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Gardens in bloom on campus

By: MEREDITH O'BARA
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University is not only a home to students, but to plants starting life in several gardens across campus. As the summer season approaches, students and gardeners prepare for the vegetable season.

Since 2009 Marshall has had gardens that have housed vegetables, herbs, succulents and more. Angela Kargul, lead gardener for science and sustainability, said the purpose behind the gardens was not only to give students a chance to relax, but to gain an appreciation for where food comes from.

“T"hink the gardens give students a chance to be aware of how fun gardening can be," Kargul said. "It is hard work, and they find that out when they help out, but I think that gives them an appreciation for commercial farmers; the people who make your food, the thing you cannot live without and how hard they work for it, and the little recognition for it they get."

One group hands-deep in soil is the Gardening Club. Richie Combs, senior environmental science major, said the club is involved in a lot of the planting on Marshall’s campus.

“We run the student gardens, where we grow a variety of vegetables and usually harvest them every Friday when the weather permits,” Combs said.

Kargul said that for many students, learning how to garden teaches them hard work.

“They do not think they like gardening, because it is dirty, messy and sweaty, but once they see the end product they love it,” Kargul said.

Combs said gardening gives him a chance to see the efforts he puts into his work.

“Being able to grow something is being able to actively and patiently watch the progress of it, allowing you the satisfaction of seeing your work progress,” Combs said.

“Having more experience with this makes me want to continue this practice even after I graduate from Marshall.”

The gardens are not just for the gardeners though, as the vegetables produced are then given to students and faculty on campus. The idea of Market Day comes from Kargul having an excess of vegetables and needing a way to give them away.

“I had all these vegetables and did not know what to do with them so I had a basket and would fill it up and walk around campus and would say, ‘Hey would you like some vegetables?’” Kargul said.

“Then we came up with the idea of Market Day which is once a week over at the student center. We do not charge but just ask for donations. We start in the end of May, the last Wednesday.”

For the Gardening Club, Combs said there is more offered to students than just the chance to grow the vegetables for Market Day, but they also improve campus and gain knowledge that can be carried with past students’ time at Marshall.

“Our club helps Marshall University by improving on the aesthetics of the campus, providing students and faculty with food, benefiting the food supplies for the Marshall kitchens, providing students with socialization opportunities through club activities and providing students with knowledge that they can take with them in the rest of their lives,” Combs said.

The gardens and club are always looking for more volunteers and will take any level of experience, Kargul said.

“If you can handle the heat and dirtiness than that is fine, but if not you can always come by and help pick or harvest of to market day,” Kargul said.

With the summer season approaching, and vegetables been planted, Combs said more students should join the Gardening Club and help improve campus and themselves.

“I believe other students should join the Marshall Garden Club because the Garden Club provides a number of opportunities to learn and practice skills that will improve themselves and the campus, potential certificates for providing a number of volunteer hours that can go towards a resume, first picks on collected vegetables from the garden from those that work on Volunteer Day, and the accomplishment of seeing tangible results from your work,” Combs said.

Meredith O’Bara can be contacted by obara@marshall.edu.

‘Innovative Solutions to Complex Problems’ theme of TEDx event

By PAIGE LEONARD
THE PARTHENON

A wide array of topics, ranging from the opioid epidemic and sexual assault to music therapy, will be presented at Marshall University’s first TEDx event Saturday, May 4.

“It’s just kind of a relief, more than anything just knowing that our story is going to be out there,” said Buffy Six, one of the event organizers and a senior online journalism major.

TEDxMarshallUniversity, which is part of a popular online speech forum, is different from the other speeches on the site, Six said, because the program is centered around the Marshall and Huntington communities.

Hunter Barclay, former Marshall student body president and another organizer of the event, said he and his team want to keep most details under wraps, but the topics will consist of opioid epidemic and sexual assault, criminal justice reform and music as therapy, Six and Barclay said.

Since Barclay said Huntington often gets negative coverage of issues like the opioid epidemic, he, along with Hannah Petracca, Marshall’s former student body vice president, and Brian Kinghorn, assistant professor of curriculum, instruction and foundations in the College of Education and Professional Development, wanted to have people present solutions to these problems.

“We really wanted to kind of just find those ideas that people specifically for those people that don’t have that platform to share those,” Barclay said. “I think it will be a good way to get those ideas out there.”

Six said she thinks it is “kind of cool to see these local people that are coming up with these ideas and these solutions and are excited to present them to our audience and to the worldwide audience of the internet.”

Knowing that these solutions and ideas are going to be presented online is important to Six because “anyone can go to it and watch this and can learn about who Marshall is and who Huntington is,” she said.

