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## The Parthenon, June 19, 2024

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**Authors**

Evan Green, Sarah Davis, Baylee Parsons, Scott Price, Abigail Cutlip, and Maggie Gibbs

## "They're Wrong," Jeopardy! Champion Says of Appalachian Stereotypes

By SARAH DAVIS  
MANAGING EDITOR

Adriana Harmeyer stepped onto the Alex Trebek Stage at the beginning of May, which marked the beginning of a 13 day – and counting – winning streak for the West Virginia native.

The returning champion graduated

from Spring Valley High School as a quiz bowler, which prepared her for an upcoming Jeopardy! reign, alongside a passion for learning.

"That was kind of an early chance to try out some of this," Harmeyer said. "A chance to use all these random facts that I built up."

She went on to study history at Mar-

shall University, graduating in 2010. She also obtained a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

Now, Harmeyer works as an archivist at Purdue University in Indiana, where she preserves historic materials and teaches.

Growing up, Harmeyer watched the classic American game, loving it so

much that she also played it on the computer.

It started out as something for fun, Harmeyer said. Though the journey to California wasn't as easy as the click of a mouse.

It's common for hopefuls to take the qualifying test many times before successfully advancing. Harmeyer originally auditioned for the teen tournament and continued to attempt the test multiple times before getting the phone call that she was advancing to the next test round.

"This time around, I took the test online just for fun - not expecting it to necessarily lead to anything, but thought it would be fun to do," Harmeyer said. "Then, I got the call

back to take the official test, I got the callback for the audition and then got the call to be on the show, and it all worked out."

The process to the podium consisted of zoom calls, additional testing and a mock game against others auditioning, but trials for Harmeyer didn't stop there: California was a new territory.

"It was one of the few states I had not crossed off my list," Harmeyer said. "It was strange: landing at the airport and getting a car and getting to the hotel."

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Adriana Harmeyer, a Marshall alum, competing on "Jeopardy!"

Courtesy of Jeopardy!

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Get the **NEW** Tri-State Transit Authority app  
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An advertisement for the Tri-State Transit Authority 529-RIDE app. It shows a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes a map and a list of bus routes. To the right of the phone is the TTA logo and the text "TRI-STATE TRANSIT AUTHORITY 529-RIDE". Below the phone are icons for the Apple Store and Google Play. At the bottom right, there is a small disclaimer: "Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc." The text "HD-512553" is visible at the bottom left of the advertisement.

# Jeopardy! Champion

**Continued From Page 1**

“That might be when it really hit, like, ‘Ooh, this is the hotel that I’m going to stay in, and then, I go to Jeopardy from here,” she said. “It’s a strange, strange feeling.”

The support she received from family and friends was expected, but the overwhelming love from strangers, Harmeyer said, was shocking.

“I didn’t quite realize until it started airing how many people were

gonna be rooting for me,” she said. “The response I’ve gotten has been so much stronger and more positive than I ever imagined.”

As of Friday, June 14, Harmeyer has won \$299,000 on her thirteen-day long winning streak. Despite the amount of money she has won answering question after question, she has taken got something else out of the experience.

“I wanted to do it and have fun with it,” she said. “The fact that I

was able to go and win like I did showed me that I could do that.”

“It’s kind of like the ultimate trivia event, and I was just so excited that I got to be part of it,” she went on to say.

Harmeyer’s roots in West Virginia have certainly pulled together people and their communities. And to the common Appalachian stereotypes surrounding education and ability, she says they are simply not true.

“They’re wrong, like, they’re completely wrong,” she said. “I personally don’t see any reason to let things stop me. There are excellent people everywhere, and I hope that more people will try to do things that they’re interested in.”

Jeopardy films their episodes ahead of time, which means Harmeyer has been back to her day-to-day life while her time airs. She said that it’s an odd feeling to watch yourself play the game weeks after it really

happened.

“I don’t like watching and listening to myself, but I feel like since everybody else is watching and they’re gonna talk to me about it, I want to refresh my memory,” Harmeyer said. “I’ve now done enough of them that my memory of recording kind of all blurred together.”

Harmeyer will appear again on the show Monday, June 17, for day fourteen, as community members across the Tri-state band together, continuing to cheer on one of their

## Marshall Miles Away: Monument to Honor Plane Crash Victims

By **SARAH DAVIS**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Marshall-tied memorials of four Tuscaloosa, Alabama, natives will soon stand tall, pending approval from city council members.

