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Kopp and wife honored for leadership in community

By TAYLOR STUCK
Marshall University President Stephen Kopp and his wife, Jane, were honored Thursday at the Leadership Tri-State Community Service Award luncheon at the St. Mary’s Conference Center. Leadership Tri-State is a non-profit, community education program that selects participants from southern Ohio, eastern Kentucky and western Virginia who possess leadership abilities and show dedication to the community. The organization honors a member of the community each year.

Rob Johnson, of WSGC-TV, was master of ceremonies and said Leadership Tri-State chose to honor Kopp and his wife because they embody Huntington and for their involvement in Huntington and at Marshall.

A Michael Perry, who sat on the committee that elected Kopp as Marshall president, said Kopp came to the university when it was struggling, but led the school to succeed. He said he raised $35 million for Buckle for Brains and numerous construction projects that will propel Marshall toward a better future.

“People give to people with a vision, but also to people who are red,” Perry said. “I believe he has a vision and he has the people who believe in him as well.”

Kopp said that few have a vision for something and then do it. “We don’t wait for good things to happen,” Kopp said. “We make good things happen. Some people call that vision, but I see it as just self-evident. When you see a problem, you try to solve it. When you see an opportunity, you try to grab it.”

“I am completing my eighth year as Marshall president. I joined Marshall at the completion of leadership positions with Middle Tennessee State University, Central Michigan University and Ohio University. Kopp said a good leader should always be challenging what they do and should always be looking for ways to improve,” Kopp said.

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Former U.S. soldier accused of joining al-Qaida group in Syria

By RICHARD A. SERRANO
TARRANT WASHINGTON BUREAU

Federal authorities arrested and charged a 50-year-old U.S. Army veteran-turned-Russia East “Freedom Fighter” with conspiring to commit an act of mass destruction a intricate plot to obtain and assemble a bomb at al-Qaida forces fighting in Syria.

Harriman, who was arrested on March 25 after he attempted to enter the country, is a member of a new group called

To avoid an investigation, he was arrested on July 7.

Harriman, a former U.S. Army Air Force pilot, was charged in a six-count indictment in federal court in Alexandria, Va.

The indictment alleges that Harriman conspired to obtain and assemble a bomb at the al-Qaida forces fighting in Syria.

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By Kyle Gibson

With football's spring practice window underway, Marshall University's new defensive coordinator, Chuck Heater, will have an opportunity to shape and coach his squad leading into the summer.

Heater is taking over for former defensive coordinator Chris Riggin, who left the team in November, after three seasons with the team. In Riggin's final season, the defense allowed 43 points per contest after suffering injuries and losing tackles such as Tyrone Carter and Omar Brown to the NFL.

With over 15 years of coaching experience, including two national championships with Florida, Heater will hope to bring a proven trick play record to the Thundering Herd.

The team will also see changes in its defensive system. With Doc in place, the defense will be complex in nature and will be tailored to his system. Coach Heater also had some helpful advice and is excited to begin.

“Doc’s was the reason I came to Marshall, to work under Doc and Coach Cronin,” Taylor said. “I love him. I think he is one of the most caring coaches I have ever had the chance to work with, and that really is something special.”

Taylor also said the philosophies of two former defensive coordinators, Jeremiah Taylor said the overall atmosphere in the Now Marshall's Defense Coordinator Chuck Heater coaches during the team's spring practice.

Heater headed to Marshall after leaving the University of Cincinnati. I pay to see winning records and travel to away games. We have a winning record and travel to away games and it’s really paid off for us, especially in neutral road matchups.

Opting to use the spring season to groom his defense with the new coordinator who gives the team hope that the defense can pick up where it left off last season.

By Will Vance

The Marshall tennis team will kick off its season this weekend against Greensboro on March 1.

The Herd has taken on C-USA opponents in recent years, but has struggled in most matches. The team has a chance to get its first win against a ranked opponent in the Conference USA tournament this weekend.

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As the Herd comes down the stretch of its spring season, the Conference USA tournament looms large. Coach Henderson said the team has been preparing to win the conference.

“Last year, the team put on a show for its fans by putting on a show for its fans and getting the conference title,” Henderson said. “This year, the team is looking to make a statement in the tournament.”

The Herd began the spring season with a 4-0 win against Campbell.

The team is hoping that perspective will help produce results in spring practice, as the conference takes a different approach to offense, with most teams employing a fast tempo and scoring defense, which will be able to gauge other teams' defensive play.

In terms of his philosophy for spring and beyond, Heater said he hopes to help the team see in real life situations. We’ll have to adjust, but it gives us an edge, but it gives us an edge in uncomfortable situations like we’ll see in real life situations.

“Usually Tulsa dominates the conference, so we’ve been used to playing them, but we’re so beatable,” Timko said.

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While there are many opinions about same-sex marriage, Americans can agree that it has been a landmark week for marriage equality after the Supreme Court’s decision on Proposition 8 and Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Conservatively, more than half of Americans believe the U.S. government should allow same-sex couples to have the right to marry. According to Gallup polls, 53 percent of Americans would vote in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage if it were put to a vote.

So, why has the debate been drawn out, leaving same-sex couples without a solution? According to a Pew Forum poll, while Evangelicals make up 35 percent of the U.S. population, Evangelicals are the only major religion group in which less than a majority (37 percent) believes same-sex marriage should be accepted by society. That is a large portion of the population that, for whatever reason, opposes marriage equality. Many Evangelicals believe that even pastor Robert Wright wants to see a Constitutional amendment upholding traditional marriage. This stance is not only oppressive but also unconstitutional.

When asked why they oppose same-sex marriage, 73 percent of Evangelicals say the Bible says so and that it violates the sanctity of marriage — an ordinance they believe is found nowhere in the Bible. Truth be told, their opposition is thinly a religious pietism — something that should be left to religious factors in legislation.

First, let’s break down those factors. The Bible is a religious document. As is defined, sanctity is the quality of a state of being holy or sacred, and something that is sacred embodies the laws or doctrines of a religion. As many news, the First Amendment prohibits the establishment of religion. So, if sanctity embodies the laws or doctrines of a religion, that argument that same-sex marriage violates the sanctity of marriage simply falls apart.

The Constitution is the basis of a legal system, and while the Bible may contain same-sex marriage, the Constitution does not. Instead of proscribing, Evangelicals are bringing sanctity to a religion because it is only a matter of time, until marriage is truly universal.

“We have had more than enough inequality when it comes to same-sex marriage,” says Pamela Pressman, a licensed social worker in New York City. “It’s about time until marriage is truly universal.”
Wisconsin man pleads guilty to murdering his 3 daughters

By NEILA BANERJEE

Aron Schaffhausen sits in his St. Croix County courtroom in Hudson, Wis., Thursday. Schaffhausen pleaded guilty to killing his three daughters, but he maintained that he shouldn’t be held responsible for their deaths because he was normally well of them.

The rules would require public health officials to be more informed.

The proposed rules would place a cap of 10 parts per million on gasoline to restrict sulfur emissions. The rules would go into effect in 2013.

Reducing in gasoline fuels vehicles' catalytic converters more efficiently, which means they remove more of the pollutants, volatile organic compounds and carcinogens found in exhaust fumes.

The new rules would bring the rest of the country's sulfur standards in line with those of Canada's gasoline program.

The oil industry and members of Congress from oil states have criticized the standards in line with California's, which means they remove more of the nitrogen, volatile organic compounds and carcinogens found in exhaust fumes.

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