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The Parthenon, August 2, 2023

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\$2.8 Million Awarded to Marshall Med School Nursing Program

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has been awarded \$2.8 million, doubling the nurse practitioner program training through Marshall Health.

The grant, given by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Service Administration, will help students in the postgraduate program transition to their professional careers while establishing emphasis on rural

health, specifically primary care, behavioral health and maternal health.

The four-year grant will allow four students per year to establish the clinical knowledge and skills required in their professions.

"With the expansion of its

internal medicine NP fellowship, Marshall is in a unique position to partner with other healthcare organizations in rural communities to broaden access to high-quality healthcare across Appalachia," said Program Director Beth A. White, D.N.P.,

FNP-C, AACC, CTTS in a release on Monday.

Marshall Health's nurse practitioner fellowship lasts one year after graduation, with fellows participating in clinical rotations, on-site training, lectures and research.



Members of Previous Nurse Practitioners Program.

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

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Med Students Help Fulfill Hospice Patient's Life Wishes



Med School students assisting the chapter's first recipient, Huntington veteran, Donnie Adkins.

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall Medical students are working through the DreamCatchers Foundation to help terminally ill Huntington Hospice patients fulfill their end-of-life wishes.

Students have founded a new chapter of DreamCatchers within Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine to help life-limited patients achieve several of their dreams including aiding with travel, reuniting friends and family and

even helping install a flagpole for Huntington veteran Donnie Adkins.

"Huntington Hospice is pleased to partner with Marshall University to establish this new chapter," said Melanie Hall, president and CEO of Hospice of Huntington, in a release on Saturday, July 26. "We believe that this chapter will bring much joy and fulfill many dreams for those individuals in hospice care."

The goal of the partnership and foundation of Marshall's

chapter is to help aspiring medical professionals harbor an empathetic approach to care and gain a greater understanding of the emotional and psychological complexities of the patients.

DreamCatchers Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit, formed in 2005, that has helped many hospice patients achieve dreams such as hot air balloon rides, attending professional basketball games and hosting book signings across their chapters located across the nation.

An \$11 Million Settlement Reached in WV Following a Case Involving an Abusive Teacher

By **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A school district in West Virginia has reached settlements totaling over \$11 million in lawsuits involving a teacher who abused special education students in her classroom, according to a media report.

Seven lawsuits against Nancy Boggs and the Kanawha County Board of Education were settled for a combined \$11.75 million, WCHS-TV reported Monday, citing state insurance documents it obtained via a records request. The report did not indicate when the settlement was reached, and the school district did not comment to the television station.

Boggs was caught on surveillance camera abusing several students at Holz Elementary School in Charleston in September 2021. She admitted to hitting one student with a cabinet door, pulling her hair and pulling a chair out from under her. Boggs also admitted to slamming another child's head into a desk and slapping a third child.

Boggs was sentenced to 10 years in prison in August 2022.

County Judge Maryclaire Akers said in court that Boggs turned her "classroom into a place of what can only be described as torture."

The identities of the plaintiffs and individual settlement amounts remain sealed.

"This is a significant settlement because it was a horrific case of abuse, probably one of the worst abuses we've seen in West Virginia," attorney Ben Salango, who represented plaintiffs in three of the seven cases, told WCHS.

He said he believes it's the largest settlement against a school board in West Virginia history.

The Boggs case helped lead to the strengthening last year of a state law that requires cameras in classrooms — video footage must now be kept on hand for a full year instead of three months and must be regularly viewed by administrators.

School of Medicine to Create New Residency Opportunity



Holzer Health System in Gallipolis, OH

Courtesy of WSAZ

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Internal Medicine students will soon have the ability to complete their residencies in a rural community.

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, as well as Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital and Valley Health Systems has been granted \$750,000 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The new residency program will be housed at Holzer Health System, located in Gallipolis, Ohio. The facility will allow students to focus on primary care for rural patients, which is a lacking area in Appalachia, as the number of primary care doctors is twenty-one

percent below the American average.

