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### The Parthenon, March 29, 2023

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**Authors**

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

## SGA Prepares for Single-Party Presidential Election

By **CONNER WOODRUFF**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Tatum/Harmon party is running unopposed in the 2023 Student Government Association election, voting for which starts today.

Because the ticket - made up of Walker Tatum, current SGA vice president, and Nevaeh Harmon, who is currently serving as Miss Marshall - is running unopposed, the duo is expected to assume the

roles of president and vice president, respectively, following the election.

"I'm excited to bring our platform to fruition and bring new ideas to campus," Tatum said. "Make it a place students love to be and increase student population."

The student body president serves on Marshall University's Board of Governors, which is a council of governor-appointed citizens who work to establish University policies. The vice president presides over all

SGA meetings. Both positions also play a role in the annual Fountain Ceremony.

Running unopposed has allowed the candidates to focus more on their platform rather than the competition of a traditional election.

"It's somewhat of a less stressed situation," Tatum said.

Tatum has served as the vice president under the current administration while also having been involved in student government

for most of his time at Marshall. He also praises the current student body president, Bella Griffiths, for her role as a mentor.

"I've definitely learned a lot," Tatum said. "She's groomed me into the student body president position."

Harmon, the 2022 Miss Marshall, is expected to assume the role of vice president. Harmon has recently served as the chief of staff for the Griffiths/Tatum presidency and has spent her time at Marshall involved

with the Society of Black Scholars.

The cabinet for the party includes Nico Raffinengo as chief of staff, Alyssa Hudson as press secretary, Callia Yang as business manager, Semoni Weaver as secretary of alumni engagement, Savannah Harding as secretary of community service & outreach, Sam LeGrow as secretary of student involvement and Ayanda Nnachi as secretary of diversity & inclusion.



VP candidate Nevaeh Harmon and Presidential candidate Walker Tatum

Courtesy Walker/Tatum Campaign

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# New Title IX Changes Coming and What You Need to Know

By **MATT SCHAFFER**  
NEWS EDITOR

Title IX changes are imminent after several recommendations were approved on Friday, Mar. 10, by University President Brad Smith following months of controversy and changes surrounding the University's implementation of the law's protections.

The changes being planned include mandatory Title IX training, reporter training and bystander training for all faculty and staff. Both Title IX and bystander training will also target the University's fraternities and sororities, and an annual, voluntary climate survey will also be administered, so those in Marshall's community can voice their concerns.

A permanent advisory board for students, faculty and staff will be created to oversee the changes made. New principles of transparency and accountability, including a more significant line of reporting, implementation of public forums, a satellite office in the student center and relocation of the Title IX Office are also being planned.

Further commitment to care for complainants and respondents through increased support from social workers, behavioral health clinics and a Title IX internship program, along with a peer-to-peer program, will also be implemented.

Amnesty programs, which protect students from disciplinary action when reporting an incident, along with supplementary

policy measures, such as no-contact orders and separation arrangements, will be revised and advertised.

These recommendations were presented by the Title IX Task Force, a student-led advisory commission that was created in response to a protest that occurred last fall following the release of a USA Today article that exposed failures of the Title IX Office at Marshall.

The task force included additional proposals for the Office of Student Conduct, including employee and staff seminars and performance reviews in January 2024.

Upon the presentation, Smith said Marshall University wants to become a leader in Title IX implementation and ensuring student safety.

"Let's be the gold standard," Smith said. "I think we're going at the outcomes that you proposed and also not creating a bottleneck of the process."

The approved list of six recommendations was created in tandem with staff and faculty members, along with a voluntary, anonymous campus-wide climate survey that began in late January and concluded in late February that showed that most students feel safe on campus, but there is still concern over the priorities of the Title IX Office.

The original list included 22 recommendations such as increasing student legal and mental health resources and the

limited use of legal jargon when discussing Title IX information for greater student understanding.

Marshall University's Title IX dealings came under scrutiny in the past months following the publication of the USA Today article in November that detailed the case of Joseph "Chase" Hardin, who sexually assaulted a fellow student, Alicia Gonzalez, in 2016. Through the appeals process, Hardin was allowed to remain on campus, leading to the assault of a second student, Ripley Haney, in 2018.

In 2019, Hardin would eventually be charged with four counts of second-degree sexual assault, two by Haney and two by an anonymous third student.

In 2020, Hardin was found guilty of both counts involving Haney and sentenced to 20 to 50 years in prison, which he is currently serving at West Regional Jail.

Just days following the publication of the article, a protest sparked on campus with students demanding the restructuring of the Title IX Office at the university and the resignation of then Title IX Coordinator Debra Hart. Jessica Rhodes assumed the position of coordinator for the office last month.