These solutions, Six said, are feasible and not out of reach. Some of these solutions are already in motion, Barclay said.

Many of these solutions, Six, along with others may not have heard, Six said, but she hopes people will realize the solutions are not out of reach and can be implemented.

“I’m hoping that what this is going to do is really motivate whoever watches it to take initiative on implementing on these ideas and following through on these ideas and making a change,” Six said.

This project, which Barclay said began in November, will come to life this Saturday at 5 p.m. Although Barclay said he wished everyone could attend the event, the TED Conferences, LLC caps the event’s attendance at 100 people.

However, Barclay said there will be a live stream watch party in Smith Hall 154, which Six said she will emcee.

“It’s all coming together pretty well, so I’m pretty excited for it,” Six said about TEDxMarshallUniversity.

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Changes come to SGA

By JESTEN RICHARDSON
COPY EDITOR

Marshall University’s student senate experienced change as some Student Government Association members said goodbye and others moved into new positions, during the first meeting of student senate session 77 Tuesday in the Memorial Student Center.

Now former Student Body President Hunter Barclay and Student Body Vice President Hannah Hermansdorfer also swore in other members of their cabinet and other members of the SGA and sharing messages for their fellow SGA members, new and old.

“To the new people coming in, I’m really excited for you guys,” Petracca said. “It’s going to be an awesome year for you both. Don’t blink because it’s over. But enjoy it, embrace it, work together, if there’s anything I can tell you it’s that you’re not going to be able to do it alone. None of you.

“So, I would highly recommend just loving each other through things, even when there’s some tough love involved,” Petracca continued, “and making sure that you remind yourself why you’re in this room, who you represent, why it’s a big deal to be elected into these positions and never lose sight of that when you guys start to disagree or whatever. Remember it’s not about us, it’s about the students that we represent.”

During the meeting, Andy Hermansdorfer, Marshall’s director of student involvement and leadership, swore in new Student Body President Stephanie Rogner and Student Body Vice President Anna Williams, who will run the student senate following with the duties of her position.

Hermansdorfer also swore in other members of student senate session 77 during the meeting.

Following the swearing in, senators voted on each senate executive position for student senate session 77.

Incumbent and College of Science Sen. Noelle Soares was elected President Pro Tempore, and College of Science Sen. Jo Tremmel was elected Parliamentarian/Judiciary Committee Chairperson. Incumbent and At-Large Sen. Brian Stein was elected Treasurer.

Additionally, At-Large Sen. Emilie Christenberry was elected Campus Life Committee Chairperson. College of Science Sen. Darby McCloud was elected Senate Education and Outreach Coordinator. College of Health Professions Sen. Jakob Jitima was elected Sergeant at Arms. College of Arts and Media Sen. Ralph May was elected Historian.

Following the student senate meeting, Williams said she was a little bit nervous because it was her first one, but she said she thought it went really well. Williams said it was exciting to see so much enthusiasm and participation this late in the semester, and she is really looking forward to the upcoming year.

“I really look forward to having a productive senate that’s willing to do the nitty gritty and go out to campus and really reach out to students,” Williams said. “It’s something that I think they’ve done a really good job of in the past, and so I really look forward to helping enhance that. And with the senate, I just want to have something that is working for the good of Marshall and constantly producing good work, and I think that’s what matters as representatives of the student body. I look forward to working with these wonderful leaders who are willing to do that work.”

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Police Blotter

By MACKENZIE JONES
THE PARTHENON

Destruction of Property

Officers received a call April 21 from the Sixth Avenue parking garage that a window on the second story was shattered. Officers arrived on scene to investigate. They took pictures and sent them to dispatch. At the time, the case was closed due to belief that a rock had hit the window.

Destruction of Property

An employee from the Sixth Avenue parking garage called MUPD officers April 23 and said a window had broken and shattered glass was falling out. Officers checked the exterior and interior of the garage and could not find any evidence. They found a small indentation on the metal frame below the broken window. Officers also found a small white piece that appeared to be a broken marble on the grass between the sidewalk and curb.

Unlawful Underage Drinking

Officers observed three unknown males in the grassy area near Old Main being very loud on April 25. Two of the three males began to wrestle in the grass while the other male stood and recorded on his phone. On contact, the officer identified all the suspects. Initially, the suspects lied to officers and stated that “it was better than getting in trouble.” The suspect was at a friend’s house, then a bar before being at Old Main. The suspect was issued an arrest citation for underage consumption, due to being under 21.

