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THE PARTHENON

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EDITORIAL: Being thankful

PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY AMANDA LARCH | LARCH15@MARSHALL.EDU

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Huntington earns perfect score in Municipal Equality Index

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**
THE PARTHENON

Making strides toward equality, Huntington is now the first city in West Virginia to earn a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index.

According to the Human Rights Campaign's website, "the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies and services are of LGBTQ

people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and the city leadership's public position on equality."

This is the seventh year of the annual rating. Scores are generally gathered for the top five populated cities in each state. Huntington officials were not fully aware that they were being scored until 2014.

"2014 was the first year that we really became aware of it," Bryan Chambers, communications director for the city of Huntington, said. "We received a 45 that year and that's why it was brought to our attention."

Mayor Steve Williams was in his second year of office when the 2014 ratings were released. Chambers said he looked at them as a sign for change.

"Because diversity and inclusion was such an important issue for the mayor, he saw that and said 'number one, that's unacceptable, and number two, I want to use their score card as a template for moving forward,'" Chambers said, "about how we position ourselves in government as an operation, but also with how we position our community."

Since the low scoring, Williams and his staff have helped form the LGBTQ

advisory committee, diversity advisory committee, the Open to All campaign and other projects focused on diversity and inclusion.

Huntington's score is the highest of the scored cities in West Virginia for the fourth consecutive year. It is also one of only 88 cities with a perfect score out of 506 ranked nationwide, something Williams said is just the start.

"Receiving a perfect score in the 2019 Municipal Equality Index validates what our community already knows—that Huntington is a city of honor, respect and compassion," Williams said in a press release. "And while we have made strides to become more inclusive in Huntington, our work is not done."

While Huntington is setting a precedent for inclusivity, Chambers said officials hope to lead by example.

"If we're going to talk the talk, we have to walk the walk first," Chambers said. "If we're going to be encouraging individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations and houses of worship in our community to be more inclusive, then the city government itself must first position itself to be inclusive."

Huntington officials plan to continue working toward inclusivity not only in the community, but everywhere. Chambers shared the mayor's views for continued work.

"We aren't going to rest until everyone has a seat and voice at the table," Chambers said. "Because that's the only way our community can move forward."

Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes100@marshall.edu.

“
Receiving a perfect score in the 2019 Municipal Equality Index validates what our community already knows—that Huntington is a city of honor, respect and compassion.”

— Mayor Steve Williams



Jim's Steak and Spaghetti House in Huntington has been an Open to All member since January 2019 and displays the sticker on the entrance to the business.

HANNA PENNINGTON | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Student Affairs connects students to campus resources

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Student Affairs office offers more than just academic resources to students—they offer a helping hand when in need.

"We have a lot of really good resources on campus depending on what the student is going through," Michelle Biggs, student advocate and success specialist, said.

While some of Marshall's resources are more commonly known, such as the food pantry, Counseling Center and the trans closet, there are a variety of other options available for students, especially in regard to mental well-being, Biggs said.

"Marshall has the psychology clinic where students can get assessments, and also therapy, and they also do different

groups for different things on campus for students," Biggs said. "In housing, we have two counselors in residence. They live in the residence hall, and they have more of evening hours students can see in a crisis."

Biggs talked about multiple other available services such as the Women's and Gender Center, Wellness Center, Disability Services, family and parent programs and commuter student services.

Biggs said the list of resources can be a bit much, but encouraged students not to worry.

"It can be overwhelming for a student when they have all this stuff going on in their head," Biggs said. "Just sitting down with me, and we make a list of the things they need to do and then check back up with them to see how things are going."

Each student is unique, and Biggs said Student Affairs has realized this in their mission to help with the needs of students.

"We have all of these resources, but we also need students to come to us," Biggs said. "Things change over the years. A resource that we never had, we might need depending on what students are going through. We connect with community resources, too to make sure that students have on-campus and off-campus resources."

Students are also encouraged to come to Student Affairs for anything needed that may be outside of the listed resources.

"Never hesitate or feel embarrassed about something," Biggs said. "Things they talk about with me are confidential. I don't want them to hesitate or feel like they can't ask us something because we

will definitely try to get the resources to them that they need."

Student Affairs encouraged students to always ask questions, no matter how big or small.

"Always ask questions and ask for help," Biggs said. "If they (students) feel that they need something, don't hesitate to come ask us. It's easier to work on things from the get-go."

If a student is in need of any resources or is going through a difficult time that requires extra support, they are able to reach out to Student Affairs at studentaffairs@marshall.edu or 304-696-2290. A list of student resources can also be found at marshall.edu/student-affairs.

Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes100@marshall.edu.

EDGE program offers college transition assistance

By **GLENDA SIMS**
FOR THE PARTHENON

Marshall University offers different sources of assistance for students throughout their college career, and EDGE is a program designed for freshmen and sophomores during their transition from high school to college.

The president of EDGE, Carrie Floyd, said she hopes students can better adjust to college by using EDGE and the resources they provide.

"Everyone in EDGE has unique personalities, making everyone fun to be around," Floyd said.