"If there's a way to say, 'we have a new leader in place in Jessica, who brings that empathy,' and we have a legal office that understands it's not just the law, it's how we do it," Smith said.



*"Let's be the gold standard."*

*- Brad D. Smith*

"We have a president who's right next door, so they have a chance to sit with me too, and I'll have a chance to hear from them."

Title IX is a federal, anti-discrimination law which prohibits discrimination against any person, regardless of sex, in any education program or activity that receives federal funding. Under federal law, institutions are required to handle, specifically, cases of sexual harassment and violence.



The Title IX office is in Old Main.

Photos by Shaun Thompson

## Faculty Votes on Academic Calendar

By **BEX LAW**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The final decision on the Academic Calendar is drawing near as the Student Government Association officially recommends a 15-week semester and the Faculty Senate is to vote later this week before being sent to the Board of Governors and President Brad D. Smith.

The Budget and Academic Policy Committee asked for student participation in creating a new academic calendar which would change the fall semester and spring semesters to 15 weeks rather than the current 14-week semesters.

SGA created three potential calendars, but voted on the

recommendation of a 15/15-week model after doing research and working with the BAPC and Faculty Senate to learn about the potential benefits and express concerns. There was even a motion to drop the recommendation of the current 14/14-week schedule after students learned more about it from faculty.

According to Student Body President Isabella Griffiths, it is likely the Faculty Senate and the BAPC will also vote to recommend the 15/15-week model. This would provide the university administration with a unanimous recommendation.

Ultimately, the decision is left to President Smith, but Griffiths suspects when presented with a unanimous recommendation, it would be unlikely

the president would go against the recommendation.

Students are not fully informed of all of the details that must be considered when creating the academic calendar. Griffiths has gotten an inside look at the process while serving on the Faculty Senate, and she is hopeful that in the future, the BAPC will create the calendar and then receive feedback from student senators. According to Griffiths, this would allow students to become more informed on the process in order to provide an educated opinion.

It is unclear when the official decision will be made and released to the public at this time.

## Documentary Brings AIDS/HIV Awareness to Marshall

By **SARAH DAVIS**  
STAFF REPORTER

Crowds gathered in the American streets on screen, shouting for changes to be made concerning the handling of the AIDS epidemic.

“Healthcare is a right!” protestors said. “Pump up the budget!”

Marshall showcased the 2012 documentary “How to Survive a Plague” on Tuesday, Mar. 7. This screening was sponsored by Marshall Libraries, Collegiate Recovery and the LGBTQ+ Office.

The director of the documentary is journalist and filmmaker David France. France dedicated the film to his late partner Doug Ghoult, who passed away due to AIDS-induced pneumonia in 1992.

With “How to Survive a Plague” being his first film, France went on to direct three other films, “The Death and Life of Marsha P.

Johnson,” “Welcome to Chechnya” and “How to Survive a Pandemic.”

France described the reality of the AIDS epidemic in an interview with Collider, saying that relief did not come for those affected at the start.

“During those first six years of the epidemic, nothing was being done and no money was being spent,” he said. “The only response, delayed from the White House, came six years into the epidemic after tens of thousands of people had died, and it came in the form of a series of jokes at the White House.”

The documentary specifically highlights the activism of ACT UP and TAG—both groups that fought for the ending of the AIDS epidemic. Mostly archived footage, “How to Survive a Plague” incorporates news coverage,

interviews and conferences that took place during the epidemic.

In addition to the screening, Marshall will host various other events for AIDS/HIV and Addiction Awareness week. These include a panel discussion and resource fair.

The merging of AIDS/HIV and addiction is a necessary one, said Meghan D. Sexton-Harness, Marshall Libraries associate.

“We chose to tie addiction into AIDS Awareness Week because it is such a large problem in this area,” she said in a Marshall University press release. “Kanawha County is currently experiencing the most alarming HIV outbreak in the country, according to the CDC. As a neighbor to Kanawha, we want to get ahead of the wave before it hits in order to save lives.”

## Engineering Program Gets \$1.3 Million

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
STUDENT REPORTER

\$1.3 million has been gifted to the civil engineering program at Marshall for use towards a research project that explores the applications for the use of carbon nanostructures.

Dr. Greg Michaelson, the principal investigator and associate dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, will oversee the project along with help from other civil engineering faculty members Dr. Andrew Nichols, Dr. Suk Joon Na and Dr. Sungmin Youn.

“The main goal of the research is to assess the viability of producing carbon nanomaterials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes etc. from locally available coal in West Virginia,” Michaelson said.