Driving Under the Influence

At 3:12 a.m. April 25 a vehicle was observed driving southbound. The driver had red, glassy eyes, slurred speech and a strong odor of alcohol was present. The suspect admitted to drinking alcohol, taking allergy medicine and had taken pain medication. The suspect failed all three field sobriety tests and blew an insufficient result. He was arrested for driving under the influence, driving revoked, no proof of registration and no proof of insurance.

Sexual Assault

On April 26, officers received a report of sexual assault in the residence halls. Officers received a statement from the victim, who was transported to Cabell Huntington Hospital for further treatment/care. The sexual assault is currently under investigation.

Theft

On April 26, a female victim came into Marshall University Police Department to report that her light gray purse had been stolen from the Memorial Student Center food court. The victim stated that she left it, and upon returning, she could not find it.

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Students relax during Stress Relief Week

By MAKAYLAH WHEELER
THE PARTHENON

With activities, food and “survival freebies,” Marshall University is turning Dead Week into a Stress Relief Week for students.

“It is extremely important to do whatever we can to support students during the extra stressful time surrounding finals,” said Hannah Petracca, Marshall’s former student body vice president.

The university will host an array of daily activities Monday, April 29 through Friday, May 2.

Students can expect “survival freebies’” that will get them through finals, dance sessions, free massages, yoga, Do It Yourself workshops and free lunch provided by the Campus Activities Board throughout the week.

Last semester, organizations such as the Student Government Association also jumped in on the stress relief hype by passing out donuts, Petracca said.

Petracca said the activities remind students that it is important to “decompress in-between studying.”

“It’s important to look out for your mental and physical health because you only get one body and it’s important to take care of it,” said Annika Behnke, a freshman accounting major. These “fun” activities are something that “students should definitely take advantage of,” Behnke said.

“I’m looking forward to the massages the most,” Behnke said “My roommate and I always make plans to get them together.”

Stress Relief Week can be a free way to spend time with friends and to de-stress, but the warm weather makes some students wish they were able to enjoy more of the activities outdoors.

“I think having more activities outdoors would help students to de-stress and take care of their mental and physical health,” Behnke said.

Petracca said, though this time can feel “more overwhelming than usual,” she thinks “something as simple as a snack can give students the extra push they need to finish the semester out strong.”

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Tutoring Center seeks students for fall semester

By MEREDITH O’BARA
THE PARTHENON

As the spring semester comes to a close, the Tutoring Services center in the Communications Building seeks students to become tutors in the fall. Tutors provide many services to students seeking help.

With a new semester starting, Sabrina Simpson, director of new student orientation and coordinator of Tutoring Services, said tutors are beneficial to many students’ time in college.

“Tutoring is often an important part of a student’s education,” Simpson said. “A tutor is someone who generally works one-on-one with a student to provide remedial, enrichment or other support. Our goal is to help students build the skills and confidence they need to be successful in their coursework and in their personal pursuits.”

Simpson said the tutoring center is currently taking applications for any student who falls within the requirements for tutoring.

“In order to apply to be a tutor, a student must have earned an A or B in the course(s) they wish to tutor, and they must have a minimum 3.0 GPA,” Simpson said. “Students can stop by the Tutoring Center, ask questions and pick up the application to apply, or email me simpson@marshall.edu with any questions they may have.”

Sabel Meadows, a current tutor and senior premed and biology major, said tutoring has given her a chance to give back and stay up to date on her own material.

“A lot of students see their grades improve after coming to tutoring,” Meadows said. “It also helps the tutors stay fresh on material, and it is a really rewarding experience for all of us. I think it kind of gives students a place to go and feel like they have support.”

There is a lot that goes into being a tutor, Meadows said. Having many roles, tutors provide an array of services to students.

“We do anything from helping make study guides for students, to teaching them how to study because a lot of students do not know how to do that after high school,” Meadows said. “We also can do homework problems with students as a guide, but we do not do homework for them. We help battle test anxiety as well.”

With all the ways tutors can help students, Isabella Mays, a junior biology major and chemistry minor, said her experience was positive, and she would like to see more tutors for the upcoming semester.

“I went to the tutoring center because I was struggling in a chemistry class and I knew we had free tutoring services on campus,” Mays said. “I really liked the tutor I got paired up with. He was really helpful and was able to break things down for me, and I found the one-on-one time to be really beneficial.”

Taking on the role of a tutor has both its personal gains, as well as feeling good about helping those around you, Meadows said.

“For one, it is a really good resume builder,” said Meadows. “It also makes me so happy to see my student light up and come in and say, ‘Hey, I just passed my exam.’ Feeling that sense of, ‘Hey, I really made a difference in this person’s life,’ you do not really realize it at the time, but when they come in and are happy, you really do feel that way.”

