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## The Parthenon, October 02, 2024

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## Authors

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# Homecoming Court supports hurricane relief

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**  
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

2024 Marshall University Homecoming Royalty has agreed to alter the philanthropy aspect of their campaigns in support of Appalachian State University following the destruction that Hurricane Helene has caused to their campus.

This change was announced at the Unity Walk on Monday, Sept. 30.

"There's been tragedy strike all over this side of our coun-

try," said Bethany Jarrell, one of the Homecoming royalty. "With all this inclement weather, I think it's our place right now to do that. It's time for us to step in and help our community."

The other members of the court include: Dylan Ellison, Skylar Elliott, Kylie Fisher, Rimsha Kingson, Haley Prather, Jaxon Smith and Waylon Smith.

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The court pictured left to right: Waylon Smith, Jaxon Smith, Haley Prather, Rimsha Kingson, Bethany Jarrell, Kylie Fisher, Skylar Elliott, Dylan Ellison.

Photo by Wade Sullivan

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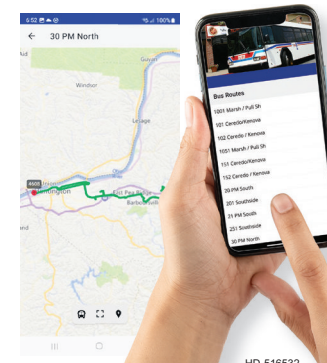
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# Harvard economist discusses local challenges

By **LUKE CAMPBELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

On Sept. 30, Harvard economist Gordon Hanson gave a presentation on understanding the economic challenges facing smaller communities, like those in Appalachia, during local recessions and some solutions to them.

Alongside Hanson were Brad Smith, the president of Marshall University, Brandon Dennison, the vice president of economic and workforce development, and Ben Eng, professor of marketing and entrepreneurship, to help in discussions.

The discussion compared similarities of challenges faced due to job

losses in manufacturing and energy sectors, the stress economic downturns put on smaller communities, community colleges and public universities and the challenges faced across Appalachia.

Gordon spoke on how job loss is not just an issue on its own, but rather an issue that causes many other issues to sprout up that make it harder to find a new job.

"The loss of that dignity that comes with work can lead to social dislocation, which means families can split, people can lose their homes, you have more children living with single parents, you have a higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse," Gordon said.

"What does that mean? Job loss begets eviction, you lose your car, your life starts to fall apart, you can't find a new job," Gordon said. "You're trying to get your car back. You're trying to keep your family together."

Due to these issues, Gordon emphasized the importance of giving money to those who have lost their job the moment they lose it to minimize these issues. While this helps, it is only a stopgap measure. The long-term solution is to help those who have lost their jobs to find a new line of work.

The long-term solution specifically lies within higher education and educating future entrepreneurs

and workers. However, Smith expanded on the problems facing higher education.

"The problem most in need of solving and how do we make sure we have an in-demand curriculum that is training for those skills and capabilities, so we can use the next generation of talent to solve the problem," Smith said.

According to Smith, this problem is extremely important to solve due to its effects on local-level recessions. Due to curriculums in higher education moving slowly, it makes teaching for the skills required for the local job market more difficult.

Smith went on to say while the curriculum needs to adapt quicker.

However, entrepreneurs are what will help with creating new job opportunities for smaller communities and will make educating those who have lost their jobs more manageable for higher education.

To create new entrepreneurs, Smith found that a shift in the ideology of how prospective college students look at their careers is very important.

"I wish we would stop asking the next generation, 'What do you want to do when you grow up?' We should ask them what problem do you want to solve in this world," Smith said.

**Luke Campbell can be contacted at [cambell405@marshall.edu](mailto:cambell405@marshall.edu).**

# StoryCorps mobile tour collects stories on campus

By **ELLA BUMGARDNER**  
STAFF REPORTER

In partnership with West Virginia Public Broadcasting, StoryCorps is visiting Huntington to share stories from members of the community.

The StoryCorps mobile tour made their 8th stop of the 2024 tour by visiting Huntington throughout most of September.

The team travels around the country collecting different stories, trying to capture voices of people in the United States. Throughout the year, the team visits 10 cities and returned to West Virginia for the first time since 2018.

At every stop, StoryCorps conducts an outreach to get different members of the community involved by working on behalf of the community, trying to highlight un-

derrepresented voices.

StoryCorps Bilingual Mobile Facilitator, Sam Berkrot, shared how every community has a different story to share.

"I think it is really special and interesting getting to hear what the community has to say and the fact that we are living here during this time by default really helps you to learn about the region and community."

