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### The Parthenon, March 18, 2020

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# THE PARTHENON

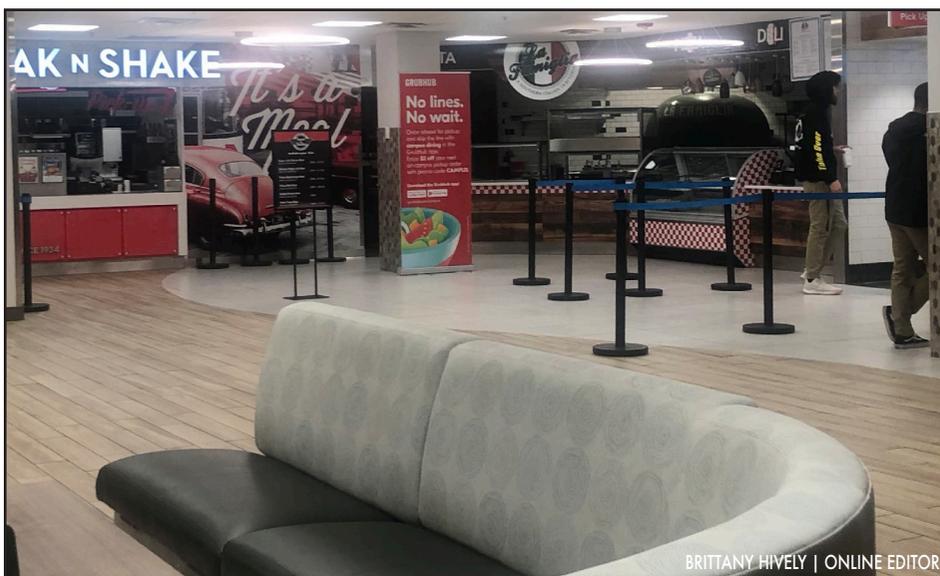
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## Portraits of an empty campus: how Marshall is affected by pandemic

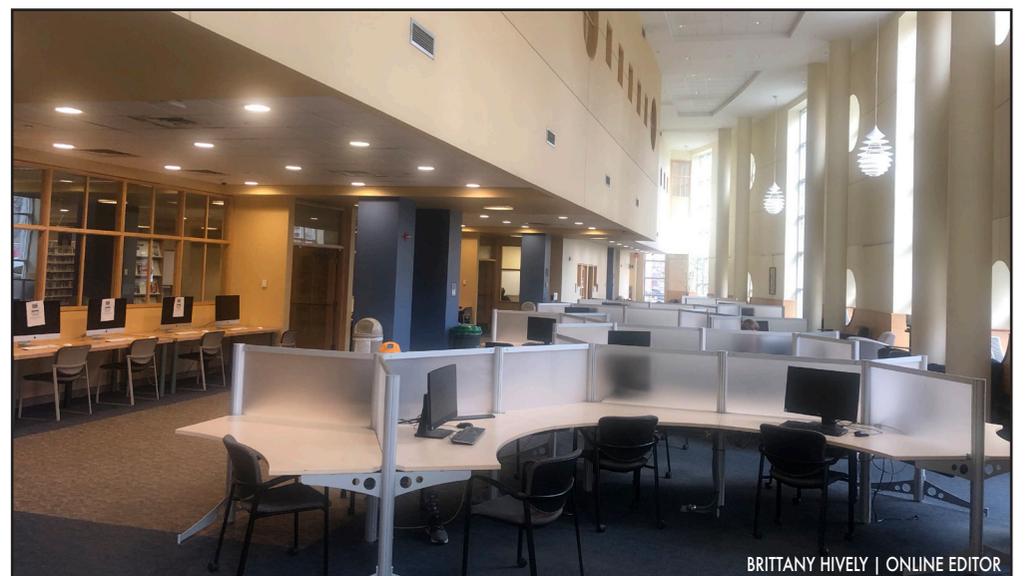
*Read more inside*



BRITTANY HIVELEY | ONLINE EDITOR



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PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY AMANDA LARCH | [LARCH15@MARSHALL.EDU](mailto:LARCH15@MARSHALL.EDU)

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# Gilbert encourages students to remain on campus

By **AMANDA LARCH**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

While some universities are evacuating, Marshall University President Jerry Gilbert recommends students who live in residence halls remain on campus.

As part of Marshall's plan to combat the COVID-19 virus, Gilbert said the university has provisions for isolating students who may become infected.

"We're going to open up Holderby Hall and quarantine students in there as they become infected, if they don't go home," he said.

One reason residence halls and dining facilities will remain open on campus is to accommodate homeless and international students.

"Some other schools are forcing the students to leave, and some of the things that we thought about, I know we have at least one or two homeless students that are in school, so forcing them to leave would put them out on the streets," Gilbert said. "I know

that there are many students that are international students, and if we put them out, where were they going to go? We also have students that if we were to require them not to come back to the residence hall until we go back to face-to-face that they may not have easy access to the internet."

Marshall has a webpage with announcements and cancellations concerning the coronavirus, and there is an email that students can contact if they have questions about the virus. The webpage is [marshall.edu/covid19](http://marshall.edu/covid19), and the email is [covid19@marshall.edu](mailto:covid19@marshall.edu).

If students suspect they may have been exposed, Gilbert said they are recommended to contact Student Health. The purpose of the phone triage is to prevent potentially infected people from showing up in emergency rooms or doctor's offices unannounced.

"They will describe to Student Health what their symptoms are, and

if it is consistent with what could be coronavirus, they will send someone to wherever they are—I assume they'd be in the residence hall at that point," Gilbert said. "If they're just in town, then we would make arrangements for them to meet in the emergency room and be ushered in. But if they're on campus, we would have them stay in the residence hall; we'd send someone to them."

"So with all those things in consideration, I decided that we should allow our students to stay in the residence hall if they wanted to."

The university response team, consisting of experts from health and food safety, culinary and facilities operations, human resources and supply management, is monitoring the situation. Dr. Larry Dial, Marshall's chief medical officer, and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine are also working closely to keep up to date on information, Gilbert said.