EDGE pairs students with advisers who work to help the students with guidance and resources through the semester. They also help students with resumes, community service and study groups.

In order to be in EDGE, students must be full time and have an incoming high school grade point average of 2.0-3.5. EDGE sends emails to incoming freshmen and lets them know if they are eligible, but applications can be submitted through the EDGE

page on Marshall University's website. Spots are limited to only 150 students.

Students part of the EDGE program can get free printing along with access to a computer lab and a space to do homework in the quiet.

Floyd said that the student advisory board works hard to provide activities for the students. She also said she hopes the program teaches students that college can go beyond books and writing, and they learn additional skills for their lives outside of school.

"I hope students are able to adjust to college by using the resources that EDGE provided them," Floyd said. "I hope students are able to gain confidence in their classes and are able to go beyond their majors."

The EDGE program began in 2015 and according to Floyd, is "continuing to grow."

Those interested in finding more information about EDGE can look at the program's page on the Marshall University website.

Glenda Sims can be contacted at sims72@marshall.edu.



MICHAELA CRITTENDEN | PHOTO EDITOR

The EDGE Center is located on the first floor of Corbly Hall on Marshall's campus.

MUPD patch board sentimental to local law enforcement

By **ROBERT CASTILLO**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Police Department's "patch board" represents unique moments to bring law enforcement together.

The patch board consists of different police patches currently or previously worn by MUPD officers, but there are also patches from different parts of the country, all with special meanings.

With 43 patches on the board so far, the collection is continuing to grow. Sgt. Scott Ballou is the man behind the idea and said that his main goal was to fill the board up completely with patches, and Ballou said he still has some more in his desk to put up.

The patches have come from a variety of schools and departments across not only the United States, but places such as Canada as well.

A few of the patches on the board have traveled from West Virginia University, Clemson University, Winthrop, the University of Charleston, Miami-Dade County in Florida and Toronto, Canada.

Ballou said the department wants to put patches on the board that have significance. He explained that the patches can be from previous officers' hometowns, friends of officers, family members, training, police academies and even officers who have left the department.



SARAH INGRAM | COPY EDITOR

Marshall University Police Department's patch board currently consists of 43 individual patches. Each patch is either currently or was at one point worn by an MUPD officer.

"We're not just throwing any patch up there," Ballou said. "We want patches that are relevant to our university." The department wants to create a whole row dedicated to the conference Marshall belongs to, the Conference

department. He also noted that the board's fabric was donated from Marshall's upholstery shop.

Robert Castillo can be contacted at castillo11@marshall.edu.

USA, according to Ballou. The board added its first patch when Marshall's football team played Western Kentucky University.

Ballou also received a patch when Marshall played Louisiana Tech at the Memorial game. Marshall's football team will travel to play Charlotte Saturday, and Ballou said he is going to receive a patch from their university's police department.

There is a Horry County, South Carolina patch that Ballou said explained the idea of the board.

"The retired officer (from Horry County), his son plays baseball here," Ballou said. "So, his dad brought me that because he knows how important it is to get to know other agencies."

Among the other patches is one from the U.S. Capitol Police, one which Ballou said he'll never forget.

"I was working a basketball game and one of the referees for the basketball game was a U.S. Capitol Police Officer," Ballou said. "My detail for the game was that I was assigned to the officials, and when he came here, he brought a patch and gave it to me."

Ballou credited the Office of Disability Services for donating the board to his department. He also noted that the board's fabric was donated from Marshall's upholstery shop.

Women's and Gender Center seeks volunteers for menstrual supply drive

By **TAYLOR SPEIGHT**
THE PARTHENON

To help provide more menstrual products for students, the Women's and Gender Center is now partnering with the Student Government Association and other organizations with a goal of finding long-term donors for the program.

"We want to be inclusive," Claire Snyder, program coordinator of the Women's and Gender Center, said. "We know that all women are not cis-women, and we know that gender affects everyone."

The menstrual supply program started in 2015 after the Women's and Gender Studies faculty members heard about the Marshall University Food Pantry opening up on campus. There was a concern that students may have a need for other essentials beyond food, including hygiene products.

“We want to be inclusive. We know that all women are not cis-women, and we know that gender affects everyone.”

—*Claire Snyder*

"We were also hoping to build a spirit of community and to let students know that faculty and staff are supportive of their whole experience at Marshall," Laura Diener, history professor and director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, said.

Organizers said the program has been well received throughout campus, but the supplies do not last long, and there is always room for more assistance.

"The goodwill inherent in the program has been well-received, but the amount of services provided has always been limited in scope, as it has been supported entirely by drives and private donations by faculty and students," Diener said.

Snyder said the current goal is to supply the first-floor bathrooms of each building on campus, which includes men, women and

gender-neutral bathrooms. She also said the relationship with SGA has been beneficial.

"In order to do this, we need student support," Snyder said. "We are happy to be partnering with the Student Government Association to coordinate a menstruation product drive."

The menstruation drive is set for the beginning of the spring 2020 semester.

