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Above, Gov. Jim Justice delivers his first State of the State speech on Wednesday in Charleston, West Virginia.

Left, Marshall University President Jerry Gilbert speaks at the West Virginia Legislative Lookahead Feb. 3 about higher education’s place in the 2017 legislative session, specifically concerning budget cuts.

By ADAM STEPHENS
THE PARThENON
Marshall University President Jerry Gilbert addressed the State of the State Address Wednesday at the state capitol where West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice delivered proposals he said he would use to solve the state’s budget crisis.

Justice asked the legislators if they were willing to face the consequences of not balancing the budget.

“Are you willing to eliminate all of our state parks? Are you willing to close down our universities other than WVU and Marshall? Are you willing to turn our barns on seniors and vets? What is West Virginia going to become?” Justice said.

Justice didn’t discuss any cuts to higher education within the State of the State Address, however Gilbert learned afterward that part of the governor’s proposed budget cut included a $2.9 million dollar cut to Marshall.

“When I was on the floor I didn’t think there would be anything negative, but when I left the floor I found out later that includes in the cuts were not all across the board cut that I assumed when I was sitting on the floor,” Gilbert said. “I came to learn afterwards that he singed out both WVU and Marshall for strategic cuts in higher education and no one I thought that was a bit unfair.”

If the budget cuts that Justice suggested do go into effect, Gilbert said that Marshall will have to look at ways to generate revenue by making changes within the university.

“It’s going to mean that we’re going to have to look at ways to change some of the things that we’re doing with some programs and potentially readjust how we’re approaching our institutional delivery, we may have to increase class sizes at the freshman and sophomore levels,” Gilbert said.

Senior Vice President of Communications Ginny Painter said that cuts to Marshall like those proposed by Justice will be damaging to the university.

“The university’s been cut over the last several years about $11.5 million dollars from the state’s budget, so it’s really important that folks understand that we’ve been hit pretty hard,” Painter said.

Despite Justice’s proposals, Gilbert said students and faculty should remember these budget cuts aren’t set in stone.

“I know that even though the governor proposed what he did last night that the legislature has to buy into everything that he said, so I’m not sure that we should overreact at this point to anything in the governor’s budget proposal.”

By FRANKLIN NORTON
THE PARThENON
Governor Jim Justice delivered a plan Wednesday to improve the current state of West Virginia’s economy in his first State of the State address as the 56th governor of West Virginia.

The plan he presented includes investments in infrastructure, tax increases and budget cuts that he said could lead to “greater revenue by making changes within the state.”

Justice discussed ways to improve the state’s public schools in regards to standardized testing as well as getting rid of any wasteful agencies.

“We would build a bill that would eliminate any unnecessary bureaucratic infrastructure. We have got to return education as much as we can to the local level,” Justice said. “We are testing out kids totally to death, I am going to propose throwing Smarter Balance in the trash can and go to ACT testing.”

Justice said that he wants to increase marketing for tourism in the state as well as viewing manufacturing jobs, such as the forestry industry and furniture manufacturing, flooring and cabinet manufacturing.

Other solutions to the budget crisis that were laid out in Justice’s speech include implementing new assessment taxes on coal and gas and appointing a state commission on severance taxes that would cut waste and find any excess funds within the budget.

Adam Stephens can be contacted at stephens149@marshall.edu

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Executive Order Series continues over cup of coffee

On February 10, 2017, Marshall University hosted the “Muslim Ban” event, which was inspired by Khader’s idea. The event came together under the sponsorship of Student Affairs, and it created common ground.

By SADIE HELMICK

Dr. Majed Khader, speaks to the students about the Executive Order given by President Donald Trump, and it is now being called the “Muslim Ban.”

Week one of W.Va. Legislature brings changes

By KYLE BURLEY

West Virginia senators and representatives returned to Charleston Wednesday as the 83rd Legislature. Among those new faces included the recently elected senators and representatives to serve the people of West Virginia this session.

Last week marked an election year which brought many new senators and representatives to serve the people of West Virginia this session.

“Who can help me?” Boso said, referring to opioid drug treatment in the Huntington area. West Virginia Sen. Greg Boso discussed some of the potential key issues that could arise this legislative session.

“Jobs is going to be a big part of what we talk about this year,” Boso said, “so that our work is going to be a big part of what we talk about this year.”

By SADIE HELMICK

The “Muslim Ban” event was inspired by Khader’s idea. The event came together under the sponsorship of Student Affairs, and it created common ground.

“Let’s not make that first judgment. Let’s just talk to each other and see how alike we are and build from there,” Malak Khader, Graduate Assistant, said.

Event was inspired by Khader’s idea

Kelly Johnson, an associate professor, said she was inspired by Khader’s idea of a coffee discussion. Within the span of two days and the sponsorship of Student Affairs, the event came together.

“Let’s not make that first judgment. Let’s just talk to each other and see how alike we are and build from there,” Khader said.

