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The Parthenon, September 21, 2022

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Smith's Goal to End Student Debt in 10 Years



Brad D. Smith speaks to spectators during his investiture last Friday.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By TYLER SPENCE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

During the investiture of Brad D. Smith, the university's 38th president, Smith waited until the end of his speech to announce a goal that would dramatically change the landscape of Marshall University.

"In 10 years, no Marshall student will graduate with student debt," Smith said.

Smith said the university needs to raise \$300 million to achieve this goal, an amount that he believes is possible in part due to the recent "Marshall Rises" campaign that raised over \$100 million in just

a few years.

"I have complete confidence... people have been looking to see what is the vision we can latch on to after Marshall Rises, and everyone wants to help the next generation," Smith said.

The program will contain four pieces: students filling out a FAFSA every year, asking for family contributions to match what is expected from FAFSA, a robust work-study program and encouraging students to graduate in four years.

Continued on Page 2.

Students and Parents Find Resources in Old Main

By MORGAN PEMBERTON
STUDENT REPORTER

Two changing tables and two lactation rooms are the only readily available resources on campus for full time parents or expecting parents.

The struggles of being a parent and a student at the same time were the topics of discussion the counseling center wanted to tackle in the meeting. The meeting took place in the Women's and

Continued on Page 3.

Gender Center in Old Main.

"At the counseling center we all kind of got together and decided that, because a lot of us are parents, that parents needed more resources and support and advocating," Alisha Martin, a mental health specialist in the counseling center, said.

NEED A LIFT? HITCH A RIDE ON THE GREEN MACHINE A MARSHALL UNIVERSITY & TTA PARTNERSHIP!

An advertisement for the Marshall University Green Machine bus. It features a large green 'M' logo with 'MARSHALL' written across it. Below the logo, it says 'Marshall students ride FREE with I.D.'. There is a photo of the bus and a small graphic of a cow. A schedule is provided: 'RUNNING SIX DAYS A WEEK! GO WHERE YOU WANT & GET THERE SAFELY!'. The schedule lists: MONDAY (THRU THURSDAY) 7:30am-3:00pm; FRIDAY & SATURDAY 3:00pm-7:00pm; NIGHT BUS (BOULEVARD) 7:00pm-11:00pm. A list of stops includes: PULLMAN SQUARE, VISUAL ARTS CENTER, ENGINEERING COMPLEX, FOOTBALL STADIUM, and KROGER. The phone number (304) 829-3929 is listed at the bottom.

Running Six Days a Week!

Standard Daytime Service:

20-minute loop along 3rd, 4th and 5th Avenues between 7:30am & 3:00pm

Stops at Pullman Square (Visual Arts Center, Huntington's Kitchen), Keith Albee & More!

Afternoon Service:

30-minute loop, route extended to include 5th Avenue Kroger from 3:00pm to 7:00pm

SATURDAY SERVICE

Saturday:
3:00pm-7pm

The logo for the Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA) is shown in red and blue. Below it, the text 'TRI-STATE TRANSIT AUTHORITY' is written in blue. To the right is a white bus icon. Below the logo, the text '529-RIDE' is written in large blue letters.

THE GREEN MACHINE
DOWNLOAD ROUTESHOUT
WWW.TTA-WV.COM
(304) 529-7433

Investiture continued from front page

After students graduate, the university will attempt to use scholarships and grants to offset the remaining bill for the student.

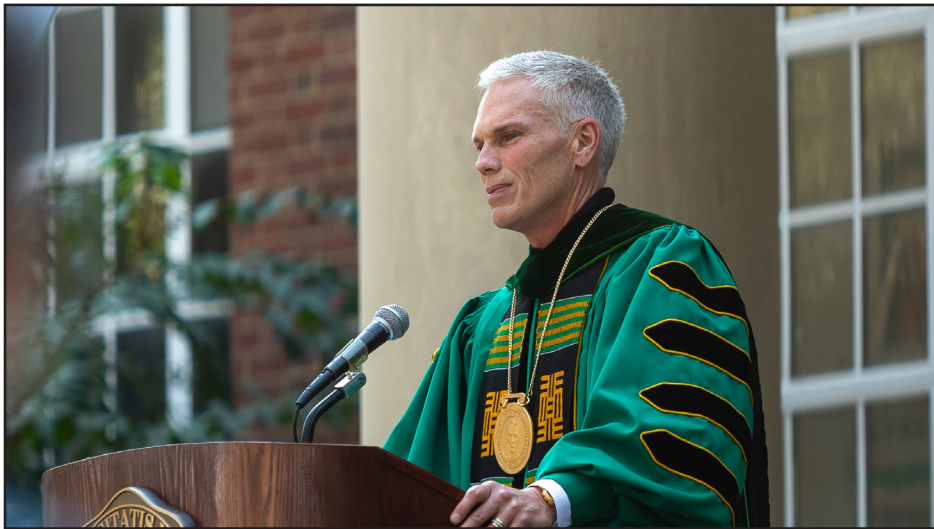
Smith said during his speech that 63% of Marshall students leave with an average of \$26,000 in debt. Student debt has been a pressing issue politically, with President Biden announcing last month a plan that will wipe out tens of thousands of student debt for millions of Americans.

Smith said the university will start with a pilot program that will begin with 100 students in the fall of 2023 that will begin the program.

The program is designed to scale when the program has more funding.