Joe Hood, Larry Sanders, Robert VanHorn and Fred Wilson tragically lost their lives in the 1970 Marshall plane crash. Their hometown’s city council proposed to build a monument at the newest YMCA facility on Tuesday, June 11.

The proposed monument will be located on the grounds of the new Benjamin Barnes YMCA facility currently being built.

Construction broke ground for the facility in West Tuscaloosa last October. The monument project will add over \$300,000 to the construction job.

Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox said that the disaster hits the city close to home.

“The plane crash of the Marshall University football team on Nov. 14, 1970, is not only one of the most

tragic moments in college athletic history, it has become one of the more memorable,” Maddox told the Tuscaloosa Thread. “Besides Huntington, West Virginia, Tuscaloosa had the most student-athletes who were lost in that plane crash.”

All four of the football players previously walked the field at Druid High School before continuing their athletic careers at Marshall.

In addition to the four, native Reggie Oliver also played at Druid, and although he was on Marshall’s roster in 1970, he did not play and was not on the plane.

In short, there are a few invisible history strings tied between Huntington and Tuscaloosa.

Kay Day, the city’s arts and entertainment director, said that thinking of the four should be a positive remembrance.

“These four young men from Tuscaloosa were struggling, and they were able to go to Marshall University and have the opportunity to play football,” Day said. “I think we focus on the way that they were liv-

ing their lives, not the way they lost their lives tragically.”

Day also said that the monument will bring awareness to the city, saying that most citizens likely don’t realize the men are buried there.

If approved, the monument will be sculpted by Caleb O’Connor, an artist who has worked on various public art projects in the city.

O’Connor hopes to see the monument accomplished with the

YMCA’s grand opening in December 2024.

With full approval from the city’s projects committee, the memorial of the four now rests in the pending response of city council members.



Hood (#33), Sanders (#40), VanHorn (#75) and Wilson (#87) were all killed in the 1970 crash.

Courtesy of  
Marshall University



# University Makes Final Preparations for Campus Carry

By **EVAN GREEN**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**DISCLAIMER: This story was originally written on April 22, 2024. Some information may be outdated.**

On July 1, a significant change will occur in West Virginia's universities. Senate Bill 10, also known as the Campus Self-Defense Act, will require all higher education institutions in the state to allow concealed firearms on their campuses.

The bill was signed into law on Mar. 1, 2023, despite protests from university administrators such as West Virginia University President Gordon Gee and Marshall Presi-

dent Brad D. Smith. University administrators have spent the time since the bill passed preparing for the bill's implementation.

In the past, the decision to allow guns on university campuses was left to the governing bodies of each individual university, such as the Board of Governors at Marshall University.

"Faculty Senate has passed no fewer than seven resolutions over the years against campus carry, and every single time we've laid out all of the reasons, which includes several things," said Mary-Beth Beller, an associate professor of political science at Marshall University and a long-standing member of Marshall's faculty senate. "For the first, we know from Chief Terry that

experienced officers who get training every year very often don't even have high rates of accurate shooting, and so for somebody that doesn't have a lot of experience and a lot of training, it's wholly possible for that person to misfire a gun. We also know that students very often are going to carry weapons in backpacks and jackets, and in a fit of being late, simply throw those down, which means the gun could actually be fired."

Beller also pointed to the mental health of students as a concern behind campus carry, citing statistics showing that suicide rates increase when weapons are easily available.

"We fear for our students because they go through a lot of pressures, a lot of stress socially as well as

academically, and so the faculty have been opposed to this for many years," Beller said.

While the bill does require universities to allow concealed carry on their campuses, it allows for 11 exemptions for specific areas where guns may be prohibited. These areas include daycares, areas where dangerous chemicals may be present and single-person offices.

These exemptions have been at the forefront of preparation and research efforts at Marshall University to prepare for the implementation of campus carry.

At Marshall University, administrators have been working on implementation procedures and policies since the passing of SB10.

"Once it looked like campus carry

was going to pass, President Smith tasked operations, which is my boss, for us to put a committee together to see what we were going to do," said Chief Jim Terry, director of public safety for Marshall and chief of the Marshall University police department. "Nineteen people from all over the institution, they went out and they talked to the states that already have campus carry, they did research to meet the law."