The Women's and Gender Center is welcoming volunteers from student organizations, or individual students, to "adopt a bathroom," in which the organizations would help distribute supplies and track the use to help keep up with product demand.

Students interested in finding more information may contact Claire Snyder at snyder71@marshall.edu.

Taylor Speight can be contacted at speight1@marshall.edu.

Post-graduation employment poses difficulties for international students

By **PHUONG ANH DO**
THE PARTHENON

While many Marshall University senior students are pressured to find a job after they graduate, international students face a more challenging obstacle if they choose to seek an internship through the program called Optional Practical Training (OPT).

The timeline for F-1 students to obtain work experience in the United States is tight. Students must leave the U.S. 60 days after graduating if they cannot find work.

"It's a really tough condition," Dhruval Patel, a graduate civil engineering student from India, said. "It's really tough competition if you compare yourself with American students. Because they grew up in this environment, they know how to get a job easily, and they know all the steps needed to prepare for the job."

All F-1 students are eligible for 12 months of OPT, and students in STEM majors, fields of science, technology, engineering and math, can apply for an additional 24-month extension, according to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

International students often share the same concern in being accepted for OPT, as it can be difficult to stand out in a competitive job market and time to look for jobs is limited. I-Hsin Huang, a graduate MBA major from Taiwan, and Trang Nguyen, a graduate MBA major from Vietnam, said they are feeling the pressure as they will graduate in December 2019.

"My pressure is to find a job before February 2020, so I only have like four months from now to get a good job. It's really pressure for me," Huang said. "We're the international students, and our English is not good enough to get jobs that require a lot of communication, and native speakers, they can do better than that. So, we can just try our best on our working skills."

Huang said it can be difficult to focus on graduating while also applying for jobs.

"Since my graduation will be at this December, I sometimes feel frustrated as I have to both study and apply jobs," Nguyen said.

Under the new policy, the OPT program must relate to the student's field of study, which can limit options.

"Being an international student and not having lots of experience, it's not easy for me to get a good or well-paid job," Nguyen said. "And to me, I only need a job first to have experience, so I can move to higher positions or move to another better job in their future."

There are some students who said they believe they will get a chance to work in the United States, and Ryohei Fukuda, a graduate MBA major from Japan, is one of the cases. Fukuda said he is lucky there are more job opportunities for Japanese students to get their OPT experience.

"Here in West Virginia, they have about 20 Japanese companies, so I can apply for one of them," Fukuda said. "There will be a career fair in

November where 241 companies attend and try to hire Japanese people. So, for me, I should be able to find a company that I can work for."

The work environment, economic opportunities and personal freedoms are some of the top reasons international students decide to stay and work in the U.S.

"I can always go back to Taiwan, and I believe that I can find a good job, but I want to work here be-

"It's really tough competition if you compare yourself with American students. Because they grew up in this environment, they know how to get a job easily, and they know all the steps needed to prepare for the job."

- Dhruval Patel

cause in the U.S., it's a freedom country, everyone can have their own habit and can do whatever they want," Huang said. "The community is very diversity, so I think being here is very comfortable for me."

F-1 students may apply to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for post-completion OPT as early as 90 days prior to the program end date on the I-20 and no later than the end of the 60 day grace period, according to Lesli Burdette, associate director of admissions for International Student Services.

Students concerned about the OPT terms or the number of accrued days of unemployment are encouraged to reach out to the Office of International Student Services.

Phuong Anh Do can be contacted at do18@marshall.edu.

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Social Media Poll	Y	N
Are you planning to attend Tea and Talk?	9%	91%
Are you excited for the first NCAA Tournament appearance for Herd men's soccer?	85%	15%
Are you excited for the Memorial Student Center to officially reopen?	93%	7%
Are you planning to attend this week's basketball game?	33%	67%

This poll is taken from The Parthenon's Instagram account, @muparthenon, and is based on an average of 37 voters.

No. 13 Herd men's soccer crowned 2019 C-USA Champions, first NCAA appearance



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM GUE
Pedro Dolabella kicks through two of Charlotte's players in the Conference USA Championship match on Sunday.

By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With 7:30 left in the second overtime period of the 2019 Conference USA Championship match, junior midfielder Pedro Dolabella headed the soccer ball into the goal to claim the 2019 Conference USA men's soccer title for the Marshall University Thundering Herd over the Charlotte 49ers, 1-0.

"I can't imagine an ending like this," Dolabella said. "We've been overlooked, and we proved again that we are the best team. Whatever happens, we are the best. Everybody deserves it. Nobody works harder than we do. So, for all the Marshall fans, everybody in Huntington, this is for you. We love you. We are Marshall."

The No. 1 seed and 13th ranked Herd improved to 15-2-3 (5-1-1 C-USA) while the

49ers fell to 11-3-4 (4-0-3 C-USA) and lost its third consecutive C-USA Championship match.

The Herd's 15 wins set a team history record number of wins in a single season. This title is the first for the Herd and earned the team a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Redshirt senior goalkeeper Paulo Pita had six saves throughout the match for the Herd while Charlotte's goalkeeper Elliot Panicco had four saves for the 49ers.