Carbon nanomaterials can be used widely in material science and engineering, but most commercially available products are not domestically produced.

“The faculty members in the Department of Civil Engineering who will be conducting this research

bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to a project that has exciting applications,” said Dr. Isaac Wait, professor of civil engineering and chair of the Department of Civil Engineering.

“Translating science and engineering into solutions that benefit West Virginia and our region is a key focus of our department,” Wait said, “and this initiative has the potential to help develop new technologies, build new markets and provide valuable experience for our students.”

The money donated by the Kenai Defense Company will help the Civil Engineering Department work with the Air Force Civil Engineering Center with its research.

“Marshall University will be the lead in sampling coal resources across the state, conducting bench-scale testing in producing nanomaterials from our local resources, and testing their performance in reinforcing asphalt and concrete installations,” Michaelson said.



Marshall's Engineering Complex

Photo by Shaun Thompson



Dr. Chris White

Photos by Charlie Bowen

## Potential Accidents Spark Fear After Campus Carry Law Passes

By **CHANCE GUNTHER**  
and **SEAN KELLY**  
STUDENT REPORTERS

Accidents are the biggest concern surrounding students carrying handguns on campus because most students don't have the proper training to handle firearms safely, a former Marine and current history professor said last week.

"Accidents happen on military bases where it is a controlled environment and everyone has proper training," Dr. Chris White told a Marshall journalism class on Thursday, Mar. 23.

"Most college students don't have the proper training, and a college campus is not a controlled environment," he said.

The new "Campus Self-Defense Act," which will permit handguns to be carried on any West Virginia college campus when it goes into effect in July 2024, has only minimal institutional safeguards in place—that would not qualify to be used in the military or law enforcement, White said.

All that is required in the

new law for a student to carry a handgun on campus is a West Virginia concealed handgun license, which entails a written test, a background check and a short live fire course.

By contrast, Marine recruits must train for five weeks—840 hours—under constant surveillance before firing live rounds. To White, this illustrates what he believes the campus carry bill lacks.

While the new laws include some exemptions about where students can carry weapons, it has little on the types of precautions that were routine in his experience with the Marines, White said.

"If you look at this bill for words like 'safety,' you won't find much," he said.

The new law does refer to "safes" but only as storage facilities for on-campus firearms, and even they don't meet military standards, said White. He also noted that for Marines, weapons are kept unloaded in armories that are guarded at all times and checked constantly.

White went on to say the state's new gun law could have benefitted

from the addition of provisions for a required sign-in sheet or guards for stored handguns on campus.

Besides accidents, White said he has another concern. He said college campuses can be stressful places, and wider access to handguns could cause more problems than it solves.

"West Virginia has one of the highest suicide rates in the country," he said, "and with more guns added to our college campuses, suicides may increase as well."

While White spoke in opposition to the gun bill during a public hearing in Charleston earlier this month, he said he also sees some positives in the law.

"I believe it will spark a lot of interests and debates and get people talking about it, which is always a good thing," he said, adding that he thinks both sides in the guns debate want to protect the people on college campuses. "We just have a different way of going about it."

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## SGA Proposes a Clothing Pantry Upgrade for Students

By **EMMA JOHNSON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The World Boutique clothing pantry in East Hall could receive an upgrade thanks to a recent proposal within the Student Government Association.

The boutique would allow for students to donate and pick up clothing at no cost and is open to all Marshall students.

The facility "helps provide students who may be struggling to find clothing with gently used clothes donated by Marshall students, staff and the Huntington Community," Senator Elizabeth McGuffey said.

This proposal hopes to bring in more donations to help the boutique grow, so there will be options for every student, McGuffey said.

"Housing and Residence Life's Green Move-Out gives all the clothing donations to Marshall University's Thrift Store, and the World Boutique on campus does not have access to those donations," according to McGuffey.

"I chose to write this proposal because I grew up in a family where we donated our old clothes, and I wanted to continue donating when I got to campus," McGuffey said. "I saw where that we had a clothing pantry and wanted to create something that

would hopefully get them more donations."

Students and staff members who are interested in making any donations can drop off their clothes in the LGBTQ+ Center on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*"The World Boutique in East Hall helps provide students who may be struggling to find clothing with gently used clothes" - SGA Senator Elizabeth McGuffey*



## Kim Stephens Named Women's Basketball Head Coach



Courtesy of HerdZone

By **LUKE HAMILTON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall held a press conference on Monday, March 27, to introduce the newly hired women's basketball coach, Kim Stephens. This hire makes Stephens the eighth head coach in program history.

Coach Stephens led the Glenville State Pioneers to a Division two national championship win last year along by taking them to the quarter finals this year.

