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The Parthenon, September 5, 2018

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FOOTBALL EDITION

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WHAT’S INSIDE

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PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY SADIE HELMICK | HELMICK32@MARSHALL.EDU
By MEG KELLER
THE PARTHENON

From field to sideline to soldier to second lieutenant, Mike Simmoneau got the full Herd experience.

Second Lieutenant Simmoneau is a 2018 graduate of Marshall University who said he credits his time at Marshall for building his foundational leadership skills. He was a member of the Thundering Herd cheerleading team, a soldier in the West Virginia Army National Guard and a cadet in Marshall’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. Each facet of involvement guided the lieutenant to a stronger idea of how to lead, he said.

He was a cheerleader from 2015 to 2018 for the Thundering Herd.

“Being a captain on the cheer squad helped me see how my coach was leading,” Simmoneau said.

Simmoneau said his time as an enlisted soldier offered him the chance to shadow more experienced officers.

“It helped me see what they do, what to do and what not to do,” Simmoneau said.

ROTC presented Simmoneau with challenges that pushed him physically and mentally. He said he recalls one difficult obstacle in ROTC was his Advanced Camp training. Advanced Camp is a 28-day training held annually at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the summer before an ROTC cadet’s senior year of college. It is one of the final steps to becoming an officer in the U.S. Army.

“In our 28 days there, most were spent in the field, and I think we only got to shower twice,” Simmoneau said.

He said he even felt like his training with ROTC was more difficult than his enlisted basic training.

One skill Simmoneau said he learned at Marshall was time management. He credits his extracurricular affairs to preparing him for his future.

“Being able to juggle that stuff helps way after college too,” he said.

When Simmoneau first came to Marshall in 2014, he was intent on being a Herd football player. He was a preferred walk on for the team. Simmoneau soon realized, though, that was not where he felt he belonged, he said.

Since independence is foremost on Simmoneau’s mind, he made his decision to join the United States Army Reserve in one day.

“I’ve always been one to want to support myself and hate asking my parents for money,” Simmoneau said. “I figure that would be a good, quick way to support myself.”

After graduating Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he returned to Huntington where he began another unexpected adventure.

“I’ve always wanted to learn how to do a backflip off the ground,” Simmoneau said.

After befriending some Marshall cheerleaders, his goal was fulfilled. They taught him how to land a backflip after three attempts. The coach took notice of his natural ability and asked him to join the cheerleading team at Marshall. After a week of deliberation, he accepted the coach’s offer because of scholarship opportunities, getting to be close to the action during sporting events and to be around girls, he said.

At Marshall’s annual Rec Fest is where Simmoneau said he began the journey that earned him the title of second lieutenant.

“Mrs. Brewer got ahold of me,” he said.

Kelli Brewer is Marshall ROTC’s Recruit Operations Officer. After exchanging contact information, he chose to join the ROTC program. This proposed the opportunity to transition from an enlisted soldier to an officer in the U.S. Army. The duties of an Army officer focus on leading enlisted military personnel.

“Being in the military as an officer is all about leadership,” Simmoneau said.

Simmoneau said he enjoys being an officer more than an enlisted soldier because he gets to lead.

“I like being in the position to teach others, and that is important,” he said.

The pillar beneath the motivated mind of Simmoneau’s successes are perseverance and desire for independence.

“Marshall gave me the opportunity to achieve my goals and opened up doors for me to create a brighter future for me and my son,” Simmoneau said.

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Herd tops RedHawks in reunion of former MAC foes

By RICK FARLOW  
SPORTS EDITOR

Oxford, Ohio — In his first-career collegiate appearance, redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green guided Marshall football to a 35-28 defeat of the Miami (Ohio) RedHawks Saturday at Yager Stadium. Green, who was announced as a starter within hours of Marshall’s season opener, completed 24 of his 37 passes (64.9 percent) for 272 yards and two passing touchdowns in the Herd’s win.

“It was a good experience for me,” Green said. “Just getting to go out there with the guys. I know they trusted me and I trusted them. We had a good plan and we stuck to it.”

Despite a 2 1/2-hour rain delay, Green and Marshall’s offense jumped out to a 14-0 start. Though Green had never taken a collegiate snap before Saturday, Marshall provided the 19-year-old with 18 returning starters to supplement his winning effort. Redshirt senior wide receiver Tyre Brady’s nine receptions for a game-high 116 yards and two touchdowns led the offensive charge for Green and the Herd, as Marshall left Oxford with a 1-0 record.

