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The Parthenon, September 12, 2018

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Marshall students react to free Wi-Fi downtown

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Marshall students want to expand ‘FREEinDOWNTOWN’ Wi-Fi radius

By DOUGLAS HARDING
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students utilizing the recently launched public Wi-Fi in downtown Huntington this weekend said they support expansion to cover the whole town.

The Wi-Fi network, called “FREEinDOWNTOWN,” covers a two-block radius of downtown Huntington, including Pullman Square, and it has been available since Aug. 14.

“Having Wi-Fi for free throughout Huntington would allow students and residents alike to enjoy easy internet access,” Christopher Gist, a first-year student majoring in computer and information technology, said.

Gist said in today’s world, the internet is used for such a large variety of services like contacting friends and family, ordering a ride and checking one’s bank account, and he thinks people should not have to pay for those services.

Gist said he feels installing the Wi-Fi was a great idea, but he believes awareness needs to be raised because not enough people currently know about it. He said he plans to continue using the Wi-Fi every day for as long as it is available.

Albert Cover, a senior economics major, said he also feels it is important for all of Huntington to have free access to Wi-Fi because it is practically a necessity.

“The internet has become a basic necessity like water or electricity,” Cover said. “I, like a lot of people, don’t have unlimited data on my phone, so this Wi-Fi will really help me keep from going over my limit.”

Cover said many times he had been downtown and needed to check his grades or respond to a professor’s email but could not because he was out of service range.

“The radius should definitely be expanded,” Cover said.

Public Wi-Fi would be beneficial to people all over town when they are in a situation that requires immediate internet access, Cover said.

“Also, this could be especially beneficial for those who spend a lot of time downtown and those who may not be able to afford decent private Wi-Fi at home,” he said. “I think the city should try to inform more people about the Wi-Fi with fliers and possibly even email announcements. I have personally never seen either of those.”

Cover said he was confident in Huntington’s ability to expand the Wi-Fi to cover the whole town and keep it secure throughout the process.

“I’ve read about European cities doing this as well,” he said. “If it works well for them, I’m sure it can work great for us.”

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@marshall.edu.
Lecture aims to help diversify Marshall community

Virginia Valian lecturing to students, faculty and staff during the 5 p.m. session on Monday, Sept. 10 in the Shawkey Dining Room. Valian tailored the session to Marshall’s campus, and she gave advice on how students can utilize their resources to succeed.

By HANNAH GRAHAM
THE PARTHENON

Virginia Valian, a Hunter College psychology professor and gender expert, lectured students, staff and faculty 2 p.m. Sept. 10, in the Shawkey Dining Room. This was one of five sessions Monday sponsored by the President’s Commission on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. Valian tailored the session to Marshall University students, and she gave advice on how students can utilize their resources to succeed.

Valian teaches and advises at a small New York City constituent college. She said both the demographic of students she teaches and the faculty she works with are very diverse, whereas Marshall still has a long way to go in terms of diversifying their faculty and student body.

“This campus isn’t terribly diverse,” Valian said. “Marshall’s goals here are a bit of a challenge. West Virginia isn’t a very diverse state, so it’s a bit of a challenge to diversify and increase gender equity.”

Valian was invited to Marshall by President Jerry Gilbert to speak on how the campus can overcome the obstacle of diversification. Valian used her background to help the faculty utilize tools to help increase diversity, as well as give students professional tools to help them make the most of their education.

Valian gave examples of strategies for student success, including the need for constructive rather than destructive criticism. Valian also said students should take advantage of the career expos and academic workshops offered on Marshall’s campus.

“Be confident. Ask questions. Be comfortable taking up space,” she said.

Students took part in the open discussion. Lydia Brown, a sophomore dietetics major, said she had a reason why many students may not take advantage of events on campus.

“There seems to be a disconnect between students and events on campus,” Brown said. “If it seems like something that won’t benefit people in the short term, a lot of people don’t find that valuable.”

Valian said students should take the initiative to start their own workshops, or to directly suggest ways to improve the workshops and events that happen on campus.

