

Marshall University

## Marshall Digital Scholar

---

The Parthenon

University Archives

---

2-8-2023

### The Parthenon, February 8, 2023

Evan Green

Parthenon@marshall.edu

Conner Woodruff

Matt Schaffer

Chayce Matheny

Victoria Ware

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Green, Evan; Woodruff, Conner; Schaffer, Matt; Matheny, Chayce; Ware, Victoria; Thompson, Shauntelle; Alfonso, Rafael; and Price, Scott, "The Parthenon, February 8, 2023" (2023). *The Parthenon*. 5603.

<https://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/5603>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Parthenon by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [beachgr@marshall.edu](mailto:beachgr@marshall.edu).

---

**Authors**

Evan Green, Conner Woodruff, Matt Schaffer, Chayce Matheny, Victoria Ware, Shauntelle Thompson, Rafael Alfonso, and Scott Price

## Students Join Legislators for Capitol's 'Marshall Day'

By **SARAH DAVIS**  
STAFF REPORTER

West Virginia Delegate Sean Hornbuckle shook hands with University President Brad D. Smith, signifying the collaboration between Marshall and West Virginia lawmakers, on the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 1.

“Marshall University has been educating students and accelerating individual success

across the great state of West Virginia and across the globe for over 186 years,” Hornbuckle said.

Several of Marshall’s leaders, including Student Body President Isabella Griffiths, Student Body Vice-President Walker Tatum, Athletic Director Christian Spears and Head Football Coach Charles Huff attended the Marshall Day at the West Virginia State Capitol.

West Virginia legislators,

along with West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, were also present.

The majority of the day consisted of a showcase of various programs that Marshall offers to their students and community. Tables and representatives from the Lewis College of Business, HerdCon and the College of Liberal Arts—among many others—shared resources and welcomed legislators and community members.

Marshall Cardiology offered complimentary blood pressure screenings to visitors.

Marshall Day also featured a number of discussions about issues and developments regarding the university. Topics included funding for campus improvements and the autism training center, campus carry, expanding business partnerships and House Bill 3024 (which deals with food insecurity).

Kristen Sayre, aviation student and president of Marshall’s Women in Aviation chapter, described Marshall Day as a “great opportunity to pick up information.”



University President Brad D. Smith greets Rep. Sean Hornbuckle in Charleston.

Photo by Sarah Davis

More Photos on Page 12

### What's Inside:

**Probe Into Gov. Justice and Title IX Appointment, Page 2**

**Marshall Men's Basketball Falls to Louisiana, Page 6**

**Geomythology and Student Sustainability, Page 3**

**Marshall Women's Basketball Victory, Page 7**

**Herdcon Expansion, Page 4**

**Appalachian Art Exhibits, Page 9**

**University Hosts Amicus Curiae Lecture, Page 5**

**Huntington Police Chief's Resignation, Page 12**

Scan here to follow us online:



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



**Marshall students ride FREE with I.D.**

**Running Six Days a Week!**  
Standard Daytime Service:  
20-minute loop along 3rd, 4th and 5th Avenue 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**



**529-RIDE**

**THE GREEN MACHINE**  
DOWNLOAD ROUTESHOUT  
[WWW.TTA-WV.COM](http://WWW.TTA-WV.COM)  
(304) 529-7433

# Governor Justice Faces Criticism From Senate for MU Baseball Field Funds



Justice presents \$13.8 million check to press last September.



Photos by Shaun Thompson

By **CONNER WOODRUFF**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Senators have attacked West Virginia Governor Jim Justice's decision to use nearly half of \$28 million of COVID-19 relief funds for Marshall University's new baseball field.

These concerns were brought up in a West Virginia Senate panel last week, where senators questioned Justice's authority regarding his handling of the leftover CARES act funds from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intention of the CARES act is to provide support to those who were affected during the COVID-19 pandemic by allocating federal funds, giving tax breaks and offering other forms of financial support.

"I'm trying to wrap my head around or get a logical explanation how a baseball field

would fall under COVID funds," Sen. Randy Smith, R-Tucker, said during Friday's hearing.

The panel agreed to reach out to the Treasury Office of Inspector General to review Justice's transfer of the \$28,375,985.

Justice responded stating that the money provided by the federal CARES act needed to be spent by a certain deadline.

The governor contributed \$13.8 million of CARES act funds to the construction of Marshall University's long-awaited baseball stadium which he presented as a gift from the state.

"This has been a long time coming, and I am so proud to play a small part in getting this project across the finish line," Justice said while presenting his contribution in September. "They've been talking about

building a baseball stadium since I was a brown-haired kid playing golf at Marshall back in the 70s. Finally, it's going to happen, and this community can get the monkey off its back."

The baseball stadium has been a long-in-development project for Marshall University, with several hiccups in funding stalling the construction plans since the 1970s.

"For more than six decades this dream has been worked on by many people," Marshall University President Brad Smith said at the event in September where Justice presented the \$13.8 million. Without a proper baseball field, the Marshall University Baseball Team has to practice currently in other university facilities.