Coach Toney Kemper led the team for the last six seasons. Kemper resigned shortly after the season ended and took a job at Central Arkansas after leading the Herd to an overall record of 79-90.

Stephens is a Parkersburg, West Virginia, native and claims that she always wanted to coach basketball like her father once did. Stephens also has siblings who coach in the sport as well.

"Choosing who leads our programs is one of the most important decisions you can make," President Brad Smith said before introducing Marshall's athletic director Christian Spears.

Spears described Stephens'

traits and said, "She develops a relationship with her student athletes that you know is sincere."

Spears had no doubt in his mind that Stephens was the right fit for the job when they met over dinner before the hire, "I met with the team this morning, and I think we're all just really excited to get to work and chase our first Sun Belt Championship," Stephens said after being introduced by Spears.

Stephens spoke briefly saying, "I hate to break it to you, I'm significantly better on the court than behind the podium." Coach Stephens made it clear that success in the program is about the team as a whole after asking the Herd roster to stand up during the press conference.

Marshall has some of the most talented players according to statistics in the Sun Belt Conference with Roshala Scott finishing the season at fifth in the conference for scoring and point guard Abby Beeman averaging the second most assists and placing 14th in rebounds. With the addition of coach Stephens, Marshall fans can expect a different look on the court for the remainder of her seven year contract.

## Softball Sweeps Southern Miss, Increases Win Streak to 17 Games

By **LUKE HAMILTON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall University Softball increased its win streak to 17 after winning all three games this past weekend against Southern Miss.

The Herd hosted the Golden Eagles at home on Saturday for a doubleheader and took the first game 4-0.

Plastic bags were flying over the field as the wind picked up on Saturday, making it even harder to predict where the ball would land.

Senior pitcher Sydney Nester held the golden eagles scoreless in the contest and Camryn Michallas hit her first home run of the season which led to three runs. The three-run homer in the sixth inning secured the victory in game one after Rielly Lucas hit a single to the infield that let Grace Chelemen bring it home.

In game two of the day, Marshall started Savannah Rice at pitcher and also allowed Bub Feringa and Bri Godfrey to take a turn at the circle in the win 17-9.

The Herd were up three to one in the third inning as Chelemen's homer led to three runs. Marshall went up 6-4.

The lead changed five times in the contest, and Marshall went down by two in the top of the fourth. The Herd answered with a Feringa home run that gave Marshall four more runs.

In the sixth inning, Marshall's leading home run hitter Autumn Owen hit a single that ended the game.

Marshall's Bri Godfrey finished the game at the circle only allowing one more point and two hits as the Herd went on to score 17.

Marshall's last game of the series on Sunday had a similar result to

game one as Marshall won again 4-0.

Nester pitched again in the Sunday game allowing four hits and striking out ten Southern Miss batters. Marshall's senior pitcher leads the Sun Belt in shutouts with seven this season.

Brooklyn Ulrich's walk helped Marshall get on the board with an easy trip home from Feringa.

Sydney Bickel, Alex Coleman and Chelemen all finished with one run apiece to give Marshall the victory.

With the three wins this past weekend, Marshall remains on top of Sun Belt Conference play and made history yesterday after winning their 18th game in a row against Northern Kentucky.

Marshall has never won more than 17 in a row in the program's 30 year history.

## Men's Golf Tied for 10th At Golfweek/AGT Intercollegiate

THE PARTHENON

Marshall men's golfer Ryan Bilby ended his round at the Golfweek/AGT Intercollegiate with a pair of birdies to finish at Even, which led the Thundering Herd on day one at True Blue Golf Club in Pawleys Island, South Carolina

As a team, Marshall finished at five over following Monday's first round, which left the team tied for 10th place, but only eight shots out of first place.

"We played okay today," Marshall men's golf coach Matt Grobe

said. "We really didn't make many birdies, but we did a good job of staying away from mistakes."

Bilby ended the day with consecutive birdies to battle back after a stretch of three consecutive bogeys just two holes prior to the final surge. The consecutive red numbers helped him battle back to even-par 72, which has him in the top 20 going into the second day of action.

Just behind Bilby were Joseph Kalaskey and Clayton Thomas, who shot one over par 73's. Thomas is competing as an individual in the

tournament.

Tyler Jones and Andrew Wyss were just behind at two over with Wyss netting 16 pars on the day in a clean round.

"Ryan and Joseph had very nice rounds," Grobe said. "Tyler and Andrew played well, too. It was also nice to see a solid round out of Clayton, who was playing this tournament for the first time."

Marshall returns to action at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, and will be paired with UConn and Wichita State on day two.

