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**WELCOME TO TWITTER, PRESIDENT WHITE**

**President Gary White**

Marshall University interim President Gary White went viral Wednesday when he and his staff launched the university’s first-ever presidential Twitter account, @MarshallUPres.

White said he decided to engage in social media because he wanted to communicate more effectively with the student body.

“This week I got to campus, I looked around and realized that students weren’t exactly carrying newspapers around with them anymore,” White said. “Students are connected electronically now. I know we do the same thing with Twitter before I even asked the question.”

White said students and faculty members should expect to see tweets about what the president is doing, working on and thinking.

“Even more importantly, I want to teach the students to know what Marshall is doing collectively,” White said.

Students were intrigued to see the president utilizing social media.

“It’s just neat to see someone like him who’s in a powerful position doing something that we students can see on a daily basis,” sophomore Mikaela Earl said. “I hope he tweets all the time.”

Ginny Painter, senior vice president for communications and marketing, assisted White with the construction of the account.

“The name of the account excluded President White’s name in case the future president wants to do a contribution,” Painter said. “Of course, it will really just depend on their personality.”

At press time, White’s main focus will be on Twitter alone. However, Painter said the university’s official Instagram page, @MarshallU, may play a joint role with the account in the future. An Instagram account, @MarshallU, may play a joint role with the account in the future. Any Painter can be contacted at painter61@live.marshall.edu.

**Mexican restaurant to reopen after renovation**

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant offers student, faculty and staff discounts on full-priced lunch and dinner items. Students are currently receiving 50 percent off of full priced lunch and dinner items.

There will be new items added to the menu, including accompaniments and dinners. Premium margaritas will be added to the menu, with flavors that won’t have served before.

President Gary White joins the social network

By AMY NAPIER

The Parthenon

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White said he decided to engage in social media because he wanted to communicate more effectively with the student body.

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**Mexican restaurant to reopen after renovation**

**By SOFIE WACHTMEISTER**

The Parthenon

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant at 914 Fourth Ave. Huntington is set to reopen its doors to the public Friday.

The restaurant has been closed for renovations since Dec. 24, 2014.

Rio Grande Owner, Rudy Magaña, said he wanted to renovate the restaurant for a long time.

“It was never the right time,” Magaña said. “I de- cided to hold off and take the time necessary to make the competition come in. Everybody started fixing their places up on Fourth Avenue.”

Dining area was made to the interior of the restaurant in hopes to transform the atmosphere and fitting in more business.

Magaña said the restaurant was chosen to be one of the restaurants the city has been trying to bring in more business.

Magaña said the restaurant will be transformed into a traditional Mexican restaurant.

“Everything has been made to the interior of the restaurant to attract the atmosphere and fitting in more business,” Magaña said.

The floor is now tiled, new air conditioning, the bathrooms are redone, the walls are repainted, and new lighting,” Magaña said. “We built a stall to separate the bar from the dining area, and will have a section in the back for big parties.”

Loyal customer Jessica Krolewski, junior nursing major at Marshall University, was nervous that the restaurant had closed its doors for good but said she was glad to see it renovated.

“I go there for their great specials,” Krolewski said. “I wish a place that their staff is really welcoming.”

There will be new items added to the menu, including accompaniments and dinners. Premium margaritas will be added to the menu, with flavors that won’t have served before.

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant offers student, faculty and staff discounts on full-priced lunch and dinner items. Sofie Wachtmeister can be contacted at wachtmeister@marshall.edu.
American Red Cross looks to expand membership

By ALLISON CARR
THE PARTHENON
Marshall University’s American Red Cross chapter is hoping to reach out to women and the Marshall and Huntington community through its winter event series.

American Red Cross looks to expand membership this year.

Liz Deal, CONTACT advocate, said volunteers are needed to help reach more women and the community, and the club could use involvement in various ways.

“The winter event is expanded to more people,” Deal said. “We hope to get our hands on the few members we do have.”

There are many aspects of the American Red Cross that the club could get involved with, such as disaster relief, health and safety training and education.

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American Red Cross looks to expand membership this year.

Michael Price is a sophomore criminal justice and psychology major, is taking on a new responsibility as the club’s president after being involved with the club for roughly a year.