Dolabella was named Tournament Offensive MVP and senior defender Carlos Diaz-Salcedo was named Tournament Defensive MVP. Sophomore midfielder Vinicius Fernandes and sophomore defender/midfielder Collin Mocyunas were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

Herd Head Coach Chris Grassie said he

was very happy for his team and its success. Grassie spoke very highly of each players' performance.

"I'm extremely pleased for our lads," Grassie said per HerdZone. "They were immense. Charlotte is a very difficult team to play against. And the strong wind made things very interesting, particularly in the first half. But we held strong and were brave enough to try and make the game."

The NCAA announced that Marshall will be the No. 11 seed in the 2019 NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament and received a first-round bye. The Herd will host a second-round match, and face the winner of the West Virginia (9-8-2) and Butler (11-6-2) match on Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at Hoops Family Field.

Earlier this season, Marshall faced the Bulldogs in Huntington on Sept. 6 and defeated the team with a final score of 2-1, with those two goals coming from junior forward Jamil Roberts.

Marshall and West Virginia have not played each other since 2004 in Morgantown.

"We just have to prepare for Sunday now," Grassie said per HerdZone. "We have one potential opponent (Butler) who we know very well and very good friends with their staff. With Butler and WVU, if it is WVU, it would be a very nice event here. Whoever we play, I know these guys will give it their best and I would think we would have to be favorites going into the game."

Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at huddleston16@marshall.edu.

Athletes of the Week: Pedro Dolabella and Paulo Pita, men's soccer

ABOUT PEDRO DOLABELLA:

Position: Midfielder
Class: Junior
Height: 6'4
Hometown: Brasilia, Brazil

ABOUT PAULO PITA:

Position: Goalkeeper
Class: Redshirt senior
Height: 6'3
Hometown: Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil

This week's athletes of the week feature Marshall University men's soccer players Pedro Dolabella and Paulo Pita after securing the 2019 Conference USA men's soccer championship over the Charlotte 49ers, 1-0. Dolabella scored the Golden Goal and Pita had six total saves throughout the match.

Dolabella was named

Tournament Offensive MVP, along with Second Team All-Conference and C-USA All-Academic Team. Pita was named to the Second Team All-Conference this season and received the Co-Golden Glove award.

Right: Paulo Pita (left) walks toward Pedro Dolabella (right) to embrace in a hug after their first win against Kentucky.



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

CONTACT US: 109 Communications Bldg. | Marshall University |
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu |
@MUParthenon

EDITORIAL STAFF

HANNA PENNINGTON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
penningto131@marshall.edu

DOUGLAS HARDING

NEWS EDITOR
harding26@marshall.edu

JOELLE GATES

LIFE! EDITOR
gates29@marshall.edu

JOE ARTRIP

PRODUCTION EDITOR
artrip30@marshall.edu

SARAH INGRAM

COPY EDITOR
ingram51@marshall.edu

MEG KELLER

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
keller61@marshall.edu

AMANDA LARCH

MANAGING EDITOR
larch15@marshall.edu

SYDNEY SHELTON

SPORTS EDITOR
shelton97@marshall.edu

TAYLOR HUDDLESTON

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
huddleston16@marshall.edu

MICHAELA CRITTENDEN

PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR
crittenden2@marshall.edu

JESTEN RICHARDSON

ONLINE EDITOR
richardson164@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK

FACULTY ADVISER
sandy.york@marshall.edu

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

EDITORIAL

Give thanks this holiday season



CHEYENNE COHEN/KATIE WORKMAN VIA AP

This May 2019 photo shows a plate of turkey, mash potatoes and gravy and a side of sauteed broccoli rabe, corn and onions with crispy bacon, on a table in New York.

November feels like the cleansing breath of the calendar year. It's a perfect time to reflect on the past eleven months, and it's a time to anticipate what's to come in the year ahead. Before the rush of the holiday season and the close of the year, November allows us a chance to celebrate what we're thankful for.

For college students though, November also means cramming for the end of the semester. It's a busy for time us, when we are studying for tests and working on final papers and projects. It means we desperately need a break, and luckily, we get one.

During our much-appreciated

break, we should pause and be thankful. Between finishing assignments, catching up with old friends and visiting our beloved pets, we should do some thinking. What have you accomplished this year? What positive experiences have happened to you?

