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The Parthenon, September 4, 2015

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FOOTBALL EDITION

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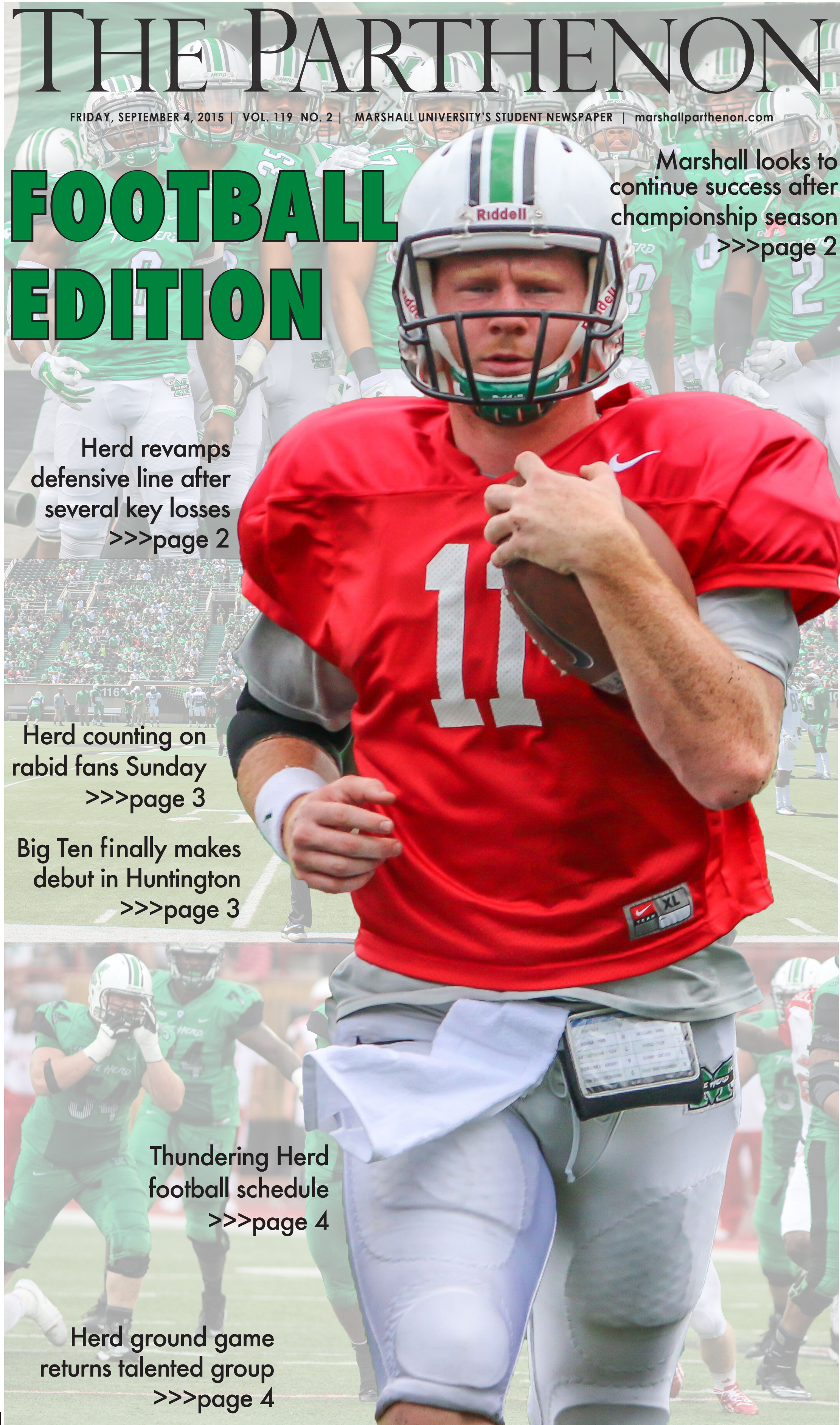
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FOOTBALL EDITION

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Marshall looks to continue success after championship season



Marshall University players prepare to take the field before a home game during the 2014 season.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

By **JOSEPH ASHLEY**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University 2014 football team capitalized on a favorable schedule and a highly efficient offense that propelled it to a 13-1 record.