The new program hopes to encourage medical practices in the tri-state area, according to Paulette S. Wehner, M.D. Wehner serves as the vice dean of graduate medical education at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

“Since first partnering with Holzer to establish a family medicine residency in 2017 and successfully launching two other rural residency programs at Logan Regional Medical Center and Rivers Health, we look forward to using our expertise to build a rural internal medicine residency that will provide a high-caliber training experience and retain graduates to serve as

primary care physicians for our area,” she said in a Marshall University news release.

Students in the residency program will complete two years of training at the school and then transition to Holzer Health System for two years.

The new program is expecting to receive its accreditation in 2025, beginning to accept residents in the summer of 2026. Among the staff will be Marshall’s assistant professor of medicine Stephen A. Roy, M.D. who will serve as the program’s director.

West Virginia Congresswoman Carol Miller expressed her excitement for the new program, calling the addition a helpful one.

“I am thrilled to hear that Marshall University will be adding an internal medicine residency program to their already robust selection of residency programs,” she said. “Rural residency programs specifically train physicians to care for patients in rural communities, which are chronically underserved.”

Cybersecurity Program Ranks Second in Education Magazine

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Education Magazine *FORTUNE* ranked cybersecurity programs based on their acceptance rates, average grade point averages, tuition costs and concentrations of study, among many other factors.

Marshall University’s program placed high in the magazine’s ranking.

In an article entitled, “*Best Online Master’s in Cybersecurity Degrees in 2023*”, Marshall’s Master of Science in Cybersecurity program took second place.

The ranking included twenty universities, ranking the University of California at Berkeley on top and La Salle University at the bottom.

The program’s website describes the teachings of the master’s degree, saying that the program “provides students with the knowledge, skills and professional practices

needed for careers in the cybersecurity fields.” Students working to obtain the degree must complete 30 credit hours.

According to Dr. Paulus Wahjudi, professor and chair of Marshall’s Department of Computer Sciences and Electrical Engineering, the ranking is reflective of the faculty and students’ engagement.

“Since the program is an asynchronous online program, there is no direct interaction between students and teachers. However,

everyone learns differently and faces different challenges on various subject matter, and the faculty put in extra effort to make

sure that their course materials are clear but also in abundance so that students can understand the topic accordingly,” he said in a Marshall University news release.



Marshall's Cybersecurity Program

Courtesy of Marshall University

US Supreme Court Asked to Set Aside Ruling That Blocks Construction of a New Pipeline that will Run Through WV



Construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which will run through Virginia and West Virginia.

Photo Courtesy of AP/Heather Rousseau

By **JOHN RABY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The fate of a controversial natural gas pipeline in West Virginia may rest with the U.S. Supreme Court, as the state appealed a lower court's ruling that temporarily blocked construction despite a

Congressional order clearing the way for the project.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey argued that the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, lacked jurisdiction to block the Mountain Valley Pipeline. In a statement Monday, he said any challenges to Congress' action must be heard by a federal

appeals court in Washington, D.C.

Morrisey asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case.

"The Mountain Valley Pipeline is vital to the survival of American energy independence and affects thousands of jobs in West Virginia — its completion is also critical to our national

security, the urgent need is for it to be completed as soon as possible," Morrisey said.

Congress passed legislation last month ordering all necessary permits be issued for the pipeline, which crosses rugged mountainsides in Virginia and West Virginia. Environmentalists say the construction plan will cause erosion that will ruin soil

The legislation addressing the pipeline was part of a bipartisan bill to raise the debt ceiling. It stripped the 4th Circuit Court from jurisdiction over the case. Environmentalists have argued that Congress overstepped its authority by enacting the law, saying it violates the separation of powers outlined in the Constitution.

The appeals court issued a stay July 10 focusing on a 3-mile (5-kilometer) pipeline section that cuts through the Jefferson National Forest. On July 11, the court issued a similar stay in connection with parallel litigation alleging the pipeline would violate the Endangered Species Act. Environmentalists made similar constitutional arguments in that case.

The pipeline's operators say the project is already substantially complete and that only 3 acres (one hectare) of trees need to be cleared, compared to more than 4,400 acres (1,700 hectares) that have been already cleared.