**see MESSAGE on pg. 10**



BRITTANY HIVELEY | ONLINE EDITOR

Holderby Hall will be used as a quarantine area for students on campus who contract COVID-19.

# Homeless in Huntington: Wayne Glover Jr., 'J.R.'



DOUGLAS HARDING | MANAGING EDITOR

J.R. has been homeless for two months and traveled to Huntington for the first time last week.

By **DOUGLAS HARDING**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Wayne Glover Jr., or J.R., is 52 years old and was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, and he has been homeless in Huntington for about one week.

Glover said he has been homeless for the past two months, but he only arrived in Huntington with his mother last week. He said he also was homeless for three years after running away from an abusive family when he was 15 years old.

During part of those three years, Glover said he traveled to 42 states in about a year-and-a-half.

"I made it to almost every state," he said. "I didn't know where I was going; I just couldn't go back to that place."

Glover said last week he traveled to Indianapolis from Denver, Colorado, where he was recently living, and then to Huntington with his mother via Greyhound buses.

He said he and his mother had only been in Huntington for a couple days when she was killed by a drunk

driver and that later the same day, his cell phone and wallet were stolen from him.

"I miss her so much," Glover said. "Now I'm homeless; I'm stuck here, but people are helping me out."

Although he has only been in Huntington for about a week, Glover said the people he has met so far have been kind to him. He said despite recent misfortunes in his life, he maintains an unwavering faith in God and feels he has much to be thankful for.

"I'm so grateful for what I have," he said. "People here feed me, share with me, give me shelter and clothes; they are a blessing. This is a good place to be when you're homeless."

Glover said he has spent much of his first week in Huntington at the Huntington City Mission.

With his mother gone, Glover said he feels he has "no reason" to return to Indianapolis and "nowhere else to go," so, at least for now, he plans to continue living in Huntington.

"I'm going to stay here," he said. "I'm

going to live in Huntington. I like it here; I feel comfortable, and I feel safe."

Glover said that while living in Denver, he worked for longer than a decade as a catering supervisor at an airport.

"I love cooking," he said. "I was a catering supervisor in Denver for 12 years, and I loved that job. I miss it because I don't have a kitchen now. I would go back and do it today if I could."

Glover said on holidays, he used to cook meals for everyone in the apartment complex he lived in. He said he enjoys cooking all types of food, but ribs may be his favorite to eat.

Glover said if he ever becomes rich, he will donate much of his wealth to others in need.

"We should donate empty houses to the homeless; we have enough houses," he said. "If I was rich, I would do all I could to help the poor and the homeless. I would share my money with them."

**see HOMELESS on pg. 10**

# Marshall alumni: Where are we now?

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first article in a series catching up with some of Marshall University's alumni and what they are doing now.

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**  
ONLINE EDITOR

It all started with an ad.

Beth Sergent, editor of Ohio Valley Publishing, always knew she wanted to write but never thought it would lead to journalism.

"I just knew I loved to write," Sergent said. "I'd always loved to write, and the local newspapers were the only outlet for me to get paid and do that."

Ohio Valley Publishing is home to the Point Pleasant Register, Gallipolis Daily Tribune and Pomeroy Daily Sentinel.

Sergent graduated from Marshall University in 2009 with her bachelor of Language Arts in English. Her journey has not been a smooth one.

"I was a nontraditional student. I dropped out of high school for some health reasons and got behind," Sergent said. "I sat a year out and figured out what to do and went back and got my GED and then I would slowly take some classes at Marshall here and there. MOVOC, of course, because it was just easier 'cause I had to work. I was a working adult. And then slowly picked up steam and picked up more and more.

"I want to say it took me about six or seven years to get a bachelor's degree, I just kept at it," Sergent said. "In that time, I got hired on my first journalism degree, like, four years before I graduated."

While in school, Sergent worked for a hardware store, and an advertisement for that store is what launched her into the journalism world.

"When you bought an ad you got a free story and a photo," Sergent said. "You were allowed to write it if you wanted to and so my boss said, 'Well can you write that for me?' And I said, 'Sure.'"

Sergent went on to write the story, and when they sent the photographer, who was also the editor of the Point

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**"I'm just translating people's lives. That's just what I'm doing. That involves listening and letting people tell you their stories and not ever being the story, just letting it unfold."**

**- Beth Sergent**

Pleasant Register, he liked her story, and she let him know she may be interested if they ever needed anyone.

"A few months later they contacted me and asked if I would come in for an interview and I did. That was 2004 and they hired me for The Daily Sentinel. I was a staff writer," Sergent said.

While Sergent majored in English, she only took one journalism class as a filler during her last semester of college.

"I knew nothing about journalism other than what I had read in the newspaper," Sergent said. "I basically learned from great people who had been in it for years."

While Sergent's main focus of study was creative writing and writing intensive courses, she credits Marshall with helping expose her to different writers and ways of looking at things.

"I was maybe at the junior level when I got my job at the Sentinel," Sergent said. "It prepared me because it teaches you a different way to write and exposes you to different writers and different ways of communicating."

Sergent said she never expected to be where she is today.

"A lot of people that knew me several years ago think I'm pretty introverted at the time," Sergent said. "And now I have this local media, we're talking generations of people who put effort into these publications. And here I am running the content and the editorial."

While Sergent said it can get overwhelming at times, she never takes her job for granted.

"I'm just translating people's lives. That's just what I'm doing," Sergent said. "That involves listening and letting people tell you their stories and not ever being the story, just letting it unfold."

Sergent said this carries a responsibility of sharing the story and letting people make up their own minds.

"Someone is sharing their best or worst day with you and sometimes they're just sharing their in between day, but it's still up to you to get it right," Sergent said.

Being a journalist, Sergent is faced with the stigma of media being lumped together and labeled as "fake news" which she said should never happen.

"I think every news organization is different, and I think to lump news organizations together is a disservice to a lot of hardworking people," Sergent said. "It's kind of like this, every snowflake is different, and yes, I said snowflake, and so is every media organization and I think to lump them altogether, I think is impossible. I really do. Everyone is different."