Smith said the first 100 students will be selected randomly, but based proportionally on what states and counties students come from.

During his speech, Smith was honest about the financial situation the university has found itself in. Since 2010, enrollment at Marshall has decreased by 22%. Smith likened the situation to a golfer being stuck in the sand trap saying: "We might be in the sand trap, but we have the right club and the right swing to get out."



William Smith, Retired Superintendent at Cabell County Board of Education speaking at the investiture



Student Body President Bella Griffiths with Vice President Walker Tatum

Photos by Shauntelle Thompson

BOG Approves New Funding Formula

By **CONNER WOODRUFF**
NEWS EDITOR

A motion in support of the income-based funding formula introduced by the West Virginia Legislature was passed by Marshall's Board of Governors.

"It allows us to set our sights on the things and prioritize the outcomes that will benefit the institution as a whole," Jason Baldwin, interim chief financial officer said.

The board of governors has communicated with higher education programs around the state to create the most appropriate formula for Marshall University.

"The appropriate mission weight for Marshall University that will match our strengths over the next five years to achieve both the best outcomes for our students in our state, but also for the university as well," Marshall University president Brad Smith said.

"We feel very good with the outcomes."

Smith said that the formula counts in-state and out of state students equally, which he views as a positive considering the university's role in the greater metro area.

"That is particularly important for MU as we have expanded into the metro region as you know, with 59 counties, Kentucky and Ohio which we will draw students in from," Smith said.

In Mar. 2022 the West Virginia Legislature introduced House Bill 4008, which essentially means the legislature needs to account for a university's graduation and retention rates, enrollment numbers and other benchmarks to calculate how much money the school is to earn in state funding.

How to Get a Student Loan Refund



Photo courtesy of AP/ Manuel Balce Ceneta

By **ADRIANA MORGA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — When President Joe Biden announced a plan to forgive student loan debt, many borrowers who kept making payments during the pandemic wondered if they'd made the right choice.

Who is eligible for a refund?

Borrowers who hold eligible federal student loans and have made voluntary payments since March 13, 2020, can get a refund, according to the Department of

Education. For some people, that refund will be automatic. You can get a refund without applying if your payments brought your loan balance below the maximum debt relief amount: \$10,000 for all borrowers, and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers can check their balance in their studentaid.gov account.

For example, if a borrower paid \$100 a month for 10 months of the pandemic and their balance is now \$8,000, that \$1,000 will

automatically be refunded. Then they can apply to get the rest of their debt forgiven.

But if a borrower paid throughout the pandemic and still owes \$14,000, they won't get an automatic refund. They can, however, apply to have \$10,000 of that debt erased.

Another group of people that has to apply for a refund is those who completely paid off their loan balance during the pandemic. If that's you, you're eligible for loan forgiveness, but you'll have to request a refund prior to applying for debt relief. Borrowers should confirm their eligibility for the loan forgiveness program prior to requesting a refund.

For example, if a borrower had \$5,000 in debt at the start of the pandemic and paid it all back during the freeze, but is eligible for up to \$10,000 in forgiveness, they would apply for a \$5,000 refund, then apply to have their debt forgiven.

"Borrowers who paid off their loans during the pause will need to request a refund first, then request cancellation," said a spokesperson from the Department of Education.

Students and Parents continued from front page

"That was one of our goals was to create a parenting group so that people could come and discuss how they're struggling, how they're juggling being a parent versus school and work and all their struggles that come along with that."

Martin added that she and the rest of the counselors in the future want to have more meetings where they give out resources for time management and coping skills on how to deal with anxiety and depression.

One of the resources that was discussed was for Title IX, which is a law against discrimination towards parents and expecting parents. This resource was given to the women that were there, to let them know that they have rights.

Another resource that was discussed was that there is a church that gives out diapers to parents for their babies across the

street.

"I think generally speaking we're a place where any student can voice any concern they have regarding gender or women's issues, and we also offer a lot of campus and community supports that students may not know about," Blair Bocook, a coordinator for the Women's and Gender center, said. "And this group in particular I think is often not always thought about you know when thinking about resources for students, but the truth is we have a lot of students who are parenting full time or expecting students, and they are facing unique challenges."

The counselors and the Women's and Gender Center are striving to provide more resources for students and parents, and with the women's feedback, they can achieve it.

Residency Program Offered on Campus

By **LUCY BELL**
STUDENT REPORTER

Residency programs across the country offer student artists the opportunity to expand their skills outside of the classroom setting. One student took a chance on a summer residency completely outside of her creative wheelhouse.

The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts accepted Alexa Preston, a Marshall University senior, into their tapestry weaving residency this past July. As a studio art major with an emphasis on ceramics, Preston

threw herself into this program without any background in weaving.

"I'd never done anything with weaving before, and I decided to throw myself into something that I had no experience with. It was really a decision that I came to because I didn't want to just keep doing the same stuff that I knew how to do," Preston said.

The residency program hosted Preston on their campus in Gatlinburg, TN for one week,

making the process an accelerated undertaking for her. The short time frame contributed to the draw of the program according to Preston.

"I thought that it was an expedited way for me to get a taste of what it's like to make my own natural colors and weaving," Preston said. "How else would I have the opportunity to learn something like that? You have to think about the materials and what it takes to do those things and the number of hours it takes

to learn that kind of stuff on your own."