Throughout their time on Marshall's campus, StoryCorps has been able to hear a variety of stories from the community including professors, students, and people from all over the state.

"My last recording was between two brothers who are immigrants from Ireland, who are living in other parts of West Virginia came

to talk about their family history," said Berkrot.

One of the many members of the community who shared their story this last month was a former teacher during the time of the famous Kanawha County textbook controversy.

"Being able to learn that history not only for the first time from someone who experienced it firsthand and have them in the booth is so cool," said Berkrot.

The community can expect to find the stories recorded by StoryCorps in Huntington around late November on the StoryCorps archive.

**Ella Bumgardner can be contacted at [bumgardner20@marshall.edu](mailto:bumgardner20@marshall.edu)**



Sam Berkrot stands in front of the StoryCorps Airstream Bus.

Photo by Ella Bumgardner



# The Den undergoes 'Bison Bites' rebranding

By GREG JONES  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall University is reintroducing the diner on campus at Towers as "Bison Bites."

The diner was formerly "The Den," which was sponsored by Denny's. The place has made changes including a new menu and a new appearance in the Towers Marketplace.

At Bison Bites, students have easy access to breakfast foods, lunch options, salads, desserts and more. Since it's located in Towers Marketplace, Marshall students don't have to travel far to grab something to eat. Hours are also extended throughout the day, so students may order breakfast through a late night snack. Card payments are accepted as well as dining dollars.

Along with dining dollars, students have the ability to use meal swipes to purchase food, allowing them to save some money in their pockets.

Bison Bites' name was created by a Marshall student. Out of many ideas, students narrowed it down to four or five popular names. "Bison Bites" won.

In an interview, Brenda Ruff, lead of day shift, spoke on the changes made to campus' cafe.

"They changed the name because they changed the restaurant," Ruff said. "When we had The Den, sales weren't raised how they should be."

"Everything is going great right now," Ruff said about the change to Bison Bites. "Sales are going great, and the students seem to love it."

Students are starting to notice distinct changes in routines at the restaurant as well as the food.

"They bring the food to you this time," said Timothy Marchal, a senior at Marshall. "There's a variety of food, and I feel like it tastes better now. My favorite thing to order so far is the bacon, egg and cheese biscuit with tater tots."

Bison Bites features plenty of new food items on the menu, including the reuben sandwich, Philly cheesesteak wraps, quesadillas combos, chicken wings, hot honey chicken sandwiches, fish sandwiches, a variety of salads and more. With any item on the menu, students may add or take away toppings.

While Bison Bites does not

currently have a logo, a new one is expected to come soon.

During the week, Bison Bites is open Monday-Friday from 10-12 a.m. It is closed on Saturday and

reopens from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Sunday.

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Bison Bites is located in the Towers Marketplace.

Photo by Wade Sullivan

# Absentee voting begins for 2024 election

By CADEN ADKINS  
STUDENT REPORTER

As election day approaches, the deadline gets shorter and shorter to become a registered voter.

Election day will take place on Friday, Nov. 5; however, approved absentee voters can submit their vote through mail. Absentee voting began on Sept. 20 and will run until Oct. 30.

People eligible for absentee voting include those with medical excuses, the elderly, citizens on house arrest and other barriers that may prevent people from making it to the polls on election day.

West Virginia also allows for those that are deployed

overseas, first responders and the physically disabled to vote remotely.

"We've made it easier than ever for registered West Virginia voters to participate in the election and cast a ballot," said Mac Warner, the West Virginia Secretary of State, in a press release on Oct. 19.

Warner also said the voter registration deadline is Oct. 15.

In the same press release, Warner said his office has managed to register over 340,000 new voters in the last seven years.

"Confidence in West Virginia elections has never been higher," he said.

Warner also said he wants to ensure West Virginia citizens understand that his office takes complaints surrounding election law violations very seriously, and every inquiry is investigated by his Investigations Division. All election law investigations are confidential.

Election Law complaint forms can be found on the Secretary of State's official website.

This same Oct. 15 deadline also applies to those who have changed their legal name since they last voted.

Absentee voters can deliver their ballots, which can be printed out from the Cabell County Clerk's

website, to the clerk's office at 750 Fifth Avenue, Suite 108. Ballots can be mailed, faxed, emailed or delivered by hand.

Marshall University is a designated Voter Friendly Campus that allows students that are registered to vote in Cabell County to vote early. Students that are registered in any counties other than Cabell can cast a provisional ballot, which will be counted closer to election day and checked to ensure that a student has not voted in multiple counties.