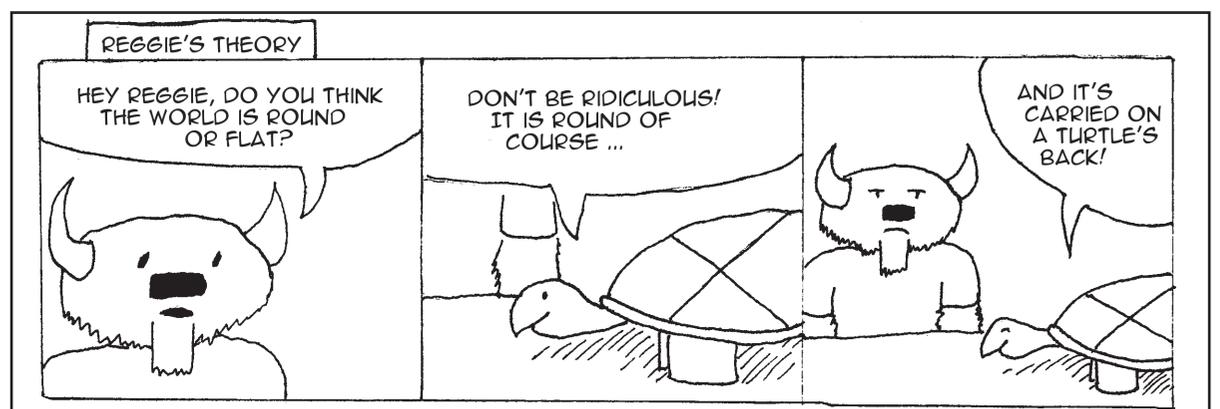
Time flies, especially during college, and students may not always have an opportunity to reflect on our good times and proud moments. So, be proud. Be thankful.

Thanksgiving means something different to everyone; take some time to figure out what it means to you. Everyone has a favorite part of the holiday. What's yours? Maybe

it's seeing family or friends for the first time in months, or maybe it's helping your grandparents cook in the kitchen. It could even be not having classes for a week.

Thanksgiving is celebrated by an estimated 46.3 million Americans. While we're scarfing down our first homecooked meal in weeks, let's really make sure we give thanks. For our friends, family, for our education. For anything that brings us happiness and love.

From everyone at The Parthenon, have safe travels and a happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful for our dedicated readers.



SAM APPLETON | CONTRIBUTOR

Pearson helps Herd women's basketball collect win

By **MIKE DOTSON**
THE PARTHENON

Junior Taylor Pearson and her success behind the three point line helped lift Marshall University past Coppin State by a score of 60-47 on Tuesday.

"Good to get a win obviously, a bit of a grinder of a game," Head Coach Tony Kemper said. "I was happy with how hard our offense was, and our defense was pretty consistent."

Marshall started the game off slow by going 3-16 from the field in the first quarter, and Coppin State took advantage by ending the first quarter up on the Herd, 10-7.

The Herd came out on fire in the second quarter by scoring 21 points in that quarter alone. They were sparked by Pearson going 3-5 from behind the three point line in the quarter and the team shot 41.2% from the field as well. Marshall locked the Eagles down on defense by only allowing them to score six points in the whole quarter.

"Coach always tells me to keep shooting, and I knew if I started taking the right shots, they would go in eventually," Pearson said.

Marshall headed into the second half ahead and never showed signs of turning back. The Herd were big in the paint with 11 total blocks for the game while also bringing in 17 total offensive rebounds. Senior Khadaijia Brooks had 10 total rebounds alone, leading the team.

"I think coach putting the emphasis in practice on rebounding in general is what helps me carry over into games, which is what helps me get the results I do," Brooks said.

The Herd improve to (3-1) on the season and will be back in action Thursday in the Cam Henderson Center as they are set to take on Morgan State. Coppin State falls to (0-4) and will be traveling upstate to take on West Virginia University on Nov. 21.

Mike Dotson can be contacted at dotson132@marshall.edu.



Taylor Pearson shoots the ball during the Herd Madness event back in October.

Charlotte 49ers gaze bowl eligibility against Thundering Herd



By **BRIGHAM WARF**
THE PARTHENON

The Thundering Herd will lean on toughness and leadership when traveling to Jerry Richardson Stadium in North Carolina to face the Charlotte 49ers, with the opportunity to become bowl eligible if they win.

"Anytime you go on the road, you have to take your toughness and leadership," Head Coach Doc Holliday

said. "We are playing a team that is fighting to get bowl eligible, so it will be important to be prepared and get ready to go play."

The Marshall University football team has won its last five contests. They most recently knocked off Louisiana Tech, who was previously first in the west in Conference USA, 31-10.

In the game, senior wide receiver Obi Obialo made a surprise season debut for the Herd after dealing with an injury all season that was expected to keep him sidelined for the entirety of the season. Obialo's impact was immediately felt and shifted the play for Marshall as he recorded career highs with eight receptions and 146 yards in a game posting.

His presence, along with redshirt sophomore running back Brenden Knox's dominant running game, should keep Charlotte from keying the run as much. It will also open up the playbook for Holliday's team since redshirt sophomore quarterback Isaiah Green has relied on the underclassmen in the wide receiver position to step up in the absence of veterans on the team.

"We missed Obi," Holliday said. "He is just a talented guy, and I am glad he is back out there now."

Throughout the season, Green has put up impressive numbers despite the absence of veteran playmakers on the outside. The Marshall quarterback now has 2,089 passing yards, 13 touchdowns and seven interceptions, with an overall completion percentage of 59.7%.