Students benefit largely from residency programs as they are given the opportunity to break out of the mold that their normal day-to-day classes usually keep them in, according to Jamie Platt, School of Art and Design gallery director.

"A residency offers students a chance to get out of their normal environment and make art in a place that doesn't have anything

to do with what they're working on in school," Platt said. "When you get a chance to go out in the world and see that actually, it's very broad and that people are learning different things in different places it can really enhance what you think of yourself as an artist and what's possible for you," Platt said.

Homecoming Made More Inclusive



2021 Homecoming Mr. and Mrs. Marshall with winners from 2020 with former University President, Jerome Gilbert, and Jessica Kern Huff.

By **BREA SMITH**
STAFF REPORTER

With the big homecoming game approaching, the ballot for Mr. and Miss. Marshall is up, but the application will be a little different this year. The title of Mr. and Miss Marshall has been a university tradition since the 1940's, but the new coordinator for student activities has plans to make it more inclusive.

Katie Stanley, the new student activities coordinator and co-chair of homecoming festivities, has been working with Matt James, assistant dean of student and intercultural affairs, on how to make Mr. and Miss Marshall more inclusive for students who don't identify as Mr. or Miss. Matt James, current assistant dean of student affairs, had several LGBTQ+ students approach him after President Smith's listening tour last spring wanting to have a Mx. option for homecoming court.

James thought, "Do we have a third option? Would adding a third option be inclusive even though it's still separate? Are we still separating students this way? It was just on my conscience for a while until Katie

got hired." The debate has been going on since the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in 2012, but students are asking for a third option, and Stanley being hired sparked it.

Student Body President Bella Griffiths and Vice President Walker Tatum approached Stanley about ways to make the court more inclusive but keep the tradition.

"I was approached by Bella and Walker about this because they knew that WVU had recently changed their homecoming court winners and referred to them as homecoming royalty," Stanley said. From there, Stanley, Griffiths, Tatum and James started figuring out how to do this.

James and Stanley discussed the third option with members of the LGBTQ+ community and representatives of the LGBTQ+ office. After a few conversations, it was decided that the third option would be a fill-in-the-blank, allowing students to choose what they are most comfortable with. Stanley said, "I wanted to leave it open to them. Because I don't feel like as a straight

woman, I don't really have a good grasp on what's appropriate for them and what makes them feel included. So, by doing this, it kind of lets them have control over what their title is."

Even the way homecoming elections are promoted will be changing according to James: "In the past, the way that we have promoted the homecoming elections is we would encourage students to run for Mr. or Miss Marshall; Katie's going to promote this as running for homecoming court and being part of Marshall royalty." He added onto this by saying, "This year we're just going to take the top two students based on how they want to be identified in the application process."

"Katie has found a perfect balance of how we can include everybody without eliminating the tradition. So, it's not like we're doing away with the titles, but the titles are going to evolve," James said. Stanley and James are planning to hold focus groups to see if this is what the student body wants and use that for future homecoming courts.

Fully Virtual Master's Course Available at MU



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **MATT SCHAFER**
STUDENT REPORTER

An online-only option for the Master's of Social Work program will be available at the this semester Marshall University is now offering

This allows students with a Bachelor of Social Work degree with a focus on behavioral health administration to continue their education while maintaining flexibility in their schedule. The hope is to allow social work students the ability to further advance their careers without requiring any sort of commute to campus.

"We wanted to target non-traditional students," Shikeal Harris, the admissions coordinator for the program, said. "We want an option for people who work 40 hours a week and parent without having to interrupt their daily routine."

The program requires students to complete 36 academic credit hours—including nine hours of field education—with no face-to-face or hybrid courses and focuses on careers in behavioral health administration. The flexibility of the program has

already drawn a lot of interest from students.

"We have had a lot of interest in the program. We're seeing a lot of people reach out," Harris said.

Harris presented the online Master of Social Work program in October 2021 and Marshall started offering the program in June 2022. The social work department at Marshall University plans to begin offering more online-only programs soon.

"We're beginning to talk about taking the mainstream programs online," Harris said. "We want to focus on our community, but also students from other universities that don't offer online options."

Currently, the online-only program is only offered to students with a focus on behavioral health, which will prepare them for clinical work such as assessing, treating, and evaluating mental health, drug abuse and physical health.

Marshall University Counseling Center Hosts "We Are... Here For You Day"



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **DESTINEY DINGESS**
STUDENT REPORTER

In honor of National Suicide Awareness Month, Marshall University's Counseling Center sponsored We Are... Here For You Day to give mental health information and resources to students.

The We Are... Here for You Day let students know there are so many people here for them on campus and all the amazing services that Marshall has to offer.

"We are a community and that we are here to help," Lindsey Beck, Clinical G.A for the psychology department, said.

"Events like this are important because when I was in my undergrad, I didn't know about the counseling center or that it was offered to students for free," Destinee Legget, a student intern at Marshall's counseling center, said. "A lot of people don't even know where Prichard Hall is, so I think it's crucial to get the word out there and just remind people that mental health is important."

"It's important to get the word out that depression is a thing because some people don't believe that," Legget said. "People may have suicidal thoughts and they don't want to talk about it. It's important for me to get the word out especially to the African American community because they don't like to talk about mental health."

Besides giving students free food, hygiene products and mental health resources, the Prevent Suicide West Virginia booth was giving out a promotional with the new 988 number and the suicide prevention text line: 741741. They were also informing students on tell-tell signs of depression and suicide they could look out for to help loved ones.