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A green graphic featuring a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty. The text "YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE. YOUR CHOICE." is written in large, white, outlined letters. Below the text is a QR code and a list of instructions: "Register to vote", "Check your registration status", "Request an absentee ballot", and "All 50 states". At the bottom, there is a logo for "VOTER FRIENDLY CAMPUS" and the Marshall University "M" logo.

Marshall University is a Voter Friendly Campus.

Photo by Baylee Parsons



# Career Fair offers real-world job opportunities

By **OLIVIA ANDREW-VAUGHAN**  
STAFF REPORTER

Alumnus Zack Ihnat said at the most recent Marshall Career Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 25, that he secured a full-time job directly from the Career Fair. He now works as a design engineer for Kokosing Construction Company after attending it during his years as an undergrad.

When discussing his journey to his current position, he talked about the benefits of the career fair and how he was offered his current job.

“Knowing that I could come here and kind of take a step into the professional world for a little bit was exciting for me,” Ihnat said. “I came here, and I ended up talking to the area manager for Kokosing at the career fair, and I was like, ‘I can come work for this guy.’”

Jennifer Brown, the coordinator of the career fair, used Ihnat’s experience

at the career fair as an example of how the fair can help students progress in their careers. She said the goals of the career fair are for students to network, find internships or even receive full-time job offers. She also said that students are seeing these offers earlier than in previous years.

“Companies are extending offers before students even graduate in May,” Brown said.

She also discussed the distribution of companies, saying the three biggest areas are engineering, healthcare and business; however, some areas Brown said she would love to see more representation for are computer science and liberal arts.

Shewent on to say, just because a company may say engineering or be a hospital, they still have positions for liberal arts or arts and media majors. She used this example to emphasize the importance for students to go around to every booth.

Freshmen Evan Vangundy and Charles Dolin said at the career fair that they were looking to talk to an engineering company, try to get an internship or explore future career options.

Cyrah Moore, an MBA student, and Cheyenne Chapman, a senior in social work, described their experiences at past career fairs.

Moore said, “I’ve been to one previously, and I found an internship at it.”

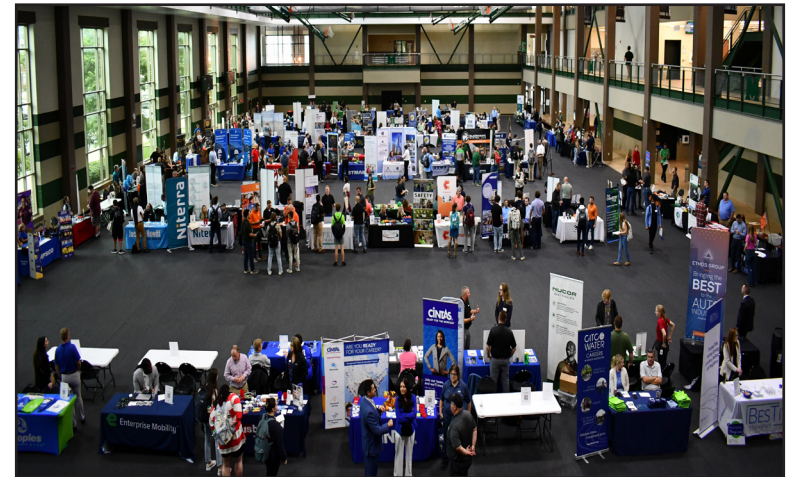
“I’d like to find an internship for the summer to help me transition into a career field,” Chapman said.

A Cintas Corporation representative at last year’s career fair said they recruited an intern who is returning to work for them again in December. Representatives from People’s Bank said they come to the career fair looking to recruit recent or upcoming college graduates for their professional development program, a one-year

mentorship that allows individuals to get hands-on experience in the banking industry. For students who aren’t ready to graduate, they look to build a relationship

with them and then connect with them down the road.

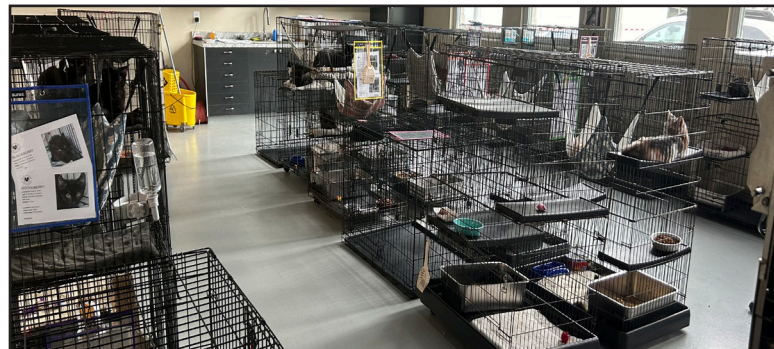
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The Career Fair took place in the Rec Center.