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From capstone to community: class project creates mentorship program for children

**By MAKAYLAH WHEELER**
**THE PARTHENON**

Marshall University journalism students are trying to prove that Huntington still has a bright future by placing the hope for tomorrow in the children of today.

The Hero2One sponsorship program started as a fundraising capstone project for a small group of students from Marshall’s W. Page Pitt School of Journalism but turned into what is set to be a year-round sponsorship program that allows community members to mentor and sponsor a child in the Guyandotte Elementary after-school program.

This allows low income households to not only have a safe place for their children to stay until the guardians get home from school or work but allows children to get help with homework and meet guest speakers.

“It’s important for these kids to grow up and have the job they want to and know that they can be successful because without that Huntington just can’t survive—that’s how it happens,” said Brittany Hively, a senior journalism major.

As the capstone program director for Hero2One, Hively said she knew how important mentorship was because she was once one of those children that people did not think would make anything of herself because of what she came from.

“It’s so important for people to remember that these kids are our future, and if we don’t take care of them now, we aren’t taking care of our town later,” Hively said. “Mentorship’s everything. I wouldn’t be where I am today without it.”

Caroline Kimbro, a senior journalism major, said there is a lot of potential in schools around the greater Huntington area and children have “so much to offer and just are really full of life.”

She said working as Hero2One’s public relations manager allowed her to gain hands-on experience she felt she could not have gained in a classroom or an office.

“There’s sort of this reputation that Huntington has of being sort of not educated and not creative, or whatever the stereotype is, and you don’t find that, ‘the stereotypes,’ in the schools,” Kimbro said.

The Guyandotte Elementary after-school program hosted a closed party with the capstone group Friday to celebrate the children and wrap up the first semester of the program.

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Criminal justice fraternity uses pies to fundraise for conference

**By MADALYN MCCOY**
**THE PARTHENON**

Pie A Teacher in the Face was a fundraiser held by a criminal justice honors group Tuesday in front of the Memorial Student Center.

Alpha Phi Sigma is a criminal justice fraternity at Marshall University. All the proceeds from their fundraiser will go towards helping their members attend the national conference with the criminal justice department.

“Going to the conference is a great opportunity just to mingle with people in the criminal justice field, and it can also turn into a great potential job opportunity as well,” Collie said.

“I did not have many friends before I joined the fraternity, and now, after being a member, I reach out to many different people and get to know many different people,” Collie said. “I also reach out to the community more and feel more involved within the university.”

Joining organizations like Alpha Phi Sigma gives students the opportunity to learn how to fundraise, put together more social events and to get more involved in the community by volunteer work, Collie said.

“I wish I would have joined sooner, and if I have any advice for an incoming freshman, it would be to get more involved with your school and community because the reward from it is great with the experience you get and the people you meet,” Collie said.

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By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall softball team extended its winning streak to five straight games after sweeping the Morehead State Eagles Tuesday in a doubleheader matchup, 11-1 and 11-3, with both wins coming in five innings.

The Herd’s record improved to 33-17 overall and the Eagles dropped to 2-39. Morehead State’s losing streak was stretched to 25 games, with the Eagles’ last win coming on March 17 against St. Bonaventure.

In the first game at the top of the first, Aly Harrell hit a homerun, her 13th of the season, while Briana Daiss added a two-run single to give the Herd an early 4-0 lead. The Herd never looked back.

Marshall continued to lead over the Eagles through the second and third innings 4-0. In the fourth inning, Blakely Burch singled and scored Mya Stevenson and Rachel Pennington, giving the Herd a 7-0 lead. Sierra Huerta doubled to left center and Burch scored to up the Herd’s lead to 8-0. Hayden Ellis hit a two-run home run and scored Huerta for a 10-0 lead.

In the bottom of the fourth, Morehead State found its way on the scoreboard as Peyton Giammarino hit a single that, following an error, advanced Chloe Lee to third and plated Ellis for a 10-0 lead. Harrell was walked with the bases loaded in the same inning as Huerta advanced to second, Giammarino to third and Lee scored, marking the last Marshall run over the game and extending the lead to 11-0.

Morehead answered in the bottom of the second when Sara King hit a single and Helyna Bissell scored the team’s first run, 11-1.

In the third inning, Sarah Hallock scored for the Eagles when Kalle Coleman bunted on a fielder’s choice, 11-2. A double-steal plated the Eagles’ final run of the contest.

The Herd returns back to Dot Hicks Field Wednesday for its last midweek matchup of the season against the Pitt Panthers. Visiting Pitt enters the midweek matchup with a record of 9-41 after being swept in a three-game series against Atlantic Coast Conference opponent Notre Dame. First pitch is set for 2 p.m.