# Jessica Rhodes Named Title IX Coordinator

By **MATT SCHAFFER**  
NEWS EDITOR

After months of controversy and a national search, Marshall has named Jessica Rhodes as the permanent Title IX coordinator in an announcement released Tuesday.

Jessica Rhodes was previously acting as the interim coordinator after being brought in as the Title IX investigator in 2021. The coordinator role became open following Debra Hart's departure, a USA Today article detailing the failures of the university's Title IX chapter and student-led protests on campus.



Jessica Rhodes Photo courtesy of MU online

and faculty training, filling vacant roles in the Title IX office, creating better communication between the office and victims as well as creating maps with directions for students on campus.

"Whatever the best way we can get the info out there, I agree with.

People need to know their options so they can solve them," Rhodes said.

"We must research other institutions and see what they're doing, but we are working on reports right now."

Rhodes is a Marshall alumna who, following graduation, went to West Virginia University College of Law. She has since served as an attorney for the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Legal Aid West Virginia and the West Virginia Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Council.

*"Whatever the best way we can get the info out there, I agree with."*

"Being the Title IX coordinator here, I know there have been issues and frustrations," Rhodes said. "I want to be open and resolve those. I am completely open to suggestions."

Rhodes said that she is already working on resolving the issues facing Marshall's implementation of Title IX and wants to ensure that students are going to be able to voice their concerns.

"I want to get out, meet the students, have coffee and have conversations," Rhodes said. "You're frustrated and we need to hear those frustrations."

Rhodes also said she plans on looking at implementing staff

# Geomythology Discussed in Lecture Series



Timothy Burbery Courtesy of MU Online

By SARAH DAVIS  
STAFF REPORTER

Geomythology — a new discipline to track connections between lands and their legends — featured in the latest edition of Marshall’s new Artists, Scholars & Innovators lecture last Thursday.

Dr. Timothy Burbery, English professor, presented information from his 2021 book “Geomythology: How Common Stories Reflect Earth Events.”

Geomythology is defined as “the geologic application of euhemerism,” according to Dorothy Vitaliano, the founder of geomythology.

Burbery noted that although geomythology is not an exact science, it can be linked to many

aspects of science. His book highlights this truth as well as bridging the gap between legends of humanity and scientific phenomenon.

Burbery also explained geomythology as a way to describe how certain land formations and other features of our world came to be. Examples of this include the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Thousand Islands of Canada and the American Groundhog Day, where a groundhog is said to predict the weather for the weeks to come.

*“It might seem that, at times, only story and story alone is up to the job of really expressing and capturing the horror or the wonder of such events.”*

“These narratives are charming, of course, but again, they ignore the true causes for these landforms,” he said.

Burbery then spoke of the Moken people, a group in Thailand, who were known for their abilities to swim and their water-based lifestyle. In 2004, a massive earthquake struck the land, which led to a tsunami destroying many of their properties. The earthquake was the third largest

ever recorded and triggered other earthquakes around the world.

The Moken people believed it was the work of the Laboon monster. The story went onto tourists, who now often touch the Moken for good luck.

Other examples of this include the cyclops monster, dragons and pegasus.

Geomythology is also found in non-animal myths as well. Illustrations of this include “killer lakes” where freshwater bodies excrete CO<sub>2</sub>, harming the people around them. Although we know this to be the greenhouse effect, myths and legends nurture the idea of other causes.

“It might seem that, at times, only story and story alone is up to the job of really expressing and capturing the horror or the wonder of such events,” he said.

Another section of “Geomythology” covers the common objections to the study.

Burbery uses the famous “chicken and egg” analogy, saying:

“The fact that many geomyths originate in areas where there are known fossils and related discoveries makes it harder to believe that all details were concocted by scratch.”

In closing, Burbery explained how scientists may feel inclined to believe some phenomena have fairytale-like explanations.

“We seem to be wired for stories and terrifying, lovely ones, if that,” he said.

Burbery ended with a quote by marine biologist and screenwriter Randy Olson, who said, “The mantra of today’s scientists should be not ‘Houston, we have a problem,’ but rather, ‘Houston, we have a narrative.’”

# Getting Involved in Sustainability

By JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO  
STUDENT REPORTER

A plastic-free campus is one of many sustainability-focused efforts led by the Sustainability Club for students to make their campus more environmentally friendly.

Plastic waste has been one of the main focuses of the Sustainability Club and its efforts on campus.

“The club has worked and advocated for the plastic free campus campaign,” said Kenlee Bonecutter, president of the Sustainability Club. “It was signed by former president Gilbert and pledged to be plastic free by 2026. The department is working hard to ensure that plastic alternatives are being brought to campus.”

Still working on the plastic-free campus, the Sustainability Club will be hosting a plastic bag drive throughout the semester where students can drop off plastic bags at East Hall.

“The club is working on our ‘plarn’ (plastic yarn) project

to bring awareness to the fact that plastic bags are nearly impossible to recycle,” Bonecutter said.

The efforts of the Sustainability Club hope to reach off-campus with this project.