Photo by Olivia Andrew-Vaughan

# Local animal shelter introduces renovations



The dogs and cats have their own dedicated spaces at the shelter.

Photos by Maggie Gibbs

By **MAGGIE GIBBS**  
STAFF REPORTER

Walking into the new building at the Huntington Cabell Wayne Animal Shelter, visitors would never know it was once a school and a stable for Huntington’s Mounted Patrol. The only remaining evidence of the old Cook School are the pictures hung periodically throughout the building, highlighting just how drastic a change the building has undergone.

The new shelter boasts several modern features, including a dedicated cat room, a specialized puppy area playfully dubbed “Barkingham Palace,” quarantine sections, administrative spaces and a

conference room. Additionally, a surgical wing is now equipped to handle medical procedures such as spaying, neutering and dental care, a significant upgrade that allows the shelter to perform these services on-site.

“The goal is to have all medical care, including spay and neuter, take place on-site,” said Courtney Proctor-Cross, executive director of the shelter.

The new space caters to the animals’ needs and provides a unique learning opportunity for students from Mountwest’s veterinarian technician program. They can now gain valuable clinical experience on-site, working closely with a veterinarian.

The facility’s construction was made possible through donations, partnerships with veterinary professionals and grants. These contributions have helped provide the shelter with vital equipment, enabling it to continue its mission of rescuing and adopting out animals in the community.

Visit the shelter at 1901 James River Rd, Huntington, West Virginia, to volunteer to walk dogs or find a new companion.

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# Couples on Campus: Billy & Michelle Biggs



Billy and Michelle on their trip to Paris

Courtesy of Michelle Biggs

By **KAITLYN FLEMING**  
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

When couples prioritize each other and support each other's individual goals and aspirations, a strong and lasting bond is sure to follow, one member of Marshall's Office of the Registrar said.

"We aren't afraid to do things without each other," Senior Associate Registrar Billy Biggs said. "We both know how dedicated we are to our jobs."

Likewise, Michelle Biggs, the director of the Herd Academy, said mutual support is significant in regards to work aspirations.

"I know he will support me on everything I want to do with my career," Michelle said. "I know where he wants to be in his career, and I keep him honest on how to get there."

While Billy said they don't cross paths often, one time of day the couple shares is their morning commute – albeit in the early hours of the morning.

"Michelle loves to get to work really

early," Billy said. "Both of our offices don't open until 8 a.m., but she has made me a believer that if we don't get to work by 7 a.m., then we are late."

Despite Michelle's tendency to be an early bird, Billy said he appreciates starting their days together.

Beyond their shared morning routines, both Michelle and Billy said they enjoy traveling together; although, not every travel experience is picture perfect.

During a trip to Louisville, Kentucky, to stay at the historic Seelbach hotel, the couple experienced a rather ghostly scene, they said.

"Little did we know, the hotel was haunted, and the floor we stayed on is the most haunted floor," Billy said. "We woke up on the opposite end of the bed with the TV on."

When the pair isn't frequenting haunted hotels, they said they enjoy traveling across the United States and, most recently, to Paris and Amsterdam.

"The reason was to take Sydney

Michelle's daughter and my stepdaughter to see Taylor Swift in Amsterdam," Billy said. "It was also for me; I am not afraid to say I'm a 'Swiftie.'"

Billy's love of Swift, cats and standing up for others are just a few reasons Michelle is in awe of him, she said.

"He is the most honorable person," Michelle said. "I admire his dedication to always doing what is right and being a champion for all people."

Likewise, Billy said he is fond of Michelle's affinity to balancing professional life and personal life.

"She is a great mother, and it is one of the first things you will notice," Billy said. "She is always volunteering (and) on multiple boards and still finds time to relax."

Married for over six years, the couple said they enjoy staying home with their cats and planning their next travel destination.

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# Midterm break makes its debut

By **BAYLEE PARSONS**  
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time in decades, Marshall students are preparing for a midterm break.

The break, which is scheduled for Oct. 10 and 11, will allow students to have a long weekend off following midterms.

While some students may be packing their belongings for a weekend vacation, senior Sara Williams said she is most looking forward to having a short break from the stress of her final year at Marshall.

"I haven't really had much relaxing time, so that's probably what I'm

going to do," Williams said. "I haven't been able to sleep in since the semester started, so that'll be exciting."