While the defense had its ups and downs, it was consistent enough to win the conference, overcoming a big challenge from Louisiana Tech University in the conference championship game.

The weakness of the defense was demonstrated against Western Kentucky University, as the Hilltoppers piled up 67 points on the Herd.

This year starts off with a higher level of competition, Purdue University. The Boilermakers have a lot of skill returning, including eight starters on offense.

Purdue's entire offensive line and its quarterback are returning from last year, as well as wide receiver Danny Anthrop, who led the team with 616 yards receiving.

However, the Boilermakers have struggled during recent years, having won just three games in 2014 and one game in 2013.

Doc Holliday, the Marshall University head football coach, said the last time the team faced Purdue in 2012, the Herd had an offense capable of scoring, but the team was unable to make

defensive stops.

In 2012, the Herd's defense gave up more than 40 points a game, but it has shown a marked improvement since.

On a high note, Marshall University returns defensive stand out Evan McKelvey, who went down with an ACL injury in the game at Old Dominion University last season.

In the coach's press conference, Holliday named him an emotional leader and said McKelvey would have likely been the best player on defense last year, if not for his season-ending injury.

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Herd revamps defensive line after several key losses

By **BRADLEY HELTZEL**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In his weekly press conference, head coach Doc Holliday praised the program's player development during his tenure at Marshall University.

The graduation of perhaps the program's most revered recruiting class will test that theory Sunday when a cornucopia of new starters take the field as the Herd welcomes Purdue University to the confines of Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

However, the number of fresh faces atop the depth chart of the defensive line supersedes that of any other positional grouping after 2014 starters James Rouse, Arnold Blackmon and Ra'Shawde Myers have departed since last season.

The lone returning starter is nose tackle Jarquez Samuel, who Holliday said is a prime example of the team's in-house development.

"We talk all the time about player development within our program and watching guys grow up and become players," Holliday said. "[Jarquez] is surely a guy who has done a great job with that, and he's developed well."

Samuel, a 6-foot-4, 287-pound lineman, started all 14 games last season, accumulating 30 tackles, five tackles

for loss, one sack and an interception.

Samuel said as the single returning starter and most experienced player on the defensive line, he has taken on more of a leadership role this offseason.

However, he added that the coaching staff's preparation has resulted in a number of players returning with considerable experience.

Stationed next to Samuel as the team's three-technique tackle will be Steve Dillon, who played in 14 games last season posting 35 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks. Dillon, who has played at the three technique and nose tackles in the past, said he's ready to perform both roles again this season but acknowledges the differences and difficulties of the each spot.

"At three, I'm more of attacking," Dillon said.

Dillon added that he is a bit rusty at the nose and actually prefers the three because of the position's simplicity.

"That's where I'm more comfortable, as the three," Dillon said. "Once you go through your pre-snap reads and you eliminate blocks coming to you, and what can you possibly get, it's all about just going. You don't want to think too much."

Samuel and Dillon will occupy the

starting spots, but defensive tackles coach J.C. Price will devote snaps to sophomore Tomell One and redshirt senior Ricardo Williams as part of the rotation as well. The two combined to play 390 snaps a year ago collecting 32 tackles, three tackles for loss and a sack.

Joe Massaquoi and Armonze Daniel are pegged as the new starters for Sunday's opener, although defensive ends coach Sean Cronin will utilize a hefty rotation throughout the season.

"The two best are going to start," Cronin said. "But they're all going to rotate, that's the way we play."

Based on Cronin's assertion, that means plenty of snaps for redshirt junior Gary Thompson and sophomore transfer Blake Keller.

Cronin said a player's place on the depth chart one week does not guarantee anything the next week.

"Depth charts are written in pencil," Cronin said. "I'm never going to put an end to competition. There's going to be somebody for the first game. There might be somebody else for the second game. The second one of those guys gets comfortable and stops working, they're going to get beat out."

Bradley Heltzel can be contacted at heltzel1@marshall.edu.



Marshall linemen run through a drill during practice.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO



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Herd counting on rabid fans Sunday

By **BRITTANIE FOWLER**

THE PARTHENON

Thirty-eight thousand.