The \$6.6 billion, 300-mile (500-kilometer) pipeline is designed to meet growing energy demands in the South and Mid-Atlantic by transporting gas from the Marcellus and Utica fields in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Education Department Opens Investigation Into Harvard's Legacy Admissions

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opening a new front in legal battles over college admissions, the U.S. Department of Education has launched a civil rights investigation into Harvard University's policies on legacy admissions.

Top colleges' preferential treatment of children of alumni, who are often white, has faced mounting scrutiny since the Supreme Court last month struck down the use of affirmative action as a tool to boost the presence of students of color.

The department notified Lawyers for Civil Rights, a nonprofit based in Boston, on Monday that it was investigating the group's claim that the university "discriminates on the basis of race by using donor and legacy preferences in its undergraduate admissions

process."

An Education Department spokesperson confirmed its Office for Civil Rights opened an investigation at Harvard. The agency declined further comment. But White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Joe Biden has "made clear that legacy admissions hold back our ability to build diverse student bodies."

The complaint was filed earlier this month on behalf of Black and Latino community groups in New England. The group argued that students with legacy ties are up to seven times more likely to be admitted to Harvard, can make up nearly a third of a class and that about 70% are white. For the Class of 2019, about 28% of the class were legacies with a parent or other relative who went to

Harvard.

"We are gratified that the Department of Education has acted swiftly to open this investigation," the group said in an email statement. "Harvard should follow the lead of a growing number of colleges and universities — including Amherst, MIT, Johns Hopkins, the University of California, and most recently Wesleyan — and voluntarily abandon these unfair and undeserved preferences."

A spokesperson for Harvard on Tuesday said the university has been reviewing its admissions policies to ensure compliance with the law since the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

"As this work continues, and moving forward, Harvard remains dedicated to opening doors to opportunity and to redoubling our efforts to encourage students from many different backgrounds to apply for admission," the spokesperson said.

Ending legacy preferences is "one of many steps that Harvard and other universities can take to increase access, diversity, and equity in admissions," said Jane Sujen Bock, a board member of the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard, which includes alumni, student and staff.

Last week, Wesleyan University in Connecticut announced that it would end its policy of giving preferential treatment in admissions to those whose families have historical ties to the school. Wesleyan President Michael Roth said a student's "legacy status" has played a negligible role in



Students walk through Harvard Yard, April 27, 2022, on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Courtesy of AP/Charles Krupa



Students walk through a gate at Harvard University, Thursday, June 29, 2023, in Cambridge, Mass.

Courtesy of AP/ Michael Casey

admissions, but would now be eliminated entirely.

In recent years, other schools — including Amherst College in Massachusetts, Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University in Maryland — also have eliminated legacy admissions.

Legacy policies have been called into question after last month's Supreme Court ruling banning affirmative action and any consideration of race in college admissions. The court's conservative majority effectively overturned cases reaching back 45 years, forcing institutions of higher education to seek new ways to achieve student diversity.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson said he

commended the Education Department for taking steps to ensure the higher education system "works for every American, not just a privileged few."

"Every talented and qualified student deserves an opportunity to attend the college of their choice. Affirmative Action existed to support that notion. Legacy admissions exists to undermine it," he said.

Sarah Hinger, senior staff attorney for the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, said she did not know the specifics of the Harvard program but "as a general matter, legacy admissions tend to benefit disproportionately, white people and wealthy people."

Football Preseason Camp Opens, Starting the 2023 Season



Herd Head Coach Charles Huff

Courtesy of HerdZone

THE PARTHENON

Marshall Football returns to the field for the official start of the 2023 season this week.

Marshall is coming off a season in which the team went 9-4 and won its final five games of the 2022 season. Head coach Charles Huff said that while the momentum of the of last year was great, it means nothing starting Tuesday when players report to camp.

“There were a lot of good things

that we did last year and the excitement is high, but when we hit camp tomorrow, we’re not talking about Notre Dame, we’re not talking about last year,” Huff said. “We’re talking about creating the identity for this team. We did some phenomenal things last year and we can’t erase the memory, but we’ve got to erase the focus and put the focus on the now and this team – this defense, this offense, this group.”

Huff will officially kick off the 2023 football season at Noon on

Tuesday with the 2023 Marshall Football Preseason Press Conference from inside the Shewey Building. Fans can watch the press conference live HERE or by watching the live-stream on Marshall Athletics’ Facebook page.