“The biggest challenge of being a student is that you don’t yet know what you need to know,” Valian said. “Analyze these things and use your resources, use your mentors.”

Valian’s ideas were directed toward young women who are trying to make names for themselves in the professional field, and she said her advice for young female students trying to make their ways in their respective fields is to realize that you won’t get all the admiration you deserve, but strive to achieve that,” Valian said. “Adopt a friendly yet neutral stance with colleagues and make your presence and your skills known when possible.”

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Organizations debate best way to take money out of politics

Representatives from Wolf-Pac, WV ACLU and WV Center on Budget and Policy debated money in politics at Drinko Library.

By DOUGLAS HARDING
THE PARTHENON

Tri-State Indivisible sponsored a debate Monday, with representatives from Wolf-Pac, the American Civil Liberties Union and West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy discussing removing money from politics.

“We want to propose an amendment to end the corrupting influence of money in politics and restore free and fair elections,” Samuel Fieldman, national counsel for Wolf-Pac, said.

Fieldman said the issue of the corrupting influence of money in politics is one which has enormous cross partisan support unlike any other convention efforts in the country.

“Think about the issue that’s most important to you,” Fieldman said. “Money in politics is the reason you’re not seeing progress on that issue. There is no other issue that brings the country together in this way.”

In order for Congress to propose a convention using Article V of the U.S. Constitution, 34 states must call for a convention on a specific issue. The issue would then be debated and voted on by delegates from each state, requiring a minimum of 38 positive votes to be ratified.

Vermont, California, Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island have passed a resolution calling for a state convention regarding money in politics.

“I’m unconvinced about the states’ ability to control the agenda of the convention,” Seth Distefano, outreach director of WV Center on Budget and Policy, said.

Distefano said he is concerned about the corrupting influence of money in politics, but he feels the Constitution provides a more secure way to limit that influence.

Distefano said to avoid the possibility of a runaway or creeping convention, in which delegates could act against the will of their states’ constituents to propose improper regulations, concerned citizens should become politically active in other ways to help make desired changes.

“There are so many things we just don’t know and that aren’t outlined about the convention,” Distefano said. “There’s just so much not spelled out about this in the Constitution.”

Eli Baumwell, policy director of the WV ACLU, said he feels there are too many risks associated with the idea of having a constitutional convention.

“We have to be careful with fundamentally changing the Constitution,” Baumwell said. “We have to be careful with anything that includes so many of our personal rights.”

Baumwell said states must be careful when imposing regulations on large corporations because those regulations also affect smaller organizations and non-profits, such as the ACLU.

“In truth, we should have done something about money in politics a long time ago,” Baumwell said. “But that doesn’t mean it’s time to hit the red (emergency) button now.”

Baumwell said informed, passionate and politically active citizens now are needed more than ever.

“Every group genuinely working to get money out of politics and embedded in these trenches like us has decided that this is absolutely the best way to go about it,” Richard Saffle, WV legislative director of Wolf-Pac, said.

Saffle said opponents of a constitutional convention argue there is a need to pressure Congress to propose this amendment on their own. However, he said he believes an Article V convention is precisely the way to pressure Congress into doing so and the way to achieve change.

Organizations such as Common Cause have been working on fixing money in politics for over 50 years Saffle said, but he does not feel like they are the experts on this issue or on Article V conventions. Common Cause has not disclosed their donors since 2013, Saffle said.

“The ACLU has been heroic in protecting our civil liberties and constitutional rights, and we’re all better off for it,” Saffle said.

The organization also has a national board of directors who set their official policy, and members are forced to defend this position whether they agree with it or not, he said.

“The ACLU also does not disclose their donors, which is somewhat understandable, but it also means they sacrifice some credibility especially on issues which could serve to upset their donors,” Saffle said.

Arguments used against the idea of a constitutional convention to get money out politics are aimed at instilling fear in citizens as opposed to debating the substance of the issue, he said.