"The good thing to do is notice a person, and if you know them and they're kind of acting strange, maybe saying something like 'I give up,' 'the world would be better off without me,' 'I can't do this anymore,' or maybe people that have never been into drugs start using, their appearance

and hygiene is getting worse, if they are withdrawing from you or anyone else, those could be signs something may be going on," Mark Mason, intervention specialist at Prevent Suicide West Virginia, said. "It's okay to be nosy; it's always okay to ask that question: 'are you thinking about suicide?' Because asking that question can open the floodgates for that person to release what's going on. So, it's okay to say that seven-letter word: suicide."

Mason wants everyone to know that it's okay to talk about your mental health and seek help.

"There is help there, and it's okay to get help, just like if you break your hand, you want to go to the hospital and get it fixed, so when you are dealing with some mental issues, it's okay to get counseling. It's okay to get help," Mason said.

Mason wants to challenge every student and faculty member to put the 988 number and the 741741-text line number on their phones so that they could be visible to their students and to them.

Marshall University Hosts Faces of Physics Speakers Series Day

By **MATTHEW SCHAFFER**
STUDENT REPORTER

The natural resource industry offers a number of opportunities for Marshall's geophysics students according to the opening speaker at the Faces of Physics Speakers Series on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Andrew Muñoz graduated with a bachelors in geophysics at Texas A&M before moving on to the Colorado School of Mines for his masters. He would then go on to intern for Newfield Exploration Company and Devon Energy before continuing his career with Ensign focusing on seismic exploration.

"One of the most important things in our field is to use and collect mentors," Muñoz said during his speech.

He went on to say, with regards to the future of students pursuing a career in geophysics, the natural resource industry remains vital despite climate change; however, improvements must continue to be made.

"A lot of people around the world have this hopefulness that we can be completely independent of fossil fuels; however, oil provides most of the power in the world," Muñoz said.

"But we, as the oil and gas industry, need to continue to get better and continue to be environmentally conscious of the areas we impact and our impact on the world."

"Mr. Muñoz is a perfect example of someone in the industry that performs research beyond the academic setting," Dr. Sean McBride, assistant

professor in the physics department at Marshall's College of Science, said.

The Society of Physics Students hosts the series as a way to highlight underrepresented groups and promote inclusion and diversity in the field of physics. Muñoz, by choosing to pursue a career in the private sector with Ensign Natural Resources, not only represents the diversity within physics, but also the diversity in career paths that physics students have open to them.

"The Faces of Physics is a way to have those who may be underrepresented in physics to see people who are like them applying their skills to the field," Eli Williamson, senior and president of the Society of Physics Students, said. "For me, it's important to have someone to look up to in a community that you're a part of. Nowadays you have more and more people trying to break into these communities."

The future of the Faces of Physics series is looking bright as well, Williamson believes, with more speakers planned for this semester and plans to continue the series for years to come.

"I see the series continuing and going strong for a long-time. The goal is to get more people involved in physics and the department," Williamson said.

Both Williamson and McBride hope that the series will grow and get students interested in the Physics program, as well as encourage future students to attend Marshall University.

Marshall Loses on the Road in Overtime Against Bowling Green



Photo via HerdZone

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall lost to Bowling Green in overtime by a final score of 34-31 Saturday night.

The Herd came into the game looking to build on their recent road upset win against then No. 8 Notre Dame.

Marshall started quickly in the first quarter as quarterback Henry Colombi found wide receiver Corey Gammage for a 51-yard touchdown just a minute into the game.

After a three and out from Bowling Green, Colombi found WR Caleb McMillan for a 78-yard touchdown just over a minute later, putting up the Herd 14-0.

Marshall ended up only scoring twice the rest of the game. Those touchdowns would be a five-yard and an eight-yard run from running back Khalan Laborn, who finished with 157 yards rushing.

Bowling Green outscored

Marshall 34-17 from the second quarter on, after Bowling Green's QB Matt McDonald finished 27 of 45, 282 yards through the air, with four touchdowns.

Colombi finished 23 of 34, 338 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception.

Bowling Green won the turnover battle, as Marshall would have two fumbles and an interception versus Bowling Green's zero turnovers.

Bowling Green walked off in overtime after McDonald found RB Ta'ron Keith for a two-yard score.

Marshall came into the game being ranked No. 26 in the latest AP poll, receiving 85 votes.

Marshall will go on the road against Troy next Saturday at 7 p.m. on NFL Network.

No. 7 Marshall vs No. 6 Kentucky Ends in Draw

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 7 ranked Marshall University men's soccer team tied with No. 6 Kentucky in the Sun Belt Conference opener by a final score of 1-1 Friday night, Sept. 16.

Marshall's breakout freshman, Matthew Bell, found the back of the net first in the 47th minute. It tallied his nation-leading seventh goal of

the season. The score was assisted by freshman Adam Aoumaich and Graduate Vinicius Fernandes.

Kentucky quickly tied the contest in the 53rd minute as Senior Nick Gutmann scored his third goal of the season.

Marshall's Aoumaich, Yosef, and Souza each received a yellow card,

while Kentucky's Rodrigues and Holstad each had one.

Kentucky outshot Marshall 12-7, while Marshall had more shots on goal, 5-4.

Marshall (4-1-1) will host in-state rival West Virginia next Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:15 p.m.