# Baseball Gives up a Combined 33 Runs in Two Games, Drops Series to ODU



Junior Owen Ayers

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall baseball dropped a three-game series to Old Dominion over the weekend.

In game one on Friday, Marshall won 6-1 on Patrick Copen's 11 strikeouts.

"A great team effort tonight that was obviously led by Copen's outing on the mound," Head Coach Greg Beals said after earning his milestone victory of 600 wins. "Cope had command

of his fastball, challenged and out-executed a good ODU offense. We also had offensive contributions up and down the line-up. Great way to start a road series. We need to match that competitive intensity tomorrow."

Marshall got on the board in the first inning with an Owen Ayers double that scored Kyle Schaefer.

ODU tied it up in the second inning. Chris Dengler was hit by a pitch with bases loaded, scoring Kenny Levari.

Marshall then scored five unanswered

runs from the third inning to the fifth, making it 6-1, with that being the final score.

In game two on Saturday, Marshall lost 21-5.

Marshall scored in the sixth inning, and the Herd was down 7-0 at the point. Schaefer singled, scoring Christian Lucio; Ayers singled, scoring Schaefer and Luke Edwards; Elijah Vogelsong reached base on an error that scored Ayers.

ODU then answered with 14 runs

through the sixth and seventh innings.

Marshall scored its last run in the eighth with a solo home run by Ayers.

"This game is humbling," Beals said after the loss. "Yesterday was all Herd, and today was not. The series is tied, and tomorrow we have the opportunity to win a big road series, and that is our focus."

In game three on Sunday, Marshall lost 12-2.

"Tough loss today – we did not play well collectively," Beals said. "Too

many free bases on defense and too many missed opportunities on offense. In order to beat good teams, we need to play cleaner and take advantage of every opportunity on offense."

Marshall scored its only two runs in the eighth inning after an Ayers single that scored Edwards and a Gio Ferraro single that scored Ayers.



# HerdCon Event Brings Campus Together

By SARAH DAVIS  
STAFF REPORTER

The presence of pop culture flooded Marshall's campus on Saturday, March 25, with the annual HerdCon convention. HerdCon, an event that launched in 2019, annually provides the community with opportunities and activities to channel one's interests with fandom and pop culture.

The mission of Marshall's pop culture convention is to make a point of educational diversity, according to an organizer of the

event.

"It's to let people know that Marshall is engaged in more than just teaching people how to do this and that and this and that, but also expanding our cultures," said Heather Lauer, librarian and organizer of HerdCon.

Lauer enjoys many aspects of HerdCon, but especially the impact it has on the community.

"It is amazing. Getting involved with the students, seeing their faces light up from the concepts of the cosplay [and] seeing

vendors," she said.

Lauer also expressed her gratitude to her coworkers that aided in this year's convention, describing them as an "amazing team."

This year's HerdCon featured an array of food trucks, vendors, panels and games. Special guests Justin and Dr. Sydney McElroy hosted a live episode of their podcast, Sawbones, to those in attendance.

One vendor described the HerdCon community as a family.

"We see these people at all kinds of cons around," said Nikki Bird, artist and HerdCon vendor. "The con family is wonderful, and I am so impressed by how they have this."

Bird, along with her daughter, has showcased her creations at numerous conventions, including HerdCon, for many years. Much like her business, she has seen HerdCon thrive from its debut.

"The way it has grown - and the community coming in supporting it - it's amazing, and

we've had a lot of fun," she said.

In addition to the showcases, HerdCon put on a cosplay contest and live music concert. The contest held five categories, ranging from just-for-fun to advanced cosplayers.

One notable feature of HerdCon is its free admission to the public. This is made possible by various sponsors, the most prominent being Marshall University's Office of the President and the West Virginia Library Commission Center for the Book.



Students and members of the Huntington community gathered to celebrate the annual HerdCon convention.



Photos by Shauntelle Thompson

# Should the US Ban TikTok? Can it?

By **DOUG JACOBSON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on March 23, 2023, amid a chorus of calls from members of Congress for the federal government to ban the Chinese-owned video social media app and reports that the Biden administration is pushing for the company's sale.

The federal government, along with many state and foreign governments and some companies, has banned TikTok on work-provided phones. This type of ban can be effective for protecting data related to government work.

But a full ban of the app is another matter, which raises a number of

questions: What data privacy risk does TikTok pose? What could the Chinese government do with data collected by the app? Is its content recommendation algorithm dangerous? And is it even possible to ban an app?

As a cybersecurity researcher, I've noted that every few years a new mobile app that becomes popular raises issues of security, privacy and data access.