Terry emphasized that the implementation team is focused on the 11 exceptions included in SB10. \$300,000 has been put toward security measures in areas such as the daycare center on campus, office signage and security features for athletic facilities.

**Continued on Page 4**



Locals gather to protest proposed campus-carry bill at Marshall University's Memorial Fountain in 2019.



Photos by Michaela Crittenden



# Campus Carry Preparations

**Continued From Page 3**

Terry also pointed out the restrictions that already exist for concealed carry in general.

"You have to have a gun permit, you have to have a photo ID with you, you have to have a concealed weapons permit and you have to be 21 years old to get that unless you have another reason, job-related or some other function."

Students must also adequately store their weapons in the dorms, which means they must either rent or purchase a safe. Terry's biggest concern doesn't come from responsible gun owners but rather those who may not pay attention to their weapons the way they should.

"They get tired of carrying the weapon, they get tired of dressing the way you have to dress when you carry a weapon, and it's going to end up off-body, it's going to be in a backpack, and we're going to have an accidental discharge. That's my biggest concern," Terry said.

Brea Belville is another university figure working to provide more safety options for students. Belville was recently elected student body president for the 2024-25 school year. A large part of her campaign focused on student safety and campus carry, and she spoke on what made it a priority for her cabinet.

"Obviously, this is something completely new to West Virginia and higher education and, with that, comes lots of changes,

and we knew that that also meant lots of concerns from students," Belville said. "We wanted to make sure that we addressed what students were most concerned about and look for ways that we could provide tangible resources for them in the upcoming school year."

One of the main resources Belville is working to provide is access to the LiveSafe app. Other institutions near Marshall use this app, which gives students access to robust safety features such as a map that lists out all the emergency lights on campus, easy call buttons for MUPD and 911, and a walk feature that lets users share their location with a friend if they're worried when walking around campus.

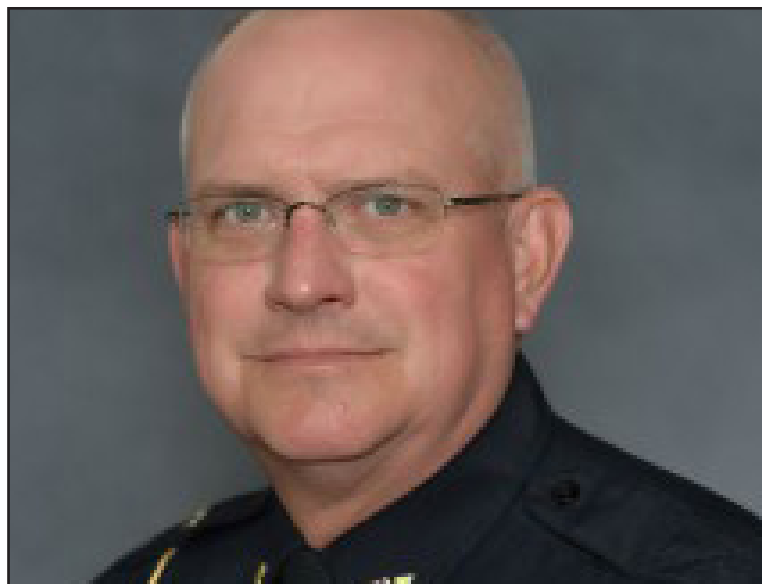
Shawn Schulenberg, a political science professor and chair of the faculty senate, gave insight into the faculty and

administration's expectations for campus carry's implementation in July.

"What we did when we figured out what to do here is we looked at the best practices. Other states have done this, so what has happened as a result afterwards? Luckily, the data shows that it hasn't led to a large increase in violent incidents on campus, so that's a positive aspect."

Schulenberg also expressed his feelings about the legislature's decision to place the financial burden of implementation on the university.

"We can disagree about the politics of it, but I just wish they paid for the implementation of it. They put it on the back of the university, and it's going to cost us roughly \$300,000 that we could spend on our students."



Jim Terry, Marshall University's director of public safety and police chief

Courtesy of Marshall University



An infographic laying out some of the data and statistics surrounding campus carry across the nation.