Marshall Volleyball Sweeps the South

By **JOHNATHAN EDWARDS**
STUDENT REPORTER

After a dominant team win against Furman on the road in Greenville, South Carolina, on Friday night, the quick turnaround Saturday didn't stop Marshall Volleyball from success. The Herd went from Greenville to Spartanburg, South Carolina, to take on USC-Upstate.

Upstate had one win in their last ten matches and Marshall continued the struggle. Marshall had swept the Paladins of Furman three sets to none the night before. The Herd did it twice a row and on the road.

Marshall took all three sets against the Upstate Spartans, who, after their loss, Saturday dropped to 2-10. This weekend featured Marshall taking all six sets in which they ruled the opponents'

hometown courts.

This weekend road trip was the conclusion of non-conference matchups, as the "preseason" campaign is over. Though it's considered preseason, the record remains. Marshall is now back over .500, standing at 6-5.

As for the three sets on Saturday, Marshall's performance was led by newsworthy mainstay Macy McElhaney, who is putting together a solid first month of the season. Every weekend, win or lose, her name is constantly mentioned as a true court general. McElhaney led the team with 15 blocks, an assist, and an ace to complement.

While she's been putting up good numbers, the team had been expecting more from her and

was not completely satisfied with her outings until now. Marshall volleyball head coach Ari Aganus was reassured after this weekend. "This weekend, she proved us all right," Aganus said.

Out of the three sets Saturday, only one was close, that being the second. The first and third, however, were lopsided in favor of the visiting Herd. Marshall won the three sets by a combined score of 75-49, proving a genuinely dominant day.

Marshall starts their inaugural quest for a Sun Belt championship as they kick off conference play this Thursday at Old Dominion, with the action beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bolly's Bets Looks at NFL Week Three and CFB Week Four

By **ZACH BOLLINGER**
SPORTS COLUMNIST

OPINION

Last week was not a good one for Bolly's Bets, but the best part about a new week is there are new games to look so let's get right into it.

Marshall vs. Troy

Last week I said that Marshall -16.5 against Bowling Green was disrespectful, and it looked incredible 5 minutes into the game, then the wheels fell off. Well, a new week means a new opponent for the Thundering Herd, who will travel to Troy to take on the Trojans. This is Marshall's third consecutive road game. The line currently sits at Marshall -3.5 against the Trojans. Even if Rasheen Ali is still out, I think Marshall controls the

game on the ground as they look to get back on track after a disappointing loss to Bowling Green. I will stay away from the spread and take the Marshall Moneyline.

West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech

Former Marshall quarterback Grant Wells gets his shot at the other West Virginia school this week as the Mountaineers will travel to Blacksburg to take on the Hokies of Virginia Tech. The line currently sits at West Virginia -2.5. Both starting quarterbacks -JT Daniels and Grant Wells- have struggled in their first few games at their new schools. West Virginia is going to need to create turnovers if

it's going to win this game. I think the value in this game lies in the Virginia Tech +2.5- If you can find +3, that's even better.

USC vs. Oregon State

The Pac-12 starts conference play as #7 USC travels to Oregon State to take on the Beavers. The opening line for the game has USC -6.5. USC has proven to be one of the nation's top offenses, scoring 152 points this year so far- all against FBS teams. Oregon State has one of the worst pass rush grades in the nation compared to USC's 9th-best ranked offensive line. Look for Caleb Williams to be able to read kids' bedtime stories while in

the pocket this week. Oregon State has flexed offensive firepower as well to start the year. I think this game could come down to the turnover battle and which defense steps up in a big moment. I'm going to take USC -6.5.

Kansas City Chiefs vs. Indianapolis Colts

The Kansas City Chiefs are favored in this game by 6.5 points- not even a total touchdown. The Colts are coming off a game where they were shut out by the Jacksonville Jaguars a week after tying with the Houston Texans. I'll give you a second to let that marinate. The Chiefs are coming off a win on Thursday night vs. the LA

Chargers. Between the extra rest the Chiefs get and how poorly the Colts have played this year, I think this game is pretty simple. I love Chiefs -6.5.

New England Patriots vs. Baltimore Ravens

I usually finish every Bolly's Bets by giving my prediction for my hometown Baltimore Ravens; however, due to blowing a 21-point lead in the 4th quarter last week to lose to the Miami Dolphins, I have decided to take a mental health break from giving Ravens advice. Ravens -3.

Zach Bolinger is the co-host of the Fratletes podcast.



WR Shadeed Ahmed attempts catch in week one against Norfolk State

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



OPINION

The Problem With Commuting

By **TYLER SPENCE**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

According to data from the office of institutional data, over 60% of Marshall students commuted to campus.

Removing students who live directly adjacent to campus should bring this number down significantly - however, I believe this number would still be too high for Marshall to grow enrollment and better the student experience.

As someone who commuted my first two years at Marshall and then lived a five-minute walk to most of my classes for the next two years, I have personally experienced the difference between these two student lifestyles.

Commuting students, those who do not live within reasonable walking distance to the main campus, cannot reasonably be expected to be as full members of the Marshall community compared to their on-campus or near-campus peers, to no fault of their own.

Data shows that commuter students are more likely to drop out and less likely to get good grades. If we are to treat students equitably, this is a pressing concern for the future of Marshall's enrollment health.

