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Spring Semester Begins with Omicron Surge



Shauntelle Thompson | The

By **TYLER SPENCE**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR | SPENCE83@MARSHALL.EDU

Marshall University started the spring semester in an unusual stage of the pandemic. On the day classes started the United States was averaging nearly 750,000 coronavirus cases a day due to the massive surge caused by the Omicron variant. This number is likely a low count, due to the popularity of at home tests, and Omicron presenting less severe symptoms than other variants. The Center for Disease Control recently updated guidance to shorten the length of quarantine to five days for most who test positive.

Although over 80% of Marshall students are vaccinated, classrooms have felt the absence of students in a way previously unseen in other stages of the pandemic. At the end of last semester, Marshall was averaging around 10 active cases between students and employees. On Jan. 13, active cases peaked to 192 - by far the highest since the start of the pandemic. Over the past two weeks Marshall has averaged 26 cases a day, according to the Coronavirus dashboard.

Mask policy was updated and reinforced near the start of the semester to reflect the rise in cases, testing was mandatory for all students required of vaccination status and students were required to sign the return to campus agreement before attending classes.

Employees were also strongly encouraged to get tested, but not required due to the limited supply. The federal government quietly launched a website (COVIDTests.gov) for Americans to order at home tests to be delivered for free. Tests ship within 7-10 days of ordering and deliver in 1-3 days. Since Saturday, private insurance companies have been required to cover the cost of any at home test through reimbursement up to eight tests a month.

Men's Basketball Loses Seventh in a Row

By **JUSTIN ZIMMER**

REPORTER | ZIMMER3@MARSHALL.EDU

Taevion Kinsey tied a career high 31 points Saturday night against Rice, but the team could not snap the losing streak.

Marshall collected its seventh consecutive loss Saturday night. Taevion Kinsey scores 31 points tying his career high, but the Thundering Herd lost by a final score of 87-77 to the Rice Owls.

The Rice Owls, throughout the night, were successfully outscored Marshall through the three-point shot. At the night's end, the Owls had a three-point percentage of 60%, going 12-20 from beyond the arc. At the end of the night, Marshall

had a percentage of 19.4 going 6-31.

In the early minutes of the game, Marshall was able to contend closely with the Owls, keeping the point deficit within single digits. However, throughout the first half and heading into halftime, the Rice Owls were able to pull away through three-point shooting. At the half, the Owls had a thirteen-point lead against Marshall.

"We Are the Dream" Screens in Honor of MLK



Photo by Victoria Ware

VICTORIA WARE

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The Marshall Artists Series presented a screening of the film "We Are the Dream: The Kids of the Oakland MLK Oratorical Fest" on Thursday at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"We Are the Dream" (2020) is an HBO original documentary directed by Amy Schatz (8-time Emmy Award winning director/producer) and produced by Mahershala Ali (2-time Academy Award winning actor). It follows school children in pre-K through twelfth grade from Oakland, California as they compete in an oratorical competition in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The children perform poetry and speeches

that relate to Dr. King's teachings on equality and justice. The movie documents the whole process of the annual competition, including the immense practice done by the children and the different stages of competing (semifinals, finals, etc.).

The film focuses on topics like racial discrimination, xenophobia and overall inequality from the perspective of children. It showcases the power that words hold and their ability to spark change.

A defining quote in the film comes from principal Zarina Ahmad when she says, "Dr. Martin Luther King was a freedom fighter by using his words. He was able to change a nation by being able to just speak. And

I feel that it empowers the students to have a voice."

The amount of people in attendance at the screening was relatively low, something to be expected during the era of COVID-19. However, those in attendance actively engaged with the film. During the more humorous parts of the film, people could be heard laughing and making asides to one another. Some members of the audience applauded during a particularly riveting recitation of Dr. King's speech "I've Been to the Mountaintop" by ten-year-old Gregory Payton. This applause was outmatched once the movie ended and everyone in attendance gave the film an enthusiastic ovation.