That's how many fans it will take to pack Joan C. Edwards Stadium Sunday against Purdue. As of Tuesday, an estimated 30,000 tickets had already been sold.

Marshall University ranked at the top of the conference last year for the number of fans attending home games. Joan C. Edwards Stadium averaged a 72 percent capacity in 2014, a number the ticket office would like to beat this season. Coming off a one-loss season and a bowl win, that goal doesn't seem too far out of reach.

What is it that keeps these fans coming back year after year? Marshall fan Alex Dawes explains.

"Being a Marshall football fan... it holds a really strong connection to my family," Dawes said. "I've had several cousins that have donned the green and white and played football for Marshall. I've always grown up a fan but now that I'm here on campus it means so much more. Walking into the stadium anytime you hear the 'We Are...' chant I get cold chills. Even thinking about it, I get cold chills. Being a Marshall football fan means everything and having a community that comes together is what means the most."

Senior team captain Devon Johnson would agree with the statement that Marshall has the best fans in Conference USA.



Marshall fans cheer on the Herd. Marshall had the best attendance numbers amongst Conference USA members for home games last season.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

"They're loyal," Johnson said. "They sit there and support you all game and they don't leave you. Like I said before, many times I've been recruited by different colleges and I've been there and I've seen the games. I see fans leave and don't finish the game when the team's losing big. But

if we're losing, the fans are always there supporting us and they stay there and tell us 'congratulations.'"

Marshall fans share a common bond only understood by those who bleed the green and white. Fans have roots in the school as well as the community. Those roots are what bring the community

of Huntington together each and every weekend to watch Marshall football.

Johnson, who is from Richlands, Virginia, expects to see some familiar faces in the crowd. With Marshall only being about three hours from home, it gives his family, friends and former coaches the opportunity to

travel to Huntington and watch him play.

"This Sunday I'm going to have a lot of people up here supporting me from home," Johnson said. "My high school coaches, my family, and my friends will all be there, so I'll have close to like 20 people there."

As the program seeks a

sell-out Sunday as it hosts its first Big Ten team in Huntington, Johnson asks one thing of his fans:

"Come here. Be loud. Cheer hard... and support us."

Predicted score: 24-17 Marshall

Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at fowler85@marshall.edu.

Big Ten finally makes debut in Huntington

By **TRACE JOHNSON**

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University football program will be in an unfamiliar situation this Sunday when the Purdue Boilermakers come to town.

Purdue will be the first Big Ten Conference football team to make a trip to Huntington in Marshall football history, and the game will be the first time in program history Marshall will open the season at home on a Sunday.

The Herd is 0-5 all-time against Big Ten competition; however, all of those games were away from the friendly confines of Joan C. Edwards Stadium, a place where the Herd is 142-26 since the stadium opened in 1991. That is good for a .845 winning percentage, which is the third best home winning percentage of any FBS program.

There is no denying the significance of this game and the excitement continues to grow throughout the whole Marshall community.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Marshall Head Coach Doc Holliday said. "It's the first time in the history of the school a Big Ten team is coming in here so I know the fans are excited, our community is excited, and I know our players are."

Marshall Athletics Director Mike Hamrick, who scheduled the home-and-home series with the Boilermakers that began in 2012, shares the same enthusiasm about the game.

"To get a team like Purdue with their tradition, their name, the quality opponent that they will be from arguably one of the best conferences in college football, I think it's a compliment to Marshall, it's a compliment to Huntington, it's a compliment to everybody who supports our football program, and it's a compliment to our football program that a Big Ten team would come here and play us," Hamrick said. "We're really looking forward to it."

According to Jason Corriher, the assistant athletic director for Media Relations at Marshall, Purdue's visit to Joan C. Edwards Stadium will be just the seventh visit from a "Power 5" conference team since Marshall made its return to major college football in 1997, compiling a 1-5 record in those games. This will be the first time a "Power Five" opponent will make a visit to Huntington since Virginia Tech in 2011.