“We sat in the locker room for about five hours, on the road, and I thought they came out and played extremely well,” Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. “(Miami players) were wrapped up all over (Brady) today. He made a couple of circus catches out there. He’s just a tremendous player and I’m glad he’s on our side.”

In the opening drive, Green completed a 33-yard pass—his longest pass of the game—to redshirt sophomore tight end Xavier Gaines. Then, from the two-yard line, redshirt senior running back Keion Davis took a handoff into the end zone to give Marshall a 6-0 advantage.

Davis led all individual rushers with 76 yards, as Marshall scored its three first half touchdowns on the ground. After Davis’s opening touchdown rush, fellow redshirt senior running back Anthony Anderson scored two separate, one-yard rushing touchdowns. The Herd took a 21-7 lead into halftime.

“To me, football is a game of momentum, so (scoring on the first two drives) gave us great momentum,” Davis said.

Miami—a team that returned 19 starters from last season—staged a second half comeback led by defensive stops and redshirt senior quarterback Gus Ragland. After Marshall started the third quarter by extending its lead to 28-7 with a 30-yard touchdown from Green to Brady, Miami scored two unanswered touchdowns and cut Marshall’s lead to seven points.

“(Miami) came out in the second half, changed up what they did defensively, as all good staffs do, and adjusted some things,” Marshall offensive coordinator Tim Cramsey said. “We had to adjust to them and did enough to hold on. I said this before the game and I’ll say it again now, they’re a heck of a defense.”

The RedHawks used two drives and less than four minutes of game clock to score 14 points. Miami’s first scoring drive of the second half took 1 minute and 54 seconds and used six plays for 72 yards—featuring a 54-yard Ragland pass to wide receiver Jack Sorenson. In the fourth quarter, Ragland completed three passes for 61 yards, including a six-yard touchdown pass to tight end Andrew Homer to make the score 28-21 with nine minutes remaining in the game.

“I said this before the game and I’ll say it again now, they’re a heck of a defense.”

Ragland passed for 231 of his 357 total yards in the second half. In total, Ragland out-passed Green by 85 yards. Despite that, the Herd answered in the fourth quarter with another Brady touchdown reception—which proved to be
Renovations complete in Jenkins Hall

By MADISON DAVIS
THE PARthenON
While Marshall University’s Jenkins Hall was built in the same year of the worst flood in Huntington’s recorded history, it was the flooding in 2014 that caused most of Jenkins’ problems.

The basement of the building was closed for nearly four years but reopened in May. In 2014, former Marshall president, Stephen James Kopp, had a meeting in the basement of Jenkins hall and had to dodge a leak in the ceiling. Around the same time, a student was walking through a basement classroom, and her leg fell through the floor.

Kopp began saving money in order to get the renovations started, and when Jerome Gilbert became the university’s president in 2016, he decided to continue the initiative and put away some of the university’s money to prepare for the renovations.

The basement project is now officially finished with new walls, carpet, HVAC, furniture, doors and even a new elevator.

Over the summer, the first floor of the building received new paint, flooring, doors and windows, and the second floor is in the process of getting the same treatment. Jenkins will also now be home to a new math lab and state-of-the-art science lab. Not only is the interior of the building being remodeled, but students and staff now have an outdoor patio.

Brean Stewart, business manager for the Office of the Dean for the College of Education and Professional Development, said she is thankful these projects are happening with the students in mind.

“It shows a lot of value to the College of Education and Professional Development and specifically the field of teaching,” Stewart said. “I think it says a lot to our students and faculty members.”

The dean’s office is in the newly renovated basement, but it will be moved to the second floor when it is finished.

Once the offices are moved, there will be a study lounge and two new classrooms in the basement.

Emily Ashley, senior elementary education major, said she is eager to finish her college career in such a nice facility.

“It’s awesome,” Ashley said. “I tell everyone I feel like we’re the best people on campus. We have the best building.”

The COEPD also believes that these renovations will help them build their program even further.

“As we’re recruiting, it says ‘hey we’re investing a lot into our program and the university is showing their support,’” Stewart said.

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Thank A Donor Days give students an opportunity to show gratitude

By HANNAH GRAHAM
THE PARTHENON
Thank A Donor Days will take place Sept. 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Plaza. This event is sponsored by the Marshall University Foundation and aims to show gratitude to the many donors that help fund scholarships and student organizations.

Krystle Davis, the program director of scholarship and donor relations, is organizing the event. It is the sixth year for the event, one that Davis said she is optimistic about. She said it is a great opportunity for students who have received scholarships, or who may be part of an organization that receives monetary support, to thank their supporters personally.