Graphic by Evan Green

# Huntington Hotspots: Nomada Bakery

By **MAGGIE GIBBS**  
STAFF REPORTER

At Nomada Bakery and Eatery, every item on the menu is a testament to a journey of flavors. Co-owner and baker Ariel Barcenas, emphasizing quality and technique, crafts each dish to transport you back to the freshness and organic goodness of his childhood. Picture the delicate layers of a buttery croissant, the rich aroma of freshly brewed coffee, or the sweet and tangy burst of flavor from a fruit tart. Aesthetics exude from every corner of this space, from the hand-painted mural to the delicate floral China on which each elegant pastry is served.

Barcenas' life is a testament to the unexpected turns that can lead to extraordinary journeys. Born and raised in Panama City, Panama, he spent weekends chasing chickens at his grandmother's farm, starkly contrasting to his weekdays in the bustling

city. His path led him to the vibrant city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he pursued a degree in film. It was during this time that he met Shawn Schulenberg, who would later become his husband. Schulenberg was offered a position at Marshall, prompting Barcenas to leave his job at a newspaper in Panama and settle in Huntington, West Virginia.

He got his first restaurant job waiting tables at Uno's just a few months before it closed, and then he moved to Backyard. When Drew and Megan Hetzer were opening Peddler, the sister to Backyard, they wanted to make their bread in-house and reached out to Barcenas, as they knew he loved baking. With his passion for baking and dedication to quality, Barcenas helped develop the menu with freshly baked bread in just three months. It was a process of experimentation, creativity and a love for good food.

Barcenas explained, "After that experience, I could actually imagine

myself baking professionally. And at that point, I had - not necessarily Nomada in mind, but I wanted to do something connecting the bakery and the food that I missed."

Inspired, Barcenas moved to Le Bistro/Cellar Door, where his recipe repertoire was challenged. Every week, Barcenas faced the challenge of coming up with new specials. But for

him, it was not just a challenge but an opportunity to experiment with culinary techniques and push his creative boundaries.

"When I think of cooking, sometimes, the idea starts with a story or a visual. It starts with colors, structures and dimensions, and then translates into ingredients," he said.

Barcenas' journey was not a solitary

one. It was fueled by the unwavering support and encouragement of his husband and friends. Their shared enthusiasm and sense of community transformed Nomada from a mere bakery and eatery into a place where everyone feels a part of the story.

**Continued on Page 9**



Shawn Schulenberg and his husband Ariel Barcenas co-own Nomada Bakery.



The outside of the Nomada Bakery building located in Pullman Square

Courtesy of Nomada Bakery



# HELP Director Loves Helping Others

By **WADE SULLIVAN**  
STUDENT REPORTER

For the past three years, the director of the Higher Education for Learning Problems Center has been dedicated to helping students with learning disabilities navigate college and improving the services the program can provide.

Hillary Adams, who has been at Marshall in one capacity or another since 2002, said that one highlight with what she does is working with and meeting some of the students in the program.

"I've loved being able to get to know the college students who come in and out of here," she said. "I love getting to do interviews with students and getting to know them."

Before coming to the HELP Center, Adams worked at the College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder for 10 years. There, she started as a student support specialist before she moved on to being a career counselor then she finished her time there serving as the director of the program before moving to where she is today.

After her predecessor, Debbie Painter retired from the HELP Center in Dec. 2021, Adams said she took the role after being asked if she wanted to accept it.

"They reached out to me and they said 'Hey do you have interest?' and I said absolutely," she said. "I used to be a graduate assistant here in grad school and I loved it so when the invite came I ran over."

Since taking on the role of director, Adams said that one of the highlights has been creating the Athletic HELP Program for Student Athletes with Marshall Athletics.

"A big highlight since I started has been creating the Herd HELP Program which is focused on helping student athletes and is a partnership with athletics," she said.

Life coach Amy Moffat Jones-Burdick, who works with Adams and co-coordinates the Summer Prep Program with her said that Adams is great to work with.

"She is a remarkable, creative leader, she's a cheerleader and we are very lucky to have her as our director," she said. "She is humble, accommodating, hardworking and she has a lot of ideas and the ability to implement them in a way that nobody finds offensive."

Because 40% of HELP Center students are out of state, Adams loves the Summer Prep Program because they "submerge them in West Virginia culture" which she said is a

great introduction to the state and to the program because it is one of the best ones in the country.