"I think it's a great tribute to our program," Holliday



Purdue will be the first Big Ten team to visit Huntington in program history.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

said. "It's a great tribute to Mike Hamrick and what he's had the opportunity to do because we've got Purdue coming in here, a year down the road we've got Louisville coming, we've got NC State coming, we've got Pitt coming, we've got Navy coming, so it's just a tribute that they think enough of Marshall University to come here and play us in our stadium, and I think it's a great opportunity for our program and it says a lot about where our program is going."

Hamrick said the game will open up many opportunities for the football program.

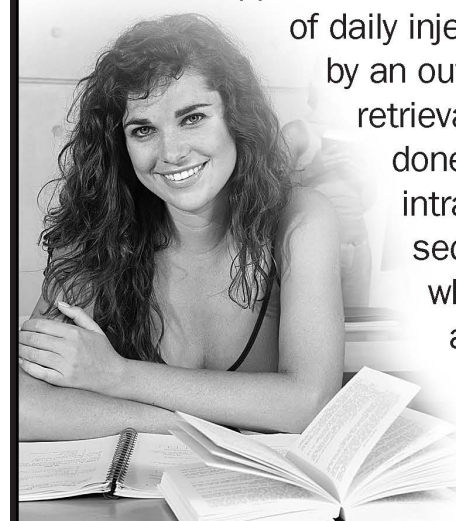
"The game's on national TV, it's on a Sunday and no other college games are on TV that day, so if you're looking to watch college football, you're going to watch Marshall play Purdue. So it puts us at a level where we're perceived at the same level as a Big Ten team," Hamrick said.

"It will help us significantly from a recruiting standpoint, not just for athletics, but for the university because it exposes Marshall to potential students," he said. "It's just a great opportunity to bring the entire Marshall family together."

Marshall is encouraging all fans to wear Kelly Green for the "15 Green Acres Kelly Green Out" promotion. The Herd and the Boilermakers kickoff at 3 p.m. on Sunday in front of a national TV audience on Fox Sports 1.

My prediction is Marshall will defeat Purdue 38-24. Trace Johnson can be contacted at johnson940@marshall.edu.

A regional infertility treatment center is seeking women 20-32 years old willing to donate their eggs anonymously to infertile couples. Treatment involves an approximate 10-20 day course of daily injections, followed by an outpatient egg retrieval procedure done under intravenous sedation. Donors who are accepted and complete a treatment cycle will be paid \$2,000.



Interested individuals should call 304.526.2652 for additional information and application materials.

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Herd ground game returns talented group

By **SCOTT BOLGER**
THE PARTHENON

When the Marshall University Football team takes the field Sunday against Purdue University, six running backs will be wearing Kelly green.

Seniors Remi Watson and Devon Johnson, sophomore Tony Pittman and freshmen Kelon Davis, Delvin Weems and Ellis Cain are the six running backs on the Herd's roster.

The three eligible carriers returning from the previous season – Watson, Johnson and Pittman – combined for 2,351 of the 3,807 rushing yards and 24 of the 40 rushing touchdowns accumulated last season.

Johnson finished the season as a Doak Walker semi-finalist, one of the most coveted awards for running backs. The Richlands, Virginia, native amassed 1,767 yards, sixth in Division I football despite only having his number called 206 times.

Watson ended the season with 546 yards and six touchdowns on just 100 carries. The deep ball was the catalyst to Johnson and Watson's yards per carry averages, as the Herd ran most of its offense through the spread.

The spread often forces opponents to a smaller defensive lineup because of the many receivers lined up opposite them. When Ra-keem Cato, who averaged 32.2 pass attempts per game last season, faked a throwing



Senior running back Devon Johnson pushes a defender off during a game last season.

FILE PHOTO

stance only to hand the ball to Johnson, the defense often was left helpless.

However, this is a new season. There is no Cato or Steward Butler, who was dismissed this summer after finishing 2015 with 798 yards on 107 carries and seven touchdowns.

With new quarterback Michael Birdsong at the helm and the one-two punch in Johnson and Butler gone, Marshall still plans to do what it did last year: take what the defense is giving them with a balanced attack.

Head coach Doc Holliday said the team's plan on utilizing Johnson this season will vary on the opposing team's defensive scheme.

"A lot of that depends on what we get, what the defense gives us," Holliday said.

Holliday added that the team was able to provide a balance offensive attack last season.