“Some people say they are afraid of what will happen to our country if there is a constitutional convention,” Saffle said. “But I am infinitely more afraid of what will happen to us if we continue to cower in fear to inaction instead of leading with courage to demand our constitutional rights and a government dependent upon the people alone.”

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SGA meets to discuss legislation, honor military personnel on 9/11

By HANNAH GRAHAM
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Student Government Association had their weekly senate meeting Tuesday, Sept. 11, in the Shawkey Dining Hall. The meeting consisted of student senators and was open to the public. Vice President Hannah Petracca served as the presiding officer over the meeting.

The meeting started with a moment of silence to honor lives lost in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. From there, the legislators moved to new business. Andy Hermansdorfer, director of student involvement and leadership, was approved to be Senate Adviser in a unanimous vote. Several senate bills were moved to the finance committee in order to be approved or denied for funding.

President Hunter Barclay encouraged senators to participate in the 9/11 Remembrance Walk to Spring Hill Cemetery at 5:30 after the meeting. He also brought up the Jenkins Hall survey that was generated by the Student Government Association and reminded senators to spread the word about it.

“The survey can be found on a Twitter page and also on the website,” Barclay said. “I encourage you to please fill out the survey and pass it along to your fellow students, it’s really important for you to express your opinions. We really want your ideas for any alternative names for the building, and we just really want your feedback on it.”

Barclay said he and Petracca were taking all the previously given feedback of the House of Representatives proposal into consideration and plan to be at the next senate meeting with an outline for a constitutional amendment and a timeline to be discussed.

Barclay said they are also still discussing affordable textbook options with President Jerome Gilbert and the upper administration in order to come to a consensus. Petracca and Barclay plan to propose a ‘textbook menu’ professors can look through and choose from. They plan to seek approval from Gilbert early next week.

Next, Petracca gave words of encouragement and a reminder to maintain decorum even when proposals are on the floor that individuals do not necessarily agree with.

Financial Funding Application training at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12 is an event organized by SGA in order to help equip senators and apprentices with more valuable information on how the funding process within Student Senate works.

Hermansdorfer said the meeting is important for student legislators.

“When students come to you and ask you about the funding process, I want you to understand it,” Hermansdorfer said. “I want you to understand that students who apply for funding can see that entire process visually, from first reading on. So, I encourage you to come to the meeting if you can.”

At the meeting, Senator Jacob Gressang spoke of his proposal and request for help drafting a resolution.

“Every year, Housing and Residence Life goes through a construction period in which they have to conduct inspections,” Gressang said. “When they inspect furniture, even if the furniture is a little bit dented, or a mattress has a stain on it, that furniture has to go directly to a landfill. There are a lot of homeless shelters that could use these mattresses and materials that we would otherwise throw away.”

Gressang said there would be a lot of specifics that go into what would and would not be able to be donated, and the semantics would have to be discussed in order for any piece of legislation to be drafted. There are plans to develop this idea further in future senate meetings.

Next week’s Student Government Association Senate meeting will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18th. Meetings are open to students to voice their concerns or advocate for organizational funding.

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Herd football tops Eastern Kentucky in home opener

By DEREK GILBERT
THE PARTHENON

Marshall Thundering Herd football defeated the Eastern Kentucky Colonels 32-16 Saturday at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The win moved Marshall to a record of 2-0, while EKU fell to a record of 1-1.

“Every week, somebody gets beat that shouldn’t and that wasn’t us tonight,” Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. “To (EKU’s) credit, they played extremely hard. At the end of the day, we found a way to win and that’s all that matters.”

Marshall hadn’t committed a turnover this season before Saturday. However, the Herd and Colonels combined for 9 turnovers throughout the contest (Marshall 4, EKU 5).

Three Marshall turnovers came off fumbled kick returns.

“We haven’t seen that around here in a long, long time, and you won’t see it again,” Holliday said. “To our defense’s credit, they created five turnovers. Believe it or not, we ended up winning the turnover battle.”

The Herd jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter, after a 20-yard touchdown pass from redshirt freshman Isaiah Green to junior wide receiver Obi Obialo.