“The benefit of Thank A Donor Days is two-fold,” Davis said. “Donors love to hear from students every year. A lot of our donors were students at one time, so it’s great for them to hear what the students are up to, what their career goals are. It’s very encouraging. Additionally, Thank A Donor Days helps educate students in philanthropy, and we hope it may inspire students to give back one day. It gives former students an outlet to feel appreciated and valued, and it gives current students an outlet to appreciate all that they receive.”

Thank A Donor Days offers many activities today and tomorrow that students may partake in. Along with the option of writing thank you cards to specific donors or making posters to display in the Memorial Student Center, Thank a Donor Days will also offer a photo booth, video interviews to send to the donor and the option to record a “Thank View” message on students’ phones to send to their specific donors.

“A lot of our donors are tech-savvy, so that’s why Thank View messages are useful,” Davis said. “It’s more personal to see your student and to hear them talk and the reaction on their faces. It helps the donors really appreciate and feel close to what they are donating to.”

If students are interested in taking part in the festivities today and Thursday, they are welcome to make posters to display in the Memorial Student Center Plaza. Students who wish to write thank you letters or thank a personal donor will have the information available to them in the Memorial Student Center Plaza. Marshall University Foundation will ensure letters and messages get to the proper donor, so students are able to just show up with intent to show gratitude to the university’s generous supporters, Davis said.

“This event is really important to say thank you,” Davis said. “We have lots of donors at Marshall, and they deserve a couple of days to really be honored and encouraged for what they do for students.”

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Gender neutral bathrooms aim to create safe space for Marshall residents

By JOELLE GATES
THE PARTHENON

Traditionally, each floor of Twin Towers West serves as a home for students during the school year with female students residing in one area and male students on the other, but starting last year, the building’s sixth floor began to offer a new take on the standard living style by offering Marshall University’s first housing option with gender neutral bathrooms.

Gender neutral bathrooms aim to create a safe space for Marshall residents.

“Everyone should feel safe on every floor,” Tracey Eggleston, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life, said.

Eggleston said the idea behind the floor arose after staff members saw a lack of housing resources for minority students.

“Our campus is known as LGBTQ friendly, and our department has always been one who supported every individual who lived in our halls,” Eggleston said. “But we also wanted to provide the extra support to students who may need it.”

While the floor is not specifically intended for the LGBTQ community, Eggleston said it is aimed to provide students with gender inclusive bathroom facilities by having lockable doors on the shower stalls.

Eggleston said although it is a simple change, improvement to the floor has made a huge difference, and the department is hoping to carry the changes throughout the building.

“[Housing] simply hasn’t had the money,” Eggleston said. “It’s rather expensive, but our goal is to eventually give every floor the same resources.”

In addition to the floor’s facilities, this fall, Housing and Residence Life enlisted Gabe Brown, a junior biological sciences major, to be the resident advisor.

“I really want to be role model for LGBTQ students and residents on my floor,” Brown said. “I want to be a voice for them.”

Despite this being his first year as an RA, Brown said he is very excited to be working on the floor and hopes he can inspire more change on campus.

“I feel like I’ve become more confident in my leadership abilities,” Brown said.

In order to usher in more inclusion on campus, Brown said students need more exposure to the ideas behind safe spaces.

“Some students don’t understand the need for them,” Brown said. “All of the confusion comes from a lack of knowledge.”

While Eggleston said more changes are needed before many of Marshall’s spaces are gender inclusive, she is excited to meet the needs of students.

“We want to make sure that everyone feels safe, comfortable and happy,” Eggleston said. “That is our number one goal.”

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Three new officers join the ranks of the MUPD

By SAM PHILLIPS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University announced three new officers were appointed to the Marshall University Police Department, bringing them closer to their full authorized strength of 32 officers.

The officers are Avery Meadows, a graduate of Mountwest Community and Technical College, with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice; Jordan Spears, a senior criminal justice major at Marshall University; and Matt Thompson, a West Virginia State Police Academy graduate and a certified police officer who previously worked for the Ceredo Police Department.

In addition to the three new officers, MUPD also hired three new civilian dispatchers: LeAnn Burley, Macy Chapa and Hallie Evans.

MUPD chief Jim Terry said he looked forward to working with the new officers, and the new officers are already working with senior officers at the MUPD. Terry said that the MUPD is grateful for new officers, since the recruitment of new officers is slowing down.

“It’s really tough right now, it’s like that all over,” Terry said. “But we have great support from the community.”

Jordan Spears, the MUPD’s second female officer on the Huntington campus and a current Marshall student, said that the MUPD has been very supportive and has helped the new officers both physically and mentally.

