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W.Va. Legislature approaches final days of regular session

By KYLEE HURLEY
THE PARTHENON
The West Virginia Legislature has been extending their work hours to discuss legislation as the end of session approaches.

The Senate reached their last day to introduce bills March 20. As for the House of Delegates, they reached a landmark day on the 47th day Sunday.

According to the West Virginia Legislature website, the 47th day marks when “bills [are] due out of committees to ensure three full days for readings.”

Reaching landmark dates and nearing the end of regular session, West Virginia lawmakers have been debating over the budget proposal by Gov. Jim Justice and the recent proposal from the Legislature.

After much back and forth between the governor and majority party leaders, Justice released a statement on Twitter recently regarding session.

“I believe we are moving in the right direction and we can get a deal done by the end of session,” Justice posted on his Twitter Monday.

The budget has not been the only topic of discussion by the lawmakers.
The Senate reconvened Saturday and discussed another bill proposed by the governor.

Senate Bill 477 was read on third reading in the Senate and is summarized on the West Virginia Legislature website as “Increasing State Road Fund by raising DMV fees and motor fuel excise taxes.”

According to the official West Virginia Senate Roll Call, SB 477 passed through the Senate with a 27-6 vote with one being absent. The bill has since been sent to the House for consideration.

The House Finance Committee met Friday to discuss the budget and other issues during the final days of the regular legislative session.

• The legislative session lasts until April 8 at midnight. Wednesday will be the last day to consider bills on third reading in house of origin, not including budget or supplementary appropriation bills.

• Bills to watch
> SB 324 Prohibiting Governor and Legislature from administering budget cuts to higher education
> HB 2097 Permitting community and technical colleges and universities to charge students half the cost of a credit for every credit taken over the fifteenth hour
> HB 2559 Relating to concealed carry on higher education campuses
> HB 2770 Reducing regulatory control over academic programs of state institutions
> HB 2858 Creating a loan tuition forgiveness program to encourage students in selected and necessary fields to remain in the state
> HB 3001 Abolishing the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

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**Rights groups: Coalition isn’t protecting Mosul civilians**

Associated Press

A recent spike in civilian casualties in Mosul suggests the U.S.-led coalition is not taking adequate precautions to prevent civilian deaths as it battles the Islamic State group alongside Iraqi forces, a top human rights group said Tuesday. The rights group’s report follows acknowledgment by Iraqi authorities that the U.S. military was behind a March 17 strike in a western Mosul neighborhood that residents said killed more than a hundred civilians, a U.S. official said. The strike was among those that killed civilians but were not intended to be civilian casualties but space and other issues.

The report also cites a secret U.S. review that declared it “killed up to 150 people.” The U.S.-led coalition said in a statement that it was investigating multiple strikes in western Mosul that allegedly resulted in civilian deaths.

Evidence gathered on the ground in Mosul “points to an alarming pattern of civilian deaths,” human rights group Rights Awareness group said.

No immediate comment was available from Iraq’s military. Mosul, the provincial capital of Nineveh, has been a flashpoint of the Islamic State group’s retreat from the city.

**Flint to replace 18,000 lead-tainted water pipes**

Associated Press

Michigan and the city of Flint have agreed to replace the lead-tainted water system under a sweeping deal to settle lawsuits by residents and businesses affected, court papers show.

The settlement, which was reached late last week, will cost the city and state at least $500 million in losses from lead exposure.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and city officials on Monday announced the agreement that will end more than two years of legal wrangling between the city and state over the water system.

The agreement calls for Flint to replace all lead-tainted water pipes by the end of 2020 while the state agrees to pay up to $600 million to Flint residents eligible for compensation.

**State senate passes bill to ax grayhound funding**

Associated Press

The West Virginia Senate has passed a bill that would cut funding from the grayhound racing industry, back into state coffers to help offset budget cuts.

After significant debate, the bill passed 34-5 Monday and now moves to the House of Delegates. Grayhound officials said the bill would cost an estimated $37,400 and does not impact more than 350 workers.

The legislation would end the state’s 20-year contract with the Greyhound Commission of West Virginia. The state’s portion of the contract would include a 2 percent per dollar tax on pari-mutuel wagering at tracks and a 1 percent tax on pari-mutuel wagering at racetracks.

**West Virginia closes schools doubles over 15 years**

Associated Press

A recent state report that the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy released a report on Monday showingShowing the average cost of tuition at West Virginia public universities and colleges has doubled in the past 15 years.