The first step in decreasing the number of commuter students is the most painful: decreasing the radius

of who is allowed to commute. The current radius of 50 miles is significantly too wide. This means students theoretically as far south as Crum, West Virginia, and as far east as Charleston are allowed to commute.

Additional steps to facilitate these changes address two fundamental aspects of the commuter problem - the cost of living on campus compared to scholarships offered and the lack of resources for the students who commute.

If the university were to cut the radius of those allowed to commute, additional scholarships and aid money would need to be provided in order to help cover the cost of residence halls without students plunging into student debt.

Commuter students often choose to live at home to save money, at the cost to the student experience. The student experience needs to be too much to give up in relation to the cost of living on campus.

Marshall residence halls are not priced at market value in the Huntington area. For Freshman North and South, it costs almost \$1,000 a month for a standard double occupancy room. This price is set by the university and a private entity in a public/private partnership. Lowering the cost of

these rooms, especially in residence halls like the Twin Towers, would keep these options competitive and fill empty rooms that would be vacant.

Finally, those students who still choose to commute after these changes need additional resources and opportunities to become full members of the Marshall community.

This includes simple additions like free lockers to store backpacks and committing to creating welcoming spaces for commuters in areas currently under-utilized. The "commuter lounge" at the bottom of the student center is nothing but a shell of a 2019 relic that used to have functional pool and ping-pong tables. It says a lot about what the university prioritizes when this space is barren and the FAQs for commuter student page has not been updated in over 5 years.

The long-term health of Marshall's enrollment depends on the success and happiness of the current generation. Students are naturally attracted to schools with vibrant and active student life. Even with a large commuter population, this is still possible with the right effort and attention.

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.

Tyler Spence - Executive Editor
Evan Green - Managing Editor
Conner Woodruff - News Editor
Chayce Matheny - Sports Editor
Victoria Ware - Features Editor
Shauntelle Thompson - Photo and Graphics Editor
Rafael Alfonso - Copy Editor
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Manchin Rails Against 'Revenge Politics' on Permit Plan

By **MATTHEW DALY**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Joe Manchin on Tuesday railed against what he called “revenge politics,” as liberals in the House and Senate team up with Republicans to oppose his plan to speed permits for natural gas pipelines and other energy projects.

Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Energy Committee, secured a commitment from President Joe Biden and Democratic leaders to include the permitting package in a stopgap government-funding bill in return for his support of a landmark law to curb climate change.

But in the weeks since Biden signed

so-called Inflation Reduction Act last month, Democrats and environmental groups have lined up to oppose the permitting plan, calling it bad for the country and the climate. Climate hawks such as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey, along with dozens of House members, say the permitting plan should be excluded from the must-pass spending bill.

Many Republicans agree. Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, the top Republican on the Senate energy panel, called the permitting deal a “political payoff” to Manchin, whose vote on the climate bill was crucial to the law’s passage.

Manchin’s actions on the climate — including secret negotiations with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. — “engendered a lot of bad blood” among Republicans, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, told reporters. “There’s not a lot of sympathy on our side to provide Sen. Manchin a reward.”

At a news conference Tuesday, Manchin expressed bewilderment at such sentiment, saying he’s “never seen” such an example of “revenge politics,” with Sanders and the “extreme liberal left siding up with Republican leadership” to oppose his plan.

“It’s revenge towards one person — me,” Manchin said.

“I’m hearing that the Republican leadership is upset,” he added. “They’re not going to give a victory to Joe Manchin. Well, Joe Manchin is not looking for a victory.”

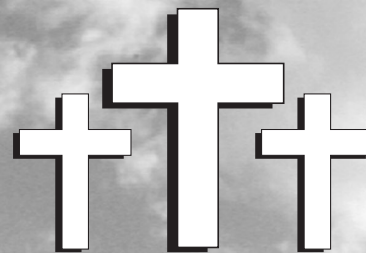
While legislative text of his permitting plan has not been made public, Manchin called the bill “a good piece of legislation that is extremely balanced” and does not “bypass any environmental review.” Instead it would accelerate a timeframe that can take up to 10 years for a major project to win approval.

The fissure among Democrats could

complicate the party’s efforts to keep the focus on this summer’s major legislative victories — including the climate bill and a separate law to boost the semiconductor industry and create more high-tech jobs in the United States — heading into the midterm elections to determine which party controls the House and Senate.

More immediately, the divide is testing the ability of Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to keep enough Democrats in line to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

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Drinko Library Showcases the “Quilting is Not a Lost Art” Exhibit



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **VICTORIA WARE**
FEATURES and CULTURES EDITOR

A diverse selection of quilts were on display in the “Quilting is Not a Lost Art” exhibit at Drinko Library. This exhibit is part of an effort to showcase more artwork in Drinko.

“Our dream for several years was to have a display of quilts or textiles,” Sabrina Thomas, the head of the Drinko Library Displays Committee, said. “And this opportunity is the culmination of years of trying to figure out how we would be able to display the quilts in Drinko and our desire to just fill the library with as much art and interesting things as possible.”

The exhibit demonstrates that, despite how similar the quilts can appear, they have many unique differences within them.

“So, this is a collection of quilts that were made by the Piecemakers Quilt Group of St. Peter Claver Church in Huntington,” Thomas said. “The theme of this display is ‘Quilting is Not a Lost Art’ with a sub-theme of ‘The Same but Different.’ So, each floor has a different type of thing where you can see what’s similar about them and what’s dissimilar about them.”