“Everyone is very friendly,” Spears said. “They treat us like we’ve been here for years.”

Spears said she had known for a long time that she wanted to work in law enforcement and decided to come to Marshall because it is close to her hometown. The opportunity to join the MUPD was a welcome surprise, Spears said.

“I just saw the opportunity and I took it,” said Spears. “I didn’t think that I would be hired as a student.”

Spears will attend the police academy in Charleston for a 16-week program beginning January.

This is not the end of recruitment for the MUPD, Terry said.

“We are authorized to add seven more officer positions and will soon be actively recruiting interested candidates,” Terry said.

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Green impresses in college debut, leads Marshall to season-opening win

By KIERAN INTEMANN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green (white jersey, left) prepares to take a snap under-center for the Herd next to redshirt sophomore running back Tyler King (white jersey, right). Green’s youth is aided by an experienced backfield and receiving corps.

By KIERAN INTEMANN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When Marshall University redshirt freshman Isaiah Green took the field Saturday at Yager Stadium, it marked the first time since 2011 that head coach Doc Holliday started a freshman quarterback in the Herd’s season opener.

The last freshman to do so was Rakeem Cato in 2011. Marshall’s former record-setting quarterback led the Herd to a 2014 Conference USA Championship and bowl wins in 2011, 2013 and 2014. Holliday noted the similarities in his current and former quarterbacks.

“(Green) has a little bit of Cato in him,” Holliday said. “He walks into different arenas and it doesn’t faze him a whole lot.”

Green was announced as the starter one hour before kickoff against Miami, as he won the quarterback battle over graduate-transfer Alex Thomson. Green, a 6-foot-2, 202-pound native of Fairburn, Georgia, proved his worth in his debut as he completed 24-of-37 passes for 272 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions.

“Green did a good job tonight and did what quarterbacks have to do to get a win,” Marshall offensive coordinator Tim Cramsey said. “He played within himself, played smart, held onto the football. As I told a couple guys who were talking to me before the game, I don’t look at him as a freshman. He has that type of personality that’s very calm, very cool.”

Though it may have been a surprise to see Green announced as the starter, he had the most experience with the starting offense entering the weekend. Green saw the bulk of the reps with the starters throughout the spring, while Thomson was still at Wagner, then got nearly all the first-team snaps during fall camp.

“I know a lot of people think that because I’m a freshman, I’d be kind of rattled, but that’s just never been me,” Green said. “I’ve been through a lot in my life, I’m used to adversity, I’m used to having to overcome things, so (football) is just easy to me.”

Green connected with Brady nine times for 116 yards and both passing touchdowns, including a 21-yard score that proved to be the game-winner.

“That feeling is amazing,” Green said. “To know that you came through for your teammates, the whole Herd nation and everybody that was watching is just an amazing feeling.”

“(Green and Brady) have been working together for a while now,” Cramsey said. “Isaiah’s had a chance to go with the (starters) for a long time now throughout practice and fall camp, and the majority of spring as well. So, they’ve been working together for a long time. I know it’s new in-game situations for them, but it’s not new for them to be throwing a ball to each other.”

Following his debut, Green said he’s excited to play at home for the first time in his career.

“We had a good fanbase here tonight, but it’ll feel even better to play in front of a whole stadium full of Herd fans,” Green said.

Marshall looks to start the season 2-0 for the first time since its 2014 conference championship season Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. against Football Championship Subdivision opponent Eastern Kentucky.

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Marshall football’s
week one report card

By KIERAN INTEMANN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

OFFENSE: B+

Redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green had a strong start in his debut for the Herd, posting 272 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Redshirt senior wide receiver Tyre Brady continues to haul in passes, regardless of who is covering him. The wideout had nine grabs for 116 yards and two scores, including a 21-yard touchdown catch with pass interference on the play. The rushing attack totaled 171 yards, with redshirt senior running back Keion Davis and redshirt sophomore running back Tyler King both totaling over 65 yards on the ground, and three touchdowns (two from Anthony Anderson, one from Davis). The only thing that keeps this grade at a B+ and not higher is the fact that Marshall put up just 14 points in the second half.

DEFENSE: C-

The Herd allowed 357 yards passing and three touchdowns through the air from Miami quarterback Gus Ragland. That’s not good, though Ragland has given this team fits in the past. Miami accounted for 444 yards of offense, a high number that defensive coordinator Adam Fuller certainly won’t like to see. Marshall allowed just seven first-half points and the RedHawks managed just 87 yards rushing on 27 attempts (3.2 yards per carry).