NY-Based Pianist Plays at Marshall

TREVOR SMITH

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The stage seemingly made no sound as he walked across the wooden floor to his spotlight. Silence from the audience as they gazed at him. As he took his seat, all it took was the press of a key.

The room burst into sound. Music filled the air. The notes sang, "Get ready, because here I come."

Michael Noble, a New York based pianist, played for a small audience at Marshall University Friday night.

Noble played in the University's School of Music at Smith Hall in the Smith Recital Hall. The recital was presented by the College of Arts and Media through the university's School of Music. The recital was also livestreamed by the school.

Noble, who dressed in all black attire that matched the piano he played on, performed for a crowd of about 25. The crowd was a mix of students and community members who were able to attend for free, as the event was open to all.

"For a beginning of the semester concert—especially with the pandemic going on—this is what I was expecting personally," said Michael Swagger, a School of Music grad student who worked the livestream of the performance. "This was a solo recital. It wasn't a student ensemble or anything like that, so the word wasn't as spread around possibly."

Swagger said that the low attendance was due to the ongoing pandemic and that it isn't only happening here. "I know with the pandemic and everything concert attendance has been super low with audiences. That's not just a here thing."

Noble took stage at 7:30 and gave no hesitation in playing and giving the crowd something to hear. Noble played one of his favorite pieces, "The People United Will Never Be Defeated," consisting of many variations of the Chilean protest song "El Pueblo Unido."

"I had no idea what it took to be a pianist when I was young," said Noble about his upbringing. "It wasn't until high school I started to realize I need to practice. five hours a day, minimum."

Noble said that the performance was his second live concert since the beginning of the pandemic two years ago. "I've done some streaming things just myself, but nothing live until October."

Although the small crowd meant less eyes on him, Noble said that he has gotten used to his listeners' eyes watching him play. "Probably better that I can't look at them. Facing the other way is kind of nice," said Noble. "You just get used to it."

Noble's next recital will be at Nazareth College in New York, on Sunday, May 1st at 3 p.m. The recital will be livestreamed by the college's School of Music.

Sustainability Office Adds Recycling Bins to Campus

BY ANDREW CORLISS

REPORTER | CORLISS2@MARSHALL.EDU

New recycling and compost bins around campus will help process Marshall's waste more efficiently, said Marshall's Sustainability Manager.

"We would end with a lot of trash in there. Our recycling would get contaminated, and we'd have to throw it away," said Amy Parsons-White, Marshall's sustainability manager.

Previously, Marshall's recycling and compost bins proved too nondescript and difficult to identify.

This month, six new recycling and compost bins have been placed in various locations around campus, including Drinko Library, the Student Center, and Science Building. The bins were previously received by the Sustainability Department shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, but their installation was put on hold until it was certain that in-person classes resume.



The waste in these bins will be processed along with manure donated from Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue and plant litter from around Huntington. Once turned into compost, the waste will be repurposed on campus for landscaping, the student garden and within the College of Science for plant biology courses.

Since eight tons of compost are produced per day, the leftovers will be sold by students through Marshall's agribusiness program.

The six new bins were funded by grants and totaled roughly \$20,000. Though more bins are expected to arrive in the future, the process will be gradual.

"We're doing everything we can to reduce the waste haul and save money on one side so we can take that money and re-invest in our sustainability on campus."

Students Plan to get Healthier Through New-Year's Resolutions

BY MEGAN GRAGG

REPORTER | GRAGG4@MARSHALL.EDU

The New Year brings healthier lifestyles to students as they start the new semester.

"My goal is to reach 185 pounds and to just stay healthy while I'm still in school," said junior healthcare and business management major Jay Poindexter.

Starting a healthier lifestyle is a popular New Year's resolution, with people choosing healthier eating options and reaching fitness goals. During the second week of the spring semester, many students return with goals set not only for the classroom but for their personal fitness goals as well.

"I want to be in the gym four or five days a week," said senior art and psychology major Ali Smith. "I want to do glute-based workouts

"I want to feel more confident with how I look and just be healthier overall."

two times out of the five days I go. I want to feel more confident with how I look and just be healthier overall."