Marshall’s last home series of the season begins Saturday afternoon with a doubleheader against Florida Atlantic starting at 1 p.m. The Herd and Owls will close out the regular season Sunday at noon. Marshall needs one win during the series to clinch a top-four seed in the conference.

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Big Green culminates 2018-19 season with 41st annual dinner, HERDSPY’s awards

By SYDNEY SHELTON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall’s annual Big Green Dinner and HERDSPY’s awards celebration took place Friday evening with 10 people and plays honored as award winners. Former Marshall football player and current Oakland Raiders tight end Lee Smith was the guest speaker at the event.

“That ‘M’ is special and that green will hang in my house till the day I die and I will always be thankful for this place but the most special thing about this place is the people,” Smith said.

Smith’s father played at the University of Tennessee and he knew from the start that he wanted to be there. However, his time did not last long there and soon after found his home among the Herd.

The late Phil Ratliff, Marshall’s former tight ends coach, was one coach that had a lasting impact on Smith’s life.

“He walked me to class and cussed me every single day,” he joked. “It was one of those deals where I was at a crossroads. No matter how much love he tried to pour into me. I was too dumb to realize how many people truly cared about me and wanted to see me succeed.”

Ratliff, from 19 on told Smith “You have the ability to do something special and you have the personally and chisal to not only affect yourself but a lot of other people.”

He also credited his wife, Alisha, “Twelve years later; four babies, nine years in the NFL and a life we could have never dreamed of, she saved me.”

“This university, along with Coach Ratliff and my wife, was a place that I could hit reset,” Smith said “I could just feel how different it is. I have been around a lot of ball of my life and this place is different. There is something here that no one else has.”

Special recognition was given to Associate Director of Athletics for Administration and Business, David Steele. He was presented this award to honor him for everything that he does and around Marshall Athletics.

The Dot Hicks Legacy award was presented to Charlie Pace. This award is presented to someone who lives in a way that Dot Hicks does. This person continuously gives to Marshall and his passion for Marshall does not compare. Dot Hicks is a former Marshall teacher, coach, administrator and the pioneer for women’s athletics in the state of West Virginia.

The Olympic Sports Play of the Year award was presented to senior women’s basketball player, Shayna Gore. The Play of the Year was when Gore scored her 2,000-point becoming the 3rd player in school history to do so. The HERDSPY Perseverance Award was presented to senior swimmer Catherine Bendziewicz. She was presented this award because of her determination in competing throughout the season with a serious hip injury. That said injury still could not stop her from winning her third consecutive Conference USA Championship, breaking three school records and only missing the fourth by two-hundredths of a second.

The Football Play of the Year was presented to redshirt sophomore Jaquan Yulee. He was presented this award for the hit stick vs NC State.

The Larry Aaron Award for Courage and Commit, in honor of the late football player, Larry Aaron who died in February of 2018, was awarded to senior women’s soccer player, Jenna Zuzolo. In her time at Marshall she worked her way up to be a full-time starter. Yet off the field she accomplished much more. Zuzolo developed a process to monitor her diabetic-sister’s sugar. This is a part of the driving force that led her into the medical profession.

The Basketball Play of the Year award was accepted by men’s basketball graduate assistant, Milan Mijovic. The play of the year was when Byers passed to Burks jumped to save the ball from going out of bounds and passed the ball to Kinsey for the slam.

The HERDSPY Award for Dedication to Excellence was presented to senior men’s basketball player Jon Elmore. Elmore was the only player in C-USA history to be named First-Team All-Conference in three consecutive seasons, and the only player in NCAA History to score more than 2,500 points and record over 750 assists.

The Moment of the Year award was also presented to Jon Elmore. This award was presented for the moment that Elmore became the all-time leading scorer record at Marshall University.

The Chad Pennington Leadership Award was presented to December graduate and previous football player Chase Hancock. While beginning his career as a walk-on, Hancock found his home among the Herd. Hancock had 320 total tackles during his time at Marshall.

Other athletes that were honored at the event include women’s golf player Shelby Brackmuller, men’s golf player Thomas Frazier; baseball player D’Andre Knight, football player Chris Jackson, women’s track and field Elena Marchand, volleyball player Lauren Mattmuller, men’s soccer player Paulo Pita, women’s cross country runner Stephanie Rogner, men’s cross country runner Nick Schmidt, tennis player Anna Smith and softball player Abigail Tolbert.