SPECIAL TEAMS: C

Punter Robert LeFevre averaged over 41 yards on six punts and kicker Justin Rohrwasser made all five of his extra points while sending four of his six kickoffs for touchbacks. This grade could have been much lower after the aforementioned Tyler King mishandled a kickoff and put the Herd at its own goal line to start a possession in the fourth quarter, but the sophomore made up for it with a 50-yard punt return.

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PAGE AND ILLUSTRATION EDITED AND DESIGNED BY RICK FARLOW | FARLOW@MARSHALL.EDU
Herd opens home slate against Eastern Kentucky

By MORGAN GRIFFITH
THE PARTHENON

Marshall football looks to improve to 2-0 this season, as the Herd returns to Joan C. Edwards Stadium Saturday for a 6:30 p.m. matchup with the Eastern Kentucky Colonels.

"Nobody needs to think this team is a team that is going to come in here and can’t play, because they can," Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. "They have good players, they can coach. So, this week will be no different than any other week."

Once rivals in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Marshall has not played Eastern Kentucky since 1992. In that matchup, the Herd defeated the Colonels 44-0 in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. That same season, the Herd went on to win its first-ever NCAA National Championship. 26 years later, the Herd and the Colonels meet again in Marshall’s home opener. After a 49-23 defeat of Morehead State in its season opener, EKU travels to Huntington with a 1-0 record. Marshall leads the all-time series between the two teams, 10-8-1.

One hour before kicking off against Miami (Ohio), Holliday announced that redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green would be starting. Green finished 24-of-37 passing for 272 yards and two touchdowns in last week’s victory. Coach Holliday said he expects the Colonels to run against the Herd.

"EKU has two or three tailbacks that can play for anybody," Holliday said. "They run extremely hard and they’re committed to doing that. I’m sure they’ll come in here and do that against us."

With all-conference defensive lineman Ryan Bee questionable, other defensive players must step up for Marshall, especially when stopping the run game. Last week, redshirt junior safety Malik Gant had 12 tackles, and redshirt senior linebacker Chase Hancock had 11 tackles.

"We have to make sure we do a great job preparing for these guys and be ready to play," Holliday said. "I say all the time that someone is going to be beat that shouldn’t, every week. It’ll happen again this week, we just have to make sure it’s not us."

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Column: Weather delays affect college football’s opening weekend

By JOSEPH ASHLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Time is nothing, but timing is everything. As the old phrase goes, a plethora of football fans this weekend would disagree with that sentiment. A swath of games around the nation were delayed and, in some cases, cancelled altogether. Marshall’s game in Oxford, Ohio fell into the delayed category.

Various storm systems throughout the United States had enormous impact on the scheduled games. The Thundering Herd’s game, originally scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff, faced a 2 1/2-hour delay, and did not begin until 6 p.m. After the delay, the red and green-colored crowd saw evening weather with no rain, mild temperatures and portions of cloud cover overhead.

"The delay was crazy," redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green said. "I was so juiced up, ready to play. I was like, ‘Man, I’m ready to get out there.’ We just came out there ready to play. I know it was tough for them as well, but we outplayed them."

While the fans begrudgingly waited for kickoff, various activities ensued to pass time as a few rain showers moved through the area, speckled with some lightning and thunder during that time. Around the Miami University campus were multiple fan tailgates of fans, a few large tents set up and a large screen with a game played indoors—unaffected by weather—as Ole Miss routed Texas Tech at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

As for marquee games affected, Alabama and Louisville’s game ended just after midnight. The game was played at Camping World Stadium in downtown Orlando, an area of Florida, known for thunderstorms blowing through almost daily all summer. In the Midwest, Nebraska’s game was delayed a day, then cancelled. Iowa State’s game was also cancelled.

Even as the delays were happening, both Football Bowl Subdivision teams in West Virginia experienced delays before, as Marshall’s 2011 game at West Virginia University faced a weather delay. Both head coaches, Dana Holgorsen at WVU and Doc Holliday at Marshall, experienced similar delays Saturday. Both coaches won their respective games following the delay, as well.

The delay for Marshall and Miami was announced to the public minutes prior to each team taking the field for warmups, though players and coaches might have known before then. Holliday said that the rain delay affected the gameday plan.

"Our kids ate their pregame meal at 11:30 a.m. and we didn’t play until 6 p.m.,” Holliday said. “It really gets to a point where you’re concerned about your kids’ health because they haven’t eaten a whole lot.”

While this could have certainly affected a young quarterback starting his first game, Isaiah Green had a game that ranks with Marshall’s best quarterbacks first start.