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Right now, state lawmakers are debating how much higher school costs should be cut in next year’s budget.

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Meet Marshall’s French dual-athlete

By PATRICK O’LEARY
THE PARTHENON

Very few Marshall University student-athletes have the opportunity to play for one of the school’s Division III athletic programs. Numerically speaking, few students play sports collegiately, especially at the Division I level. Even fewer of these student-athletes play multiple sports. In fact, only one student-athlete at Marshall plays multiple sports for the Herd. Her name is Chloe Parsemain, and to make her even more distinctive, she is a native of Toulon, France.

The senior from France was a four-year swimming star for Marshall. She specialized in the butterfly and freestyle. Although her swimming career for Marshall came to an end with the Conference USA championships in late February, her athletic career for Marshall University is not quite over. Parsemain joined the softball team for her entire time at Marshall. She would always request a tryout, and once Stanton saw how fast she was, she made it a possibility.

As unique as Parsemain is on the pool, she is also equally fast, even though I’m a swimmer, I’m not going to lie, I feel a little bit curious, I didn’t know anything about softball. As the French swimmer excelled for the Herd, softball was not on her radar. So they needed to fill a spot. Then I saw coach Stanton, who asked me how fast I was. I told her I was really fast, even though I’m a swimmer, not a runner. So they asked me if I felt a little bit curious, I didn’t know anything about softball. Almost immediately, she was given the option to take some time off prior to softball season, an option she declined.

Now Parsemain joins a softball team led by a strong senior class, which Stanton has called “one of the strongest senior classes we’ve had in a long time as far as pure talent goes.” The three seniors, Morgan Zerkle, Shaelynn Braxton and Jordan Thoms, are all record-breakers in their own respective categories for the softball team. For example, Zerkle is on the USA National Team while Dias is already the Marshall all-time leader in home runs.

“I am grateful to have the opportunity to be the first French softball player,” Parsemain said. “I thought I was going to make history, I thought I’d be the first French Marshall softball player.” Parsemain said, “I thought I was going to make history, I thought I’d be the first French Marshall softball player.” Parsemain said, “I thought I was going to make history, but I’m so lucky, I have trouble thinking that something like that happened.”

As for Marshall’s baseball team, while the softball team always remained in the back of her mind, it did not take focus away from her passion and success in swimming. After winning a national title in last February’s meet, Parsemain said, “At least not until she ran into softball for her entire time at Marshall.” The senior from France was a four-year swimming star for Marshall.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

MOSUL cont. from 2

increasingly turned to air-
strikes and artillery to clear and
hold territory in Mosul’s west.

it asked civilians to remain

Hick’s Softball Field against
swept Western Kentucky this

The team with a .465 average
also leads with 47 hits. Jun-
or Taylor McCord leads the

The West Virginia Legislature
website provides the details of
HE 1003, where the sponsors can also be found sharing the
bipartisan effort of this bill.

The West Virginia Legisla-
tive website also displays on
their legislative calendar how
West Virginia Capitol

The final day of regular ses-
sion is nearing as the West
Virginia Legislative Cale-
endar shows adjournment at
Saturday, April 8.

Kylee Hurley can be
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the state of West Virginia,
which has been a common topic
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the team with a .465 average
and also has the most at-bats

The team with a .465 average
and also has the most at-bats
among runners, 382.

The bill was passed in the
House on Friday, March 25 and
has since been sent to the Sen-
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The bill is intended to pro-
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Carol Nimmons wept outside
the courtroom after the sen-
ence was read.

The victim, Timothy Caugh-
ton, was alone and collecting bottles
when he was attacked from behind
with a sword. He staggered, bleeding,
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An Informal Album Review: Gorillaz

By WILL IZZO
LIFE EDITOR

An Informal Album Review: Gorillaz

I have been listening to these songs like crazy since they came out. “Accomplished,” featuring Vanis Stapes, is the first track I listened to. Stapes was perfect for this track — his lyrics are clever and his delivery is quick and solid at that. It almost seemed scary, until singer-2.0, voiced by musician Dennis Albans from Max, came in and reminded me that this was for sure a Gorillaz track. To me, this was the song that established a theme of space, or spacy things. I mean, it’s called spacey things. I mean, it’s called "spacey things."