Huff said the excitement for 2023 can be felt within the walls of the Shewey Building at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

“It’s all just the pure excitement of college football when camp opens,” Huff said. “With where we are in college football, there’s a lot going on

and obviously, a lot is business. When the business gets into it, you can lose that pure joy of playing the game. I think that joy is what you get from everyone on the team on that first day, though. Everybody is excited and everybody is back to being a five or six-year-old kid and playing the game they love. That’s what I’m excited to see.”

Huff will be joined in the press conference by his coordinators: offensive coordinator Clint Trickett, defensive coordinator Jason Semore

and special teams coordinator Jon Galante.

The Thundering Herd boasts of plenty of returning experience, including four Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference First Team selections, which tied for the league-most. Center Logan Osburn represented the offense while defensive end Owen Porter, linebacker Eli Neal and defensive back Micah Abraham represented the defense.

Full article on HerdZone

Junior Ryan Bilby Wins WV Open



WV Open winner Ryan Bilby

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **SCOTT PRICE**
COPY & INTERIM SPORTS EDITOR

Golfer Ryan Bilby, Marshall junior, scored a 65 in the WV Open to put him 10-under overall. This would be enough to win by two strokes at the Berry Hills Country Club on Friday, July 28.

Bilby finished the final hole with a birdie, putting him at five-under in the final round. His hard work and effort would award him the trophy; he is the first amateur to win the trophy since 2004.

"He's worked so hard to put himself in a position to win tournaments," said Matt Grobe, Marshall men's golf coach. "It's great to see it finally paying off. He's had an

incredible summer."

Starting off on the wrong foot, Bilby bogeyed his first hole of the day before turning things around with a birdie and an eagle, which was one of only six that were shot during the week.

Bilby continued a remarkable game with birdies on holes seventeen, two and nine.

Marshall's Men's Golf had plenty to be proud of during the week, with three competitors placing in the top 20.

Joseph Kalaskey finished three-over, tying him at 12th place, and Clayton Thomas ended five-over to tie him at 17th place.

Blair Everhart Promoted to Assistant Baseball Coach



Assistant Coach Blair Everhart

Courtesy of HerdZone

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University baseball head coach Greg Beals announced the addition of Blair Everhart as an assistant coach on Tuesday.

"Blair Everhart has been a part of my team for the past 13 seasons, and I cannot be more grateful for him coming to join The Herd," Beals said. "Blair brings all the characteristics you look for in an assistant coach: passion, work ethic, integrity, knowledge and loyalty. Blair compliments me very well and I look forward to having him help lead us climb the Sun Belt ladder."

Everhart joins Marshall after

spending the 2023 season at Akron. While with the Zips, he served as the head assistant coach under current MU assistant coach Tim Donnelly, working with the team's position players in addition to creating daily practice plans, scouting and recruiting.

"I could not be more excited to join Coach Beals and the rest of the staff here at Marshall," Everhart said. "We have a great opportunity to create something special with a brand-new facility and competing in one of the best baseball conferences in the country. I want to thank Coach Beals and the administration for welcoming me into the Marshall family."

Prior to Akron, Everhart worked under Beals as the director of baseball operations at Ohio State from 2012-22 and was responsible for planning the team's travel, assisting with practice and developing advanced scouting reports, among other duties.

"It has not taken long to feel how passionate this community is about Marshall athletics, and I am grateful to be a part of it," Everhart said. "I cannot wait to get to work with our student-athletes."

Par Mar is the presenting sponsor of the 2024 Marshall baseball team. Par Mar is the official convenient store of Marshall Athletics.

6 Ways AI Can Make Political Campaigns More Deceptive

By **DAVID E. CLEMENTSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Political campaign ads and donor solicitations have long been deceptive. In 2004, for example, U.S. presidential candidate John Kerry, a Democrat, aired an ad stating that Republican opponent George W. Bush “says sending jobs overseas ‘makes sense’ for America.”

Bush never said such a thing.

The next day Bush responded by releasing an ad saying Kerry “supported higher taxes over 350 times.” This too was a false claim.

These days, the internet has gone wild with deceptive political ads. Ads often pose as polls and have

misleading clickbait headlines.