The quilts on display show a variety of themes, patterns and techniques.

“There’s even several on the Underground Railroad, which I knew a little bit about, but to see it created in a quilt and know what the symbols represent and how they helped slaves escape was just incredible,” Thomas said.

“‘The Pantry’ is right outside my office, and I love it for several reasons,” Thomas said. “One, it’s just aesthetically beautiful. Each one of the women took a shelf, so you get to see where their uniqueness comes out.”

Thomas said that it is an honor to be able to display the artists’ works in the library for the whole semester.

“It really isn’t a lost art,” she said. “This is something that these women have been doing for years. And it’s an unbelievable privilege to be able to showcase the craftsmanship that has gone into each and every one of these quilts. It’s truly extraordinary.”

“But this particular group—their artistry and their craftsmanship really blends together, so that if you take the time to go through and really look and take in each one of the quilts, it’s truly extraordinary,” Thomas said. “And I’m just so grateful that they are willing to show these quilts the whole semester.”

A reception celebrating the exhibit will take place on Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. in the Drinko Atrium.

“So, if you come to Drinko Library on the first, second and third floors, you’ll be able to view these quilts all throughout the semester,” Thomas said. “And we have an opening celebration that everyone is invited to come and see. We’ll have refreshments and drinks and you can meet the artists.”

Thomas said that she displays artwork in

Drinko to highlight work from students, faculty and local artists.

“Annually, we have a spring exhibition,” Thomas said. “And each spring showcases a certain theme, and it goes all the way back to several years [ago] where... my dream essentially was to fill the library with as much artwork as possible... And I realized walking through Drinko library, there’s a ton of wall space.”

“What could I do to increase visibility of local artists,” Thomas said. “What could I do to showcase the student artwork and faculty artwork—this talent that we have right here on campus? And so, every spring—the entire spring—we have a juried exhibition that showcases local artists, and student work and faculty work.”

The presentation of artwork in the library gives people who may not feel comfortable viewing it in a gallery or museum the ability to see it in a more accessible environment.

“There are people who are intimidated to go into galleries—art galleries,” Thomas said. “So many people think of a library, and they think a warehouse of dead trees, like this is where you go to get printed books. And that’s not necessarily the case. It’s a place to have conversations, a place to study, a place where you can come to get help with research, a place to come when you just need a break and just need to relax for a bit.”

School of Art and Design Hosts Closing Receptions for Exhibitions “Heirloom” and “Bloody Soil”

By **LUCY BELL**
STUDENT REPORTER

Artists Linda Smith and Ahmed Ozsever visited Marshall University to discuss their exhibitions “Bloody Soil” and “Heirloom.” The shows were separate but still linked by the artists’ communication of human interaction with the world.

Around 40 faculty members and students of the school of art and design filled the Birke Art Gallery on Sept. 14 to hear Smith discuss her photographic and textile exhibition.

Smith’s exhibition “Bloody Soil” was motivated by the stories of others and their experiences during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. After spending time teaching at the University of Rwanda, the country and its people inspired Smith by how they mourn the lives lost in 1994 every April.

“I wanted this show to communicate that we have the ability to empathize with individuals, and we have the ability to empathize with those that have gone through a trauma or loss,” Smith said.

Building off this idea, Smith included photographs of national battlefields from the United States Civil War in her exhibition to further communicate the idea

that even the land around people holds the trauma of the past.

Meanwhile, the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Gallery hosted the second exhibition, “Heirloom,” displaying the work of seven artists. One of the seven artists, Ahmed Ozsever, discussed his work on Thursday evening.

Ozsever’s work in “Heirloom” focused on how different materials can act as markers of environmental change.

“I want people to think about time and their place in it, and I want people to think about their place in the lands around us,” Ozsever said.

One piece in the exhibition titled “Shallow Cores” showcases simulated geological core samples taken around Indiana, as well as photographs of the areas from which they were taken.

Ozsever visited the same locations and constructed his core samples out of any traces of human presence—mainly detritus and garbage conveying the human impact on the environment and indexing the past.

In South Carolina, Harris Urges Students to Vote in Midterms



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to students at Claflin University, one of two historically black universities she visited in Orangeburg, S.C. Harris pushed for voter registration as her party seeks to hold onto majorities in Congress.

Photo Courtesy of James Pollard | AP Photos

By **MEG KINNARD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris visited two historically Black colleges in South Carolina to push for voter registration as she focuses on places and demographics that will be key to Democrats' chances to hold on to Congress in the midterm elections.

In remarks Tuesday to first-year students at South Carolina State University, an Orangeburg HBCU where President Joe Biden addressed graduates last year, Harris highlighted what she characterized as the need for young voters to participate in political

pushes to protect voting rights and oppose efforts to restrict abortion.

"Once again, your nation turns to you," Harris said, highlighting the fight for civil rights by House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn — a S.C. State alumnus and South Carolina's lone congressional Democrat — when he was arrested during protests while in his early 20s. "Because to move America forward, we need you. We need your passion, your purpose and your excellence."

The South Carolina trip, Harris' third to the state as vice president, is part of her increased travel schedule ahead of the midterms. She talked reproductive rights in Chicago on Friday, and she's

heading to Wisconsin on Thursday to speak at the Democratic Attorneys General Conference. Earlier this month, she traveled to Houston for the National Baptist Convention.