The touchdown concluded a possession in which Marshall drove 94 yards over 12 plays. Eastern Kentucky blocked the Herd’s extra point attempt, which made the score 6-0 Marshall with 4:28 left in the first quarter.

Marshall extended its lead to 13 before the end of the first quarter. The sequence started as Marshall redshirt sophomore safety Brandon Drayton intercepted an EKU pass. Then, a 6-yard touchdown pass from Green to redshirt senior wide receiver Tyre Brady gave the Herd a 13-0 lead heading into the second quarter.

“When a team needs a play to be made, somebody has to do it,” Green said. “We had a couple of players do that tonight. I’ve got a lot of players around me that have the ability to make big plays, so I just give them the chance to do that.”

In the second quarter, EKU recovered a fumble on a punt that bounced off redshirt sophomore tight end Xavier Gaines. It took the Colonels three plays to score off a two-yard run by redshirt senior running back L.J. Scott.

EKU failed a two-point conversion attempt, which brought the score to 13-6.

Marshall went into halftime with the lead over the Colonels 20-6, after a second quarter touchdown from redshirt sophomore running back Tyler King—his first touchdown of the year.

In the second half, special teams woes struck again for Marshall, as EKU recovered a fumble on the half’s opening kickoff. EKU converted the turnover into a 30-yard touchdown drive capped by a rush from sophomore running back Alonzo Booth, which brought the score to 20-13.

Marshall defense held EKU to a field goal for the remainder of the game. The Herd’s offense tackled on 12 points of its own in the second half, with a third quarter Obialo touchdown, a field goal (its first of the season) and a safety. The safety, courtesy of a sack from redshirt senior defensive lineman Malik Thompson, brought the game to its final score of 32-16.

Green made his second consecutive start under-center for the Herd. He completed 23 of his 39 pass attempts for three touchdowns and one interception—a pass that bounced out of the hands of Brady and into those of an EKU defender. Green said he was humbled by his first start at the Joan.

“It was an amazing experience to see all the green and white, and people going crazy every time a play was made,” Green said.

The Thundering Herd will hit the road for the second time this season, as it heads to Williams-Brice Stadium to face the Gamecocks of South Carolina Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

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Marshall, South Carolina to battle Saturday

By MORGAN GRIFFITH
THE PARTHENON

Marshall football looks to maintain its undefeated record Saturday at 7:30 p.m. when it heads to Williams-Brice Stadium to take on the South Carolina Gamecocks.

“Every time you go on the road, you have to take your leadership and your toughness,” Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. “Going into that environment, it’s fun, but you have to make sure you have great leadership and toughness when you walk into a place like that.”

South Carolina (1-1) is looking for a win after losing to No. 3 Georgia last Saturday. This will be the second gridiron meeting between Marshall (2-0) and South Carolina. The Herd won the lone previous matchup between the teams, 24-21, in 1998 on a Billy Malashevich field goal as time expired.

After just two starts into his Herd career, redshirt freshman quarterback Isaiah Green has completed more passes (47) and thrown for more yards (550) than former Marshall legends Byron Leftwich and Chad Pennington had through their first two starts. Coach Holliday said he does not think the big stage will bother Green on Saturday.

“(Green) has got a little (Rakeem) Cato in him,” Holliday said. “He’s overcome a lot of adversity in his life, and walking into arenas like that does not really bother him. He doesn’t seem like he gets rattled a lot. It’ll be exciting to watch him walk in there. I guarantee he will have a smile on his face, and hopefully he will have one after the game.”

South Carolina’s offense will be no easy match for Marshall’s defense. Gamecock wide receiver Deebo Samuel has earned numerous preseason All-America and All-SEC accolades as a wide receiver, kick returner and all-purpose performer. He ranks fourth in the SEC with 6.5 receptions for game. Throwing to Samuel is junior quarterback Jake Bentley, who is now in his third year as a starter for South Carolina. Last week, Bentley completed 30-of-47 passes for 269 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions in a loss to No. 3 Georgia last week.