“We are using the plarn to make sleeping mats to donate to organizations in the community to then give to unhoused individuals,” Bonecutter said.

The Sustainability Club is also responsible for a number of other changes on campus that students can engage with.

“All the recycling and compost bins, composting facility, free produce for students grown in the garden, the bike share and the butterfly and pollinator oasis are all at student’s disposal,” said Kenlee Bonecutter, president of the Sustainability Club.

For students interested in a more hands-on approach, the Sustainability Club also gives members many chances to volunteer.

“Students can volunteer their time in the garden and greenhouse,” Bonecutter said.

**Subscribe to The Parthenon Newsletter**  
[www.marshallparthenon.com](http://www.marshallparthenon.com)

## HerdCon Expands to Two Days to Feature More Events



Students Cosplayed for last year's HerdCon.

Photo by Shaun Thompson

By **BEX LAW**  
STUDENT REPORTER

HerdCon 2023 is expanding to a two day event on Marshall's campus from Mar. 24 and 25 with live podcasts, cosplay competitions, vendors, table top games and more.

Over a year's worth of preparation goes into HerdCon events, Michelle Alford, Marshall library information systems technologist, said. Alford and Heather Lauer, assistant professors and librarians, are the co-chairs of the planning committee for HerdCon.

In previous years, HerdCon has been a one-day event with a sing-along event the evening prior to "get people excited," Lauer said.

However, this year HerdCon will be kicking off on Friday, Mar. 24 with a live podcast recording by Justin and Syndee McElroy. Both the McElroys are Marshall alumni and the co-hosts of the podcast "Sawbones: A Marital Tour of Misguided Medicine." Limited

seating will be available at this live recording, with live streaming available.

HerdCon began in 2018 because Alford and Lauer's co-worker Monica Brooks expressed a need for a convention in Huntington that is affordable and accessible.

"It is very unique that this is a free event, and that is very important to us," Alford said.

HerdCon will have vendors, panels, board games and tabletop role playing games available. There will also be robots provided by local girl scouts and drones provided by Robert C. Bird Institute.

The event will also feature both a cosplay competition and a cosplay exhibition. There will be several categories for the cosplay competition, including youth under 12, novice, master and more.

Lauer said the cosplay is something she is most looking forward to. Typically, the cosplay competition is held in the Shawkey Dining Room; however, HerdCon may need to make other

arrangements this year.

"It was an absolute madhouse," Alford said, describing the event from last year. "We had people packed wall to wall. All the seats were taken. People were standing in the door frame and peeking in from the hallway. It was crazy."

In the final moments of preparation, Alford and Lauer expressed the need for volunteers, especially student volunteers.

"You can volunteer for everything," Alford said. "From hanging up flyers around town to taking a monitoring shift during the con. It is really fun, and we need the help."

Those interested can find more information regarding volunteer sign-up, schedule of events, guest speaker announcements and more on HerdCon's social media pages and at [www.marshall.edu/herdcon](http://www.marshall.edu/herdcon). They can also find more information on Instagram at @herdconwv or by searching "HerdCon" on Facebook.

## Sororities' Panhellenic Council Elects New Officers

By **BETHANY JARRELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

New officers have been elected to Marshall's Panhellenic Council, which governs National Panhellenic sororities on campus, including Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Sigma Sigma Sigma

Emma West, the new Panhellenic Council president, said she is eager to improve the relationships of sorority life. She plans to use her position to make changes that benefit the future of sororities at Marshall.

West knows the responsibility that comes with being the Panhellenic Council president, but she said she has plenty of support in her sisterhood.

"I was nervous to take on this role, but I remind myself that I'm only human, and I have an amazing executive board and graduate assistants that are willing to help with anything," West said when asked about her new position in Greek life.

The new executive board consists of two Alpha Chi Omega members, three Alpha Xi Delta members, two Sigma Sigma Sigma members and one from Delta Zeta. Emma West holds the position of president and with her stands: Addison Wilson (Vice-President of Finance), Ellie Belcher (Vice-President of Philanthropy), Jessica McClung (Vice-President of Judicial Affairs and Risk

Management), Maddie Nicholson (Vice-President of Recruitment), Haley Prather (Vice-President of Membership), Elizabeth Litton (Vice-President of Programming) and Lydia Brown (Vice-President of Communications).

Maddie Nicholson is now in charge of spring and fall recruitment operations.

"I plan on marketing Greek life and all of its opportunities to girls at Marshall in hopes of them signing up for recruitment," Nicholson said. "I never thought I would even join a sorority, but am now in charge of sorority recruitment."

She went on to say, "My big, Laney Miller, was my biggest inspiration to take this position."

West said she looks to her parents and friends for inspiration and support.

"I can always turn to these people for guidance," she said.

"I never expected to be in such a position when joining a sorority," West went on to say. "I was the girl skeptical about Greek life, but am now grateful I made the decision to go through recruitment."

The Panhellenic Council encourages all women of the Marshall community to see the opportunities joining a sorority has to offer and welcomes all to recruitment.