Sergent recalls covering a Trump Rally in Huntington, West Virginia.

"We were sitting down in front of like CNN and Fox and all these major national outlets," Sergent said. "Whenever he'd say, 'media' people just soundly boo'ed everyone. It made me uncomfortable."

She said this is why it is important to not lump all media outlets together.

"Be specific about who you have a grievance with," Sergent said. "People are very broad with their criticisms and one size doesn't fit all and certainly not in our industry; it doesn't fit all. Certainly, there are improvements, but there are a lot of things people are doing right."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY JONES

**Marshall alumna Beth Sergent won the Associated Press' "Best Feature Writer" award in 2017.**

Along with the fake news stigma, many media organizations are facing industry cuts. Sergent said while they have faced several cuts, readership is up online.

"Our online presence is growing," Sergent said. "Every county Mason, Meigs, Gallia has more hits per month than we have population."

Sergent said news will always be needed, it is how it is received that will evolve.

"People will always need information. The way that we gather it is never going to change. The way that good solid reporting is still always going to be the same," Sergent said. "It's delivery that's going to change and is changing. I don't think people have quite figured that out yet in terms of what's going to work the best or what the next new thing is."

Out of everything, it is hard for Sergent to pick a single moment that is her proudest.

"It is an accumulation of just showing up every day," Sergent. "When they (the people) need to get information

**see ALUMNI on pg. 10**

# Food pantry, dining services remain open during COVID-19 crisis



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

By **AMANDA LARCH**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall University's food pantry will remain open during the period of non-face-to-face classes, though it will close during the originally scheduled spring break.

It is open Mondays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

"We are committed to keeping the pantry open during the COVID-19 crisis," Kelli Williams, chair of the department of dietetics, said. "We don't want any students or community members to go hungry during this time of uncertainty and we will do all we can to assist. We have a lot of food on hand, and there is a good variety of fresh and shelf stable foods."

Marshall's Drinko Library has a pop-up food pantry available for students to stop by and take what they may need. It will be open when the library is open, and staff will keep refilling it until all food is gone. There are also hand sanitizer stations, and, according to Marshall Libraries' social media, "We have plenty of room for you to spread out and keep your distance."

The library staff is encouraging social distancing and avoiding crowded areas.

Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Drinko Library and its upper floors.

Marshall dining services are also limited but still open. According to the Marshall dining services website,

Sodexo has been managing its technical response to COVID-19 weeks before it appeared in the U.S. "based on the experiences of our teams working in health care settings in Wuhan Province China."

"We take our responsibility for the well-being of the communities we serve seriously and want to share with you the contingency measures we are taking to keep the communities we serve and our employees safe," the Sodexo website states. "In partnership with the University's Business Continuity Plan, the advice of local health authorities and the CDC, we developed a business continuity plan for each of our universities here in the U.S."

Harless Dining Hall hours are breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; and dinner from 4-6 p.m. for the weeks of March 16-20 and through March 23-27. For weekend dining service at Harless, hours are 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for brunch and dinner is 4-6 p.m. Dining hours after March 29 will be posted no later than March 27.

Chick-fil-A is open Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Starbucks is open Monday through Friday from 8-10:30 a.m. All other retail options on campus are closed.

**Amanda Larch can be contacted at [larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu).**



BRITTANY HIVELEY | ONLINE EDITOR

In addition to their food pantry, Drinko Library offers hand sanitizer stations and recommends practicing social distancing on campus. Dining services such as Harless Dining Hall, Chick-fil-A and Starbucks will remain open.

## M.A.S. cancels film festival, remains hopeful

By **SARAH INGRAM**  
COPY EDITOR

The Marshall Artists Series director of marketing said the Bannf Mountain Film Festival World Tour set for March 31 has been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but the organization is hopeful "Waitress" will still be able to take the stage April 27.

"We're hopeful, but we're just like everybody else and we just don't know," Angela Jones said. "So until we hear otherwise, we are going to plan to have 'Waitress' at the end of April."

Due to growing concerns of coronavirus throughout the world, Jones said that while she is disappointed some of the Marshall Artists Series events must be canceled, she understands that the general public's health is more important.

"We actually just got an email from the Association of Performing Arts, which is a big association for organizations like ours, and they said 'We encourage you to not put people in danger,' she said. "So it is disappointing, but safety first."

**"We're hopeful, but we're just like everybody else and we just don't know. So until we hear otherwise, we are going to plan to have 'Waitress' at the end of April."**

**-Angela Jones**

Jones said Marshall is still selling tickets for "Waitress" with student tickets going on sale beginning April 6.

"Waitress" is based on Adrienne Shelly's film with the same name and follows a girl looking for a change from her regular job and loveless marriage, so she decides to enter a baking contest.

"It's this big Broadway show, and it tells the story of Jenna, a waitress and expert pie maker," Jones said. "She enters a baking contest; I believe she may fall in love, it's just really cute. It all looks fun, so I think it's going to be a really fun way to end this semester"

The cancellation of the film festival comes after the Marshall Artists Series event with the band America was also canceled, set for March 12.

Jones said the organization had received approval to have the event, but members of "America" chose to not risk spreading coronavirus.

The Marshall Artists Series also still plans to have the Uncorked event at the end of the semester to help raise funds to allow different schools to attend events during the year.

**Sarah Ingram can be contacted at [ingram51@marshall.edu](mailto:ingram51@marshall.edu).**

## Canceled Events

- Snack Chats - originally scheduled for March 17-18
- Scholastic Book Fair - originally scheduled for March 17-20
- DKMS Swab Drive - originally scheduled for March 17-19
- 34th Annual Student Juried Show reception - originally scheduled for March 18
- Artists, Scholars and Innovators Lecture - originally scheduled for March 19
- Free Joint Pain Seminar - originally scheduled for March 19
- West Virginia Thespians Conference - originally scheduled March 19-21
- "Spirit" Session of "The View 2020: Health from a Holistic perspective" - originally scheduled for March 30

# Students to not be penalized by COEPD changes

By **SARAH INGRAM**  
COPY EDITOR

With schools closing throughout the country because of COVID-19, some education students at Marshall University are wondering how they should finish their clinicals and stay on track. The dean of the College of Education and Professional Development has said they should not worry.