Campaign fundraising solicitations are also rife with deception. An analysis of 317,366 political emails sent during the 2020 election in the U.S. found that deception was the norm. For example, a campaign manipulates recipients into opening the emails by lying about the sender’s identity and using subject lines that trick the recipient into thinking the sender is replying to the donor, or claims the email is “NOT asking for money” but then asks for money. Both Republicans and Democrats do it.

Campaigns are now rapidly embracing artificial intelligence for composing and producing

ads and donor solicitations. The results are impressive: Democratic campaigns found that donor letters written by AI were more effective than letters written by humans at writing personalized text that persuades recipients to click and send donations.

And AI has benefits for democracy, such as helping staffers organize their emails from constituents or helping government officials summarize testimony.

But there are fears that AI will make politics more deceptive than ever.

My research on the 2020 presidential election revealed that the choice voters made between Biden and Trump was driven by their perceptions of which candidate “proposes realistic solutions to problems” and “says out loud what I am thinking,” based on 75 items in a survey. These are two of the most important qualities for a candidate to have to project a presidential image and win.

AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT by OpenAI, Bing Chat by Microsoft, and Bard by Google, could be used by politicians to generate customized campaign promises deceptively microtargeting voters and donors.

Currently, when people scroll through news feeds, the articles are logged in their computer history, which are tracked by sites such as Facebook. The user is tagged as liberal or conservative, and also tagged as holding certain interests. Political campaigns can place an ad spot in real time on the person’s feed with a customized title.

Campaigns can use AI to develop a repository of articles written in different styles making different campaign promises. Campaigns could then embed an AI algorithm in the process – courtesy of automated commands already plugged in by the campaign – to generate bogus tailored campaign promises at the end of the ad posing as a news article or donor solicitation.

ChatGPT, for instance, could hypothetically be prompted to add material based on text from the last articles that the voter was reading online. The voter then scrolls down and reads the candidate promising exactly what the voter wants to see, word for word, in a tailored tone. My experiments have shown that if a presidential candidate can align

the tone of word choices with a voter’s preferences, the politician will seem more presidential and credible.

Humans tend to automatically believe what they are told. They have what scholars call a “truth-default.” They even fall prey to seemingly implausible lies.

In my experiments I found that people who are exposed to a presidential candidate’s deceptive messaging believe the untrue statements. Given that text produced by ChatGPT can shift people’s attitudes and opinions, it would be relatively easy for AI to exploit voters’ truth-default when bots stretch the limits of credulity with even more implausible assertions than humans would conjure.

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.

Matt Schaffer - Interim Executive Editor
Victoria Ware - Interim Managing Editor
Sarah Davis - News Editor
Scott Price - Sports & Copy Editor
Sandy York - Faculty Adviser

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Letters to the Editor are accepted. See guidelines online.

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.



Former President Donald Trump stands while a song, “Justice for All,” is played during a campaign rally.

Courtesy of AP/Evan Vucci

Marshall Artists Series Announces Events for 87th Season

By **VICTORIA WARE**
INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR

In advance of the approaching Fall 2023 semester, the Marshall Artists Series announced the events for its 87th season.

A change being enacted this season is temporarily relocating from its primary venue, the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center. Due to renovations, the theater will be closed at times throughout the

season. Aside from one event being held in the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center, the remaining events will occur in either the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center or the Marshall University Rec Center.

The Artists Series will present the Tony-Award-winning Broadway musical “Come From Away” at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023,

at 7:30 p.m. To begin the Artists Series’ new speaker series—Masters at Marshall Distinguished Speaker Series—Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham will speak at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Friday, November 10, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. He will explore the topic “Hope Through History: How To Endure And Prevail When Everything Appears Hopeless.” “America’s Got Talent” contestant

and headlining comedian in Las Vegas, Piff The Magic Dragon will perform at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

In Spring 2024, as part of the Masters at Marshall Distinguished Speaker Series, Journalist and Executive Producer of the Hulu series “Dopesick,” Beth Macy will speak at the Joan C. Edwards

Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. She will discuss the effect the opioid crisis has had on rural America.

A recurring event—the Banff Mountain Film Festival—will be held on Monday, April. 22, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Marshall University Rec Center.

