By KELLY PATE

The semi-annual graduation fair, Countdown to Commencement, helped graduates tie up loose ends Tuesday and Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center. Since 2003, the Registrar’s Office has presented the annual event featuring graduating students by providing a central location for them to communicate with administrative offices and retailers.

Countdown to Commencement began when Pam Kinkel, Josten’s territory sales manager, called Marshall University and proposed it to start an event that would consolidate the graduation process.

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**News**

**Thursday, November 6, 2014**

**MarshallPartenon.com**

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**By AURORA HORSEY**

**The Partenon**

The Thundering Word speech and debate team has been competing throughout the fall semester, and the team brought back six placements home to Marshall University after its national tournament.

The Thundering Word placed second as a team out of 49 total schools at the annual E.C. Murrow Memorial Tournament. This is the first time the school has placed that high in the rankings.

Victoria Latford, senior, was the third place best overall speaker at the tournament.

"Full nationals is the most competitive tournament that we go to. That was the spring," Latford said. "There were 49 teams participating and we placed seventh. That is the highest that we have ever placed."

Latford placed third in pentathlon, third in persuasive speaking and fourth in communications analysis at the full nationals.

Alyssa Vargo, sophomore, placed fifth in persuasive speaking and was a quintafinalist in the prose interpretation section.

"We know we must hold ourselves to that high standard," Patel said. "We have the opportunity to show what public health is all about, realizing what public health is all about."

Senior Minal Patel said during trip abroad to Tanzania, she learned there are many levels of health care, but it must all resolve around the patient's health and health care.

"Learning about the environment and the disease breakdown of the international student population was really great. But I also try to choose films that are relevant to our coursework," Patel said. "Not only was I learning from them while helping them at the same time."

The film festival will run until Nov. 13, and each film will be shown three times. Full-time students view the films free of charge by showing a Marshall ID. Part-time students can purchase a ticket for half price. Admission for an individual film is $7.50. Students can get their tickets at the door.

A historical film is the documentary "20 Foot from Stardom." The film chronicles a day in the life of a backup singer for some of the most famous music acts in history, such as Bruce Springsteen and the Rolling Stones. This film was awarded Best International Film at both the Academy Awards and the Sundance Film Festival.

Another film, "Wadjda," is the first movie filmed in Saudi Arabia and directed female. Hatita Al-Mansoor was nominated and won a series of awards that range from best international film to best children's film. "Wadjda" also won the Best Foreign Language Film from the British Society of Film Critics Awards.

"It really has it's own life and I want people to go watch it. It is critically acclaimed, in terms of people who hear about it, and want to check it out because it's something different and unique."

Shahle Rognay can be contacted at rognay@mar.shawnee.edu.

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**By TIM CARRICO**

**The Partenon**

MUPD was called at 12:17 a.m. Oct. 14 to the Gibson parking lot near Sixth Avenue for an unattended vehicle that was apparently struck by another vehicle. Police allege an officer arrived at the scene, the officer noticed a red paint on the bumper of another vehicle. The officer reviewed security camera footage near the scene. The footage revealed a male driving a white car striking a rod vehicle. Police report the suspect got out of his car and surveyed the damage. Police allege the owner of the suspected vehicle stated a friend was driving his car MUPD was able to arrest the suspect and charge him with leaving the scene of an accident.

The name of the suspect has not been released.

**Football Fight**

MUPD was called at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 25 to the Joan C. Edwards Stadium after a fight between two fans emerged during the football game. Police allege the altercation was caused after the suspect accused the victim of tripping him in the bathroom. The suspect punched the victim in the mouth and placed him in a headlock. MUPD took statements from those involved. Initial report they will obtain an arrest warrant for the suspect.

**Destruction of Property**

MUPD was called at 12:46 a.m. Oct. 31 to the New Engineering Building on Third Avenue. The maintenance supervisor called MUPD and discovered a large fracturing facing window was shattered. Police say they do not have any suspects at this time.

Tim Carrico can be contacted at carrico26@mar.shawnee.edu.
By JESSICA ROSS

THE PANTHERON

While it is nice to think our fellow citizens don’t base their votes on the misinformation and twisted facts presented in political ads, this notion was unfortunately proven wrong in Tuesday’s elections.

It seems the most popular candidates across the country were Republicans, most of whom used tactics like claiming their opponents were “exactly like Obama” or that the new candidate was a vote for Obama or said opponent had contributed to the ruination of our country by supporting Obama in all of his policies.

Okay, we get it. He’s not the most popular guy, but he’s not our enemy. President Obama has done his best he could with the situation he came into, and it would be interesting to see if any of the candidates bashing his policies could do any better under similar circumstances.

A horrible new American tradition has emerged recently in which having

the president somehow makes you a better citizen, and it’s extremely contra-

dictory. Why? Why? Obama! And how does that make one more American?