# Student Reflects on Friendships Found in Extracurriculars

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Finding friendship in the Cherry Blossom Cosplay club, a Marshall University spring graduate says she has made the most of her four years here.

Kaylee Hall, a pre-medical biology major from Logan, West Virginia, started at Marshall in the fall of 2019.

“Both of my siblings went here, and they have a really good medical program that I was interested in,” Hall said. “I wasn’t sure exactly what field I was going to pursue when I got here, but I know they had a lot of options.”

If there was any piece of advice that Hall wishes that she could give her freshman self, it would be to just relax and everything

will work out.

“It’ll be all right, just stop panicking so much,” Hall said. “I know that’s hard to do, but just try to relax and take things a day at a time. You’ll get through it.”

Her favorite memories at Marshall were made in the Cherry Blossom Cosplay Club, a club that celebrates and appreciates the artform.

“We’ve done a few parades, and we’ve done stuff at conventions,” Hall said. “Every time, I’ve gotten to hang out with my friends, and stuff has been nice.”

Marshall offers 56 different graduate degree programs and 35 graduate certificate programs, and, after Hall graduates on Apr. 29, she hopes to enroll in Marshall’s Physician Assistant program.

# Amicus Curiae Examines Women’s Rights

By **SARAH DAVIS**  
STAFF REPORTER

A women’s rights historian told a Marshall audience last week she came “to shed some light on the deeply polarized and bitterly political partisan/political culture that we live in now, and how it came to be that way.”

Speaking Jan. 31 at the most recent in the Amicus Curiae series, Dr. Marjorie J. Spruill focused her lecture on themes from her book, “Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women’s Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics.”

The book explores the early events of the Women’s Rights Movement, including the decision of Roe v. Wade, Title IX, “federally funded feminism” and the fightback of political and/or religious groups against the Equal Rights Amendment.

The main portion of “Divided We Stand” explores the individuality of the states and how they conducted the Women’s Rights Movement. Spruill believes these state meetings were “the heart of the story” for women’s rights in the 1970s.

She went on to comment on how these individual state meetings paved the way for the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston, Texas.

“This was an extraordinary event in U.S. history,” she said.

Spruill also discussed how the National Women’s Conference sparked a new phenomenon, which led to the National Plan of Action and further opportunities

for women.

The final section of “Divided We Stand” talks about how the Women’s Rights Movement of the 1970s affects the present day. However, Spruill added that much has happened after “Divided We Stand” was published in 2017. She mentioned an increase of women politicians, the Me Too Movement and the reversal of Roe v. Wade. With an increase of women politicians, many Americans can also see a political divide.

“Women are more visible and powerful in politics than ever before but clearly stand divided,” she said.

Spruill concluded her lecture with a summary of what she discussed, saying: “Issues that affect us, in the most personal and profound manner possible, issues loaded with moral and religious significance that lead women to profoundly different conclusions, continue to be fought out in the political arena and settled at the ballot box.”

Dr. Patricia Proctor, director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, hosted the event. The Amicus Curiae Lecture Series is sponsored by the center alongside the West Virginia Humanities Council.



Kaylee Hall has used cosplay as a way to make friends and find connections during her time at Marshall.

Courtesy of Janet Hall



Dr. Marjorie J. Spruill presented at the Amicus Curiae event and spoke on women’s rights issues.

Photo by Sarah Davis

# Marshall's Sluggish Start Proves Costly in Loss at Louisiana

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball drops to Louisiana on the road 77-67.

The slow offensive first half proved costly for the Herd as they shot 10 of 29 from the field and were outrebounded 26 to 11.

Marshall's largest deficit was 14 in the

first half, 30-16, with 5:38 remaining.

"They wanted it more earlier than we did," Herd men's basketball head coach Dan D'Antoni said. "They came out intent on winning a ballgame. We came out to play a ball game."

In the second half, Marshall was down 18 points. Marshall cut the deficit to eight points, but Louisiana

never allowed the Herd to get closer.

Marshall was outrebounded 47-25, and junior Jordan Brown played a significant role, grabbing 20 boards for the Ragin' Cajuns. He also finished with 26 points.

Senior Terence Lewis II also grabbed ten rebounds for the Ragin' Cajuns.

The leading scorer for the Herd was

senior Taevion Kinsey who had 28 points, with one rebound and three assists.

Junior Andrew Taylor scored seven points on 3 of 15 shooting, and junior Kamdyn Curfman scored nine points on 3 of 10 shooting.

Freshman Micah Handlogten grabbed eight rebounds; sophomore

Obinna Anochili-Killen grabbed seven rebounds.

Marshall shot 38.7% from the field as a team, while Louisiana shot 50% from the field.

Next, Marshall will stay on the road as they take on Coastal Carolina Thursday at 7 p.m.



Sophomore Obinna Anochili-Killen walks onto the court with his head down.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



# Women's Basketball Wins in Second Half Comeback

By **LUKE HAMILTON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall Women's Basketball team won by five points in a comeback win over Georgia State at home (50-45).