Harris' trips are designed to prevent, or at least limit, any drop-off in turnout among voters of color and young people, important parts of the Democratic coalition. Earlier Tuesday — National Voter Registration Day — she participated in a roundtable with students at Claflin University, another HBCU, where she touted the administration's actions around race and education and emphasized the need to invest in mental health.

"We recognize that over the

last couple of years through the pandemic, we literally told people to isolate, which means people were literally by themselves," Harris said. "Suffering from all that the pandemic represented in terms of loss of life, loss of normalcy, for so many people, loss of job. And so the effects of that all still linger in a very profound way."

In South Carolina, which holds the first presidential balloting in the South, Black voters play an outsized role in the Democratic voting electorate. During a June visit to the state, Harris expressed appreciation for South Carolina Democrats, whose key support for Biden in the first-in-the-South primary in 2020 helped turn

around his campaign and build momentum in later contests that led to the party's nomination.

Harris' arrival in South Carolina follows shortly after Biden's noncommittal response to CBS' "60 Minutes" when asked if he would run again in 2024.

"My intention, as I said to begin with, is that I would run again," the president said during a wide-ranging interview that aired Sunday. "But it's just an intention. But is it a firm decision that I run again? That remains to be seen."

Biden noted in the interview that declaring his intention to seek reelection would put him afoul of campaign finance laws, which could have complicated spending by the Democratic National Committee ahead of the midterms. White House officials said Biden is continuing to lay the groundwork for a 2024 run. Allies, though, acknowledge that he could always decide against seeking reelection before a formal announcement, which is expected in the first half of 2023.

Earlier this year, Biden committed to tapping Harris as his running mate for the 2024 reelection campaign. Her visit comes as Republicans considering White House bids of their own — including former Vice President Mike Pence and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — continue to crisscross the state.

Some native South Carolina Republicans have also been testing the 2024 waters. Nikki Haley, who served the state for six years as governor before joining the Trump administration as U.N. ambassador, lives in the Charleston area and has been visiting other early voting states, as has U.S. Sen. Tim Scott.

University Hosts Candidate Forum

By SARAH DAVIS
STAFF REPORTER

Possible solutions to problems with energy, jobs, justice and climate change were offered by three candidates for various state senate and House of Delegates posts at a forum hosted by Marshall University at the student center on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Delegate candidates Syndee Smirl McElroy (District 26) and Ally Layman (District 24) along with senate candidate Melissa Clark (District 5) fielded questions from the public and the forum's partnered

organizations, including the West Virginia Climate Alliance, Citizen Action Group, Environmental Council, the League of Women Voters and the Marshall community. At the beginning of the forum, the candidates were asked to share their thoughts on this question from the mediator: "What do you believe is the most important aspect of building a strong, sustainable economy in West Virginia?"

Candidate McElroy answered first, saying that it is of most importance to think about what makes a community desirable.

"That's something we can

focus a lot more on- is building up our communities," McElroy said. "And not necessarily looking to outside corporations and industries to come and rescue us because that's always the mistake in West Virginia. We look for somebody to come in; we give them tax breaks to come and rescue us, and instead we get exploited."

Throughout her answer, McElroy emphasized the importance of community building.

"So, I think building up our communities and making them attractive places to live and work is one of the first things

we can do," McElroy said.

Candidate Layman added that breaking the job stigma is another crucial step to building a solid economy, saying, "I worked in the service industry for a decade, and I made a really good living, but it is not seen as a job that is respectable." Layman also talked about looking out for minority groups and vulnerable populations regarding job fairness and diversity.

Lastly, candidate Clark stressed that West Virginia needs more open markets to allow West Virginians to continue to work in West Virginia.

"Part of doing that is understanding we do need traits such as respect and acceptance and inclusion," Clark said. He talked about how many living in poverty struggle with mental illness and how communities can help them by meeting them where they are and providing the appropriate resources.

In their closing statements, McElroy, Layman and Clark could all agree on two principles. One was that they are all passionate about communities, and the second was steps must be taken to ensure that those West Virginia communities are healthier.

Marshall University Fencing Club Establishes New Events

By ABBY AYES
STAFF REPORTER

The fencing club says it realizes that educating prospective members about recreational swordplay will be one of its challenges.

Even the club's current secretary says he was nowhere near an expert when he first heard about the group when he was a first-year student.

"I found the fencing club two years ago when I was new to campus after seeing a flyer walking to one of my classes," Varney said. "I had never fenced before, so I wanted to check out the club and make sure it wasn't for experts."

Varney explained that the group is very beginner friendly and that you do not need any experience to get involved.

"We start from scratch with everyone that walks in, so you can really get the elementary level skills," Varney said.

Varney also said that it is hard for the average person to get

experience and training around this area, and that they want to have a safe environment for anyone to come that might be interested.

"We're one of the few fencing clubs in the entire state," Varney said. "So, there's not a lot of people to compete with. We usually just learn and fence within the group."

Varney said that the club is open to anyone, even if you are just wanting to see what the club does and how it runs before you decide to join.

"It is not competitive at all," Varney said. "It's very laid back and casual. The people that you're fencing are the same people you are talking to in Discord when you get home."

The fencing club meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in room 1002 in the Cam Henderson Center. Information about the fencing club can be found on flyers around campus.



Members of the Fencing Club Practices outside the Memorial Student Center

Photos by Abby Ayes