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The fountain is finally back on, and it officially feels like spring on Marshall’s campus. With the semester and school year coming to a close, nostalgia seems to fill the air, just like pollen, bees and flower buds blowing in the wind. Many Marshall students are leaving this campus in May, but many more will fill their shoes in the fall. Throughout the year, Marshall certainly has experienced changes, and there will be many more changes this upcoming school year. We’ll have the first female student body president and vice president, who will begin their term soon enough. New dining options and restaurants will be available next semester. There is so much to look forward to and so much to reflect on.

We’ve experienced protests, speeches, new technology, donations and history this year. One thing is certain. No matter how much the outside world may change or get worse, Marshall has always been and always will be a remarkable place. But we cannot ignore what happens outside of our university. We are not immune. And that is why we do what we can for our university and this community while we are here, and we learn how to care for the outside world once we step off that stage at graduation.

Take time to reflect on all the impressive, noteworthy and superb Marshall alumni, including, especially, our athletes. Think about all the good they’ve done for the world around them and for Marshall. Realize that can and will be you, either this May, next May or anytime in the future. Brad D. Smith does so much for

After 2018/2019, we are more

see MARSHALL on pg. 10

Parthe-Pet

Here’s a picture of Bernie chomping on this wheat grass and doing his best “laughing along to a joke that, deep down, hurt your feelings”-face.

Interested in featuring your pet in the paper? Use #ParthePet on social media or contact larch15@marshall.edu with photos and a short bio.
Farewell from our graduating staff

By HEATHER BARKER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Huntington has been my home for my entire life. I was born here, grew up here and went to college here. But I did not develop a deep love for the city until I was a student at Marshall. Like most teenagers, I wanted to leave my hometown for college and be my own person, but Marshall was the school that offered me enough financial aid, and I started my freshman year off with a bad attitude.

Freshman year was rough because I struggled finding friends and being social because all I wanted to do was go to class and go home. I think this is a common problem for many freshmen who commute, especially when it is over 20 minutes each way.

I still commute 20 minutes each way to school, sometimes multiple times a day. The difference is that I have found my people, the group of friends I don’t mind driving to see. Joining my campus ministry, United Methodist Students, sophomore year was the turning point of me finding a place on campus and truly calling Marshall my home.

Now that it’s my senior year, freshman year seems so far away, but college seemed to go quickly at the same time. Just last week I heard someone complaining about Marshall and their experience, but all I could think about is that college is what you make it. You have to make the effort to find your group of people. You have to push past your boundaries and be scared at some points to find your true self and develop into a better person.

Senior year has been a difficult one. Classes have been somewhat difficult, but not really my final semester because I was able to take fewer hours. The most difficult part has been getting really close with some friends knowing I would be leaving them soon.

I had not really connected with many people in the journalism school until this past year. I became close with Sadie Helmick, former executive editor; a little over a year ago with our bonding over “Hamilton,” which we were able to see in Cleveland. I will be going to Honduras with her in just a couple of weeks. But this semester, several of the editors made it a weekly ritual to go to trivia at the Union every Wednesday night. We haven’t won yet and we aren’t very good but, man, it has been some of my greatest memories of the semester. Thanks to Sydney, Hanna and Amanda for being great trivia partners.

In the fall, I’ll be going to grad school at Duke University to get my Master of Divinity. I’m scared to leave my family and friends that have made Huntington more a home than ever before.

From freshman year to now I leave a changed person. A person with more confidence, with more knowledge and with the best friends I’ve ever had.

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By KIERAN INTEMANN
SPORTS EDITOR

As my time at Marshall is slowly dwindling down to a close, it’s given me a chance to look back, reflect and appreciate everything I have been able to achieve throughout my time in Huntington.

The past four years have taught me a lot about myself. I came to Marshall in the summer of 2015 and, honestly, had no idea what I wanted to do or whether this was the right school for me. Fast-forward four years and it’s easy for me to see I’ve turned a passion into a future career path and made a decision that will have a positive impact on me for the rest of my life.

I never intended to have any role with The Parthenon when I got to Marshall. When I first arrived in Huntington, I quickly became involved inside the sports information department with Marshall Athletics, picking up women’s tennis as my primary sport to cover. I realized early in my freshman year that being a sports information director was what I wanted to do with my career and nothing was going to change that perception. Four years later, that goal still remains the same.

It wasn’t until the middle of my junior year when I was approached during a copy editing class by Sandy York, the faculty adviser for The Parthenon, about potentially applying to be a sports editor. I was skeptical at first. After all, I had no experience writing or editing for a newspaper but I decided to take a chance and apply. One NCAA Tournament (with the first tournament win in school history included), one Conference USA Basketball Tournament, a Gasparilla Bowl, eight regular season football games, a CollegeInsider.com Postseason Championship, two full seasons of spring sports and a full season of fall sports later, it’s safe to say I’m glad I took this opportunity.