The Herd won its second game in a row at home and are on a five-game winning streak. Marshall is now 7-5 in conference play, and Georgia State is five and a half games behind first place. The Herd have now moved up

to eighth place in the conference, with a chance to catch up late in the season.

The first quarter started off rough for the Herd, only scoring four points. Marshall scored 12 points in the second quarter as they slowly chipped away at the lead.

The tides started to turn in the third quarter as Marshall looked like a completely new team on the floor. Going into the fourth, Marshall trailed

by nine points after a fastbreak layup by junior guard Abby Beeman.

The end of the game was decided by rebounding from Mahogany Matthews along with free throws and blocks. Beeman also had her hand in the winning minutes of play with a made layup and a foul call for the three-point play the old-fashioned way.

The Georgia State Panthers had a pair of players with double digits.

Mikyla Tolivert had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead the way for the Panthers. Deasia Merrill ended with 16 points and nine rebounds. Both of the Panther's star players had over half of the team's points.

Abby Beeman had the most points for the Herd with 16 along with six rebounds. Mahogany Matthews finished the game with two blocks, 11 points and six rebounds. Roshala

Scott contributed 12 points and six free throws to boost the Herd over the Panthers.

Marshall stays at home next week, playing Coastal Carolina on Thursday morning and Texas State Saturday afternoon before they go on the road again on the 16th against Georgia Southern.

# Marshall Softball Set to Embark on 2023 Season

## THE PARTHENON

The three-day tournament begins Friday with a 1:30 p.m. first pitch with Portland State. The Thundering Herd will also meet Colgate while facing Butler twice in its opening weekend. The Bulldogs are coming off a 31-win season in 2022.

The Herd has been picked sixth

in the Sun Belt preseason poll. Louisiana, the three-time defending Sun Belt Conference champion, was unanimously selected as the preseason favorite for the Sun Belt.

The Herd returns 10 players from a 35-win team in 2022 while adding five transfers and three incoming freshmen to the 2023 roster.

One of those returning players

is Sydney Nester, the reigning Conference USA Pitcher of the Year. The Hillsville, Virginia native recorded 26 wins with a 2.35 ERA last season. Nester was also inducted into her high school's Hall of Fame last month.

Offensively, infielder/catcher Autumn Owen returns, coming off a season where she hit eight home runs with a .354 average. The 2022 All-

Conference Second Team member had 51 hits and 23 RBIs in her first season with the Herd.

The incoming class consists of three freshmen - Aaliyah Crews, Abby Darnley and Bri Godfrey.

Other newcomers include Parkersburg native Emily Allen, Sydney Bickel, Erica Holt, Savannah Rice and Kasey Wilhoit.

Head coach Megan Smith Lyon and her staff enter their fifth season in Huntington. Smith Lyon owns a 115-60 record at Marshall and has 508 wins overall in her collegiate coaching career.

# Reporters' Resource Might Tank Media Credibility Unless It Takes Vetting Sources More Seriously

By **AMAKA CHUKWUMA**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In 2018, Peter Shankman launched Help A Reporter Out. Now a CISION brand, it has since grown to become the largest free source repository in the world, fielding thousands of requests for information from media outlets worldwide every week.

About 75,000 journalists and over 1 million sources are connected to the HARO network. The New York Times and the World Financial Journal, among others, have utilized this tool for years. But what seemed like a resourceful way to help journalists and bloggers get in touch with credible sources and small

businesses build their reputations has a dark side that raises concern.

How HARO Works

Writers and reporters use Help A Reporter Out (or HARO) to receive opinions from subject matter experts. Conversely, communications teams and PR firms use it to pitch experts.

Reporters signed up on HARO send a request by submitting a written summary of their needs, which is sent out to a mailing list three times daily. Communication teams and individuals signed up as sources send their comments or pitches in response.

HARO has been called "the Tinder of public relations" (PR) - connecting those seeking reputable sources

with experts seeking publicity. An additional perk is that the websites of the media where these experts are quoted provide them with valuable inbound links (backlinks).

Experts' opportunities to gain not only visibility but also a free backlink from a well-regarded niche website are enhanced by HARO. Unfortunately, what could be a win-win situation has instead become a breeding ground for fake experts and fraudulent individuals.

Where The HARO Problem Begins

Because becoming a source on HARO is easy and free (as the company puts it, "registration takes a minute"), some have abused the platform to present false information to reporters for publicity and link-building.

Individuals who are not in actual professions often present themselves as such. Or, in the worst instance, posing as someone else and presenting bogus credentials.

Source finders often receive pitches from phony experts who know little about a particular area or topic. Using ChatGPT or Google, it is all too easy for sources to develop intelligent responses in this era of artificial intelligence. HARO's shortcomings are of paramount importance, as they deceive reporters and undermine the media's credibility.

Only recently, my editor received a request for a guest post from someone claiming to be a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). Upon performing a background check, they were found to not have a CFP designation. And in the only publication where they claimed to have a feature, the said post was taken down. Chances are, this person is probably using HARO to

try to get some credible journalists to cover their story. This isn't farfetched, as such events have occurred before.