With the threat of Hurricane Florence looming, several college football games Saturday have been canceled. While South Carolina Athletics is monitoring the forecast, Holliday said he is treating this week like any other.

“We just go,” Holliday said when asked how his team is preparing for what could be a unique situation. “As far as we’re concerned, we’re playing. Until they tell us otherwise, we just go full-speed ahead and go. Right now, we’re going as is, as we’re playing.”

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Marshall volleyball hands Georgia Tech 3-1 defeat

The only winning match of the weekend for the Herd was against Georgia Tech. Marshall defeated the Yellow Jackets 3-1 (27-25, 19-25, 25-20, 25-23).

In the first set, Marshall used an 8-0 run to take an 11-9 lead over Georgia Tech. The two teams were neck-and-neck, as they were tied at 25 until Marshall senior middle Lauren Mattmuller ended the set with a kill. Mattmuller had nine kills and two blocks in the match.

The Yellow Jackets jumped out to an early lead in the second set and outmatched the Herd 25-19 to tie the match at one set each. Led by redshirt sophomore Ciara DeBell, the Herd regained the matching lead in the third set. Late in the set, DeBell and Mattmuller had consecutive kills to give Marshall a 21-17 lead. DeBell had one more kill in the set before the Herd claimed the 25-20 set win. The fourth set was back-and-forth. With a 24-23 lead, however, Marshall freshman Gabrielle Coulter had the game-winning kill—her seventh of the match—giving the Herd the set and match victory (25-23).

Steelers, Ravens invite Marshall equipment managers to work summer training camps

By DEREK GILBERT
THE PARTHENON

Two NFL teams welcomed Marshall Equipment managers to assist with the teams’ training camps over the summer.

Kyle Powers and Jacob Frye assisted the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens, respectively, performing duties such as setting up the field for practices and preparing players’ uniforms.

Powers, a sophomore criminal justice and political science major at Marshall University, said he was thrilled to have the chance to work for the Steelers - his lifelong favorite team.

“Being a Steelers fan my whole life, I knew that this was the team I wanted to work for,” Powers said. “A few emails and phone calls later, my dream was finally granted.”

Both Powers and Frye credit their boss with Marshall Equipment, Zach Littleton, for playing a crucial role in providing them these opportunities.

“Without Zach knowing Tom (Wood, Assistant Equipment Manager for the Ravens), I probably wouldn’t have been able to have this opportunity,” Frye said.

Frye said he hopes working with a professional football team such as the Ravens is the next step in working toward his goal of becoming the director of equipment at a university, and he used this internship to gather more information to help him achieve it.

Fresh off the heels of the NFL offseason, Powers said he has already found another chance to work for Pittsburgh, as he has accepted the offer to work with visiting clubhouse operations for Steelers home games for the 2018 season. While not completely sure of what the job entails, Powers will be assisting any team that travels to Heinz Field this season to play the Steelers with anything they might need set up.

Powers begins his regular season duties Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs visit Heinz Field for a 1 p.m. kickoff against the Steelers.

He doesn’t know where all this opportunity will lead him, but Powers said he is excited to continue to gather knowledge while being in the midst of his favorite team.

“I’m most looking forward to the experiences and relationships that I will build as a result of working camp and during the regular season,” Powers said. “My time so far has been outstanding and I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.”

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Woodward and Trump: A fight for truth

FILE: This June 11, 2012 file photo shows former Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward speaking during an event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Watergate in Washington. Woodward says top staffers in President Donald Trump’s administration “are not telling the truth” when they deny incendiary quotes about Trump attributed to them in his new book. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, file)

With each day that passes, there seems to be some new, outlandish news coming out of The White House. Michael Wolff’s book, “Fire and Fury,” was the first to take a crack at the Trump administration, although the book has been widely questioned as an embellishment. Former Trump staffer, Omarosa Manigault Newman has been touting her new book, “Unhinged: An Insider’s Account of the Trump White House,” which has caused quite a stir from someone known to be a dramatic attention-seeker.