Whenever she's hiring new people to work with the program, Adams said that one of the biggest things she looks for is being able to build rapport with their students.

"As much knowledge and understanding as you have within a topic, one of the first things that is going to motivate a student are their connections," she said. "One of the biggest things I look for is someone that will build rapport and will build a trusting relationship with their students."

When Adams isn't working, she said that she loves to play with her three year old daughter and to run when she can.



Hillary Adams, director of the Marshall HELP Center

Courtesy of Hillary Adams



Marshall's HELP program is located in Wilbur E. Myers Hall on Fifth Ave.

Courtesy of Marshall HELP



# The Parthenon Word Search

K	B	P	F	E	I	Z	I	V	S	G	I	Y	I	T
I	G	S	Y	D	T	J	S	P	R	U	A	H	D	T
K	M	S	R	I	S	A	S	Y	E	H	B	H	J	B
J	W	I	W	K	K	N	N	E	G	W	Z	W	A	X
D	E	J	G	S	E	C	N	A	N	I	F	O	R	W
M	I	O	B	V	N	F	A	F	A	Z	W	H	M	X
U	O	O	P	O	M	L	D	I	B	V	H	W	P	B
U	Y	N	M	A	L	R	R	R	Z	C	K	H	X	V
P	F	A	U	J	R	D	V	E	Z	U	X	B	E	Y
M	D	M	H	M	B	D	W	A	I	F	H	V	Y	M
A	Z	E	U	R	E	X	Y	R	H	J	R	T	I	C
R	K	N	T	Q	Z	N	T	M	W	R	D	S	F	A
N	W	K	W	B	M	C	T	S	P	N	F	C	I	Y
J	U	N	E	T	E	E	N	T	H	T	T	G	M	F
K	C	R	Z	K	A	C	Q	V	Q	Z	F	Y	Q	F

## Words:

- 1. Finances
- 2. Firearms
- 3. Jeopardy
- 4. Juneteenth
- 5. Monument
- 6. Nomada
- 7. Whizzbangers

# Why Marshall Should Add Personal Finance to its Curriculum

By **EVAN GREEN**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I don't know the best way to manage my finances. As a 20-year-old college student who's never taken a financial literacy course outside of a two-hour workshop when I was a freshman, everything I have learned about money has come from my own independent research and what others have told me – and all that information has amounted to little more than a fear of credit cards and a few failed attempts at learning stocks.

Marshall's core curriculum website defines itself as “designed to provide essential skills for students' varied life paths after college in an ever-evolving world.” Few things would better help students prepare for their varied life paths than understanding how finances work.

According to the 2022 Forbes article “A Hand Up Or A Handout? Tackling America's Financial Literacy Crisis,” only four out of every seven Americans can be labeled as financially literate, and only 24% of millennials understand basic financial concepts. This lack of financial literacy has deep real-world consequences. The same Forbes article also states that Americans lose out on hundreds of billions of dollars each year because they don't know how to manage their budgets.

Largely, this issue comes down to education. In a 2022 article from The New York Times titled “More States Now Require Financial Literacy Classes in High Schools,” they cite recent research pointing to the effectiveness of financial literacy education. “High school financial instruction, the author wrote, ‘overwhelmingly’ improves credit scores,

lowers loan delinquency rates and reduces the use of risky services like payday lending. It also leads more students to low-interest college financing and away from high-interest loans, and increases repayment rates for first-generation students and those from low-income families.” While this research is specifically focused on high schools, it only makes sense that it would also apply to post-secondary institutions, especially in a state like West Virginia that already struggles with its education ranking.

This leads me to my main point: these classes should be developed and implemented into Marshall's curriculum. Even if the class only met once or twice a week, similar to the current UNI100 class that all freshmen are required to take, it would provide ample time for professors to cover important topics like managing savings, understanding retirement plans or the basics of stock evaluation.

This initiative would also fit in perfectly with President Brad Smith's ‘Marshall for All, Marshall Forever’ plan, a core tenet of which is that no Marshall University student will have to graduate with student loan debt within 10 years. One way to help students avoid debt is to equip them with the tools to properly manage their finances, avoid overspending and make the most of their available scholarships and financial aid opportunities.