We don’t have to agree with the presi-

dent. We don’t have to like his policies. But he is the ultimate representative of our country and if we aren’t showing him the respect he deserves, how do we expect the rest of the world to take us seriously?

Yes, we have issues in our government, issues with our human rights and issues with policy, but all Americans have it pretty good. If you are unhappy with a law, fight for it and make your voice heard, but don’t frustrate our elected officials for things that probably aren’t entirely the fault of one individual.

We, as American citizens, are very well off. Winning about policies and disre-

pecting the people where we elected a democracy makes us come across in si-

milarities and out of touch with reality.

By CAITLIN ARMBRUST

THE PANTHERON

This past Election Day was a day of firsts, especially for West Virginia.

The state not only went completely red, but also had its firsts, especially for West Virginia. The media just now caught up to the first that all West Virginia should be interested in. That is the young

taylor@marshall.edu

lawmaker in history was just elected to the

parks.

Tara Blank is a young West Virginia student, and we all be paying attention to her. The young woman beat the incumbent del-

By SHANNON STOWERS

THE PANTHERON

The Constitution of the United States of America

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2. All you do is write, write, write.

3. You don’t have to ask to go to the bathroom.

4. You can’t lose touch with your hometown.

5. TFM classes are Sat-urday.

6. Your roommates are different from high school, and no one’s bFF.

7. Time flies by.

8. Everyone changes his or her major, and that’s okay.

9. Everyone changes his or her major at least once before be-

longing.

10. You lose touch with people you thought you’d al-

ways be friends with.

By DRI SHELTON

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ways be friends with.
The Missouri Supreme Court, in a written ruling that Missouri's measure treats same-sex couples as "second-class citizens." He said an increasing number of people living within her district "are willing to be a part of the initial group of same-sex couples to apply for marriage licenses to four lesbian couples, including Crystal Pears, both 38, held a brief ceremony Wednesday at St. Louis Circuit Judge Rex Burlison said that he was not only up to par, but she was not only up to par, but she was not only up to par, but she was not only up to par, but
Fitzweather growing like a storm

By ZACH WRIGHT
THE PARTHENON

Some college students struggle to find a major to study. Other students have a passion from an early age, and never deviate from that path.

Joseph Fitzwater, junior physical geography student, fits in the second category. Fitzwater said his interest with weather started at an early age, thanks to his parents.

“When I was in first grade, my parents took me to a local news station to see how the news works behind the scenes,” Fitzwater said. “I was introduced to weather, and how it is always changing captivated me from the start.”

Years later, Fitzwater is making a name for himself through his website, complete with weather information and forecasts.

Fitzwater said the website, fitzweather.com, began as an idea in the summer of 2011, which he worked quickly to publish.

“I saved up my money and bought a domain and hosting for the website in the fall of 2011, and published it for the first time in November 2011,” Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater said the website’s original purpose was to provide accurate weather forecasts for central West Virginia, but it has expanded beyond that.

“The site is designed to provide the most accurate weather forecasts and information to central West Virginia,” Fitzwater said. “I also forecast for Marshall University, and people now ask me all the time what the weather’s going to do.”

Fitzwater said he uses a few software products to aid in his forecasting.

“I use GRLevel 3 to track storms, Weatherbell (weatherbell.com) to use a weather model for guidance, and a program offered by the weather service called Bufkit as another modeling app,” Fitzwater said. “I also use a program called Weatherstudio for current surface data. It gets expensive, but I enjoy it.”

Fitzwater said fitzweather.com has opened opportunities for him.

“I was able to do a weather internship for WnitekTV 13 over the summer,” Fitzwater said. “I’ve been able to publish weather research in both California and Florida since spring 2013.”

Fitzwater said he takes pride in providing the weather to local residents.

“I love being able to help people, so telling people what the weather is going to be like is something I take a lot of pride in,” Fitzwater said. “Knowing that people trust me over the guys in the suits really captivates me.”

However, the journey with fitzweather.com hasn’t always been easy. Fitzwater said he’s still experiencing hardships with the site, but the encouragement and the support from people and his love for weather will sustain it.

“I spend about three hours a day, seven days a week, working on weather forecasting for the website,” Fitzwater said. “I could easily look at a weather model if I wanted to, but I like to dig into science and figure out why temperatures are increasing or decreasing or why it might rain.”

Fitzwater said the financial aspect of the website is hefty at times and costs him heavily throughout the year.

“It is very expensive for a website that is free for users,” Fitzwater said. “I currently pay about $600 a year to keep it going, and that doesn’t include the price I’ve paid for the equipment.”

While the price may cause problems now, Fitzwater hopes in the future he won’t have to worry about financial restraints. The recent support from viewers has helped keep him going.

“I’ve over 20,000 clicks in a little less than three years, with 11,000 of those coming since May,” Fitzwater said. “Hopefully, one day, I’ll be able to not worry about the expenses.”

Zach Wright can be contacted at wright283@marshall.edu.