Apps collect data for several reasons. Sometimes the data is used to improve the app for users. However, most apps collect data that the companies use in part to fund their operations. This revenue typically comes from targeting users with ads based on the data they collect. The questions this use of data raises are: Does the app need all this

data? What does it do with the data? And how does it protect the data from others?

So what makes TikTok different from the likes of Pokemon-GO, Facebook or even your phone itself? TikTok's privacy policy, which few people read, is a good place to start. Overall, the company is not particularly transparent about its practices. The document is too long to list here all the data it collects, which should be a warning.

There are a few items of interest in TikTok's privacy policy besides the information you give them when you create an account – name, age, username, password, language, email, phone number, social media account information and profile image – that are concerning.

This information includes location data, data from your clipboard, contact information, website tracking, plus all data you post and messages you send through the app. The company claims that current versions of the app do not collect GPS information from U.S. users. There has been speculation that TikTok is collecting other information, but that is hard to prove.

If most apps collect data, why is the U.S. government worried about TikTok? First, they worry about the Chinese government accessing data from its 150 million users in the U.S. There is also a concern about the algorithms used by TikTok to show content.

If the data does end up in the hands of the Chinese government, the question is how could it use the data to its benefit. The government could share it with other companies in China to help them profit, which is no different than U.S. companies sharing marketing data. The Chinese



TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testifying during a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Courtesy of AP/Jacquelyn Martin

government is known for playing the long game, and data is power, so if it is collecting data, it could take years to learn how it benefits China.

One potential threat is the Chinese government using the data to spy on people, particularly people who have access to valuable information. The Justice Department is investigating TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, for using the app to monitor U.S. journalists. The Chinese government has an extensive history of hacking U.S. government agencies and corporations, and much of that hacking has been facilitated by social engineering – the practice of using data about people to trick them into revealing more information.

The second issue that the U.S. government has raised is algorithm bias or algorithm manipulation. TikTok and most social media apps have algorithms designed to learn a user's interests and then try to adjust the content so the user will continue to use the app. TikTok has not shared its

algorithm, so it's not clear how the app chooses a user's content.

The algorithm could be biased in a way that influences a population to believe certain things. There are numerous allegations that TikTok's algorithm is biased and can reinforce negative thoughts among younger users, and be used to affect public opinion.

It could be that the algorithm's manipulative behavior is unintentional, but there is concern that the Chinese government has been using or could use the algorithm to influence people. If the federal government comes to the conclusion that TikTok should be banned, is it even possible to ban it for all of its 150 million existing users?

Any such ban would likely start with blocking the distribution of the app through Apple's and Google's app stores. This might keep many users off the platform, but there are other ways to download and install apps for people who are determined to use them.

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  
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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.

## Capstone Student Artwork Displays

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Senior art students will display their capstone projects that use a variety of different types of media from March 27 through April 20 at the Visual Arts Center.

Four different groups of students will display their works at the Charles W. and Norma C. Gallery each week leading up to Spring Commencement. During that time, staff will conduct votes on the best pieces which will be featured at the Birke Art Gallery the week of graduation.

Graphic design, photography, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and many more media types will be exhibited.

“Throughout the class time, they are taught how to produce something that will emulate life as an artist more than their previous work as a student,” said Daniel Kaufmann, associate professor of art and design.

“This happens, really, their last year or last semester of their time here, so they’ve had all the experience of all their classes, and they have to make a body of work; they have to make multiple pieces around a single idea,” Kaufmann said.

“And I think that more closely relates to the art world. That gets them to really think about their work more deeply,” Kaufmann said. “There’s a fair amount of research that goes into it to have a better understanding of their ideas, or how their ideas relate to history, culture etc. So, I think it’s just a deeper kind of experience for them.”

During the opening of the exhibition, students will give a brief talk discussing their work and those that helped them along the way. Students also designed postcards to promote the show and wrote their capstone statement and artist statement.

# ‘Rocketman’ Film Screening With Live Orchestra



Poster for the event

Courtesy of the Marshall Artists Series

By **VICTORIA WARE**  
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

“Rocketman”—the biographical fantasy film that details the life and ascension to fame of singer Sir Elton John—is being presented with an accompanying live orchestra at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center on Friday.

The film released in 2019 and received critical and audience acclaim, landing it an Academy Award for Best Original Song. The film’s subject, Elton John, is one of the best-selling artists of all time—

selling over 300 million records worldwide. He is a Grammy, Tony and Academy Award winner and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

During “Rocketman Live in Concert,” while the film is being projected on the screen, a 60-piece orchestra will perform the soundtrack live to picture. The performance is the final event of the 86th season of the Marshall Artists Series. It starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free for Marshall students with their student IDs.