"I thought the one thing that we did a great job of a year ago wasn't planned, but we were almost perfectly balanced,"

Holliday said he would like to see his team do the same this season.

Running back coach Chris Barclay said he expects it will take the team some time to adjust to Birdsong taking over the quarterback position.

"With a young or new quarterback, there's going to be an acclimation period with just him getting used to the guys around him, getting used to the line and getting the game experience," Barclay said. "Fortunately, Michael has

played in games at a different level, but he has some game experience but not necessarily in this offense or in this environment. I think, early on, we're going to have to lean on the running game a little bit."

Barclay said he is not concerned about the loss of Butler.

"I think this group could be just as talented if not more talented than we were last year," Barclay said. "Steward certainly was a talented guy, but I thought Remy played well in the third spot. There were some games, if I recall the Akron game, he was over 100 yards. In the ODU game, he was over 100 yards. He had a few good games. He probably needed to play more. He's a productive guy and

always has been."

Barclay added that Pittman can also be an important piece to the Herd's running game this season.

"He can play some good minutes for us," Barclay said. "He's really had a good off-season, a great spring and he's had a great camp."

Despite his inexperience, Davis has shown he may be able to carry some of the workload this season, Barclay said.

"He's a freshman with great size and great instincts," Barclay said. "So, he may be a guy that flashes this season as well. We feel good because we're just as talented if not more talented than last year."

Scott Bolger can be contacted at bolger@marshall.edu.

Thundering Herd Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sunday, Sept. 6	vs Purdue University 	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12	@ Ohio University 	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 19	vs Norfolk State University 	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 26	@ Kent State University 	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 3	vs Old Dominion University 	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9	vs Southern Miss University 	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 17	@ Florida Atlantic University 	12:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24	vs North Texas University 	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31	@ Charlotte University 	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 7	@ Middle Tennessee State University 	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 14	vs Florida International University 	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 27	@ Western Kentucky Unvers 	12:00 p.m.



Signs represent the differing opinions at Kim Davis's trial Thursday in Ashland.

TAYLOR POLING | THE PARTHENON

Student Government Association meetings underway

By CADI DUPLAGA
THE PARTHENON

Senate meetings are underway for the 2015-2016 school year with the Student Government Association.

Tuesday was the first Senate meeting of the school year and the second meeting of Senate session 73. There were two nominees to present to the Senate for Press Secretary and Chief of Staff. There was also a nomination for President Pro Tempore.

Barkley Castro was picked as Press Secretary and Cody Hatten was chosen as Chief of Staff. The Judiciary committee and the Senate approved both positions.

Hatten had to resign as President Pro-Tempore in order to become Chief of Staff. Many of those in attendance competed for the position. Each candidate gave a speech and Alex O'Donnell came out on top.

Izzy Rogner was thrilled to take the position and explained that said she could not have been more excited for O'Donnell.

"He gave an awesome speech and really showed that he was so deserving of the position," Rogner said.

Duncan Waugaman was unable to attend this Senate meeting and won't be able to attend future meetings due to his capstone course. Waugaman explained that the first meeting was mainly to bring everyone back together and get started with elections in order to get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

"I am very excited for all these new senators to come in," said Waugaman. "Any success that Izzy and myself and the executives have all comes from the hard work of the senators and the Legislative Branch, so I'm really excited to get to work with them and start the new school year."

No bills went through during this meeting and no new Senate seats are available. Next week Senate members are hoping to continue business in their next meeting.

Cadi Duplaga can be contacted at duplaga2@marshall.edu.

Rowan County clerk held in contempt over marriage licenses

By TAYLOR POLING
THE PARTHENON

Federal judge David Bunning ordered Kim Davis, Rowan County clerk, jailed Thursday for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in Kentucky.

Davis was elected county clerk in Rowan County, Kentucky only 66 miles west of Huntington in November 2014. Davis said she is "under God's authority" for not issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

A ruling on Aug 12 by Judge Bunning instructed Davis to issue the same-sex marriage licenses. She submitted an appeal that was overruled Monday. It was her defiance against the Monday ruling, which brought her to the courthouse in Ashland, Kentucky on Thursday.

Davis was not the only person present at the courthouse. Protesters flooded the courtroom and the stairs outside of the courthouse. Dozens of signs were carried by the crowd.