The main question then comes down to feasibility: Could Marshall add a new required class to its core curriculum? This question seems up in the air, as the core curriculum has largely remained static since it was originally developed in

2009. While course offerings for the various requirements have shifted over time, the overall requirements have remained largely still. It's also somewhat unclear how this revision process would work in practice. According to Marshall's general education page, the current curriculum was created by an ad hoc committee that worked on it for three years, meaning the process of editing this curriculum may be time-consuming and/or a non-starter for administrators.

Another potentially faster solution might be to add a financial literacy course as an option to one of the already-required course sections. Looking through the core curriculum, this might be considered in a few different areas, one being the first-year seminar. As the course description for this class reads: “The overall goal of this class is to start practicing using the tools and skills that any college graduate will need in work and in life.” While it seems the specifics of the course can vary based on the professor, including information on financial literacy could be a good way to allow students to learn this vital information. Evidence has already shown that the first-year seminar can change over time. For example, some of these classes now focus on design thinking, one of the major initiatives Smith has advocated for during his presidency. This means including some financial literacy options could be possible.

Additionally, Marshall could consider offering a financial course as part of the math Core II requirement, which currently only includes more traditional math classes such as algebra and statistics. This could

cause problems, however, as it would make it more likely that non-STEM majors can fit the course into their schedules, as they wouldn't otherwise be required to take a math class, unlike STEM majors.

However the university decides to handle the specifics, I believe that

the development and implementation of an easily accessible—if not mandatory—financial literacy course is a vital step in modernizing the university's core curriculum and providing students with the tools they need to act as independent members of the workforce.



The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published every other Wednesday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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## The Parthenon's Corrections Policy

Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error.



# Huntington Hotspots

*Continued From Page 5*

“Shawn’s mom, when I first moved here, she came to visit, and she got me a KitchenAid. And that’s what started the constant baking,” Barcenas recalled. “I started hosting my friends at home to be able to test things. The rule was nobody brings anything to eat because I have a full menu planned.”

These friends urged him to start charging for his creations, leading to the birth of Nomada. Almost like fate, after the bakery River and Rail closed, there was a hole in the market and a space fully equipped with a kitchen. The Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau published in December 2018 they were looking for a food service business to replace the former bakery. While Barcenas planned on opening a website for people to place direct orders to, his friends who owned restaurants urged him to take the space. Barcenas and Schulenberg, his partner in

life and in business, worked on the proposal together, getting to open their doors six months before the March 2020 COVID-19 lockdown after nine months of renovations and training.

Barcenas spoke about the hardships of running a business during lockdown.

“We would not have survived if it was not for the Huntington community,” he said.

Barcenas’ love for baking is a culmination of various aspects of his life. From cooking with his grandmother to his career in journalism, each experience has shaped his passion. This passion, which brings him immense joy and fulfillment, is what he infuses in every creation at Nomada. His aim is to inspire people to slow down and savor life’s little moments.

Looking ahead, Nomada will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this October, so stay tuned for more exciting announcements and a delicious new menu development.



*A sign inside the Nomada Bakery Building*



*Pastry items available for purchase at Nomada Bakery*



*Courtesy of Nomada Bakery*

# School of Music Alumni Return Home to Headline Festival

By **BAYLEE PARSONS**  
NEWS EDITOR

The sky is full of stars at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, and the first annual Whizzbanger's Ball is coming to a close.

The clock hits 10:30 p.m., and thousands of fans stand in the crowd eagerly trying to get closer to the stage for the headlining performance.

The opening chords of "Whitehouse Road" come through the speakers, and the crowd hoots and hollers as six wildly popular musicians, including two Marshall University alumni, hit the stage.

In 2014, Craig Burletic and Rodney Elkins completed their Jazz Studies degrees from Marshall's School of Music. Today, they travel the country, selling out shows with Tyler Childers and the Food Stamps.

The inaugural Whizzbanger's Ball

in Glen Jean, West Virginia, allowed the band members to return to their home state after performing in various states in the previous weeks, including an opening performance in Orlando, Florida, for the Rolling Stones.

"I don't think it was ever in our heads not to come back," said Burletic, the band's bassist. "We're going to play some shows year-round, but we used to play every Sunday at Shamrock's, so it'd be weird not to play here."