# Appalachian Film Festival Returns After 10 Year Hiatus

By **BEX LAW**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Film festivals are a lot of work to plan and execute, but Foundry Theater is excited to take on the challenge of bringing the Appalachian Film Festival back to Huntington.

The Appalachian Film Festival began in 2003 and was an annual event for 10 years that sold out the Keith Albee Theater several times.

The Appalachian Film Festival will return this year on Aug. 18 through Aug. 20 at the Foundry Theater. The organizers are Emily Conzett and Rachel Allinder, both of whom also created the Foundry Theater, a live performance venue within Huntington City Hall.

“When Rachel and I started Foundry, that was one of the things we really wanted to do,” Conzett said. “To restart the Appalachian Film Festival.”

Back in 2003, film festivals were being sent physical DVD copies of submissions, but now, technology has changed and become streamlined, which, according to Conzett, makes the film festival process a lot easier.

In 2022, West Virginia also reinstated the film tax credit, allowing filmmakers working in the state to recoup up to 27% of the expenses, so long as the project cost at least \$50,000 to make, and portrays West Virginia in a positive light.

The West Virginia Film Office was also restarted in 2022 by Dave Lavender. The West Virginia Film Office helps filmmakers find locations, crew members, assist in securing permittings and helps filmmakers access fiscal incentives.

“There are so many amazing West Virginia filmmakers; it’s crazy,” Conzett said. “Giving them a local spotlight is really important to us.”

The Appalachian Film Festival is accepting submissions until June 16 through the website [filmfreeway.com/appfilmfest](http://filmfreeway.com/appfilmfest). The categories are student films, music videos, short films (under 40 minutes) and feature length films (over 40 minutes).

Student films are free to submit

but will only be judged against other student films.

The Appalachian Film Festival is accepting volunteers to be on the pre screening committee. “Literally anyone can be a pre-screener,” Conzett said.

The pre screening committee watches the submitted films and provides feedback on their enjoyment of the film. There is no experience in the film industry required.

“You just have to like watching movies,” Conzett said. To join the pre screening committee, email Conzett at [emily@founrytheater.org](mailto:emily@founrytheater.org).

# Kids Are Hungry, Schools Say

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY  
and ARLEIGH RODGERS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX (AP) — America's schools say kids are hungry — just as pandemic-era benefit programs have lapsed. There is growing concern about the effects on kids' ability to learn.

Congress temporarily made school meals free to all American schoolkids, but since that ended last fall, the need has only seemed to grow.

Soaring food prices are adding strains on families who are seeing reductions in multiple kinds of financial assistance. One federal program that ends this month had given nearly 30 million Americans extra food stamps during the pandemic.

School cafeterias typically don't turn away a hungry kid, but debts for unpaid school meals have been rising — showing the level of need, and raising questions about how schools will keep feeding everyone, without federal money to do it. The neediest kids are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, as before the pandemic, but qualifying for those benefits requires applications that haven't been necessary for several years.

"Programs that provide direct food assistance are hugely critical and we are going to see the effects of not having them over the next couple of months," said Megan Curran, policy director for Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy.

In the last academic year, with nearly all schools back operating in person, the number of school meals

served to students jumped

dramatically, and was slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels, according to a report Thursday

from the Food Research & Action Center. Already, it said, states now are reporting drops in the number of meals served.

More than 34 million people, including 9 million children, in the United States are food insecure, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for every person in their family to be healthy.

Children in such households are more likely to struggle academically and repeat grade levels, among other challenges, according to researchers.

For fourth-grader Fabian Aguirre, it's hard to think about math equations when he's sitting in class with a growling stomach.

When he arrives in the morning, Fabian eats breakfast served by the school in South Phoenix, but he can get hungry in the classes before lunch. On days he doesn't eat at home first, even the meals offered by the school aren't enough to keep him feeling full.

"It's hard to focus in class when I'm hungry. Food helps me pay attention to what I'm learning," said Fabian, 10.

At his school, V. H. Lassen Academy of Science and Nutrition, all students are eligible to receive free meals. The Roosevelt School District, where 80% of students are Hispanic and 12% are Black, covers the meals with aid from a federal program for low-income school

communities.

To reach students who might be embarrassed about not having eaten at home, the school recently changed how it distributes free breakfast. Carts filled with prepackaged breakfast meals are rolled outside by the entrance to the school, instead of being kept in the cafeteria.

"We realized that a lot of our students were going straight to the playground and not going into the cafeteria to eat before school, from the 7 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. timeframe," said Jessica Padilla, a sixth-grade math and science teacher.

While they lasted, the universal free meals addressed several concerns about student hunger. There was no paperwork involved. And kids who needed them didn't have to worry about stigma because they were available to everyone. Some states including California are using state money to continue these programs, but most have gone back to charging all but the neediest kids for meals.