"I wasn’t even really nervous at the beginning of the game," Green said. "My adrenaline was super high through the roof. I was ready. If we had come out and gone down a score, I still would have been ready. That’s just how I play the game. That’s the type of player that I am.”

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Letters to the Editor are accepted. See guidelines online.

Editorial

Kaepernick, Nike and patriotism

This image taken from the Twitter account of the former National Football League player Colin Kaepernick shows a Nike advertisement featuring him that was posted on Monday. Kaepernick already had a deal with Nike that was set to expire, but it was renegotiated into a multi-year deal to make him one of the faces of Nike’s 30th anniversary “Just Do It” campaign, according to a person familiar with the contract. (Twitter via AP)

The NFL has been the topic of debate over its last couple of seasons, as the league’s players began kneeling during the national anthem, an act of protest against police brutality and racial inequality. The movement started in 2016 with then San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. As more players began to join in the protest, harsh criticisms from many, including the President of the United States, prompted the NFL to require its players to stand for the anthem.

Now, Nike, one of the NFL’s most prominent sponsors, has inserted itself into the controversy by revealing Kaepernick as one its faces of its 30th anniversary ad campaign, with a photo endorsing his protests. Immediately after this announcement was made, videos started making their way on the internet of people burning and destroying their Nike gear, calling for a total boycott of the brand.

Critics claim that kneeling is offensive to veterans and active military, a cry for attention and self-promotion, and wholistically unpatriotic. Even some who may claim to be sympathetic to the cause say there is a better time and place for these protests. These critics seem to not understand the country they claim to love.

As a matter of fact, kneeling during the anthem while a nation watches is incredibly patriotic. These are men who have been given a national platform, and they are using it to shine a light on a darkness plaguing our nation, because they want solutions, because they want our country to do better and be better. And it’s working.

A national dialogue has commenced.

U.S. Senate candidate, Beto O’Rourke, a Texas democrat, gained national attention with his thoughts on NFL protests:

And so nonviolently, peacefully, while the eyes of this country are watching these games, they take a knee to bring our attention and our focus to this problem to ensure that we fix it,” O’Rourke said. “That is why they are doing it. And I can think of nothing more American than to peacefully stand up, or take a knee, for your rights, anytime, anywhere, in any place.”

Critics claim that servicemen and women fought for the flag and that we owe them respect by standing for the flag and anthem. This is a false patriotism, worship of a symbolic piece of cloth rather than an appreciation for the fundamental rights our military has served to protect, the rights that piece of cloth represents.

As a matter of fact, Kaepernick was encouraged to kneel by former serviceman and NFL player Nate Boyer.

Colin Kaepernick is a patriot—he just wears a different uniform.
LET ME BE FRANK: On Sundays

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

I was sitting in a downtown coffee shop Sunday morning, taking some time to read before I walked over to my church. One interaction I observed between strangers led me to write it down on the nearest napkin: man gave up his seat for a couple of friends. This wasn’t what struck me. What impacted me was when another stranger walked up to the man, calling him kind and considerate. It was a moment of sweet encouragement and kindness—something you wouldn’t likely see on a Monday morning at Starbucks. There is something about a Sunday morning that offers that atmosphere to us.

Over the past several years, Sunday has become my favorite day of the week. As my life has gotten busier and more hectic, it is the slowness of Sunday that reminds me of who I am, and why I am.

Rest is holy. It affords us the space to reconnect with ourselves and others, and ultimately makes our work more meaningful through the perspective gained in a restful reflection. On the alternative side, rest gives us the chance to regroup, and examine our priorities and what matters. “It’s easy to confuse a lot of activity with a purposeful life,” writes Bob Goff, one of my favorite authors.

After my morning coffee, I walked over to church, another one of my favorite places of reflection and celebration, where I met and sang with friends and family. The rest of the day included brunch, a nap, a long run and quality time spent with people I care about. I realize that these are the moments that matter to me most, to be engaged with the people I care about, without a time crunch, without a scheduled block in my planner. Thank God for Sundays.

“Being engaged is a way of doing life,” Goff also wrote, “a way of living and loving. It’s about going to extremes and expressing the bright hope that life offers us, a hope that makes us brave and expels darkness with light. That’s what I want my life to be all about - full of abandon, whimsy, and in love.”

It’s my prayer that I don’t get so caught up in the busyness and constant activity while neglecting the parts of my life that matter the most—that matter eternally more than any job or homework assignment.