Small Towns That Rival Urban Counterparts in Contemporary Art

By **MELANIE ALLEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small town USA revolutionized the modern art scene. Forget overpriced metropolises like New York and Chicago to discover the freshest contemporary art. The real magic lies within these charming, lesser-known havens:

Benicia serves as a mecca for bay area artists. First Street abounds with galleries and public art displays, which the city promotes during summer art walk events. The non-profit Arts Benicia promotes local artists to the community. The organization regularly puts out open calls for new works to feature in their over-rotating exhibitions while providing classes on drawing, painting, photography, and more to help residents or guests engage with their creative sides.

Expect the unexpected in

Columbia, Missouri. Over 150 artists call the North Village Arts District home, showcasing their works in studios and galleries open to the public.

The city created the Office of Cultural Affairs to promote the artistic talent developing within its borders and highlight the creative endeavors of the region’s history. The organization preserves the vast array of public art on display throughout the city and even offers an online gallery to make the work accessible to all.

In conjunction with The University of Missouri-Columbia, the city also features museums preserving historical art from the region. The Museum of Anthropology focuses on native cultures, celebrating human expression from over 11,000 years ago to the early days of the US. The Museum of Art and Archeology features over

16,000 objects spanning 6,000 years of history across continents. Although both are temporarily closed pending movement to new locations, they’re slated to reopen this year, and the online exhibitions remain available to the public.

You don’t need to cross the Atlantic to find a Dublin celebrating arts and culture. Ohio’s Dublin has grown its Art in Public Places program to include over 70 sculptural elements and installations throughout the city.

The Dublin Arts Council actively promotes the city’s artistic expression, using art to enhance the lives of its residents and put Dublin on the map for visitors. The council provides a year-long visual art series showcasing gallery exhibitions by local, regional, and international artists, and the new Art & Wellness initiative seeks to



Courtesy of AP/Melanie Allen

explore how the nature of art can nurture personal and community well-being.

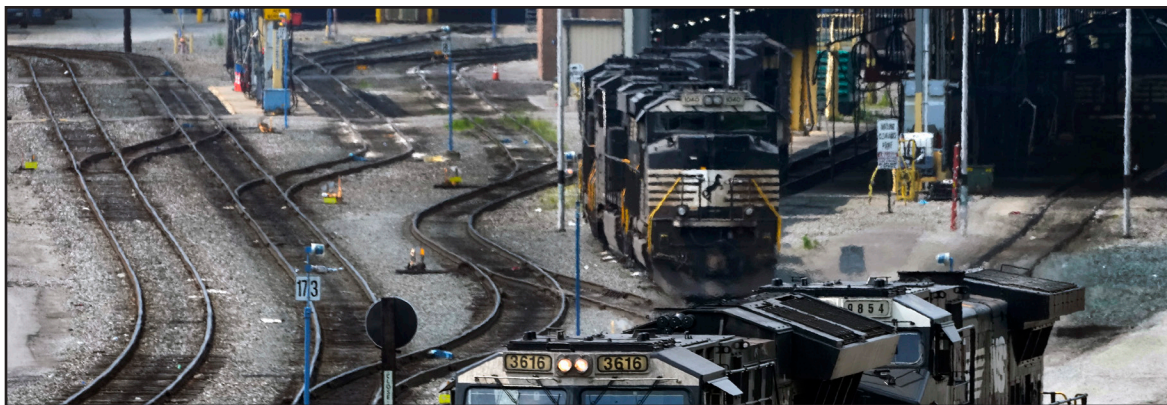
Washington honored Edmonds by naming it the first Certified Creative District in the state, a distinction awarded to towns that are great places to live, work, and visit.

The Town features two art

centers and nearly twenty large-format murals, managed by Art Walk Edmonds, which also hosts a series of art and wine walks.

In addition, Edmonds is home to the Cascadia Art Museum, a nonprofit proudly preserving and displaying the art of the American Northwest from 1870-1970.

Norfolk Southern Changes Policy on Overheated Bearings, Months After Ohio Derailment



Norfolk Southern locomotives are moved in Norfolk Southern's Conway Terminal in Conway, Pa., Saturday, June 17, 2023.