When the free meals for all came to an end, "families were left scrambling and confused," National PTA President Anna King said. They weren't prepared for the paperwork after two years without it — and many families with young kids had never filled them out.

It can be difficult for parents to ask for the help they need, said Jillien Meier, director of No Kid Hungry. Immigrant parents, she said, might also avoid filling out forms requesting free or reduced-price meals out of concern it could bring unwanted attention if they are in the U.S. illegally.



Students during lunch break at V.H. Lassen Academy  
of Science and Nutrition

Photos by AP Photo/Alberto Mariani

Teachers often are the ones to pick up on chronic hunger in students.

Martissa Moore, a teacher at Bainbridge Middle School in Bainbridge, Georgia, recalls a seventh-grade student who had his head on his desk during class, picked arguments with other students and struggled to keep up academically. Moore sensed he wasn't getting enough to eat.

Each day that year, she brought him whatever her daughter had for breakfast and slowly saw progress in his reading skills.

"You just do what you have to do

for your students because you don't want them hungry," Moore said.

Hilary Seligman, senior medical advisor with Feeding America, said it shouldn't be up to teachers to address child hunger.

"Because we have so much food insecurity among children, we shift that responsibility to the schools," she said. "But normal childhood development is having access to food at home. That is part of creating for families in America a stable environment where kids are ready to learn when they arrive in school."

**Continued from Page 4**

Now that the bill was signed into law by Gov. Jim Justice earlier this month, the goal is “creating a culture of gun safety,” White said.

Whether through a campus safety research group or through a class such as the one he taught after the 2018 Parkland school shooting in Florida, White said students and staff need to educate themselves and others about firearms.

“This is an opportunity,” he said, “for us to evaluate our preconceived notions about guns and learn more about what it means to have guns in a public space.”

**Continued from Page 2**

They believe that there are opportunities on campus for energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling a thriving local economy, an active healthy community and a sustainable innovation.

The Sustainability Club works closely with the department.

“Last year’s Earth Week was great; I had a blast,” AJ Lawrence, a member of the Sustainability Club, said. “April 12 is the celebration on the plaza, and I know I’m excited to join the festivities.”

“Last year the club gave out plants,” Lawrence said. “It’s definitely the week for all the plant lovers to come out.”

Registration to table, speak or host a workshop on Wednesday, April 12 will close on March 30.

If anyone has questions about the event, they are invited to contact Parsons-White at parson133@marshall.edu

*“Last year’s Earth Week was great; I had a blast.”*

*- AJ Lawrence*

# Fall 2023 Registration Schedule Released

By **SCOTT PRICE**  
COPY EDITOR

Registration for the Fall 2023 semester will be available to current students in the coming weeks. Registration will take place depending on class status, and it begins at 7:00 a.m. Priority registration begins March 30.

Senior registration opens on April 3.

Junior registration will last April 4-5.

Sophomores will be able to register April 6, 7 and 10.

Freshman registration is April 11-14.

## Fall 2023 ADVANCE REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Currently enrolled Graduate students may register beginning April 3.

SENIORS 90+ hours completed as of 1/9/2023	JUNIORS 60-89 hours completed as of 1/9/2023	SOPHOMORES 30-59 hours completed as of 1/9/2023	FRESHMEN 0-29 hours completed as of 1/9/2023
Monday, April 3	Tuesday, April 4 Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, April 6 Friday, April 7 Monday, April 10	Tuesday, April 11 Wednesday, April 12 Thursday, April 13 Friday, April 14

# 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**

### 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

### 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

# Marshall Greek Life Hosts Annual Greek Sing Event

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Greek Week started on March 26 with the annual Greek Sing event.

Nine different Greek organizations performed at the event. This included Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Xi Delta, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Sigma, Delta Zeta, Alpha Sigma Phi and

Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Delta Sigma Theta opened the event with a step show performance by two of their members: Kayla Thomas and Takira Williams.

Other performances were themed Nascar (Alpha Xi Delta), Elvis (Sigma Sigma Sigma), '90s with Alpha Chi, Wolf of Tau Street (Alpha Tau Omega), Queens of the Industry (Kappa Sigma),

Delta Zeta Strikes Again, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Alpha Sigma Phi) and Sigma Phi Alien.

Corey Cunningham, the coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life, said that all the chapters performed in "some great shows."

The winner of Greek Sing will be announced at Field Day on Saturday, April 1, at the end of the Greek Week competition.



Numerous Greek Life organizations competed at City Hall during their annual Greek Sing event.



Photos by Shauntelle Thompson

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