Charlotte is on a win streak of its own—beating North Texas 39-38, Middle Tennessee 34-20 and UTEP 28-21 in its last three matchups—with a record of 5-5 (3-3 C-USA). Another 49er win this season would mark the second time the program would be bowl eligible since its inaugural season in 2013 and potentially get its first bowl bid.

With the 49ers playing great football as of late, the Marshall defense now shifts focus on containing sophomore quarterback Chris Reynolds, who has thrown for 882-yards, thrown six touchdowns, rushed for 290-yards and rushed two touchdowns during the three-game win streak.

"He is one of those guys that has that 'A' factor," senior defensive back Chris Jackson said. "(Reynolds) will create big plays on his own. With his feet or with his arm, he is just a baller."

The Thundering Herd defense has only allowed two touchdowns in its past two games, resulting in redshirt junior linebacker Tavante Beckett taking home Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week honors in week 12.

Captains for Holliday's squad are Knox, redshirt senior tight end Armani Levias on offense and Beckett and Jackson for defense.

Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 23 at Jerry Richardson Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Brigham Warf can be contacted at warf13@marshall.edu.



Brenden Knox and another football player celebrate after the touchdown in Saturday matchup against LA Tech.

PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVE: Call it a coup in Bolivia



JUAN KARITA | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-government protesters against the reelection of President Evo Morales, attend a rally with the coca leaf growers in La Paz, Bolivia, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019. The United Nations on Thursday urged Bolivia's government and opposition to restore "dialogue and peace" after a third person was killed in street clashes that erupted after a disputed presidential election on Oct. 20.

By **DOUGLAS HARDING**
NEWS EDITOR

If the recent happenings in Bolivia do not constitute a coup d'état, it is difficult to imagine a scenario that would.

Nevertheless, corporate media outlets across the U.S. have unanimously avoided calling a coup a coup in Bolivia.

The dictionary definition of a coup is: "a sudden, violent and illegal seizure of power from a government."

In recent weeks, army generals in Bolivia have broadcast on national television their demands for the resignation and arrest of the country's democratically elected president, Evo Morales. Morales resigned Nov. 10 amid threats from military and police forces and violent right-wing protestors who have since been applauded in lockstep by the U.S. government and corporate media alike.

Portrayals of the reality in Bolivia by U.S. media have been deeply flawed, depravedly irresponsible and dangerously inaccurate. These reports rely

entirely on false allegations of election fraud started by Morales' opponent in the election, Carlos Mesa.

Considering the complex nature of the ways votes are counted and released to the public in Bolivian elections—and elections in countries throughout South America—it is understandable that a casual spectator may be confused or skeptical of the results, especially in a race won by an incumbent by such a slim margin, but journalists ought to be informed experts, not casual spectators.

Election results in Bolivia are released in two counts, the first called the quick count and the latter the official count. This process is outlined by the majority U.S.-funded Organization of American States that observes elections and provides guidance for improvements to South American countries. The objective of the quick count is to provide media outlets and concerned citizens with a basis upon which to predict likely results.

As the quick count started to reveal the likelihood of a Morales victory,

Mesa's camp began to inexplicably claim the results actually showed an "unquestionable victory" for his own campaign. Such claims were never rooted in reality, nor were his later claims that the quick count had guaranteed "with certainty that [he] made it into a second round."

In Bolivian presidential elections, if no candidate wins the initial vote by more than 10%, the election goes to a decisive second round. As the quick count approached 85% of votes counted, the results showed Morales at about 46% and Mesa at about 38%, but, again, the quick count is only that—a quick, inconclusive count for reporters to provide to the public a general idea of likely results.

At this point, Bolivia's election authority, sensing a dangerous controversy in the making, stopped the quick count and planned to release the official results when all votes had been counted.

see BOLIVIA on pg. 10

Movie Review: 'The Lighthouse'

By **DILLON MCCARTY**
CONTRIBUTOR

Robert Eggers' film follows two lighthouse keepers. Thomas (Willem Dafoe), an elderly man, assumes command of a seaside operation. Ephraim (Robert Pattinson), a young man, performs every act of hard labor. Together, the men have unstable chemistry. In time, a massive storm strands the duo, putting their monstrous chemistry to the test. Consequently, the men try to maintain their sanity.

To put it simply, "The Lighthouse" is patient and hypnotic, pulling us in with its mysterious atmosphere and characters. The film's slow pace proves to be monumentally effective, showcasing the tedious nature that comes with isolation and poor two-way communication. The script, written by Eggers and his brother, takes long breaks from interpersonal conversation, upping the humanistic tension in the process. The silence becomes deeply unnerving, and as a result, the levels of awkwardness loom large. We feel the strain that exists between these men. We feel the lack of creativity. And as these elements continually grow, the tension enlarges. The end result is a film made up of terrific performances and precise utilization.

I suspect that many viewers will be upset by the film's lack of answers, but for me, the layers work wonders. Eggers never reveals the actual date in which the film takes place, and as a result, the setting feels even richer. He never gives us definitive answers regarding the specific forces at play, and as the ambiguity grows, the film becomes a source of obsessiveness, destined to be analyzed by cinephiles. We begin to ask ourselves many questions. Is there a mythological force controlling the island? Is the chaos attributed to excessive drinking?