"So our students will not be doing clinicals in public schools after (March 13) unless things change before the end of the semester," said Teresa Eagle, dean of COEPD. "If there are changes that need to be made and requirements, we will be making those changes appropriately."

Eagle said the college is looking at the different situations for different clinical requirements to determine how to proceed.

"We will be looking at what they completed in classes," she said. "If there is a class that requires a clinical requirement, we are looking at what they can do when we come back, if they come back, or can we do something different."

Eagle said the COEPD sent out an email explaining some of the upcoming changes, but some students are still concerned, including senior Casee Jones, a secondary education major with an emphasis in social studies.

"All in all, I'm honestly very stressed in this situation as to what my next step is after this since no one really knows when the schools will open up or if I'll be able to finish my clinical," Jones said. "But I know people are doing what they think is best, so I just hope it will all work out in the end."

Jones said she is being personally affected by the school shut down because she is currently taking a

15-hour clinical that requires her to have hands-on experience with a student who has an individualized education program or a student with special needs. Jones said she was worried about having to make up the hours because she is unsure when she would be able to.

"Speaking for myself, I don't know when I would make up these clinical hours if they make us make them up at some point since I am going to be taking

**"All in all, I'm honestly very stressed in this situation as to what my next step is after this, since no one really knows when the schools will open up or if I'll be able to finish my clinical, but I know people are doing what they think is best, so I just hope it will all work out in the end."**

**-Casee Jones**

at least two other clinicals next semester along with school and work," she said.

Eagle said the college is encouraging different methods to replace clinicals, and students should not worry about not receiving credit.

"We are encouraging faculty to give students alternative experiences, videos, online material or something

else," Eagle said. "They (students) will not be penalized for things that are beyond their control, and everything is beyond our control right now."

Kelcie Clay, elementary education student, said the shutdown is affecting a clinical for her as well. Clay is supposed to be assisting students in reading and has been working with a first grade class for the last few weeks. Clay said she was supposed to move to an upper elementary course, but the clinical has been suspended due to the closure.

Even with the changes in the program, Clay said she thinks her classmates would rather protect their students than put them at risk, even if it affects their projects.

"COVID-19 is making it difficult to study education because we have so many projects and hands-on learning experiences," she said. "However, I know any education major would do anything to protect their clinical students. They are what is important in this situation."

Clay also said she trusts the COEPD officials to make the right choices when it comes to suspending and waiving clinicals.

"Our education program is one of the best," she said. "It prepares students so we are fully confident going into our first year of teaching. I think they (the administrators) know what they are doing"

Eagle also said she wants people to remember that everything is still changing.

"What happens today and is decided today may be different tomorrow," she said. "Just keep in mind that things are changing quickly."

**Sarah Ingram can be contacted at [ingram51@marshall.edu](mailto:ingram51@marshall.edu).**

# University programs aim to ease transition to online courses

By **RALPH MAY**  
THE PARTHENON

The abrupt switch to all online courses for Marshall University because of COVID-19 is being eased by various programs created by the Online Learning department.

"Online Learning has created an Online Ready site to provide information to faculty and students regarding the move to online platforms," said Chris Sochor, the instructional designer.

The website contains an Online Ready worksheet for faculty, information to direct students to tools and resources for using Blackboard, times and locations for in-person and virtual assistance and links to Information Technology sites, Sochor said.

"Students can log in to Blackboard now and click on the Tech Support tab to start viewing videos about how to use Blackboard tools," he said. "There are also student help links on the Student Resources site that students should use to learn how to navigate through their courses."

Sochar said it is important that students use their Marshall email accounts to correspond with instructors regarding course matters and grades.

"Students should receive instructions and information about how their course will be conducted during the planned move to online from their instructors," Sochor said. "If students contact the IT Service Desk or Online Learning and ask us how their instructors plan to continue their courses, we have no way of knowing that."

For faculty, Online Learning has created a Blackboard Quick Start course. This course will be most useful for faculty members who do not use Blackboard currently, and have

never really used Blackboard, Sochor said.

These courses will take place virtually or face to face in Drinko Library 138, 349 and 235 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday until March 27, with the exception of the course in 349 taking place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to the Online Learning website.

The website also has resources listed for professors to learn on their own.

There will be session in Old Main 109 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the South Charleston Library 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, for the upcoming couple weeks, according to the Online Learning website.

"More seasoned users may not gain as much knowledge from this course, but we still encourage all faculty to self-enroll and work through the course. Instructions for self-enrolling in the course in our organization can be found on the Online Ready page," Sochor said.

For more information on resources from Online Learning students or faculty can go to <http://www.marshall.edu/design-center/online-ready/>.

**Ralph May can be contacted at [may178@marshall.edu](mailto:may178@marshall.edu).**



# COLUMN: The pandemic of the sports world-We Are all in this together



Sports Editor Taylor Huddleston traveled to Frisco, Texas for the 2020 Conference USA Basketball Tournament to cover Marshall men and women's basketball teams.

**By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

As I sat on an early-return airplane flight back from Frisco, Texas to Huntington, West Virginia, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, also known as the coronavirus.

Life isn't fair, but we just have to accept reality the way it is provided for us. As the sports editor for The Parthenon, I was fortunate enough to travel halfway across the United States to cover the 2020 Conference USA Basketball Tournament for the Marshall University men and women's basketball teams.

Both men and women's basketball teams won their first-round games in the C-USA Tournament.

The No. 8 seeded women's team defeated the No. 9 seed, the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, in an overtime thriller win with a final score of 71-67. I watched the women celebrate their much-deserved win after battling until the final buzzer went off. That was the first conference tournament game win for them since 2016.

The women were supposed to advance to the quarterfinals of the tournament and face the No.1 seed Rice University Owls...but that

didn't happen.