Although Williams said she will spend the break relaxing, she said she will also have to dedicate some of her time to catching up on the strenuous homework demands of her senior year.

Senior Isaac Raines said he is also excited to have time to rest, having felt the exhaustion of college "ever since about the third week of my freshman year."

Raines said he plans to visit his hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, spend time with family and potentially make a trip to the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in Weston, West Virginia.

A member of Marshall's Student Government Association, Raines initially proposed the midterm break to the Budget and Academic Policy Committee last year. Raines said his idea sparked from seeing the amount of Monday university holidays, such as Labor Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He said having a midterm break would balance out classes, especially labs, canceled on those days.

Additionally, Raines said his hope was to give students a "mini break" since, previously, there was no scheduled time off between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

"Around that time of year, you've

got Thanksgiving, and then you've got Christmas back-to-back. We had Labor Day earlier," he said, "but in that middle there, there's nothing to really break up the monotony of the middle of the semester."

Although the break gives students two days off at midterm, it adds a week on to the end of the semester, turning the university's typical 14-week semester into a 15-week semester.

Since the final weeks of the semester are often met with burnout, not all students are happy with the schedule change.

"I think I like the idea of having the break in there. It breaks it up," Williams

said, "but I also don't know that I want to go longer in the end."

"I feel like by the time I get to the end, I'm just ready to be done," she added. "So, it's dragging out, and I'm burnt out, and I'm just ready to be done."

The university has already scheduled the Spring 2025 Semester midterm break for February 13 and 14, tacking an extra week on in the spring, as well. Raines' implemented 15/15-week schedule change is set to last for the next four academic years, at least.

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# Dot Hicks looks back on storied past

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dorothy “Dot” Hicks, commonly referred to as the pioneer of women’s sports at Marshall University due to the decades of work she dedicated to women’s athletics, was named the 2024 Homecoming grand marshal.

Hicks said she was surprised by the announcement but was honored that she is being recognized as a key part of Marshall history like many past grand marshals.

“I was shocked, but I’m very happy. It was a good shock. I thought, ‘Now, do I equal to Red Dawson?’ (referring to the ‘Young Thundering Herd’ head coach) I just finally settled in and said, ‘Yes, I do,’” Hicks said.

During her time at Marshall, Hicks held many roles such as professor and chair of the physical education department.

In the athletics department, she wore even more hats being a three-sport coach for volleyball, tennis and golf. She was also the director of athletics for women’s sports and the liaison to the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW).

Making history became commonplace for Hicks during her time serving Marshall Athletics. The first two scholarships awarded to female athletes at Marshall were given by Hicks to basketball player Kathy Haas and golfer Nancy Bunton.

Hicks said scholarships were a step in the right direction for ad-



Dot Hicks.

Courtesy of HerdZone

vancing women’s athletics at Marshall. Prior to that time, most expenses were paid for out of pocket.

“We didn’t have any money. It was mainly the faculty and I that took them on trips and paid most of their expenses at that time,” Hicks said. “We needed to let the men in the athletic department know that when we come under them, we expected them to have more scholarships for women.”

By the early 1980s women’s athletics at Marshall had started the transition from the AIAW to the NCAA.

“We did everything under AIAW as we did with NCAA. We kept growing. We kept adding,” Hicks said. “When we finally got endorsed in the early 1980s, we went under the NCAA. Once we got into NCAA, we kept improving, kept giving more scholarships.”

Hicks said that once the Herd began winning championships is when she believed that they were making progress in the work she and others had done in supporting women’s athletics at Marshall.

Prior to her time at Marshall, Hicks had done work at East Tennessee State University that improved its athletic program. Hicks taught 14 years at ETSU before coming to Huntington in 1969.

“They had some sports, and they were going well, but some of those people had been there a long time and were tired of the sports,” Hicks said. “So, as a group, we sat down and kept expanding until we got the program that we wanted and were able to play with the University of Tennessee and some of the other schools in our state. But also, we played Western Carolina and James Madison.”

Before and after her retirement in 1999, Hicks’ impact has been seen throughout Marshall. In 1990, she was inducted into the Marshall Athletics Hall of Fame, and, in 2008, the Herd Softball field bearing her name was opened.

**Joseph DiCristofaro can be contacted at dicristofar1@marshall.edu.**

# Herd bucks the Broncos at home

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall Football outlasted the Western Michigan Broncos’ second-half comeback attempt to win 27-20 on Saturday, Sept. 28, to secure its second home win of the season despite rainy conditions.