But most recently, and most seriously, legendary reporter Bob Woodward, one of the main journalists behind uncovering the Watergate Scandal, ultimately resulting in the resignation of President Richard Nixon, wrote a book about Trump. Woodward has had a historic career in journalism, one that has been marked by many awards and accolades, including the Pulitzer, and has written a multitude of best-selling books on many U.S. presidents. He has spent decades earning credibility, making a name for himself as a truth seeker and finder.

“If there’s a credibility gap, Woodward is usually on the right side of it,” wrote Jonathan Allen of NBC.

With the release of the book, President Trump has repeatedly called the reporting fraudulent, all a work of fiction. But in examining the two men’s track records, Woodward tells the truth, while Donald Trump does not.

“In his first year as President, Trump made 2,140 false claims, according to the Post,” wrote Susan B. Glasser of The New Yorker. “In just the last six months, he has nearly doubled that total to 4,229. In June and July, he averaged sixteen false claims a day. On July 5th, the Post found what appears to be Trump’s most untruthful day yet: seventy-six per cent of the ninety-eight factual assertions he made in a campaign-style rally in Great Falls, Montana, were false, misleading or unsupported by evidence.”

Trump and other critics claim that the book can’t be trusted due to the amount of anonymous sources quoted by Woodward. But the journalist has utilized anonymity his entire career in order to get the truth from people who may not talk otherwise—remember Deep Throat, the source in the Watergate scandal?

“If information is true, if it can be verified, and if it’s really important, the newspaper needs to be willing to take the risk associated with using unidentified sources,” Woodward is quoted as saying.

In this case, Woodward’s record trumps the president.
SMIRL MEETS WORLD

By RILEIGH SMIRL
COLUMNIST

I will be the first to admit that I get stressed extremely easily, especially over school and homework. A lot of the time, my stress is unnecessary, and I get my work done and move on to the next item on my agenda to freak out over. Yet, there is the occasion where the stress just gets to be too much, and I realize I legitimately have too much on my plate. Sometimes, it even becomes impossible to work; I’m just stuck thinking about all I have to do in the short amount of time I have to do it with absolutely no motivation to finish all of it. I’m sure you understand exactly what I’m talking about.

I am only about three and a half weeks into my first year, but it seems like the work has already started to pile up. Did someone forget to mention that there is no easy transition into the school year in college like there was in high school? Forget the first days and weeks of the past where I had nothing to worry about but getting my syllabus signed. Now, I already have written three essays, read two books, watched two movies to write essays on, and have two exams within the next two weeks. I knew college would be an adjustment, but no one told me just how different it would be.

I’ll admit here that there were times I felt like I didn’t have to push myself too hard in high school; the work just never piled up the way it seems to in college. In my high school at least, teachers worked with each other to avoid having due dates and deadlines fall too close to each other. That idea seems so out of this world in college classes I can’t even imagine it. Now, I’m finding myself time and time again having to extend myself farther than I have had to in the past. I never had invested in a daily planner because I never had to use it in school. Yet, the planner I bought just a few weeks ago has now become an extension of my arm as I am constantly adding new deadlines and test dates and reminders of the ever-growing list of homework assignments I have.

The phrase I had to keep drilling into my brain this weekend was “self-care.” At some point in my first few weeks of college, I’ve forgotten that if I don’t take care of myself, I’m not doing the best work I could be. So, even if you’re like me and seem to be spending too much time in the library and in front of a computer screen, remember to take a break every once in a while to take care of yourself. Watch a movie, or an episode of your favorite show, take a long shower and listen to your favorite band, or even take a nap if that’s what you need. The work you have on your agenda will get done, so don’t forget to take a minute to breathe and relax while you can.

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LET ME BE FRANK: On Fruit Flies

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

In the past month, the house I live in has developed something of a fruit fly problem. It started small, but quickly my life was overrun with these horrible, ugly beasts. Our ceilings are decorated with fly strips dangling, our counters complete with store-bought insect repellants and traps. And one night after being welcomed home by a whole host of flies, I flew into something of a rage against these ridiculous creatures. I took a can of Lysol spray and ravaged my kitchen, destroying any in sight. I was about sick of these pests. Just thinking about them is making me angry. Obviously, I’m really not a fan. Not the point of this, though.

