and accessories.



Sara Deel and Sara Sturgen said they want to provide unique Marshall-related items you cannot get anywhere else.

our business above water. A lot of small businesses in West Virginia go into it with the plan to quit if they lose money after the first six months. We're not like that. We're in it for the long haul."

Deel and Sturgen have always strived to be unique. The two originally started Old Main Emporium because they noticed dearth of kelly green professional-wear in Huntington.

"We had worked at another vendor in town, and if you wanted to dress up or work professionally, the options you had were very limited," Sturgen said. "That's what our focus is, fashionable and professional."

In addition, Deel and Sturgen say they want to bring something new to Marshall fans.

"A women this morning said, 'You have some much cute stuff, so unusual for Marshall,'" Sturgen said. "It's the biggest ego boost when someone comes in here and says, 'You look like a boutique at an SEC school,' because nobody goes to those football games without looking their best. That's the mark we're trying to hit."

Sturgen says the way to meet this mark is through the store's variety.

"We don't have one single item that everyone buys out. We're very strange for that reason," Sturgen said. "For example, two weeks ago, we couldn't keep the kelly green plaid fedora in stock. Now, they haven't been touched since. This store works on customer preference, whatever seems to be happening with the universe that week."

For this reason, Deel and Sturgen said they always try and mix up their inventory, buying from different collegiate vendors as well as independent artists and retailers.

The two said the hardest part about purchasing is finding Marshall's distinct kelly green.

"Kelly green is one of the most difficult colors to work with because it runs a spectrum of about six shades," Sturgen said. "There are some things in here that look very blue to us, but when you put them out in the real world, it looks kelly green."

Deel noted the added difficulty of the color not always being "in."

"In the fashion industry, kelly green is known as a 'fashion color', so it goes in and out of style.

For example, right now it's not in style and so our regular wholesalers aren't carrying it. This fall is all about olive," Deel said.

Highlander said the selection of apparel in kelly green is what she loves about the Emporium.

"You don't have to be a Marshall fan to shop here," Highlander said. "I can come in here and get something with Marshall emblazoned across it but also can pick something up for a wedding or to wear to the office that so that I can still have my little piece of green everywhere I go."

Apart from providing this hard-to-find color, the owners pride themselves on supplying hard-to-find sizes. Sturgen said one of her best memories was helping man find the right fit.

"He was a 5XL," Sturgen said. "This gentleman came in with his wife and he had expectations that we weren't going to be able to fit him in anything. He started loading his

arms up with things and came up to the counter and said, 'I never expected a little store like you to have anything I can wear,'" Sturgen said.

"We are not afraid to get on a plane and go to where we need to go in order to find cute stuff for everybody," Sturgen added. "For the bigger guys and girls who aren't used to being able to find anything, we try really hard to bring in a variety of products."

Deel said their business plan for the future is to continue staying ahead of the curve.

"Sara and I thrive on finding new things. We've done some exclusives with people who won't be exclusive anymore, so we will keep going after the things that people are not finding in order to stay ahead of the curve in originality," Deel said. "For example, this season we're doing Brooks Brothers, which is altogether new for Marshall. We just want to be as cutting edge as you can possibly be with university stuff."

When asked for additional any comments, Deel and Sturgen said, "Go Herd!"

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