“I’m really proud of the players’ effort and their refusal to lose,” head coach Charles Huff said. “That’s what we talked about all week – there will be two teams: one who wants to win and one who refuses to lose. We went through what that looked like – battling adversity and finding a way regardless of the circumstances to battle through.”

The Herd came out of halftime with a 17-3 lead over the Broncos. That lead quickly dissipated over the third quarter and the early moments of the fourth with Western Michigan evening the score at 20.

Marshall’s defense turned the tide of the game in the fourth, with Jabari Ishmael forcing a costly fumble from WMU quarterback Hayden Wolff. The Herd offense, led by quarterback Stone Earle, took full advantage of the turnover.

A pair of breakaway runs from running back AJ Turner knocked the Broncos’ defense back on its heels. Earle delivered the subsequent knockout blow on a 34-yard

touchdown pass to Christian Fitzpatrick to give the Herd the lead 27-20 going into the last half dozen minutes of the quarter.

The biggest stop of the game came at the hands of the Herd’s defense. The Broncos put together a methodical drive that drained seven minutes off the clock and put itself inside the Marshall 10-yard line with only 37 seconds left in the contest.

Defensive standout Mike Green stuffed Western Michigan’s run attack on third-and-1, forcing the Broncos into a fourth-down attempt. With the game on the line, Wolff launched the ball out of the back of the end zone, which resulted in a turnover on downs.

“All week, coach Huff did a good job emphasizing the ability to respond when things are going wrong, what are you going to do next,” Green said. “They had some good drives, and on the last drive, they were marching down the field, and I told the guys, ‘We just need three plays to stop them on fourth down.’ When you emphasize the ability to respond, that helps the defense lock into different levels. That led to the success we had on the last drive.”

Green finished the game with eight tackles, including a crucial late-game tackle for loss.

**Continued on Page 7.**



**Continued from Page 6**

The Herd's first drive of the game resembled that of the contest against the Ohio State Buckeyes with a Payne touchdown. Only this time, it was tight end Toby Payne who received a 32-yard pass from Earle and trotted into the end zone.

Marshall dominated the first half offensively, with flashes from both the running game and through the air.

An explosive 67-yard run from Turner in the late stage of the second quarter put the Herd in scoring position once more where Earle connected with Carl Chester for the score.

Earle finished the game with

three touchdowns, 177 yards and another 53 yards on the ground. Turner notched his third 100-yard game of the season with 124 yards.

The men draped in Kelly Green produced 420 yards of total offense with 243 being rushing yards.

The Herd begins Sun Belt Conference play on Saturday, Oct. 5, against the Appalachian State Mountaineers in front of a home crowd at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

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**By NATE HARRAH  
STUDENT REPORTER**

The No. 7 ranked Marshall Men's Soccer came through with a win 2-1 against the Old Dominion University Monarchs, making their season record 7-1-1 and 2-0-0 in conference play. The game took place on Sunday, Sept. 29, at Hoops Family Field.

"I thought it was a tough game. ODU has vastly improved from last year," head coach Chris Grassie said. "They were really tough competitors. The game could have gone either way, and I'm really proud of our guys."

"I thought there was a moment in the second half where we were amazing; we played really well," he went on to say. "Those are the moments that we need to take the game. We didn't do that, and then it became a battle, but I'm proud of our guys for winning the battle."

After a delayed start to the game, the game was able to start at 4:45 p.m.

Both offenses struggled at first with only one shot from Marshall. Old Dominion served better with five shots, with only two shots on goal between the two teams in the first half.

Goalkeeper Aleksa Janjic was able to save a Monarch penalty kick with one minute remaining in the first half to keep the game scoreless going into the second half of the game.

Marshall scored the first goal of

# Men's Soccer plays the Monarchs



*Courtesy of HerdZone*

keeper was able to save it. However, Marco Silva was able to get the ball back and tap the ball into the net to regain the lead.

Silva's goal led Marshall to take the win and stay undefeated in conference play.

"We have to ride the rhythm a little bit better, so when we have possession of the ball and we are pulling apart, we have to stick with it, and then we have to be on our toes for when the other team counter attacks. Like today, ODU had a lot of pace," Grassie said.

There were four yellow cards in the first half, all on Marshall, and 3 yellow cards in the second, all on Old Dominion; there were no red cards or ejections.

Old Dominion held a 12-7 advantage in shots and a 6-3 advantage in corner kicks while both teams had three shots on goal.

"JMU has some attacks, so we have to be prepared for that, but if we can control the ball and control the game, we don't have to worry so much about the counter attacks," Grassie said.