Courtesy of AP/Gene J. Puskar

By **JOSH FUNK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A minor coal train derailment in Virginia in early July prompted Norfolk Southern to rethink the way it responds to problems with overheating bearings, but it's not clear why the railroad didn't make similar changes months earlier after an overheating bearing caused the fiery Ohio derailment that prompted nationwide concerns about rail safety.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the Atlanta-based railroad changed its rules a day after the July 6 derailment to take a much more cautious approach when a

hot bearing is found. After the derailment, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen union was critical of Norfolk Southern's response because dispatchers told the crew to move the train 13 miles to a siding down the track even after the crew confirmed a bearing on one of the railcars was overheating, and that's when it derailed.

The Virginia derailment that happened coming down out of the Appalachian Mountains near Elliston was relatively minor, with only 19 cars coming off the tracks and none of the coal spilling. The situation in East Palestine, Ohio, was much different with hazardous chemicals spilling from

ruptured tank cars and officials deciding to blow open five other tank cars filled with vinyl chloride because they feared they might explode. The cleanup from that Feb. 3 derailment is ongoing, and area residents worry about the possibility of lingering health effects.

Unlike in the East Palestine, Ohio, derailment, the Virginia train crew had enough time to stop the train safely after a trackside detector set off an alarm about the overheating bearing. The conductor walked back and confirmed the problem with a wax stick that's designed to melt anytime the temperature is above 169 degrees Fahrenheit.

He also noticed grease leaking from one of the axle bearings, according to the NTSB's preliminary report.

At the time the Virginia train derailed it was moving 25 mph — well below the 40 mph speed limit for the area but not slow enough to prevent the derailment.

The new rules Norfolk Southern issued the following day said that in a situation like that when any damage is noticed on a hot bearing, the railroad will send out a mechanical inspector to look at a car before it is moved. And anytime a car with an overheated bearing is moved, the train will move no faster than 10 mph with the crew stopping at least every three miles to reinspect the bearing.

Norfolk Southern spokesman Connor Spielmaker said the changes were made as part of the railroad's effort to become "the gold standard for safety in the railroad industry" but he didn't address why these changes weren't made after the East Palestine derailment.

"We are not going to stop until we complete

the culture, process, and technology changes required to make accidents like this a thing of the past," Spielmaker said.

The railroad has announced a number of efforts to improve safety since February including an effort to work with its unions and hiring an outside consultant. Norfolk Southern's CEO Alan Shaw emphasized those steps while testifying on Congress and apologizing for the Ohio derailment.

Lawmakers are considering imposing a package of reforms on the rail industry. And the railroads themselves have announced several efforts to improve safety including installing about 1,000 more trackside detectors nationwide to help spot mechanical problems before they can cause derailments.

Even with the recent safety concerns, railroads are still regarded as the safest way to transport goods across land, but the Ohio derailment illustrates that even one derailment involving hazardous chemicals can be disastrous.

Marshall Health Utilizes Artificial Intelligence to Prevent Vision Loss



Patient receiving eye exam

Courtesy of Marshall Health

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall Health is now using an AI tool to

prevent vision loss in diabetic patients.

The system is called LumineticsCore, and it is currently being used to test diabetics for diabetic

retinopathy, a condition that can cause blindness.

The machine, which only takes a few minutes to operate, captures images of the patient's retinas. These images are then searched for red flags that may point to diabetic retinopathy.

Since LumineticsCore conducts the process in minutes, doctors can discuss results with their patients during their appointments.

The machine and its functions are being offered in two Marshall

Health Huntington locations. This is due to a grant from The Huntington Foundation.

This Artificial Intelligence machine allows Marshall Health to continue with the most up-to-date equipment for their patients,

according to Shannon L. Browning, R.Ph., M.D. Browning currently serves as both Marshall Health's chief medical information officer and associate professor of medicine at Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School

of Medicine.

“Marshall Health is committed to staying on the forefront of medical advances that improve patient outcomes,”

-Shannon L. Browning

“This includes leveraging technologies like AI to increase patient access to care,” said Browning in a Marshall University news release.