The No. 6 seeded Herd men's team defeated the No. 11 seed University of Texas at El Paso Miners with a final score of 86-78. I watched the men celebrate the hard-fought game they deserved to win.

The men were supposed to advance to the quarterfinals with a matchup against No. 3 Louisiana Tech University Bulldogs...but that didn't happen.

I watched the instant reactions of multiple people, the media, the families, the fans, the bands, the cheerleaders, the coaches and the players when Conference USA announced just moments before our own women's basketball game that the tournament was canceled due to taking safety precautions of the coronavirus.

My heart aches for the senior athletes of all spring sports who did not get to end their seasons as they wanted. My heart aches knowing that there are no sports going on in the United States and all across the world. My heart aches knowing that as sports editor, I don't have Marshall sporting events to cover in order to write a story or create a video. I don't have interviews to conduct with student athletes, coaches or fans. My heart aches because all major, minor, professional and other sports leagues

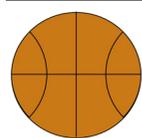
are either postponing or canceling the remainder of their seasons.

While I understand the reasonings and decisions behind the health and safety concerns, it just hurts to see all sports have to come to an instant halt. It feels like we are pausing a portion of our lives, and some do not know what to do. The coronavirus pandemic has deeply affected our people in the sports world.

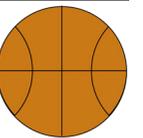
It's all about appreciating sports and what all they have to offer to athletes, fans, coaches, media and others. Like a lot of people, my life is centered around sports. I played several sports growing up and fell in love with the profession of covering all sports as a passion that I want to pursue for the rest of my life.

Make sure to think about and thank our Marshall University student athletes for all their hard work and dedication to the sports they love. Because of them, Marshall thrives on athletic success. We are all one big Herd Family, and families can get through any problem that arises in our lives.

**Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at [huddleston16@marshall.edu](mailto:huddleston16@marshall.edu).**



## COLUMN: March Madness, a victim of the coronavirus



**By GRANT GOODRICH**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

March is known as the month of madness in the sports world.

Although many sports are in full swing, this madness is specific, deriving from the annual 68-team NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Each year, more than 800 players get the chance to compete in the madness while millions of fans at home compete in their own way by filling out a bracket and picking a winner. For the enthusiastic and maybe a little bit obsessive fan, one bracket is not quite enough.

As soon as the teams are seeded on Selection Sunday, those obsessive fans run the ink dry on their printers or, for the more technological savvy fans, run down the battery on their phones.

From seeing the teams announced and filling out a bracket to being glued to the screen for hours on end,

"March Madness" is one of the most exciting times of the year for many sports fans. Selection Sunday feels almost like Christmas morning did as a child, and when the games begin play just after 12 p.m. on that following Thursday, there is not a more exciting sense of anticipation for what one might witness in the coming days.

But that excitement, that anticipation and that wonder are not going to be felt by millions of people this March.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NCAA president Max Emmert announced on March 12 the cancellation of the men's and women's basketball tournaments in the midst of wide-spread cancellations from sports organizations across the United States.

Originally, the NCAA planned to play the tournament games with no fans in attendance, but as conferences began to cancel their own tournaments, it seemed inevitable that "March Madness" would suffer the same fate.

Of course, it did, becoming just another sport in the

long list to collapse to the concerns about the spread of coronavirus.

However, the demise of "March Madness" is a more tragic and heartbreaking tale when compared to the other sporting events whose competitions were canceled.

Not only is it a desolate time for fans who no longer get to revel in the yearly traditions that the NCAA tournament brings them, but also the athletes who toiled for an entire season are not going to get the chance to finish off their season.

For the seniors and graduates who were set to take part in the "big dance," they lose their final chance to potentially win it all.

Although the possibility of those seniors or graduates gaining another year of eligibility is not officially dead, it seems highly unlikely they will get the same chance that the spring athletes are probably going to get.

**see MARCH on pg. 10**



**CONFERENCE USA STATEMENT**  
REGARDING SPRING SPORT COMPETITION

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE CONFERENCE USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALL SPRING SPORT COMPETITION AND CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN CANCELED.

# Athletes of the Week: Marshall University Spring Athletes

**Basketball. Baseball. Softball. Track and Field. Golf. Tennis.**

All of these sports are canceled for the semester at Marshall University due to concerns over COVID-19, and none of the athletes a part of these sports will have a chance to earn athlete of the week honors through their performances.

Thus, this week's athlete of the week honor is symbolically awarded to every athlete who competes in a spring sport.

Although the disappointment of not getting to play this season is immeasurable, there is hope for the spring athletes and their eligibility moving forward.

Basketball is technically a winter sport that carries over into the spring, so details on how eligibility for basketball athletes will play out has not been determined by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

But for the actual spring athletes, the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee said in a press release via Twitter that, "Eligibility relief is appropriate for all Division I student-athletes who participated in spring sports."

The details of just how that will work have not been decided, but the important thing is that these athletes will get a chance to save a year of eligibility.

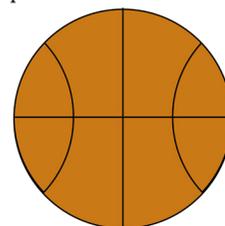
For seniors or graduates whose careers are in post-mortem after the cancelations, it seems they will have the opportunity to gain an extra life next spring.

It is an unprecedented situation for the NCAA and sports in general, but sadly, there was not really a choice when it came to the pandemic of the coronavirus.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAVANAH MATNEY

2020 C-USA Basketball Tournament action.



## 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.

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"Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

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

## Unprecedented, trying times



DOUG MILLS | ASSOCIATED PRESS  
President Trump speaks to the nation from the Oval Office at the White House about the coronavirus Wednesday, March, 11, 2020.

As the COVID-19 pandemic makes its presence known around the world, effective and responsible leadership in government is more necessary now than ever.

Unfortunately, such leadership in governing is proving to be a rarity in the United States and in West Virginia alike.

Per ABC News, "... unfortunately, (the Trump administration's) misleading and false statements are spreading this week apace with the virus itself."