The Thundering Herd faces the James Madison University Dukes to continue conference play Friday, Oct. 4, at Hoops Family Field. The game is scheduled to start at 7:15 p.m.

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*Fitzpatrick dives for the end zone.*

*Photo by Wade Sullivan*



# I will always root for them

By SARAH DAVIS  
MANAGING EDITOR

Recently, I saw on social media that a former classmate of mine, Mor Ilderton, is auditioning for the 26th season of NBC's "The Voice." That is an outstanding accomplishment within itself, and I made sure I was home in time to watch his audition.

I can't remember the last time I talked to or saw him, but that doesn't matter to me. When I see someone I've crossed paths with doing great things, I will always root for them.

No matter who they are, where they are or what they did that was so great, you can count on me cheering for them.

Everyone, especially people who grew up in small towns, have people that were only meant to be there for a season, and one of the most prominent examples of this are old classmates. Chances are, graduation night was the last time you saw a lot of your fellow classmates from high school, but that doesn't mean they are gone forever.

The past 12 years have been spent with these people, so of course they won't immediately disappear. Although you may never be in the same room with them again, they live on in your nostalgia, memory and Instagram feed.

We all know the feeling of that random lab partner showing up with an exciting announcement, and, in this case, I will always be excited for them.

Just because we've moved on from high school doesn't mean we should move on from being proud of each other, and just because we haven't

talked since that one class doesn't mean I can never comment a "congratulations" or "excited for you" when I'm genuinely celebrating with you.

Oftentimes, the reason that relationship faded was due to life changes, not negative forces. As we go through different stages of life, people come and go, but that's not inherently a bad thing.

Taylor Swift, a global musical sensation, wrote a song entitled "dorothea" in her 2020 album "evermore" about supporting friends and relationships that died off over time, and there is something so beautiful about not letting the barriers of time and distance separate old friends and acquaintances.

Swift posted on X (formerly Twitter) when the album was released, talking about the song. She described "dorothea" as a song about childhood and the connections you make.

It's even better to see groups of once-connected people banding together for others. For instance: my high school graduating class. On my old classmate's social media account, there are hundreds of likes and comments from our class cheering him on in his endeavors.

That's the power of a community that cares for its own.

That's why I will never be above wishing my old classmates good luck. Whether it's been two years since graduation or 50, I will always root for them.

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Sarah Davis

Photo by Wade Sullivan

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students every Wednesday. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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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.



# U.S. exchange alumni spotlighted in global photo exhibit

By JORDAN OOTEN  
STUDENT REPORTER

A collection of photographs from all around the world is highlighted in a new exhibit around Marshall University's campus.

Titled "Impact of Exchange: Stories from U.S. Exchange Alumni," the exhibit shows photographs taken by U.S. citizen alumni in their travels all over the globe.

The exhibit description says, "Their photographs will transport you to the home-cooked meals they received, the music and dance festivals they witnessed and the many sunrises and sunsets that they shared."

Marshall is the first college campus to host the traveling exhibit, and 84,500 visitors have come to see it since its debut in September 2023.

The works shown in the exhibit are from Spain, Morocco, Costa Rica,

Taiwan and many others.

The work of Emma Astad, a Fulbright English teaching assistant who worked in Spain, shows the traditions of Spain in a photo of flour-throwing.

"The breadth of human behaviors and emotions are captured, from casual conversation to pure, unabashed joy," she said. "Oftentimes, we find ourselves living vicariously through the familiar to partake in and connect with the unfamiliar. In this case, to connect with a rich tradition."

Ava Loudbear, National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship recipient who studied in Taiwan, spoke about hiking in the mountains of Yangmingshan National Park.

"After living in the desert for 12 years, I loved seeing all the green," she said. "This was a great break

since COVID-19 limited our program activities."

Loudbear also had a photograph of a family on the streets of Taiwan at night.

In the photo, she said, "When I look at this photo, I feel connected to the people of Taiwan and am reminded of my host family."

The exhibit is being shown from Old Main to the Memorial Student Center from Sept. 25 through Oct. 18.

The "Impact of Exchange: Stories from U.S. Exchange Alumni" exhibit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

**Jordan Ooten can be contacted at ooten42@marshall.edu.**



"Impact of Exchange" Exhibit

Photos by Wade Sullivan

# Art exhibit by Marshall faculty to examine environmental issues

By JORDAN OOTEN  
STUDENT REPORTER

The Visual Arts Center will be showing a new exhibit featuring Marshall fibers professor Miyuki Akai Cook and Houston-based artist Masumi Kataoka.