Elkins, the band's drummer, said the best part of coming back to perform in West Virginia is getting to see so many familiar faces.

"When we get to come home and have all of our friends playing on the same show, it's just like a family reunion," Elkins said.

The festival's line-up included several previous performers from Hun-

tington's 9th Street Live and The Loud, formerly known as The V Club, including John R. Miller, Of the Dell and William Matheny.

Even so, Burletic said he often notices the faces of Appalachia following the band along on their tours.

"We've been playing Madison Square Garden, the United Center and that stadium with The Stones, and it's felt like doing local shows," Burletic said. "I looked out and saw Ian Thornton, the guy who's doing this, and I see friends who I didn't know were going to be there. I look at their faces, and it feels like a privilege, but it also feels like a normal thing."

Having performed with Childers since late in their college careers, Burletic and Elkins have become seasoned professionals when it comes to performing at large venues and festivals. However, Elkins said

he thinks back on the band's early days at The V Club frequently.

"There's a lot of history there," Elkins said, "so I'm always thinking about old times when we were at The V Club."

From scheduling their own shows and setting up their own stages to getting assignments turned in by their deadline, being a college student and trying to launch a band was anything but easy for the Marshall grads, Burletic said.

"The biggest difference now is that it's easier to have a healthy lifestyle," Burletic said. "I wish I would have let myself get some C's in my other classes instead of beating myself over the head over a sociology paper."

"Especially for performance majors, try to love it and not go in thinking, 'I'm practicing right now,'" Burletic added. "I practice

every day, and I'm lucky to have this job with Tyler; I feel like I got a grant to fund my research."

Elkins, who grew up in a musical family, said Marshall may not have prompted his love for music, but it showed him the importance of academics.

Both performers agreed they would not be where they are today if they had always been thinking about the end goal.

"I want to be really good because it matters to me, and I love to play every day," Burletic said. "I'm just playing to play every day without thinking much about places and where it's going to take me. I play every day because I like to do it and hope that maybe something good might work."



The Whizzbanger's Ball took place at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia.



Tyler Childers and the Food Stamps headlined the festival.

Photos by Baylee Parsons



# Grassie and Beals Contracts Extended

By **SCOTT PRICE**  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

At the 2024 annual State of Marshall Athletics conference, Director of Athletics Christian Spears announced that two Marshall coaches are receiving contract extensions. The announcement came after the approval by the MU Board of Governor's on Wednesday, June 12.

Marshall Men's Soccer coach Chris Grassie's extension sees him staying at Marshall for seven more years, ending in the 2030-31 school year. Marshall Baseball coach Greg Beals' extension is for two years and keeps

him until 2029.

"Both coach Grassie and coach Beals and their respective families have done an amazing job of successfully building the bond between Marshall University and the Huntington community, and we couldn't be more excited to continue that momentum and success for both programs," Spears said.

In the past seven years, Grassie has a record of 85-35-17 with a National Championship win in 2021 and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the past five seasons. Spears has high hopes for the next seven years of soccer at Marshall.

"This one is the quintessential no-

brainer," Spears said. "Marshall and Huntington are on the rise in so many ways, and coach Grassie, along with our soccer program, help us remember we can do anything here at Marshall. It is only going to get better from here. Seven more years of National Championship level soccer. I am thrilled for our entire community."

Beals' contract highlights the hope of Marshall Baseball and the new Jack Cook Field, which opened with a first pitch home run by Marshall Tre Hondras.

"We are building something really special in baseball," Spears said. "You can sense it and see some of

the early indications of what is coming. You have a person who has done it before, knows what it takes to get there and what is expected. Combine that with the energy and enthusiasm of a community and university that just opened a new ballpark that plays in a nationally competitive league, and we have it all."

"If we all stay together, we are going to win here because of all those factors," he said. "We want to make sure coach Beals, his family and our student-athletes know we are all in on seeing them succeed."

"I am proud to work at a place with a Board of Governors and a president in Brad Smith who recognize

what special things we have going on in Marshall Athletics," Spears said.

The full video of the State of Marshall Athletics in the Shewey Multipurpose Room can be found at the Marshall Thundering Herd YouTube page.

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Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm  
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# Juneteenth Celebration



Photos of Marshall's annual Juneteenth celebration  
at the Memorial Student Center



Photos by Scott Price

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