President Trump this week attempted to update Americans on actions regarding the coronavirus, but during his speech, he made several false claims, including that health insurers had agreed to waive co-payments for treatments (they have not) and details about the European travel ban.

And the president's errors are not inconsequential. The potential consequences of falsely telling all Americans to not worry about the cost of treatments are obvious. Additionally, Americans abroad believed they would be unable to return home after Trump's travel ban announcement, causing many to rush into crowded airports during a time when the CDC says it is crucial to public health to practice social distancing.

More recent comments seem to indicate Trump will begin to defer to medical experts to make decisions regarding the coronavirus, but to many Americans, the president's decision has come too late.

According to NPR, just 37% of Americans say they have a "good amount or a great deal of trust" in information from the Trump administration regarding the pandemic. Furthermore, just 46% of Americans believe the government "is doing enough to prevent the spread of coronavirus."

When the country is experiencing extreme shortages in necessary medical equipment, tests and facilities, the White House is releasing contradictory information daily and no one is guaranteed access to potential treatments, perhaps such public distrust should not be surprising.

The U.S. government's irresponsible and internationally-condemned response to the coronavirus outbreak has revealed damning indictments of the country's health care system, disaster preparedness and overall power structures.

Meanwhile, in West Virginia, Gov. Jim Justice recently told residents to: "Go to the grocery stores. For

crying out loud, go to the grocery stores. If you want to go to Bob Evans and eat, go to Bob Evans and eat." The governor's advice directly contradicts the recommendations of the CDC and medical professionals around the world.

As of Tuesday, according to the WVDHHR, less than 90 people have been tested for coronavirus in West Virginia, where a significant portion of the population is considered especially vulnerable to infection. Just one infection has so far been confirmed.

Per West Virginia Public Broadcasting: "West Virginians aren't getting widely tested because there simply are not enough supplies to test people—even nationwide. The state has put in an order for more kits, but supplies are on backorder with no sense of when the order will be fulfilled."

Without access to adequate medical equipment and testing, it is even more crucial that everyone follow the advice of public health experts to minimize danger.

We are living in unprecedented and trying times. Now is when unity, solidarity and cooperation matter most. Cities and countries around the world are ordering residents to isolate, quarantine and work from home if possible. Some governments have suspended rent and utilities payments and are considering supplying citizens with necessary incomes for the foreseeable future. Economies are experiencing historic crashes. Even the Trump administration recently called for limiting social gatherings to no more than 10 people.

Experts say and data show that in times of such serious and widespread danger to the public, being underprepared and failing to be proactive are far more dangerous than potentially being overly cautious. The best time to begin acting to prevent and to limit the disastrous impacts of this global pandemic is already well in the past.

But today, the reality is clear: the U.S. is late in responding to this pandemic that threatens millions of lives, and leaders in government must immediately begin to take corrective actions by following the lead of the world's health experts, who recommend strict isolation and widely available testing and treatment. Anything else is deeply irresponsible and will result in the loss of countless lives.

# COLUMN: Misconceptions about the news media

By **AMANDA LARCH**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

If you are blaming the media for promoting mass panic, you are simply consuming the wrong media. Sure, it may seem like large media corporations are contributing to the fear caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they're really just reporting on what has already happened.

The media is not telling you to panic-buy all the toilet paper and milk and eggs. The media is not telling you to run rampant through town and buy up every item you see on the shelves.

And again, if you truly believe the media is forcing you to drive to grocery stores and spend every last penny in your wallet on groceries you may not need, I must say you're focused on the wrong media.

How about, instead of watching cable news outlets 24/7 and believing every account you read on Facebook, you subscribe to your local paper? Or watch the local news channels? Actually, many local and national publications have lowered the paywalls on stories concerning the coronavirus. So, you don't even have to spend any money to read the latest (and



STEVEN SAPHORE | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staff at the Australian Associated Press head office gather for an announcement in Sydney, March 3, 2020.

most factual) information about coronavirus. Although, once we finally recover from this pandemic, you should continue to financially support local media.

We are all struggling right now, I

understand that. Journalists especially are feeling physically and mentally drained. Let's take a minute to breathe. It's a good practice to shut off our phones and turn off our televisions and focus on

what's happening around us. We are going to be okay. We do not need to buy cans and cans of food that we may never open. We don't have to purchase toilet paper in bulk. Especially because not everyone can afford to do so. Shouldn't we be looking out for one another?

I have seen quite a few videos and posts from people across our nation who are struggling to get their groceries because they cannot afford to buy in bulk, though that is mostly what is left on shelves. Think before you buy. Think before you consume media left and right that may not be accurate. Finally, think before you leave the house. So many experts recommend staying inside and limiting how often you leave. Of course many people still have to work; that's a necessity, but not everyone needs to leave home to work. We are not doing anyone any favors by leaving home if we don't have to.

Support journalists and support your fellow people. This is not a time to be selfish, nor is it a time to spread fear. Take what you need and give what you can.

**Amanda Larch can be contacted at [larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu).**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: On socialism

I am a retired college professor of Sociology, Social Work and Psychology.

I am proud to have taught at West Virginia University, Slippery Rock University and SUNY-Brockport.

I am already getting emails from conservative-Republican candidates calling all Democrats "socialists" when I don't think that any of the national Democrats are truly socialists at all.

None.

To me, they are all "liberals" and "progressives" who are NOT advocating for the abolition of our market-based capitalist economic system and who simply want to develop a more "HUMAN" capitalism which has more new federal government social programs to help people.

They want the USA to be more like our allies in Canada, western Europe and Scandinavia.

I don't consider these countries to be "socialist." They don't consider themselves to be "socialists." Only USA conservative-Republicans do.



MARK LENNIHAN | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democratic member of Congress from New York, reacts to a passerby in New York following her emphatic upset of U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley in the 2018 elections.

People like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are not true socialists.