There are older stories like the self-promoting comedian who deceived scores of media sites into quoting him about his experiences as a millennial, although he was actually 55 years old. And that of Patricia Russell, who claimed to hold a CFP and be a personal finance expert resulting in being featured in several media outlets until she got caught.

With these sad HARO stories, comments from experts might start to be taken with a grain of salt, and media skepticism-which is already at an all-time low-will only get worse. Only 34% of Americans, according to a Gallup survey, have a lot or some confidence in the media.

HARO Needs To Take Responsibility

Given the complete lack of transparency, it is impossible to know whether or not HARO actually validates its sources. HARO doesn't mention any validation process anywhere on its site. We can't assume that HARO performs thorough due diligence in around one minute of onboarding sources. It may appear that HARO has handed off all of the responsibility to the journalist.

One of its rules specifies that media members perform additional due diligence. This rule follows the admonition that sources must have clear and reasonable expertise in the issue relevant to the query. According to HARO, if the source's authority on a topic isn't evident from their title or the company they represent, the source must explain why they are an authority on the issue before giving their pitch.

Since sources only have to go through

three processes-registering with very basic information, monitoring source requests, and sending pitches-without a verification process, the rules seem to imply that once sources can prove who they claim to be or why they're a good fit to comment, it is entirely left to the journalists to investigate further.

It's like HARO is telling reporters, "You're welcome to come and seek experts on our platform, but hey, don't trust who they say they are."

Rather than leaving reporters to rely solely on the words of sources or conduct their own source investigations, it would be more helpful if HARO had stringent processes to weed out individuals lacking proven experience and expertise. Reporters may then conduct source investigations as a second step of verification rather than what could appear to be the first and only layer to ascertain the identity of sources.

Reporters Must Take HARO'S Advice or Find Better Alternative

According to Brian Thorp, founder of Wealthtender, "reporters naturally understand the benefits of incorporating quotes from expert sources in articles to express diverse points of view and instill confidence among readers. But relying upon popular platforms like HARO to source presents risks when so-called experts aren't in fact who they say they are."

Hence he advises journalists to take HARO's advice and take additional time to confirm the identity of sources. "For example," he says, "ensure sources' contact information, such as their email address, matches the domain of their business website."

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.

Evan Green - Executive Editor

Conner Woodruff - Managing Editor

Matt Schaffer - News Editor

Chayce Matheny - Sports Editor

Victoria Ware - Opinions & Culture Editor

Shauntelle Thompson - Photo and Graphics Editor

Rafael Alfonso - Content Editor

Scott Price - Copy Editor

Abby Hanlon - Social Media Manager

Charles Bowen - Faculty Adviser

Follow The Parthenon on Twitter and Instagram @MUParthenon

109 Communications Bldg

Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive

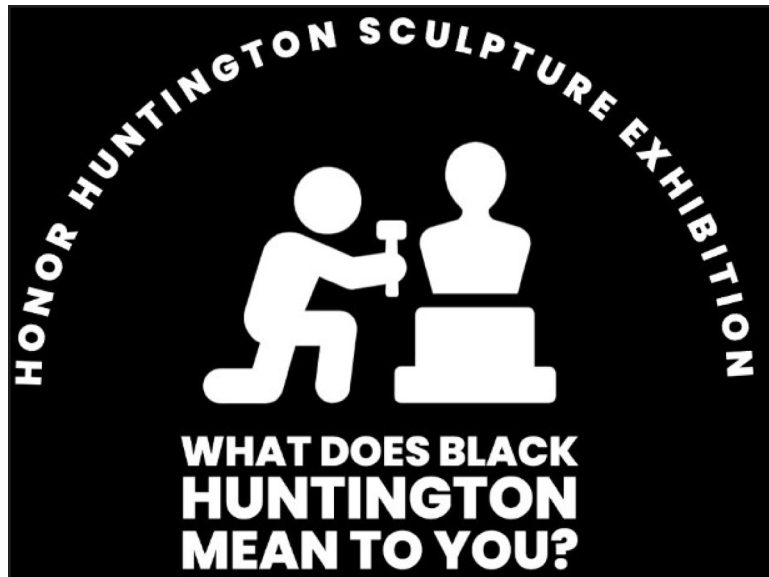
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu

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.

## Sculpture Exhibition Showcases Appalachian Black History



The "Honor Huntington Sculpture Exhibition" poster. Courtesy of Kayden Fox

By **EMMA JOHNSON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Local artists have the opportunity to show off what Appalachian Black History means to them in an upcoming sculpture exhibition.

The Radiant Communications Agency is teaming up with the Huntington Area Convention and Tourism Bureau to host the "Honor Huntington Sculpture Exhibition."

"We are inviting students and community members to design a sculpture that illustrates what Appalachian Black History means to them," Taylor Isaac, a Marshall senior, said.

One artist from the exhibition will be chosen to receive \$250 and have their art professionally produced and incorporated into markers around Huntington.