Accompanying the audio is a collection of musicians known as the Gorillaz have been developing me while the vocals only developed me while the vocals only match up to 2-D’s perfectly in my opinion. Again, that spacyness is present throughout the duration of the song. I feel like I could drift away to a different galaxy at any moment. The instruments enveloped me while the vocals added to that feeling. A superb track overall.

I would say “Saturn bars” is not to "Accomplished" in that it is also very well suited musically. Accompanying the audio is a new six-minute-long 360-degree video, again strengthening those spacy elements by visual alone. 2-D, Murdoc, Noodle and Russel are all seen floating throughout space, or getting on the surface of the moon. This could be indicative of where the collection of musicians known as the Gorillaz have been — their respective headspaces are beyond the clouds, constantly chewing out Artist Popcaan’s patrons and vocals, and we just don’t know enough about the Gorillaz that are building.

The full article can be found online at marshall-parthenon.com.

The Hidden Heroes of Marshall University

By MATTHEW GROVES

The Hidden Heroes of Marshall University

Through the student-led organization, Hidden Heroes, some Marshall University students are seeking and finding ways to honor Marshall staff members who typically go unappreciated.

"We are an organization that just started up to help in that endeavor of appreciating all of the under-appreciated employees on campus," the organization’s founding president, Megan Conley, said.

"And I've thought of doing what they do that go out of the university’s eye kind of, they’re kind of hidden, that if they stopped doing their job a day this universe would not stay at its current stead."

Conley said the organization is planning on doing little things throughout the year such as supplying a particular staff member with a gift card. The Hidden Heroes founding vice president, Ashley Bruck, said the organization seems to let the workers know that students appreciate the amount of work the staff put in.

"A lot of times we don’t show how much we appreciate or even say thank you enough," Bruck said. "We want to show them we really do care about them."

Hidden Heroes is planning on having a hidden hero surprise squad as part of the organization. The surprise squad will be the group that delivers the gift cards and prizes to the secret heroes that are discovered.

"We’re going to try to pick at least one to two employees per like every 30 days, every month or so, and just do little things for them," Conley said.

Conley said that they started out and were focused on particular staff members gift cards, the organization is hoping to host a hidden hero day where students can write notes to staff members and let them know they are appreciated. The organization is also hoping to host a dinner for the Marshall staff.

"We want this dinner to be student served, so we’re looking, you know, obviously for students that are willing to stop up to the plate and say we know your hard work, we want to appreciate you, so we’re bringing in four hall workers, our groundskeepers, our maintenance men, pastors, the people who go out of the university’s eye kind of, they’re kind of hidden, that if they stopped doing their job a day this universe would not stay at its current stead."

Conley said seeing one worker go "I decided to found this because I came here as a freshman, I’m a freshman, and I had UNI 106, and our professor had talked to us, you know, he said, ‘Hey, you know, give an extra thank you every now and then to the people around here, they do a lot. And I was like, you know what, my mom raised me to be an appreciative person,” Conley said. “I was here two weeks and I just started looking around. I was sitting in the student center and this dining hall worker, his name is Anderson, and his job is to empty the trash and, you know, that’s about all he does. He empties the trash and wipes out stalls, and he was going above and beyond for me and my friends and I was seeing him go to other people’s tables.”

Conley said seeing one worker go above and beyond made her realize all that the staff members do every part of campus. Brock, knowing Conley from class, decided to join her to help create the organization.

"We did speak with Matt Jarvis, our student president, and he’s wanting to get involved as well, so hopefully we can get in with him and really make something that’s unified here at Marshall,” Conley said.

Conley is wanting to do more with the organization and support staff members in bigger ways than they are already doing.

“We could buy their kids [gifts] for Christmas, or maybe find that employee that doesn’t have a vehicle, because I mean, if an employee is riding their bicycles, maybe give them a vehicle, or even help them how much we appreciate them, or stop in at 500 Mall Rd Suite 495, Barboursville, WV 25504.

Conley said the organization unofficially began around October and then officially started around the beginning of January.

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“We could buy their kids [gifts] for Christmas, or maybe find that employee that doesn’t have a vehicle, because I mean, if an employee is riding their bicycles, maybe give them a vehicle, or even help them sounds really huge right now, but if we can grow this organization to the capacity that I want to reach, this will not be impossible,” Conley said.

Hidden Heroes meets every Monday at 5 p.m. in room 2701 in Marshall’s Memorial Student Center.

Matthew Groves can be contacted at groves56@live.marshall.edu.