Students also plan on following certain diets and choosing healthier eating options outside of the gym. Food and drink intake is key to seeing a difference in the work a person puts in at the gym.

Poindexter explained, "My diets include lean meats, veggies and staying away from sugary foods."

Meanwhile, Smith said, "I want to drink more water and take dairy out from my diet and overall, I feel like I need to cut down on sugar."

The new year and the start of a new semester brings motivation to students every year. Staying disciplined and hard at work will allow students to reach their fitness goals and lead to a healthy lifestyle.

Marshall Has A New Question At QB: A Look At Potential Herd Starters for 2022



By **TYLER KENNETT**

SPORTS EDITOR | KENNETT@MARSHALL.EDU

Marshall football head coach Charles Huff has an interesting dilemma at hand: there are now six quarterbacks on the roster eligible to take the starting role. It was announced Tuesday that quarterback Henry Colombi, a standout Florida native for Texas Tech, would be transferring to the Herd.

Here is a short breakdown of each of Marshall's six quarterbacks on the roster.

Henry Colombi

Colombi spent his last two seasons at Texas Tech, but was originally recruited by Utah State. He was a starter in 13 games for Utah State, totaling 460 passing yards and 139 rushing yards. Upon arrival at Texas Tech, Colombi totaled 2,356 passing yards in his two years with the Red Raiders. He will look to spend his last year of eligibility at Marshall. Colombi possesses dual-threat abilities, regularly setting his highlight reel to the tune of long rushes. He enters Marshall after averaging 8.3 yards per carry

during his first year at Utah State. He was originally rated as a 3-star recruit.

Luke Zban

Luke Zban returns as one of two scholarship quarterbacks for Marshall. In 2021, the redshirt sophomore appeared in seven different games, typically in relief for Grant Wells. Statistically, Zban was accurate, completing 66% of his passes. He had 249 total yards on the season. Prior to the arrival of Colombi, Zban was the most experienced passer on the roster. He hails from Huntington High School, originally joining Marshall as a walk-on. He is a success story for the Herd, being a multi-time Offensive Scout Team Player of the Year and receiving a scholarship prior to the 2020 season.

Cam Fancher

Cam Fancher, a freshman from Huber Heights, Ohio, was originally rated a 3-star prospect by ESPN and 247sports. He passed for 1,944 yards while also rushing for 602 yards. He was a multi-position athlete in high school, playing as both quarterback and wide receiver. Fancher

also won the state championship in the triple jump during his time in high school. In his first year at Marshall, he was placed in the game during the final drive vs N.C. Central. He completed 2 of his 3 passes and added a pair of rushes for 15 yards. The game ended shortly after a final shot at the endzone, showing Fancher's ability to operate in the final minutes of games. He looks to potentially be a dual-threat option for Marshall, as one of the best athletes available at the position.

Cole Pennington

Cole Pennington has quite the name to live up to as the son of Marshall legend Chad Pennington. However, he has shown signs to potentially be a star recruit for the Herd. As another 3-star, he played football and basketball for Sayre School in Lexington, Kentucky. He shined as a passer for Sayre, completing 27 touchdown passes as a junior, joining two other quarterbacks in the 2022 cycle. Pennington seems to play best in the pocket or on bootleg plays. His high school highlights tend to find him in the shotgun, willing to wait the maximum amount of time for the best pass. On one

play, the snap was found going over his head. He recovers it, rolls out and throws a perfect shot through contact. He seems ready for the next level, showing the patience of a veteran pocket passer.

Peter Zamora

Peter Zamora enters Huntington as a 3-star quarterback from South Carolina. Some fans may remember Zamora from an article written by Bleacher Report that reported he was working out with Antonio Brown. Yes, that Antonio Brown, prior to his NFL return. He used to serve as one of AB's "personal QBs". In the final season of his high school career, Zamora threw for over 200 yards per game and totaled 11 touchdowns. He started all four years of his high school career, nearly totaling 5000 yards. Zamora was highly touted as a prospect, receiving an offer from C-USA opponent EAU as well. Film of Zamora shows his ability to throw the deep ball, finding pockets in double coverage regularly. Many of his great throws that find his receivers are found when he has comfortability in the pocket. Despite this, he is also able to find the same openings outside

of the pocket. Zamora is an accurate passer with a strong arm, potentially bringing deep ball value to a Marshall team full of speed at the WR position.