It’s gotten better, and most recently I bought from the store a homemade trap. I put it in a cup, dropped some dish soap in and covered it with plastic wrap. I was giddy. The nightmarish plague would soon be over. A little while later, I went to check the progress, and saw the swarm of flies on the cup, around the cup and inside the cup, trapped and dying. I was satisfied with my work, but also had something of a revelation only moments later.

I watched as these little idiots flew themselves into their own doom, seeking the prize they thought was their purpose. It was everything they could ever want—fermented fruit, perfectly placed in a cup, on a platter singing its siren song. Their whole identity rests in their hunt for this type of fruit. Even their name suggests this. But unfortunately, their blind hunt for their purpose and meaning gets lost in a cup. The prize is death in disguise, a wolf in sheeps’ clothing, and it is at this point that I realized maybe people aren’t quite so different.

So often the things we think are good for us, maybe even what we believe to be the ultimate, are deceptively misleading. What we prize and prioritize is dangled in front of our noses and we grasp at straws, a meaningless hunt for real, lasting meaning.

Sometimes we even know what isn’t good for us, but it’s familiar. It’s what we know. And so we run to it, cling to it even, with the dream that it somehow ends up being what we hope it to be.

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Times’ publisher defends op-ed in meeting of US news leaders

By PAUL J. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The publisher of The New York Times said Tuesday that the newspaper’s decision to run an anonymous opinion piece criticizing President Donald Trump’s leadership “added to the public understanding of this administration and the actions and beliefs of the people within it.”

Publisher A.G. Sulzberger defended running the op-ed to a gathering of U.S. news leaders in Austin, Texas. He provided no clues about the author, whom the Times identified as a senior administration official.

The author professed to be a member of a “quiet resistance within the administration” that was straining to thwart Trump’s “more misguided impulses.” Trump fumed after the piece was published last week, saying the newspaper should turn over the author’s name and calling on the U.S. Justice Department to investigate and unmask the person.

Sulzberger said the newspaper believed the piece crossed the threshold for using an anonymous source.

“We didn’t think there was any way to make that contribution without some guarantee of anonymity,” Sulzberger said. “And I think the president’s actions since the release of this piece have underscored exactly why we felt that was so important.”

The op-ed coincided with veteran journalist Bob Woodward’s new book “Fear.” The explosive narrative of Trump’s turbulent 18 months in office relies on comments described by sources Woodward doesn’t name. Sulzberger said the timing of the opinion piece and excerpts of Woodward’s book coming out were coincidental.

Trump called the author “GUTLESS” on Twitter. Trump cited “national security” as the reason U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions should investigate. He also said he was exploring bringing legal action against the newspaper.

A White House official later said Trump’s call for a government investigation was an expression of his frustration with the essay, not an order for federal prosecutors to take the extraordinary action.

Granting anonymity for such a piece is unusual but not unprecedented. Some journalists have drawn comparisons to protecting a source with anonymity in news stories. James Dao, the Times’ op-ed editor, told a Times reporter that the piece was submitted through an intermediary, and anonymity wasn’t granted until editors were confident in the writer’s identity.

In July, Sulzberger and Trump had an off-the-record meeting that became public after the president tweeted to his 53 million Twitter followers that they discussed the “vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, ‘Enemy of the People!’ Sad!”

Sulzberger has said that Trump’s aides had requested that the July 20 meeting not be made public, but said he decided to comment after Trump’s tweet.

On Tuesday, Sulzberger said he felt the meeting was a chance to look Trump in the eye and raise concerns about the dangers of anti-press rhetoric.

“My biggest regret when I left that meeting was that it wasn’t on the record,” Sulzberger said. “Because if he’s not going to change his rhetoric, the biggest thing that I would hope to accomplish is to put a conversation like that on the record so that he cannot say that he was not warned if something terrible happened.”
Marshall addresses suicide prevention through panel, trainings

By GRETCHEN KALAR
THE PARThENON

Marshall University’s Department of Social Work helped kick off Suicide Prevention Month with a panel on suicide prevention Sept. 10 in the Memorial Student Center.