If "The Lighthouse" doesn't get recognized for its cinematography, a cinematic sin will have taken place. To put it simply, "The Lighthouse" is the most visually striking movie of the year. Jarin Blaschke, the cinematographer, must be commended for his work. The black and white photography is a blast to the past, forcing us into a distant historical period, complete with moody sensibilities and foreboding atmospherics.

Like "The Witch," this film is unbelievably realized from a situational standpoint.

**Read the full review online at
marshallparthenon.com.**

Parthe-Pet



Nheo Nheo (right) is a sweet girl, and her brother Bong Gon (left) is a loving boy. They are siblings and three years old. They definitely love playing in the park and love each other a lot. They're super friendly and adorable.

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

BOLIVIA cont. from 9

In a tweet following the events described, Kevin Cashman of The Center for Economic and Policy Research explained that, “in nationwide races, the quick (count) never has gotten to 100%. It’s hard to count rural votes in that timeframe.”

There never was any reason for Mesa—or anyone else familiar with South American politics—to expect the inconclusive quick count to continue until every vote was counted. Nevertheless, without an explanation of exactly why—though one can reasonably assume that corporate media reports uncritically parroting claims of fraud initiated by Mesa’s camp played a significant role—the OAS eventually released a statement

claiming Morales’ quick-count lead of 11% (48% to 37%) with 96% of votes counted was an “inexplicable change in trend that drastically modified the fate of the election.”

Thus, mainstream media reporters and corporate politicians repeating unproven conspiracies of election fraud found official validation for their claims—claims still unsupported by any substantial evidence.

On Nov. 8, the CEPR released a statistical analysis of the election results and concluded that, “Contrary to a postelection narrative that was supported, without evidence, by the OAS Electoral Observation Mission, statistical analysis shows that it was predictable that Morales

would obtain a first-round win, based on the results of the first 83.85% of votes in a rapid count that showed Morales leading runner-up Carlos Mesa by less than 10 points.”

The election results were not only apparently accurate but also entirely predictable based on prior election results and Morales’ core base of support coming from rural communities whose votes are largely absent from the quick count and last to be counted in the official count. This dynamic is similar to several in American politics, an example being that a Democratic candidate’s percentage of votes will likely experience a significant spike as results from states such as California are reported.

“There is simply no statistical or evidentiary basis to dispute the vote count results showing that Evo Morales won in the first round,” CEPR senior policy analyst, Guillaume Long, said.

President Morales and his administration won the election by a count of 47.08% to 36.51% and agreed to participate in a prospective repeat election overseen by independent entities but were nevertheless overthrown by a violent, right-wing, U.S.-backed military coup.

Morales’ home has since been ransacked as members of his administration have been kidnapped and tortured.

Meanwhile, corporate media have accomplished little more than further undermining their already damaged credibility amongst a skeptical American public keen to criticize any and all errors as “Fake News.”

Journalists ought to be principled truth-tellers dedicated to holding each other accountable for our mistakes rather than to practicing obedient, senseless groupthink we so often denounce in others while demonizing anyone willing to criticize the evident failures of mainstream media.

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@marshall.edu.

From gang to pulpit— the William Elliot story

By **MIKE MORGAN**
THE PARTHENON

The former leader of the motorcycle gang called, “Satan’s Choice,” said his alcoholism and criminal activity at a young age gave him a testimony that he now uses to help people as an evangelist.

“I was an alcoholic by the time I was 15 years old,” William Elliot, now a licensed UPCI minister said. “I started drinking at 13 and couldn’t stop.”

Elliot, now 89, was abused at an early age by his parents who were both alcoholics, which led him to be curious as to why they drank, leading him to try alcohol in middle school.

After moving away from home at the age of 16, Elliot said he found himself homeless in the city of Toronto. He said that in his experiences “on the streets,” individuals had to join a gang or they would likely be beaten to death.

Elliot found some friends that had some work as a “car junkie,” in which he would work on cars, stolen or not, at late hours of the night. He and those same friends started their own motorcycle gang.

Elliot was arrested once early in his life for fleeing the scene of a crime, in which he witnessed a shooting. He had no money and no family that he could call, so he was unable to post bail.

Being incarcerated for nearly four months, Elliot finally was able to appear in court. The judge told him that he was lucky, and since this was his first documented issue with the law, he would be placed on probation for three years.

That did not last long, as Elliot was later arrested for breaking into a post office.

“I don’t know why I did it,” he said. “I was drunk and who knows in what mindset.”

Elliot said he was expecting to face serious jailtime, and he laid in his cell one night questioning all of his life choices.

He prayed for a light-handed judge and for God to allow for him to not face serious jailtime, and said if that happened, he would give his life to God.

The night before his trial, Elliot’s judge had a heart attack.

“I’m not saying God gave him a heart attack,” he said, “but he made a way for me to have a different judge.”