Chase Harrison

Harrison, the final QB on the list, was yet another 3-star recruit for the Herd in 2022 at the QB position. He received a whopping 10 different offers, including Louisville, Penn and Ohio. Standing at 6-2, he is a pro-style quarterback. As a senior, Harrison averaged 194 yards per game at 64% completion. He has never been a turnover prone quarterback, throwing only 7 interceptions to go against his 25 touchdown passes. He also averaged 3.3 yards per carry. While his 40-yard dash, verified as a 4.96, is slow when compared to a "mobile" quarterback, many of his greatest plays at Centerville came outside of the pocket. He regularly scrambled to the outside, shedding tackles and making throws on the run. He has a style that seems to be inspired by modern, Mahomes-like, quarterbacks: making deep shots on the run and finding receivers in the flat while on the run for smart completions.

Kinsey Has Career Night As Thundering Herd Suffers Seventh Consecutive Loss



Courtesy of herdzone.com

...continued from page 1

By JUSTIN ZIMMER

REPORTER | ZIMMER3@MARSHALL.EDU

...In the first 15 minutes, Marshall played its best basketball of the night and came back from the thirteen-point deficit at the half. With eight minutes and 35 seconds remaining in the contest, Marshall was able to come back and tie the game.

For the next few minutes after the tie, the Herd and the Owls were

trading baskets; however, Marshall was never able to get the lead in the ballgame successfully.

After the game, Marshall guard Kinsey talked about the frustration about having the game be close at the end and not being able to close the game out. "It's been the constant for a couple of games," said Kinsey. "I mean you put your hand on the stove and you get burnt and you put your hand on the stove again, and I feel

like we're constantly killing ourselves. Another team isn't killing us, they're making shots, but we are killing ourselves, and this is not the third, fourth or fifth - I don't even know - this is the sixth or seventh game we lost to man in a crucial moment of the game and it has to stop." Kinsey added that "we have to making the winning plays in the stretch."

Head Coach Dan D'Antoni addressed the lack of offense and

spoke about how in Conference USA and in basketball, there is a great need for shooting.

"That's what I told the young kids that are on our bench if you can't shoot you can't play in this league. You can't play basketball anymore without shooters you have to have shooters especially at our level if your not getting the big physical athlete that the G5's grab up."

D'Antoni mentioned "So you got

to be skilled and that's the biggest and most important skill is shooting and right now we are not shooting the ball well enough to beat teams that shoot like they do."

With the loss, Marshall falls to 0-4 in Conference Play and 7-10 overall. Marshall is back in action Thursday night when the Thundering Herd takes on the Florida International Panthers. Tipoff is at 7:00, and the game will be broadcasted on ESPN plus.

OPINION

Welcome back to campus from new President Brad Smith

By **BRAD D. SMITH**

Brad Smith is the 38th President of Marshall University and former CEO of Intuit

Hello! I'm very excited to welcome you back to Marshall University. I hope you are as energized and motivated for this spring semester, as I am to be your new president.

As we begin this journey together, I want to share a few of my central thoughts and ideas in hopes you will consider them as you continue your studies here at Marshall.

First, I sincerely believe that education is the great equalizer. Education transforms obstacles into opportunities and levels the playing field

of opportunity for all who have the aspiration and the grit to try.

Like many of you, I am a native of West Virginia from a small town. I attended the West Virginia public school system and I'm a proud Son of Marshall. Everything I have ever achieved in life is because someone saw something in me that I didn't see in myself and they invested in me.

I've been preparing for this new role as your president my entire life although, as most of you know, I have spent my career in business; specifically the tech industry. As a result, I've enjoyed a dynamic life with many opportunities. Now, I see this position as a way serve the community and state that invested in me, and to pay it forward.