The panel consisted of eight members and was moderated by Candace Layne, director of Marshall’s Counseling Center. Layne said college students are the second highest attempted and completed suicide rate population, and according to the American College Health Association, 6 percent of males and 8 percent of females of the 13 colleges and universities in West Virginia have seriously considered suicide.

“Teach people to ask the difficult questions,” Peggy Proudfoot-Harman, director of master of social work program, said.

The Counseling Center is working to bring a training called Safe Talk to Marshall.

“We have to talk, to ask, to listen and to keep people safe,” said Paula Rymer, clinical director of the Marshall University Health Professions Behavioral Health Center. “How do we do that if we’re afraid to talk about it?”

Julie Brawn, suicide prevention coordinator of the Huntington Veterans Affairs Medical Center, said they train all the staff to understand the signs.

“You don’t have to be a mental health specialist to intervene,” Brawn said. “It’s not rocket science.”

Samantha Hicks, social worker for Cabell County schools, said to follow through with the person and get the help they need, just knowing someone is going to be there for him or her and through that process can really make a difference.

“Just because you have the questions does not mean you have to have the answers,” Hicks said. “(Saying) ‘I’m not sure what we’ll do, but we’ll get through it together,’ that can have all the power in the world.”

One problem the panel discussed was the stigma of religion with suicide.

“Sometimes people are not in the right frame of mind to even pray for themselves,” Layne said.

Sept. 18 there will be two trainings called Understanding Suicide from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center.

The Counseling Center and others from the Marshall community will be on the Rec Center lawn Sept. 22 before the football game to hand out hygiene bags and snack bags to spread awareness of suicide prevention.

The Counseling Center can be reached at counselingcenter@marshall.edu or 304-696-3111. The national suicide hotline is 1-800-273-8255.

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Huntington community stands together in worship, praise to help people on the road to recovery

By LILLIE BODIE
THE PARTHENON

Community members in substance use recovery praise, worship and unite through music Mondays at Norway Avenue Church of Christ. Every week features a different genre of music, such as Christian rap, rock and blues, performed by local and famous musicians, alongside a message on how to walk with Jesus on the road to recovery.

With 14 months of sobriety under her belt, Cammie Carr, newcomer to The Movement, said she enjoys the music.

“The singing and praise lifts your spirit up, and you can really feel him (Jesus) in the room and it’s unexplainable,” Carr said. “And after being baptized today, I feel free and am no longer bound by my sins and mistakes I have made.”

Rocky Meadows, founder and pastor of The Movement, said through music a connection is deepened between attendees and Jesus in their worship.

“Music and praise opens up an atmosphere that the heavens open up, and God seems to be more prevalent in his presence,” Meadows said. “We open our hearts and access God in a way that we wouldn’t otherwise, and there’s something about when we come together that has power in it.”

Meadows said he hopes people walk away every Monday night changed with the information to help them through their walk in recovery.

“We are solution oriented and recovery focused,” Meadows said. “Everybody that comes here will be clean, sober for the night and can live as productive members of society. And we want to see this community changed by helping people through the process of recovery so they are the solution and not the problem.”

Shaun Wharff, an attendee, said The Movement has given him strength and helped him in his lowest moments after losing his son.

“The Movement is my charger, my power source, to help me fight the good fight through recovery,” Wharff said. “I’ve been so lost in my life and disconnected from the world, and this gives me the hope and strength I need. This program opens my heart and eyes to so many great things and touches me in ways I thought were impossible with religion and speaks in volumes.”

Butch Berlin, former Chief of Police, said The Movement has changed him while he has worked there, and he is used to more conservative churches.

“When I came here the hats and tattoos threw me off because we were at a church, but then I looked beyond that and realized they were the nicest bunch of people,” Berlin said.

The Movement will be at Riverfront Park at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24, where baptisms will be in the Ohio River along with one hour of worship.

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