Sincerely,

Stewart B. Epstein

## Parthe-Pet



Ameer is a young adult cat from the streets of Huntington. He often goes by "Little Meer," "Baby Meer" or just "Meer" for short. Ameer spends most of his time sleeping, eating treats and watching passersby from one of his third-floor windows. Ameer loves meeting new animals and people and relaxing with his friends.

**Interested in featuring your pet in the paper? Use #ParthePet on social media or contact Douglas Harding at [harding26@marshall.edu](mailto:harding26@marshall.edu) with photos and a short bio.**

**MARCH cont. from 6**

Despite the many flaws of the NCAA, this unfortunate occurrence is not their fault; they seemingly made the correct call with all things considered. Still, it does not mean that the situation is not a heartbreaking and dejecting reality.

For fans, "March Madness" will be back next year, but for the players who will be moving on, this March will forever haunt them as the one that never got to be.

Obviously, fans will feel the disappointment for a time, but the pain felt by the players who

are missing out on a once in a lifetime opportunity will be with them forever.

In the grand scheme of things, people are dying around the world, making basketball feel immensely insignificant. Nevertheless, the heartbreak is an undeniable fact.

So many people use sports to get through difficult times, but during this perilous time in the world, sports are not going to be there for people to uplift their spirits.

**Grant Goodrich can be contacted at [goodrich24@marshall.edu](mailto:goodrich24@marshall.edu).**

**MESSAGE cont. from 2**

"Having a medical school is a great advantage for a university like WVU or Marsahll, because we have medical experts, and we have the best healthcare that you can get here versus a school that doesn't have a medical school associated with it," Gilbert said.

The university is dealing with cancellations and postponements one or two weeks out, which means there is currently no plan to cancel commencement in May. Gilbert said he is trying to be as optimistic as he can, and he hopes to return to face-to-face classes in April.

"I'm hopeful that when the warmer weather comes that we will see a decline," he said. "And I think a lot of the actions that have been taken will slow down the spread... I'm very hopeful and have my fingers crossed that we can return back to face to face for the last two weeks of classes; that would allow us to do some of the labs that difficult to do at a distance and also have some quality time with the students back in the classroom before the end of the semester."

With Drinko Library and food services

remaining open, Gilbert said he is hoping to maintain a sense of normalcy going forward.

"It's a very unfortunate period that we're in right now, and it's a time to stay strong and to not overly panic in any way," he said. "Be assured that we're trying to do the best we can to keep (students) safe and the campus safe and to continue an educational experience for our students. And we know that it's not going to be the same but we're going to do our best. We're not in this alone; most other universities in the country are in the same situation. It's a difficult time for us all to go through and we realize it's difficult for them and difficult for their families, but we're going to try our best to minimize the inconvenience to them as much as we can, while keeping them safe."

Gilbert said he wants to remind students to practice good hygiene and promote social distancing to maintain a safe campus.

**Amanda Larch can be contacted at [larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu).**

**HOMELESS cont. from 2**

He said he wonders what inspires some people with substantial wealth to be greedy.

"Why be greedy?" Glover said. "We're all living here together, and we all have to die, too. Why not share with each other?"

Glover said people should try to learn to take nothing for granted because so many people in the world have so little to hold onto.

"Some people are so greedy that they take things for granted that some people can only wish for," he said. "It's a shame how greedy the world has become."

Glover said as he gets older, he realizes more and more that life is "crazy" and unpredictable, and the best way to live is to always show kindness and learn from past mistakes.

"There's so much chaos going on in this

world," he said. "And I think most people don't really know how to handle it."

Glover said he suffers from various health-related conditions himself, and he has been unable to access significant information about the coronavirus pandemic.

"I don't know a damn thing about the virus," he said. "I haven't had access to radio or TV for months, so I haven't heard anything about it."

Glover said he has bone cancer and throat cancer. He said he maintains faith that "everything will be okay."

"The (throat) cancer is stage three, but I'm not ready to give up yet," he said. "I'm a fighter. I've been living through hell my whole life."

**Douglas Harding can be contacted at [harding26@marshall.edu](mailto:harding26@marshall.edu).**

**ALUMNI cont. from 3**

out, they know who to contact. It is that trust you build with people overtime."

Sergent says anyone looking into journalism should think about the dedication it involves.

"I would have them think long and hard about it because it is in transition," Sergent said. "Anyone that's done it for any length of time will tell you that you have to have a commitment to it. You're not going to get rich. Very few get famous, if that's what you want. And if you can't honestly connect with people, it's probably not for you."

With all of the ups and downs that come

with Sergent's career, she knows every day is a new day.

"Sometimes it's tough and I go to bed and think, I hope I did the best I could do on that," Sergent said. "There's always tomorrow. Always a clean slate and I think that's the interesting thing about journalism."

Sergent has been with Ohio Valley Publishing for 16 years. She has won several awards including Associated Press' "Best Feature Writer" and "Best Columnist."

**Brittany Hively can be contacted at [hayes100@marshall.edu](mailto:hayes100@marshall.edu).**

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# Student studying in Japan to return to US

By **EMILY HAYSLETT**  
THE PARTHENON

While classes at Marshall University closed due to COVID-19, Marshall students in Japan studying at Kansai Gaidai University have been facing classes moving online for weeks and some are now being told to return home.

Erica Burns, a junior at Marshall who is double majoring in Japanese and statistics, said she received an email on Feb. 29 stating that because of the coronavirus all face to face classes were going to be suspended until March 20.

"The first message we got told us that we would go to online classes until after our spring break, which is March 16-20, and to put social distancing into practice," Burns said. "Then a few days later, we got the email that recommended that all students return home, but they weren't requiring it."

Burns said that while other universities were bringing their exchange students back home, she was hoping that Marshall would allow her to stay in Japan.

"It was really scary. I was really upset because I have worked really hard to be here and it has been a dream and

a goal of mine for the past two years," Burns said. "I had planned on four months down here and had a bucket list of things to do before we left that I wouldn't be able to accomplish now."

Burns said she discussed the desire of staying in Japan with her parents because they were not requiring her to come back to the U.S. Traveling back to West Virginia would mean flight connections in Tokyo, Japan and Atlanta, Georgia before landing in Charleston, West Virginia. The Center for Disease Control website has been monitoring locations with confirmed cases of the coronavirus, and both Tokyo and Georgia are included in the lists of infected areas.