Your college education will open many doors for you, and those doors will lead to a variety of opportunities. I encourage you to be open to exploring the vast number of experiences that will come your way. Enjoying a breadth of experiences will allow you to discover things that inspire you, while identifying areas that do not fill you with passion or purpose. Both are important lessons to learn.

Mark Twain once said that the two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you discover why. I encourage you to capitalize on this time in your life to discover your why! A great book that I have found powerful in assisting with this discovery is *The Defining Decade: Why Your Twenties Matter And How To Make The Most Of Them Now* by Meg Jay. I



encourage you to check it out.

I wish you the best in your studies this semester at Marshall and I look forward to hearing from all of you in the listening sessions that are scheduled for students. Please visit www.marshall.edu/news/listen for the dates and times. As my mother always said, "I've been given two ears and one mouth, and I should use them in that ratio." Thus, the reason for my Listening Tour and my excitement to hear from you.

Thank you for choosing Marshall and best wishes for a successful 2022!

President Smith can be contacted at president@marshall.edu

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THE PARTHENON'S CORRECTIONS POLICY

"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."

Snow, Ice Blast Through South With Powerful Winter Storm



VEHICLES NAVIGATE HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS ALONG INTERSTATE 85/40 AS A WINTER STORM MOVES THROUGH THE AREA IN MEBANE, N.C. SUNDAY, JAN. 16, 2022 GERRY BROOME | AP



A MOTORIST LEAVES WIPER BLADES EXPOSED IN ANTICIPATION OF HEAVY SNOWFALL IN SOUTHWEST ROANOKE CITY ON SUNDAY JAN. 16 2022 IN ROANOKE, V.A. DON PETERSON | AP

BY PAMELA SAMPSON AND KIM CHANDLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP) — A dangerous winter storm combining high winds and ice swept through parts of the U.S. Southeast on Sunday, knocking out power, felling trees and fences and coating roads with a treacherous, frigid glaze.

Tens of thousands of customers were without power in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Highway patrols reported hundreds of vehicle accidents, and a tornado ripped through a trailer park in Florida. More than 1,200 Sunday flights at Charlotte Douglas International were cancelled — more than 90% of the airport's Sunday schedule, according to the flight tracking service flightaware.com.

Winter Storm Izzy dumped as much as 10 inches of snow in some areas of western North Carolina as the system moved across the southeastern U.S., said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

First Sgt. Christopher Knox, a North Carolina Highway Patrol

spokesperson, said that by midafternoon, the agency had responded to 300 car crashes and nearly 800 calls for service. Two people died Sunday when their car drove off the road and into trees in a median east of Raleigh. The driver and passenger, both 41-year-old South Carolina residents, were pronounced dead at the scene of the single-vehicle crash. Knox said investigators believe the car was driving too fast for the conditions, described as mixed winter precipitation.

Durham police tweeted a photo of a tractor-trailer that slid off the N.C. Highway 147 overpass in Durham. The truck's cab appeared to have landed upright on Highway 15-501 below, while the trailer came down in a vertical position from the bridge to the highway below. Police spokesperson Kammie Michael said the driver was stable with injuries that did not appear life-threatening.

Kristen Baker Morrow's 6-year-old son made snow angels after their home in Crouse, North Carolina, got four inches of snow

Sunday morning, but she said they couldn't stay outside long because of the uncomfortable wind chill.

"It took 30 to 45 minutes to get everything on for about 10 minutes in the snow, but it was definitely worth it for him, to get our pictures and make some memories," said Morrow.

Outages, which had ballooned to a quarter-million customers earlier in the day, stood at around 130,000 customers by late Sunday, according to poweroutage.us. North Carolina was hardest hit, peaking at some 90,000 outages. Parts of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Kentucky also lost power.

The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado with 118 mph winds (190 kph) struck southwest Florida. The weather service said the tornado was on the ground for almost two miles (3 kilometers) with a maximum path width of 125 yards (115 meters). Thirty mobile homes were destroyed and 51 had major damage. Three minor injuries were reported.