The exhibition is specifically for sculptures, which can be made from different types of materials such as wood, clay, ceramics etc.

Everyone is eligible to participate in the exhibition as long as the sculpture portrays the artist's definition of what Black History means to them.

"We want to see the different perspectives on Huntington's Black History and Appalachian Black History as a whole," Isaac said. "Whether that is their own experiences as a Black Huntingtonian, or their experience as an ally."

The exhibition is an initiative to educate the community about the Black History of the community and Appalachia as a whole.

"This is part of RCA's initiative to educate the community about the rich history of Black Huntington and transform the area into a diverse hub that tourists want to visit," Isaac said.

The deadline to apply for the exhibition is 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 22 and artists must have their sculpture completed prior to submitting their application.

The exhibition will be hosted Feb. 27 through Mar. 3, and a reception will be held on Mar. 3 at 4:00 p.m. where the winner of the exhibition will be announced.

The Honor Huntington Sculpture Exhibition will be held in the Old Birke Art Gallery located in Smith Hall.

## 'Optimism in Appalachia' Exhibit Displays Positive Depictions of WV



A painting from the "Optimism in Appalachia" exhibit.

Photo by Joseph DiCristofaro

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
STUDENT REPORTER

A new art exhibit on campus offers students, faculty and community members a variety of visual representations of optimism. Titled "Optimism in Appalachia," the exhibit opened in Drinko Library on Thursday, Feb. 2.

"The goal of this exhibit has been to showcase creative expressions of the positive Appalachian experience and encourage a sense of happiness and hope," said Sabrina Thomas, head of research and instruction services for Marshall University Libraries.

The exhibition features many different pieces of art, ranging from quilts to works done in clay along with photography works.

Artists that submitted work for the exhibition ranged from students to

experienced Appalachian artists.

"I was inspired by what I used to do in church," said Sophie Leffew, a Marshall sophomore. "I used to do sign language in church and teach other people sign language."

Leffew's artwork is a set of ceramic hands positioned to spell out "join hands" in sign language, which also serves as the name for the piece.

"The sign language ceramics seemed perfect for this exhibition because it's a community and ties people together," Leffew said.

Inspiration for the piece came not only from her childhood roots in using sign language but also from not seeing much representation of sign language in art, Leffew said.

Photographs also feature in the exhibition that capture the natural beauty of Appalachia.

"If I could encourage students if they're having a down day or feeling overwhelmed and looking for optimism come to the exhibit and walk around," said Laura Moul, an experienced photographer and contributor to the exhibit.

Moul has had many of her works displayed at other exhibitions around West Virginia. For Optimism in Appalachia, she contributed the photos titled "After the Rain," "Lone Sunflower," and others.

The exhibition will be on display until May 5 and is free to the public.

"Walking through this show is inspiring, and we hope that faculty, students, staff and community members can take time to wander through the library to find a little hope, a little humor and a whole lot of optimism," Thomas said.

# Ohio Authorities Plan Controlled Release of Toxic Material

By **PATRICK ORSAGOS** and **JOHN SEEWER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (AP) — Authorities in Ohio say they plan to release toxic chemicals from five cars of a derailed train in Ohio to reduce the threat of an explosion.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine says a “controlled release” of vinyl chloride will take place on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Residents near the site have been ordered to evacuate. DeWine said residents need to leave the area because of the risk of death or serious injury.

“We are ordering you to leave. This is a matter of life and death,” DeWine said at a press conference. Anyone who remains in the immediate area faces “grave danger of death” if they inhale the fumes.

Police officers and others knocked on doors Sunday night telling people to leave and were back out in the same neighborhoods on Monday, DeWine said. Authorities believe most, if not all, people have left who were told to do so.

Scott Deutsch of Norfolk Southern Railway said the controlled release during the daytime will allow the fumes to disperse more quickly and prevent the rail cars from exploding and sending shrapnel and other debris from flying through the neighborhood, Deutsch said.

“We can’t control where that goes,” he said.

He estimated the process would take from one to three hours. The

site is very close to the state line, and the evacuation area extends into Pennsylvania.

About 50 cars, including 10 carrying hazardous materials, derailed in a fiery crash Friday night, according to rail operator Norfolk Southern and the National Transportation Safety Board. No injuries to crew, residents or first responders were reported.

Norfolk Southern said 20 of the more than 100 cars on the train were classified as carrying hazardous materials — defined as cargo that could pose any kind of danger “including flammables, combustibles, or environmental risks.”

The cars involved carried combustible liquids, butyl acrylate and residue of benzene from previous shipments, officials said.

Five were transporting vinyl chloride, which is used to make the polyvinyl chloride hard plastic resin in plastic products and is associated with increased risk of liver cancer and other cancers, according to the federal government’s National Cancer Institute.

A statement from DeWine’s office warned on Sunday night of “the potential of a catastrophic tanker failure” after a “drastic temperature change” was observed in a rail car.