Worship Directory

Worship Directory

Executive Order Series continues over cup of coffee

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By PATRICK O’LEARY

Herd opens season at Unconquered Invitational

Friday, February 10, 2017

Herd head softball coach Shonda Stanton said, “It’s an exciting time.” Marshall is 1-0 on the season Friday morning at 11 a.m. against Lipscomb. The team will return to action later on Friday at 6:30 p.m. to take on Furman.

Saturday, the Herd faces off with the host Florida State, a top-five nationally ranked team in both national college softball polls and a team that reached the NCAA tournament in both squares off against the fourth ranked team and seeded two and three teams against each other later that night.

The teams were selected to the Unconquered Invitational, which is a top-five nationally ranked team in both polls. It is a big deal. Furman is ranked five spots lower this season. Stantonsaid she was excited Dixon is “approaching her season.” Stantonsaid she was excited Dixon is “approaching her season.”

Utility player Morgan Zerkle has garnered much attention in the offseason. The Milton, West Virginia native in January was named to the 20 player USA women’s national softball team. Later January she was named the Conference USA Preseason Player of the Year by the league office. Then in early February she was selected to the Top-50 Watch List for the USA Softball Collegian Player of the Year for the second consecutive season.

In a shortened season last year due to injury, in only 34 games Zerkle still hit .402 with 54 hits, seven extra base hits including two home runs and scored 28 runs. She stole 28 bases as well for Marshall.

“I would say this is one of the strongest senior classes we’ve had in a long time as far as pure talent,” Stanton said. “Every one of them are record breakers in their own right.

From a production standpoint, it is a legitimate class. And from there, they are competitive, and that enhances things as well.”

After the Unconquered Invitational, the Herd will continue their 2017 season the following weekend, Feb. 17-18, again in Florida for the Orange Blossom Invitational. The competition in Orlando, Florida includes Delaware, Bethune-Cookman, LSU, Brooklyn and Providence. The Herd will play their first home series at Dot Hicks Softball Field in Huntington, beginning March 11 when Conference USA action begins against UTEP.

Since it is still winter in Huntington, with good weather forecasted for Florida, the team does not mind their Florida schedule.

“I’m really excited for the first game,” junior outfielder Jordan Colliflower said. “It’s going to be a great first week-end down in Florida, which is never a bad place to begin your season.”

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COLUMN

Don’t succumb to political fatigue

By JARED CASTO

Managing Editor

Only three weeks into the presidency of Donald Trump, the general public is finding themselves overwhelmed with political noise. The media is reporting on a daily basis as politicians are experiencing a decline in productivity and the seeming endless cycle of the administration's tweets and political scandal threaten the very survival of the future of this country.

Earlier this week, The Washington Post cited a BetterWorks survey of 500 full-time American employees, finding that the average employee spends, around two hours a day consuming political news. As a result, Americans are feeling political fatigue.

Don’t succumb to that fatigue.

This uncertainty and this chaos is far from over. We can no longer continue to allow Trump to cast a shadow over our lives, to allow our ability to focus on things that are important to us be lost.

It’s easy to feel the political fatigue, to lose focus on things that are important to us. The general public is, of course, a prime example of this.

Since, “nevertheless, she persisted”— see that higher education comes when one would consider Justice’s previous public pronouncements, “We’re trying to maintain the quality of our programs, but at some point we can no longer continue to offer additional cuts, we’re going to have to look very closely at all of our academic programs and start thinking about layoffs and reductions,” Gilbert said. “We’ve tried to maintain the quality of our programs, but at some point we need to look at the full budget and fill in our budget holes as our university.”

This decrease in state funding follows a trend of higher education budget cuts since 2013 which, as of December 2016, had resulted in a $1 million tax cut. At last week’s West Virginia Legislature budget hearing, West Virginia’s Attorney General, Dan管理办法, called the state’s budget “unbalanced, unwise and unwise.”

This is not the time to look at arbitrary cuts. Our state has to look at the full budget as our university.”

The Constitution of the United States of America

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 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"Factual errors appearing in the Parthenon should be reported to the office of the editor. Necessary corrections will be printed as soon as possible following the error."
By KARENANN FLOUHOUSE

Ministry allows those in military personnel, including ROTC cadets, to raise the state’s tax rate for a percent raise in business revenue.

"What would you rather do?" Justice questioned. "Would you rather your school plummeted even more? Your seniors justhere to say: I’m willing to pay a half penny more. And I’m willing as a student to keep this school where we love West Virginia. And we’re going somewhere.

Justice stated that his increase, specifically 10-cent increase per gallon and increase in Division of Motor Vehicles fees, will eventually lead to $12 billion for the state, and that his goal as governor is to eventually eliminate West Virginia’s income tax.

Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.

Alcida Tyson, president of Black United Students, and Matt James, assistant dean of Student Affairs, host the Black America panel Thursday in the Memorial Student Center.

Local student leaders desire to make positive change

By SABRE HELMICK

For some Christians it’s ‘good Christian’ but still loved on and encouraged, Morison said.