Trying to balance my roles within the athletic department and The Parthenon created a challenge but it taught me the importance of time management and responsibility. I had to quickly figure out how to balance a group of reporters and game coverage for a print publication while also fulfilling my daily sports information duties at the same time. It taught me to delegate coverage, something that was uncharted territory for me. There have been difficult times and tough decisions I’ve had to make during these times but in the end, it’s made me better both in my job and as a person.

Though I have only spent my final three semesters on campus with The Parthenon, those three semesters have been the most rewarding for me at Marshall. I’ve had the opportunity to work alongside multiple editors who have allowed me to improve my skills while also challenging me to get better every day. I have also had a talented group of reporters each semester I’ve been at The Parthenon to cover games, write features and make sure there are stories available for each print edition, and I couldn’t do this job without them.

The two editors I’ve worked alongside with The Parthenon’s sports team, Rick Farkow and Sydney Shelton, have made my job an enjoyable experience and one that I will never forget.

Rick and I complemented each other well and, as a team, we expanded The Parthenon’s sports coverage past the general game recap. Working alongside Rick made me a better writer, a better editor and a better leader, all traits that will help me in the future.

Sydney has made this semester less stressful for me as the sports editor and has been a major asset in the day-to-day

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West Virginia hospitals sue opioid firms

By ERIC EYRE
CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

Twenty-seven West Virginia hospitals, including Charleston Area Medical Center, filed a lawsuit Monday against opioid manufacturers and distributors, alleging the companies’ false marketing practices and unfettered pill shipments fueled the addiction crisis and forced hospitals to absorb enormous health care costs.

The lawsuit, filed in Marshall County Circuit Court, is believed to be the first time hospitals have targeted drug makers and shippers, accusing the companies of a “criminal conspiracy” that made treatment costs skyrocket.

“This is a big step toward asking the responsible parties be held accountable for the role they played in this crisis,” said Ron Pellegrino, chief operating officer at West Virginia University Hospitals, which joined the lawsuit.

Other hospitals listed as plaintiffs include Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Beckley, Camden Clark Memorial Hospital in Parkersburg and Mon Health Medical Center and United Medical Center in Morgantown. Ten Kentucky hospitals also have signed onto the lawsuit. The companies being sued include Oxycotin maker Purdue Pharma, and two of the nation’s largest drug distribution firms — AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health.

The lawsuit alleges the manufacturers and distributors “extracted billions of dollars of revenue from the addicted American public while hospitals sustained tens of millions of dollars in losses.”

The widespread use of opioids led to a surge in overdoses and hospital emergency room visits, according to the lawsuit. Costs to treat patients addicted to opioids at hospitals has tripled over the past decade. And many of those patients struggling with addiction lacked health insurance to pay for their hospital stays.

The lawsuit aims to help hospitals recoup those expenses.

“West Virginia hospitals are at the front line of the opioid epidemic,” Pellegrino said, “and our ability to deliver care has been compromised because of the enormous amount of resources we have had to dedicate to treating those affected by it.”

Charleston lawyer Stephen Farmer is representing the hospitals.

The companies also face lawsuits from a growing list of towns and cities in West Virginia and other states that seek to hold them accountable for an epidemic that led to more than 70,000 deaths nationwide in 2017. The bulk of those cases have been consolidated in federal court in Cleveland. The first trial is scheduled for October.

The manufacturers and distributors have denied that their actions contributed to the opioid epidemic. West Virginia has the highest drug overdose death rate in the nation.

In a related matter, lawyers for HD Media, which owns the Charleston Gazette-Mail and the Herald-Dispatch in Huntington, plan to argue in court Thursday for the release of opioid pill shipment data that drug distribution companies and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration have joined forces to keep under wraps. The West Virginia newspapers, along with The Washington Post, are appealing a federal judge’s decision to block the release of the pill numbers.

The hearing will take place in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, in Cincinnati. The lawsuit filed against the companies alleges that they shipped an excessive number of prescription painkillers to pharmacies across the nation, fueling the opioid epidemic.

In 2017, the cities of Charleston, Huntington and Kenova, along with the town of Ceredo, filed a class-action lawsuit against the nation’s largest hospital accreditation agency, alleging the group took part in a “misinformation campaign” that downplayed the dangers of prescription painkillers. The cities are suing The Joint Commission, a Chicago-based nonprofit that accredits more than 21,000 hospitals and other health care organizations in the United States.