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SMIRL MEETS WORLD

By RILEY SMIRL
COLUMNIST

This week was a very special one for me, because I finally turned 18! Most people celebrate this “official” start to adulthood in their senior year of high school, but not me. As well as being what is normally referred to as a significant birthday because of my new legal ability to buy lottery tickets and Juuls, it was significant for me in a few other ways as well. This was the first birthday I’ve spent away from home. Granted, my dorm is only about 5 minutes away from my house, but the change still exists. In addition to being away from home, I was surrounded by new people I’ve only known for about 2 weeks; how do you even tell your roommates it’s your birthday without being super awkward and obvious?

This task is especially daunting when you’ve never been very good at introducing yourself to new people or making new friends in the first place. I will admit, I am an extremely introverted person, almost to a fault. I’ve never been outgoing, and it’s usually a seemingly insurmountable feat for me to make new friends. I would spend days alone in my room reading, writing or watching Netflix, without communicating to a lot of other people if I was allowed to, without even realizing how much time I was spending alone. Yet, I have been fortunate enough to be living with people who simultaneously respect that fact and gently encourage me to spend my time with them. I had expected to spend this birthday in class and then with my parents, and my roommates would probably tell me happy birthday at some point. However, they all proved me wrong.

I was surprised with a cake, card, and a (wildly off-key) rendition of “Happy Birthday” from all of my roommates, plus a whole others suite full of people in the same scholarship program as most of my roommates and me. I could not believe these people who had just met me had put an entire makeshift dorm room birthday party for me. Then I realized this is what real friendship is like. It doesn’t matter to them how long they have known me. They wanted to go out of their way to make my day special, because that’s what friends do.

So, other freshmen, I wholeheartedly encourage you to find your people while you’re here at Marshall. Extend that first invitation to your roommates or suitemates to join you at dinner or for an event. Even if you’re commuting and don’t have roommates, join a club, or find that group that makes your college experience as great as it could be. I never expected to have a group of people to spend every night with watching movies and playing board games, but I have. I know now that no matter how far away I am from my home, I have a whole new family that will always be there for me every birthday, and every non-birthday too. You all know who you are; thank you for becoming my people, I can’t wait for these next four years with you.

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Republicans hit Trump for criticizing Justice Department

By CATHERINE LUCEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump encountered bipartisan criticism on Tuesday for complaining that his own Justice Department’s indictments of two Republican congressmen were endangering the GOP’s midterm election prospects, with one Republican senator saying of Trump’s attack, “We can’t normalize that.”

Trump’s tweet was his latest effort to press the government’s chief law enforcement agency to react to his personal and political views. Investigators are not supposed to take into account the political affiliations of the people they investigate, and the department has a history of prosecuting lawmakers of both major political parties no matter which controls the White House.

“It was over and above what he’s done before,” Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., told reporters. “To say the Justice Department can’t normalize that.”

Still, Sessions has made clear to associates that he has no intention of being improperly influenced by political considerations.”

A spokeswoman for Sessions declined to comment, and the White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump did not have any public events Monday. He briefly exited the White House to a waiting motorcade but then went back inside without going anywhere.

The tension between Trump and Sessions boiled over recently with Sessions punching back, saying that he and his department will not be improperly influenced by political considerations.”

Still, Sessions has made clear to associates that he has no intention of leaving his job voluntarily despite Trump’s constant criticism.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said in North Korea people might see a leader saying “who you prosecute.”

“No president of the United States, Republican or Democrat, has ever, ever crossed the line and told people, ‘Don’t prosecute Republicans. Only prosecute Democrats,’” Leahy said.

Trump tweeted on Monday, “Obama era investigations, of two very popular Republican Congressmen were brought to a well publicized charge, just ahead of the Mid-Terms, by the Jeff Sessions Justice Department. Two easy wins now in doubt because there is not enough time. Good job Jeff.”

Trump did not name the Republican congressmen, but he apparently was referring to the first two Republicans to endorse him in the GOP presidential primaries. Both were indicted on separate charges last month: Rep. Duncan Hunter of California on charges that included spending campaign funds for personal expenses and Rep. Chris Collins of New York on insider-trading charges. Both have proclaimed their innocence.

AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the Justice Department “should always remain apolitical, and the speaker has demonstrated he takes these charges seriously.” Ryan has removed Collins and Hunter from their committee assignments.

Hunter has not exited his race, while Collins ended his re-election bid days after his indictment. Both seats appear likely to remain in GOP hands, but the charges have raised Democratic hopes.

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Marshall alumni return to university to pursue careers

By MADISON DAVIS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University is home to thousands of students who may never return to campus after receiving their degree. However, for a few people working in the University Communications Department, this is not always true.