"I really think this has been a growing experience," Sweeney said. "I’m really proud myself. I’m proud of everyone who has been a part of this. I really think this is going to be a great event." Any McCreary teacher at Huntington High and advisor of the MSA’s extracurricular program, said the program is made for like-minded students to better their community. This year, 17 other students are participating in the program. In addition to Troy Brown, Mayor Steve Williams will be the celebrity bingo caller. City’s Celebrity bingo with Troy Brown is held Saturday at 7 p.m., in the Don Morris Room at Marshall University. Tickets sell at $50 per ticket. This event is open to the public, under the requirement one is of the age 18 or older.

Sadie Helmick can be contacted at helmick322@marshall.edu.

Ministry allows those in military service to explore their faith

By KARRAHNM FLOUHOUSE

The number of students often changes depending on their availability, which is determined by service schedule and can change at any time. Currently, the ministry hosts an average of six to eight students. It is a small group where the students read and lead their own in-depth study of the bible.

"It takes how you apply the bible and the conviction of the bible to a military standpoint and to a civilian standpoint," Thompson said.

"It is a national organization and is popular on college campuses. Bob Sholl, George Military, and Texas A and M, enjoy on campus as well.

"For some Christians it’s really hard to get the connection of how can I be a ‘good Christian’ but still be a marine." Morison said.

"Something like this gives you a support system within who your brothers and sisters are," Thompson said.

"Marshall’s campus centers around students, faculty, personnel, national guards, or officers coming to complete a degree in a school with ROTC programs," Morison said. "Valued provides Marshall’s students with a military connection for family, heroes, or even non-believers to connect with.

"They can come in, have their questions answered," Thompson said. "And whatever this way of connecting friendships like any other organization on campus.

Valore meets at 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays upstairs in the Memorial Student Center by the Don Morris Room. It is a non-denominational ministry open to current and retired college students and students with an interest in exploring military life. If you can’t turn down another circle in your life, Karenann Flouhouse can be contacted at flouhouse@marshall.edu.

BUDGET cut, pg. 1

existence of our state’s PBS and NPR stations could be removed from their existence. Our state’s PBS and NPR stations were funded by the Governor’s proposed elimination of all funding to WV PBS’s Mountain Stage, a concert series that retails more than $25,000. His new goal is $40,000.

Tickets sell at $50 per ticket. This event is open to the public, under the requirement one is of the age 18 or older.

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West Virginia Hot Dog Blog takes a bite out of Appalachian tradition

By WILL IZZO

The Virginia hot dog is home to unique food: pepperoni rolls, dishes made with wild ramps and homemade apple butter. Among all of these specialty foods, head West Virginia Hot Dog Blog, States Means, and there is nothing as unique as a West Virginia hot dog.

“Hot dogs are different no matter where you travel, but no other state has such singular tastes as West Virginia,” Means said. “The vast majority of people in our state share the view that a ‘real’ hot dog must have chilli, slaw, mustard and onions, and virtually nowhere else in the United States eats this same way.”

The blog goes into detail about the ingredients that make West Virginia hot dogs unlike any other. The sauce is like chili, said, as it features some of the same flavors and ground meat, the largest difference is the absence of beans in West Virginia hot dogs. The WPWHD blog states that the sauce needs to have just enough sweetness to sit well with the coolness of the cole slaw, which is generally made of “cabbage, mayonnaise and other ingredients” according to posts on the blog. “The balance of chili and slaw is everything and that’s what makes West Virginia hot dogs different from other regional dogs,” Means said. “We don’t care about the size or quality of the weiner so much as long as the chili and slaw work together.”

Although, it may be a popular condiment choice for some hot dog eaters out there, Means said a proper hot dog concisely will never use ketchup on their hot dog. “It’s a bigger issue than just West Virginia hot dogs,” Means said. “If you go to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council page, you’ll find a lot of information about why you shouldn’t put ketchup on a hot dog. Bartend is just too strong of a condition. It just covers other flavors. It doesn’t do anything for a hot dog.”

Means said the blog in response to a friend’s claims of a great spot to pick up some food. “A friend of mine pointed on his own blog that ‘everyone knows that the best hot dogs in Charleston can be found at Chris’ Hot Dogs,'” Means said. “I took exception with that assertion and went about proving him false.”

The blog was started in 2006 and has been updated ever since. The blog features a complete breakdown of the various types of West Virginia hot dogs, a FAQ page and a slaw mapping page that provides visitors with a map of West Virginia and colors that correspond to whether the blog is standard at hot dog joints or not within the specific county. Means said the work involved with maintaining the blog has been daunting at times. “It’s a hobby and I do it when I can. I’ve enlisted a few other Weenie Wonks over the years and they showed up on the blog. The thing was I used to always just order two hot dogs whenever I went anywhere, but now I just usually get one. I have to eat a lot of hot dogs to keep it fresh,” Means said. “So many hot dogs, so little time,” Means said.

The blog, however, is no stranger to quantity. Although he said he would love to see a peppers and ketchup roll blog put up sometime in the future. Will Means can be contacted at izzo@marshall.edu.