Elliot was assigned a new judge who told him it was his lucky day. He was given a longer probation, and he took that as a sign to change his life.

Elliot later began attending church, received the Holy Ghost, and became an evangelist.

“58 years later and I am happier now than I ever was when I was in that gang or drinking,” Elliot said. “God has never, nor will ever, let me down.”

He gave this testimony to the New Beginning Apostolic Church on Saturday to try and inspire them to keep their lives on track. He reminded the attendees that “we as Christians, are in this world, but not of this world.”

Mike Morgan can be contacted at morgan310@marshall.edu.

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Huntington Mall invites community to celebrate the holidays with Santa

By SARAH ROWE
THE PARTHENON

Santa Claus made a special trek halfway across the world to spread holiday cheer. Ushered in by a team of reindeer and followed by a Christmas train, Santa Claus made his grand arrival at the Huntington Mall Saturday, Nov. 16.

"Everyone remembers when they sat on Santa's lap, wrote him a letter or left cookies out for a snack," Donna Chapman, a coordinator of Santa's arrival at the mall, said. "We try to emulate the same good memories for kids today, even though Christmas can be really stressful for adults."

Though the holiday season can be a difficult time for some parents due to stress, the Huntington Mall is organizing events with Santa Claus throughout the rest of November and December, allowing plenty of time for those with busy schedules to give their kids an opportunity to meet ole' St. Nick himself.

"No parent deserves to feel guilty because they have to work extra hours and can't make it to one specific Saturday with Santa," Chapman said. "He's a lot of fun as it is, why not keep him around for a little longer? That way kids have the chance to experience something that so many wish for every Christmas, and parents get to see some big smiles,"

she added with a smile.

Children had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas; some dressed in their finest festive pajamas.

"I knew this Christmas was going to be tougher than most," Rachel Glover, a mother and attendee of the event, said.

Her daughter, Ella Glover, video chatted with her father, who is currently deployed in the armed forces, while on Santa's lap.

"I wish he was here with us right now, but I'm still so happy we get to have such a great experience," Glover said. "I'll never forget this."

The big man himself, the actor who played Santa, said that the Christmas spirit is often hard to come by nowadays, but not when clad in a big red suit.

"The beard really makes the outfit," Robert Hager, father and actor who played Santa Claus, said. "It's an amazing experience to be able to make even one child happy, let alone their family."

Hager went on to describe what Christmas spirit means to him. "Christmas spirit is about doing good things for other people, and I know meeting Santa at the mall does not

"Everyone remembers when they sat on Santa's lap, wrote him a letter or left cookies out for a snack. We try to emulate the same good memories for kids today."

- Donna Chapman

present stress to parents or children," Hager said. "It's a great experience to be a part of, plus being escorted by reindeer was just icing on the cake."

Chapman also said pet owners with "fur children" will have the opportunity to get pictures of their animals with Santa during the holiday season as well.

Sarah Rowe can be contacted at rowe128@marshall.edu

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Tuesday 5:00 pm-5:25 pm or by appointment

North Carolina-born band set to perform at The V Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN MOUNTAIN

Town Mountain will perform at The V Club at 10 p.m. Nov. 23.

By MEG KELLER
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

A “bluegrass dance party” is coming to Huntington’s The V Club, Nov. 23, according to the organizer of the party, Phil Barker.

Town Mountain, an Asheville, North Carolina-born band, is bringing their “roots music” sound to the Mountain State later this month to share with Huntingtonians and Marshall students a new, collaborative style of bluegrass, Barker, the band’s mandolin player, said.

“It (the band’s music) is more bluegrass tinged, but we definitely have the elements of the songwriting that Tyler Childers brings to the table,” Barker said.

Town Mountain’s sound is “the opposite of pop music,” according to Barker. With traditional country vibes and hints of bluegrass, Barker said the band is ready to “do our thing.”

Town Mountain has been making headway in the bluegrass scene since its debut album, “Original Bluegrass and Roots Country,” was released in 2007. In 2016, the band’s “Southern Crescent” settled in at number four

on Billboard’s Bluegrass Chart and held a top 40 spot in Americana Music Association’s Radio Chart Top Forty for 10 weeks.

This will be Town Mountain’s fourth show at The V Club. The band can bring a “circular energy” to Huntington that attendees can feed off of, Barker said.

“We love The V Club because people are up,” he said. “It’s not a seated venue by any means, people are up and involved and ready to have a good time.”

Town Mountain will be giving away free tickets to their Huntington show via their social media @townmountain on Instagram and /townmountain on Facebook.

“We take a couple of the spots on our guest list and give them to the fans as a way to give back to them and show our appreciation,” Barker said.

The show is set to begin at 10 p.m. Nov. 23, and doors open at 8 p.m. at 741 Sixth Avenue. Admission cost is \$13 when tickets are bought in advance or online at vclublive.com, and tickets at the door are \$15.

Meg Keller can be contacted at keller61@marshall.edu.

“

We love The V Club because people are up. It’s not a seated venue by any means, people are up and involved and ready to have a good time.”

- Phil Barker