The department is home to many graduates who have returned to Marshall to pursue their careers, such as Melanie Chapman, a Marshall alumnus with a degree in broadcast journalism.

For years, Chapman worked as one of the producers at local news station WSAZ NewsChannel 3. After over 12 years in the television business, Chapman returned to Marshall as the university relations specialist.

“Coming back here is like a breath of fresh air,” Chapman said. “The TV world is vastly different. It’s fast paced, and every day is different. But I find a lot of that here as well.” Whether she is planning the Fountain Ceremony, taking the class photo at the football stadium for the class of 2022 or planning homecoming week, Chapman said she could not be happier to be home.

The university’s director of communications, Leah Payne, also graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism from Marshall.

After graduation, Payne worked in radio broadcasting as well as television news. In 2003, after going through a divorce and becoming a single mom of three, Payne said she decided going back to the robust atmosphere of a newsroom would not be what was best for her and her family.

“I heard about an opening here at Marshall, and I thought to myself ‘Now that is something I’d like to do, I’d like to be back on campus,’ Payne said. “Marshall has been so good to me.”

Payne has had several positions at Marshall within the last few years, but she said she loves being the spokesperson for a place she can now call home forever.

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"I heard about an opening here at Marshall, and I thought to myself ‘Now that is something I’d like to do, I’d like to be back on campus.’ Marshall has been so good to me."

LEAH PAYNE
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Local business gives back to children impacted by substance use disorder

By SADIE HELMICK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Future Clothing, a new online clothing store based in Huntington, West Virginia, was founded to help and inspire children affected by the opioid epidemic.

Upon graduating from Marshall University with a degree in applied mathematics and physics, Jon Linville and his friends traveled to South America for six months in hopes that experiencing more of the world would help inspire their professional lives.

“I graduated with my undergrad from Marshall in 2010, the bottom of the recession,” Linville said. “I couldn’t find a job, so me and my buddies said, ‘Hey, let’s leave the country for a while. When we come back everything is going to be ok.’ We were only gone six months, and everything was not okay when we got back.”

After returning from their time in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia, Linville said he and his friends found inspiration in the people they met.

“We really didn’t have a plan,” Linville said. “We just went, but while we were there we ended up seeing a lot of third world situations. The people there were so enchanting, honestly. Just so captivating that almost immediately we thought we could open up a business down here or we could just go back to the states, open up a business and try to help these people, try to help these kids out.”

Before Linville left in 2010, the opioid crisis in West Virginia was worsening. He said he hoped the situation would have improved in his absence.

“We were at the part in the opioid epidemic where the streets are running with OxyContin, Percocet, whatever you can think of,” Linville said. “I hoped that leaving for a while and coming back that that would be a little better, but it’s 2018 now, and we are not seeing a regression. Huntington’s overdose rates have been slowing down, but overall the whole epidemic is not slowing down.”

Linville, inspired by the need to help people locally and internationally, started The Future Clothing company to help children affected by the opioid epidemic.

“We definitely want to impact Huntington,” he said. “We vision our organization as almost an umbrella or a funnel. We are trying to make connections all across the country, all 50 states. We will use technology, marketing and internet, and we will try to funnel all the interest and resources and spread it out all across the country. There is not a national organization right now that focuses on kids affected by any type of substance abuse. Our long-term goal is to become the biggest, most effective organization for children affected by substance abuse.”

Although Linville is not using his degree in applied mathematics and physics, he said he has utilized his skills in other ways.

“Those degrees are all about problem solving,” Linville said. “Every single day I realize how this is an enormous problem. It might be a social problem, it might be an economical problem, but I don’t know how my degrees are going to apply for what I am doing now. I just know that there are a lot of problem solving and we got problems to solve.”

For every item sold, The Future Clothing’s business model allows them to donate proceeds or items to a child affected by the opioid crisis. The company’s merchandise features colorful shirts with inspirational messages to remind children of their future.

“We want to let these kids know that they do have a future,” Linville said. “Many of them think they don’t because of what they seen and what they have been through. So, we send that message designed in to the clothing.”

So far, the company has partnered with Lily’s Place in Huntington, as well as NECCO, a child fostering organization that serves West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Georgia. If someone makes the purchase in West Virginia, the resources from the proceeds goes to a child in West Virginia.

“We are partnered with Lily’s Place,” Linville said. “We are really trying to focus on them first. I think we have the same attitude as them, if you are going to make a difference in a child’s life, why not start from the very minute they are born.”

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