The lawsuit alleges The Joint Commission teamed up with Purdue Pharma and issued pain management standards in 2001 that “grossly misrepresented the addictive qualities of opioids.” The commission “zealously enforced the standards through its accreditation programs, according to the complaint filed in federal court.

West Virginia hospitals that treated patients had to follow the pain standards to stay accredited. The standards led to a sharp increase in prescriptions for painkillers.
By MEG KELLER
FOR THE PARTHENON

I’m having an identity crisis. I don’t know if I’m a journalist or a soldier anymore. In an attempt to incite some humorous rhetoric, I did change my twitter name to “Journalist Soldier Meg”, but truly, who am I these days?

For the last three years I have pursued my education in a now beautifully familiar city that will be my true home among the mountains forever. Huntington and Marshall University presented me with opportunities that have guided and watered the growth of my adult life. From beginning my education in a now beautifully familiar city my root mentor. I “officially” became a U.S. Army greens, Marshall has remained 500 miles away at Fort Gordon, Georgia in a manager for the women’s basketball team during our 10-mile ruck marches parallel to carrying my battle buddies replacing them. Carrying my battle buddies company my bay was on the third floor of the building. To say we ran up and down those flights of stairs hundreds of times would be an understatement, but I did find some comfort knowing my Herd back home was huffing up the stairs of Corbly Hall as well.

The military life is quite different than leisurely college life. Now that I’m trained to, I’d kill to have an 8 a.m. class because eight is much better than my usual 3 a.m. I can also guarantee Marshall has a better rec facility than any Army gym I’ve seen. There is a cadence in the Army that denotes the coffee being “mighty fine,” despite looking like muddy water and tasting like turpentine; and although Harless coffee

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Meg Keller, a soldier in the U.S. Army, is also a journalism student at Marshall University.
By AMANDA LARCH
MANAGING EDITOR

Voices and footsteps echo across the walls of Alias 14W, but creativity and artistic freedom also flow throughout the experimental art space located in Huntington’s West End.

Chad Andrew Floyd, founder of Alias 14W, said it began as a passion project, and it is part of the West Huntington revitalization initiative. Floyd, who works for the AmeriCorps VISTA service, said he noticed a lack of an artistic space in Huntington, especially Central City, and he wanted to help by creating Alias 14W.

“We have this beautiful area of potential and so many things going on for us, so much culture, so much history to pull from and to celebrate and revel in that is good,” Floyd said. “This place is an amazing place to be, and I just really want to be that catalyst for other young folks. I’m finding fulfillment in just being able to help and serve and do something good for the community after it’s just sat here being ignored for so long.”

Alias 14W is open to anyone wanting to create, which Floyd said includes writing, painting and any other form of artistic expression.

“All of our events are open to all ages,” Floyd said. “I am part of the Open to All campaign; we’re definitely dedicated to that and creating and providing a safe space for everybody. But the target audience is of course artists and artists of all types.”

Floyd said he has high hopes for the future of Alias 14W. He has already taught a painting course, and the building’s lower space has been used for multiple art galleries. The space is also undergoing construction to allow for the creation of artist workshops.

“We want to have performances,” Floyd said. “We want to have different types of things. We’ve had a comedy night. I would love to have poetry readings. I’d love to have writing workshops. And I am working on all these things, making these connections.”

Though Alias 14W is a free and non-profit artistic space, Floyd said he relies on community support and volunteers to keep it open and available.

“I do need the help of artists, I do need the help of my community members, the people who want to support the arts because I don’t have money,” Floyd said. “This is a nonprofit organization that I made out of thin air with very little permission. I saw a need, and I said to everyone that this is a need. And very few people believe me, but when they saw what I’ve done, and what we have done as an organization, they see now the value in what we can do and what we can be.

“Ultimately I feel confident that Alias is here to be a development tool,” Floyd continued. “But I really need the help of people. I need support. I have a staff of nobody, I have to rely on volunteers.”

Floyd said anyone interested in utilizing Alias 14W’s space for art may contact him, and he is willing to help provide supplies if they may not have any.

“If you need supplies, and you need help in getting things, you can ask me,” Floyd said. “I have all of these people involved in this organization that want to see it succeed and want to see artists succeed. The idea is that I can help find resources for people, even for people who don’t have stuff. But if you’re an artist who is ready to go and just needs a space, then all you have to do is call me. It’s really just a matter of asking, coming and just showing up and saying, ‘Hey, I want to make art. Can I come make art?’ Yes, you absolutely can. Because that’s what it’s for. We’re here to be a place to create, develop, make. And, to me, that’s what it’s about.”

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