"At that time, me and my parents agreed that it would be safer for me to stay in Japan and continue to take precautions like washing my hands, not touching my face and trying not to go out a ton," Burns said.

Burns said she forwarded the email from her university in Japan to Marshall and explained why she believed they should stay in Japan rather than travel home and expose themselves by going through all the airports in areas with confirmed cases.

"Marshall replied saying that at that time, they were

not going to require us to come home," she said. "That was a big relief, to know that we had their support and that they listened to us and agreed that it would be safer for us to stay here right now."

The email agreeing to let them stay was sent on March 11, the same day that Marshall decided to put classes online.

On March 13, Burns received an email from Boren Awards, which was sponsoring her scholarship that allowed her to go to Japan. It stated that under no circumstances could the students stay in Japan because of orders from the U.S. Department of State.

"Boren said they couldn't support me being there anymore because they are with the State Department, who is requiring we come back and Boren can't go against that," Burns said. "Which ultimately, I understand that you can't go against the State Department very easily."

Students in Japan have been asked to be back in the country by March 22 and will be allowed to continue online classes at Kansai Gaidai University in order to receive credit for the semester.

**Emily Hayslett can be contacted at hayslett12@marshall.edu.**

PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY JOELLE GATES | GATES29@MARSHALLE.U

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or by appointment

# Lunchtime Legend: Frostop Drive-In

In a city inundated with a hankering for hotdogs, Frostop Drive-In's franks are a force to be reckoned with, according to locals...



Frostop Drive-In, opened in 1959, is one of seven major hot dog specific food establishments in the area.

By **MEG KELLER**  
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Frostop Drive-In in Huntington, West Virginia is one of seven major hot dog specific food establishments in the city of roughly 47,000 people, and one of 13 Frostop Drive-Ins left in the country. Its competitors in Huntington include the exclusive Hillbilly Hot Dogs, Stewart's Original Hot Dogs, Midway Drive-In, Charlie Graingers, Sam's Hot Dogs and Farley's Famous Hot Dogs. With much to compete with, Huntington's Frostop separates itself from the crowd through its unwavering positive customer service and traditional hospitality, according to long time employee Kimberly Smith.

**"It's a happy place. It makes people feel good, you know?"**

- Kimberly Smith

After working at Frostop for 11 years, this hotdog veteran has narrowed it down to nostalgia. Nostalgia is what keeps people coming back, according to Smith. She said she enjoys being someone who gets to be personable with her customers and make them feel welcome.

"It's a happy place," Smith said. "It makes people feel good, you know?"

The first ever Frostop was established in Springfield, Ohio in 1926 by a man named L.S. Harvey. He wanted to serve millions of customers with a classic burger-stand menu but had one particular product he was confident would reign supreme

over his competitors of the time; root beer.

Frostop serves the "tastiest and creamiest root beer in all of America," according to their website. By using a root beer recipe that infuses 22 flavors and cold-brewing small batches at thirty-six degrees, Frostop claims to create the rich, delicious flavor that is not replicable by any of its competitors.

Beyond the root beer, there is the hot dog, a delicacy in West Virginia.

The Mountain State is no stranger to a delectable 'dog. Whether or not one calls it chili or sauce, ordering a true Appalachian hot dog is not an issue at Frostop, according to patron Sylvia Carr. Carr said she has been visiting Huntington's Frostop since she was a little girl. She grew up in Huntington but said she now commutes from Kentucky to acquire her nostalgic meal.

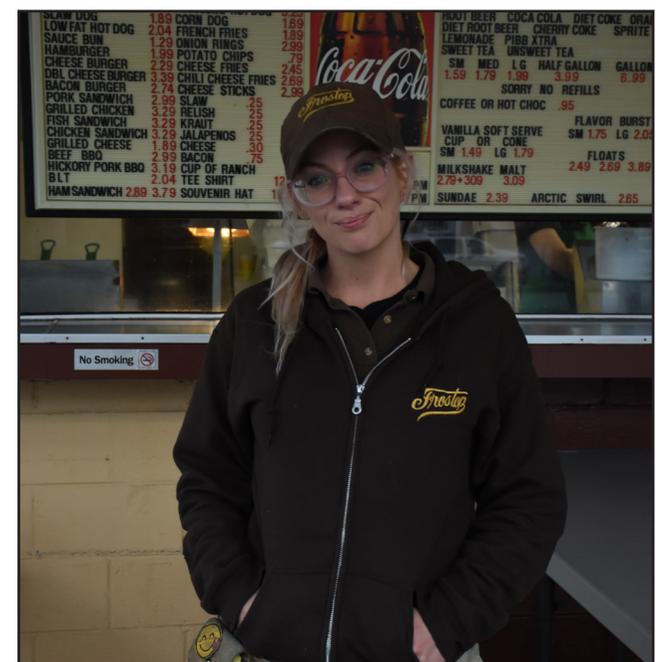
Frostop's famous 14-foot spinning mug has been a staple to the name since 1959 when the drive-in opened, but it has had to undergo a bout of repairs in recent years.

After being repaired once, the mug again began slowing its spin in the summer of 2019.

"(The owners) decided to take it out, redo the insides and now it is getting all painted up," Smith said. "Right now, it's currently getting a facelift. It's in the mug hospital."

Frostop commissioned the help of machinists at Wooten's Machine Co. located in Huntington. Smith said she is unsure of the estimated return date of the mug.

The legend of Frostop has been building for 64 years, providing families with a wholesome, traditional eatery



Kimberly Smith has worked at Frostop Drive-In for 11 years. year after year.

"It has a lot of history because it has been here so long, since I was born and we've just always been raised coming here, so it has more of a meaning," 32-year-old Kristen Metzler said. "A sentimental meaning...I even have memories with my family here (at Frostop) as well."

**Meg Keller can be contacted at [keller61@marshall.edu](mailto:keller61@marshall.edu).**