The exhibit is described to be, according to the press release, "a look as traditional craft techniques transcend into fine arts."

Of the exhibit, Cook said she wants to appeal to a family audience.

"My message is to reveal valuable animals that are disappearing from

Earth because of environmental issues and poaching by transforming them into monster-like creatures – creating a funny monster appearance that can bring children's curiosity, and it can be a conversation starter," she said.

Cook's work mainly emphasizes children's future.

In her Marshall bio, she said, "My work focuses on balance and dilemma caught between human society with all mechanical development

and human as a part of nature."

The exhibit will be shown from Oct. 7 to Nov. 7 in the Birke Art Gallery on the first floor of the Visual Arts Center. It will begin with an electroforming workshop for students at 9 a.m. followed by an artist talk with Kataoka at 5 p.m. It will also have an opening reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Jordan Ooten can be contacted at ooten42@marshall.edu.**



Visual Arts Center

Courtesy of the VAC

# Cicada Books hosts true crime author to explore dark side of medicine

By **KAITLYN FLEMING**  
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

Coming to an area heavily impacted by the opioid crisis is an opportunity to not only share knowledge, but to hear the stories of the locals, one debut-author and investigative journalist said.

Philip Eli, author of "Prescription for Pain: How A Once Promising Doctor Became the Pill Mill Killer," will launch his book tour across the Tri-State area on Oct. 3, with the first stop in Huntington, West Virginia.

"It's a story I've been following almost since the very beginning of

my journalism career in 2009," Eli said.

The story delves into the rise and fall of Paul Volkman, a former Ohio doctor who illegally prescribed millions of doses of pain medication in the cities of Portsmouth and Chillicothe, Ohio.

Eli said, "I was fascinated by this story of how a guy with really impressive credentials, an M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, winds up veering so far off the path that was laid out for him."

Eli went on to say the extreme charges against Volkman inspired

him to take on the story as a young journalist.

"It was really the mystery and the raw facts of the story that struck me," he said. "Even though I was entirely unprepared at the time, I still dove in."

Speaking with Volkman as he awaited his trial in Chicago was a compelling and unexpected voyage, the author said.

"I was not prepared to take on the rest of the story, which involved telling the story of his whole career - including malpractice cases," he said.

Beyond speaking with Volkman,

Eli said speaking with the family members of Volkman's former patients who passed away was significant in putting the story in its proper context.

Despite being a Rhode Island-native, carefully telling this Appalachian story remained of the utmost importance to him, Eli said.

"I approach Appalachia with the utmost respect - not as somebody from here, but as somebody who, through a change of personal connection, wound up telling a really big story here," he said.

In terms of Eli's book tour, he

said he plans to share the story with those most affected by it.

"The opioid epidemic is a crisis," he said. "It's permeated every corner of the culture in southern Ohio and the broader region."

More so, Eli said his book event at Cicada Books provides him with the opportunity to hear from the people of Huntington and their perspectives.

Eli will discuss his book and speak with locals at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, at Cicada Books.

**Kaitlyn Fleming can be contacted at [fleming115@marshall.edu](mailto:fleming115@marshall.edu).**

## Award-winning author gives live reading

By **MAGGIE GIBBS**  
STAFF REPORTER

Former Kentucky Poet Laureate Crystal Wilkinson presented on Thursday, Sept. 26, as the first guest of the semester for the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series. She read from her newest book "Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts: Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks."

Wilkinson teaches creative writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. She is also a Bush-Holbrook endowed professor and director of the division of creative writing.

Wilkinson described her book as "really a culinary memoir."

"It uses the lens of food to trace my lineage back and back," she said.

During the reading, Wilkinson engaged the audience, prompting them to reflect on what she called "kitchen ghosts," those who embody the essence of cooking in their lives.

Moreover, Wilkinson offered valuable advice to budding writers, stressing the importance of regular practice. She revealed that many of the poems in her books were born from writing prompts she and her husband would challenge each other with.

**Maggie Gibbs can be contacted at [gibbs89@marshall.edu](mailto:gibbs89@marshall.edu).**



Wilkinson teaches creative writing at the University of Kentucky.

Photo by Maggie Gibbs





# Word Search Answers

1. Absentee
2. Biggs
3. Bison
4. Break
5. Career
6. Crystal
7. Harvard
8. Homecoming
9. Michigan
10. Philip
11. Photo
12. Root

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# Marshall vs. Western Michigan



Marshall Football won their game against Western Michigan Saturday, Sept. 28.

Photos by Wade Sullivan

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