Police cars, snow plows and military vehicles from the Ohio National Guard blocked streets leading into East Palestine on Monday morning as authorities

began enforcing what had previously been a strongly recommended evacuation zone within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of the crash site.

Schools and many businesses were closed, and the local high school was turned into a shelter.

Norfolk Southern has opened an assistance center in the village to gather information from affected residents. But some residents complained about a lack of information regarding the evacuation, which covered the homes of about half the town’s 4,800 residents.

Federal investigators say the cause of the derailment was a mechanical issue with a rail car axle.

The three-member train crew received an alert about the mechanical defect “shortly before the derailment,” Michael Graham, a board member of the NTSB, said Sunday. Investigators identified the exact “point of derailment,” but the board was still working to determine which rail car experienced the axle issue, he said.

Mayor Trent Conaway, who declared a state of emergency in the village, said one person was arrested for going around barricades right up to the crash. He warned people to stay away and said they’d risk arrest.

“I don’t know why anybody would want to be up there; you’re breathing toxic fumes if you’re that close,” he said.



Train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio

Photos courtesy of AP/ Gene J. Puskar

## 54th Annual Winter Jazz Festival is Coming to Smith Hall

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Jazz fans will be able to listen to multiple music ensembles at the 54th Annual Winter Jazz Festival on Feb. 16-18 inside the Smith Recital Hall.

Dr. Joseph Jefferson, a Joan C. Edwards distinguished professor in the arts and recipient of the 2022 Ellis Marsalis Jr. Jazz Educator of the Year award, is to be featured prominently.

"We're honored and thrilled to have such a wonderful artist/educator for the 54th MU Winter Jazz Festival," Jeff Wolfe, Marshall's director of jazz studies, said. "Audiences won't want

to miss hearing Joseph's performances during the festival."

Jefferson is a graduate of West Virginia University, and he is currently serving as an associate professor of trombone and euphonium along with being the director of jazz studies at Southeast Missouri State University.

The festival will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, with performances by the MU Jazz Combo I and the WVU Jazz Ensemble I. At 6 p.m. on Feb. 17, the Jewel City Jazz Orchestra will perform, and the Joseph Jefferson Quartet will follow. Finally, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18, the festival will conclude with the Thundering Herd All-Star

Jazz Ensemble and then the Marshall University Jazz Ensemble I, which will feature Jefferson.

Additionally, middle school and high school jazz ensembles will perform on Feb. 17 and 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and will occur throughout the days.

Wolfe says that Jefferson's work could be of benefit to Marshall, middle school and high school students alike.

"All of our current Marshall University music students and area high school and middle school students will greatly benefit from Dr. Jefferson's work as a clinician, educator and role model throughout the duration of the festival," Wolfe said.

## Marshall Artists Series to Host Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

By **MATT SCHAFFER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, presented by the Marshall Artists Series, will take the stage at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 9, to perform contemporary, multicultural dance.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and will see the dance company, which is based out of Chicago

and formed in 1977, perform a repertoire of dances from multiple leading choreographers, including Lar Lubovitch, Hope Boykin, Thang Dao, Rena Butler and Rennie Harris.

Tickets are available free of charge to students with an MUID, and can be picked up at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse or by visiting the Marshall Artists Series website.

# Worship Directory

## Grow Your Congregation

Our Worship Directory aims to help readers connect with religious resources in our community. Make sure our readers know how you can help with a presence in our weekly worship directory.

Contact us today to secure your spot on this ad.  
Call Brenda at 304.526.2752



### Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

1135 Fifth Avenue  
Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington  
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:45 am

Visit our website for Worship Services  
and for other times of Bible study, worship, and activities  
for children, youth, and adults.

[www.fifthavenuebaptist.org](http://www.fifthavenuebaptist.org)  
304-523-0115

HD-486691

### CATHOLIC

#### St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

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

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

Father Shaji Thomas

#### OUR LADY OF FATIMA Catholic Parish & Parish School

545 Norway Ave., Huntington • 304-525-0866

Mass Schedule:  
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8 am, 11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Confession: Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
or by appointment

[www.ourfatimafamily.com](http://www.ourfatimafamily.com)  
Father Tijo George, Pastor

HD-486764

HD-486768

### 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

#### 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-486692

HD-486690

# Photos From Marshall's Day at the W.V. Capital

Continued from story on Page 1



Marshall organizations gathered in Charleston for Marshall Day at the Capitol.



Photos by Sarah Davis

## Huntington's First Black Police Chief Resigns

By **LYDIA MONTAGUE**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Huntington's police chief has resigned after a little more than a year on the job, Mayor Steve Williams said in an announcement on Monday, Feb. 6. Karl Colder, appointed as chief on Nov. 1, 2021, stepped

down from his position effective immediately according to a news release from the city of Huntington.

Colder previously served for 32 years with the US Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration and was Huntington's first Black police chief. "Mr. Colder indicated

that he was resigning due to family matters. Out of respect to him and his family, I will have no further comment," Williams said. Deputy Chief Phil Watkins will serve as the new chief.

His appointment will take place on Feb. 13 before Huntington City Council.