"Repent or Perish" and "Repent, Turn to Jesus or Burn" were two of the largest signs visible that supported Davis's decision to refuse to distribute the marriage licenses.

"My Jesus Says Love" and "Small Town Not Small Mind" were

two signs among many others which supported Judge Bunning's ruling.

The protesting remained nonviolent, although tense and heated arguments broke out at times among protestors. There were multiple instances where an argument gradually escalated into a chant.

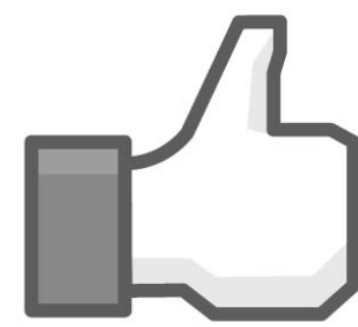
Chants could be heard as far as a block away. "Gay or straight, black or white, marriage is a civil right!" was one of the many chants being echoed among the pit of protestors. Protestor Katie Rabalais said it was "despicable" for Davis to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Protestor Zanthia Hill said she was there to "support religious liberty and Christian rights."

The courthouse anticipated the large crowd and potential for intense protesting. Homeland Security and U.S. Marshalls were present. Local and state police officers lined the roads in front of and along the sides of the courthouse.

Judge Bunning ruled Davis would be released as soon as she agrees to start issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Until that time, Davis will remain in jail.

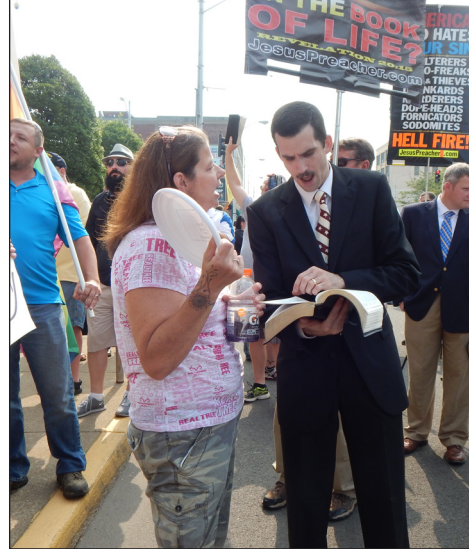
Taylor Poling can be reached at poling37@marshall.edu.



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Groups gather outside the courthouse Thursday to express opinions on Davis's situation.



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR POLING | THE PARTHENON

Student brings awareness to Love Your Melon beanie campaign

By RILEY MAHONEY
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University senior Peyton Riddick hopes to increase student awareness of the Love Your Melon campaign.

Love Your Melon is a Minnesota based non-profit charity started in 2012 by college sophomores Zachary Quinn and Brian Keller.

The two students started the non-profit with the goal of helping those in need, specifically, children battling cancer. On December 23, 2013, the organization received 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, which established the charity as a non-profit.

Last semester Peyton Riddick, a Marshall University senior and Crew Captain for Love Your Melon, was shopping for beanies online when she came across Love Your Melon.

"I thought they were cute at first, then I started reading about it and I thought it was very interesting and I wanted to start a chapter on Marshall's campus." Riddick said.

Riddick then contacted Love Your Melon, learned the requirements and started a chapter.

The non-profit originally used a buy one, give one program. However, Love Your Melon has recently launched a new model to replace the buy one give one program.

In this new program fifty percent of net proceeds on every product sold will be donated to the Pinky Swear Foundation and CureSearch, both organizations dedicated to helping children diagnosed with cancer.

After the chapter reaches 100 beanies sold, the ambassadors for each chapter, dressed as super heroes, then take the beanies and pass them out to the children at local hospitals.

Since starting up the chapter at Marshall Riddick says student participation and awareness has increased.

"I was really happy with the response at Rec Fest," said Riddick.

The Marshall chapter has not yet reached its goal of 100 beanies sold, so it has not been able to make the hospital visit.

"The most rewarding thing is going to be going to the hospital and handing out the beanies to the kids," Riddick said.

Riley Mahoney can be contacted at mahoney10@marshall.edu.

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