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HD-486691

CATHOLIC

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

828 15th St. (on 9th Ave) Htgn.
248-996-3960

Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.
Daily Masses: 12:05 on
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
Confession by appointment

Father Shaji Thomas

HD-486764

CATHOLIC

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

2015 Adams Ave. Huntington, WV
304-429-4318

Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9am,
Confession: Tuesdays 4-5pm
Saturdays 4:15-4:45pm
or anytime by appointment
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

Rev. Fr. Thomas

HD-486692

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV
526 13th Street
(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions

Saturday 8:25 am
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

HD-486690

West Virginia Board Revokes Private University's Ability to Award Degrees Amid Staggering Debt

By **JOHN RABY and LEAH WILLINGHAM**

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The board overseeing West Virginia's four-year colleges and universities voted Monday to revoke a small Baptist university's ability to award degrees, in response to its staggering debts.

Alderson Broaddus University will be prohibited from awarding degrees starting Dec. 31, the state Higher Education Policy Commission announced during an emergency meeting to address the school's financial struggles, including \$775,000 in utility debts.

Under the plan, the commission authorized its chancellor to enter an order directing the school's next steps, which include not accepting new students or allowing returning students to come back, except for seniors scheduled to graduate at the end of the fall semester. Students who are currently enrolled would be given the chance to meet with advisers to go over options to transfer elsewhere. All planned athletic and extracurricular

activities would end immediately.

The university has 10 days to appeal the decision and it wasn't immediately clear whether an appeal would be made.

"While it is no secret that we've had challenges with AB being forthcoming with information and working with us, I can't stress enough how critical it is right now for the leadership at AB to put their students first," Commission Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker said.

She said the board is aware that some student-athletes and international students had plans to arrive at the private school as soon as this week. Fall classes are set to start next month for the school, which has less than 1,000 students.

"Can you imagine being these students? Can you imagine being their parents or loved ones right now — not knowing if this institution can remain open for the duration of the semester?" she said.

During the meeting, the university board's chairperson, James Garvin, asked for a decision to be postponed two days, saying other school officials were out of town and unable to attend on short notice. Garvin said

the recommendation to ask for a continuance came from the office of Republican Gov. Jim Justice. The commission denied his request.

Tucker said the board hired a consultant that is working with the university on teach-out plans to ensure students are able to finish their course of study. But, she said, "frankly very little has been done by AB on its own to provide teach-out plans for students or to communicate to the campus community the dire situation the institution is in." She said several private and public institutions in the state have agreed to transfer Alderson Broaddus University students if needed.

The city of Philippi had sent a notice last week specifying the amount of overdue utility debt at Alderson Broaddus.

Monday was the deadline for the university's utilities to be shut off if a payment had not been made, according to the commission.

The school announced Thursday it would pay the city \$67,000 on Monday and follow a structured plan for regular payments to resolve the remaining balance.

A university statement said the agreement with the city highlights a commitment "to open communication and mutual understanding."

During Monday's meeting, Garvin confirmed that the money had been "tendered and delivered" earlier that day.

Justice said in his weekly briefing earlier Monday that while no one wants the school to close, "this is not a brand new problem. There's been a lot of mountains and barriers that have been created by whatever it may be, and the inevitable may be the inevitable."

Earlier this month the commission gave the university temporary approval to continue awarding degrees through next June but said it would reconsider if Alderson Broaddus did not meet the state's criteria for financial stability. As part of that meeting, the commission required the university to have plans in place by Oct. 1 for the "teach-out" or transfer of current students as well as arranging for student transcripts and financial aid records to be secured with a third party. Alderson Broaddus also was required to provide monthly financial reports to the state.

The school, which was founded

in 1932, has been struggling financially for several years. Alderson Broaddus was placed on probation in 2017 by its accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission. The probation was lifted in 2019 although the school remained on notice to continue addressing areas of concern.

The commission also was told earlier this month that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had previously agreed to restructure a \$27 million loan to the university to allow for a more flexible cash flow. The school was offered assistance through a USDA program providing loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas.

In April, the university sought alumni contributions to raise immediate funds. That month, Andrea Bucklew, the school's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, was named interim president after the retirement of James Barry.

Another state school, private Ohio Valley University in Wood County, went bankrupt and abruptly closed in 2021.

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