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Ryan Taylor’s journey to Herd basketball

By MALCOLM WALTON

Ryan Taylor moved to Kentucky before his last year of high school after being born and raised in Indianapolis—the capital of arguably the most passionate basketball state in the country.

After an impressive senior season at Western High School in Louisville, Kentucky, Taylor was invited to play in the Kentucky versus Indiana All-Star Classic. Taylor relished the opportunity to give his home state a final goodbye before he began his new journey.

Taylor spent the 2011-2012 season at Hargrave Military Academy as a post-graduate student on the basketball team. Taylor said life in Huntington has been different compared to where there’s like 50-plus students. Other than that, it’s small classes, which allows you to really focus on your education.

“I had like 26 points, like eight rebounds,” Taylor said. “I usually just stay on campus.”

Hamilton played for the Thundering Herd basketball team from 2002 to 2005 and was the team leader in assists, steals and minutes played all three years. Taylor made his way to Marshall, where he received an athletic scholarship and has established himself as a star player.

Taylor said his head coach at Hargrave, former Marshall University basketball standout A.W. Hamilton, had a lot to do with his decision to join the Herd.

“Not too big, not too small, it really had a lot to do with the area ‘where your parents wanted you in at a certain time to avoid trouble,’” credits his grandfather for sparking his interest in the game of basketball at an early age.

“He told me how Marshall had a great campus,” Taylor said. “I like to smile. Taylor said. “I’m just a happy dude. I try to keep a smile on my face and be thankful for another day.”

“I usually just stay on campus.”

Ryan Taylor’s journey to Herd basketball

“I try to keep a smile on my face and be thankful for another day.”

-Marshall forward Ryan Taylor

While Taylor said he takes school and basketball very seriously, he admitted he does have a much lighter side and a funny personality few are aware of.

“When I was young, I would just watch him play,” Taylor said. “Ever since then I wanted to play basketball.”

While Taylor has emerged as one of the top players in the country, he still speaks with pride in his voice about his performance in the Kentucky versus Indiana All-Star Classic. For some players, it may have been an opportunity to improve the college scouts who were surely in attendance that day, but for Taylor, it was an opportunity to give his home state a final goodbye before he began his new journey.

While Taylor said he takes school and basketball very seriously, he admitted he does have a much lighter side and a funny personality few are aware of.

“He’s not the most vocal person,” Duhon said. “But you can tell what he’s on the floor; he has a presence. That’s something you can’t teach.”

Hamilton did not hesitate to say the team depends on Taylor’s improved leadership this season.

“His ability to command a team and control a team is something that we’re definitely going to need,” Duhon said. “We’re going to go as far as he takes us.”

Though they’re 300 miles apart, Taylor and Hamilton still keep in touch.

While Taylor said he takes school and basketball very seriously, he admitted he does have a much lighter side and a funny personality few are aware of.

“Ryan will go down as one of the all-time greats at Marshall,” Hamilton said. “Ryan’s toughness and work ethic on a daily basis is something I will never forget. He was a dream come true to coach.”

Despite coming off of an impressive freshman season in which Taylor led the Herd in rebounds and finished second in scoring, the sports marketing major said his main objective is to receive a high-quality education.

Taylor said life at Huntington has been different compared to his upbringing in Indianapolis, but the slower-paced lifestyle has been beneficial to his education and his development on the court.

Taylor said his head coach at Hargrave, former Marshall University basketball standout A.W. Hamilton, had a lot to do with his decision to join the Herd.

“Ryan’s toughness and work ethic on a daily basis is something I will never forget. He was a dream come true to coach.”

First-year Marshall assistant coach Chris Duhon said he saw something special in Taylor during his short time with the team.

“What makes Ryan so special is his competitiveness and his heart,” Hamilton said.

“His ability to command a team and control a team is something that we’re definitely going to need,” Duhon said. “We’re going to go as far as he takes us.”

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Malcolm Walton can be contacted at walton47@marshall.edu.
Religion vs. Science: It doesn’t have to be a debate

Religion has been deeply ingrained in human culture as far back as history can record, and very likely earlier than that. In some parts of the world, where religion dictates laws, men and women are willing to give their lives for their beliefs. In America, religion is thankfully not a source of bloodshed, but it is certainly prevalent enough to cause controversy.

One debate that seems to continuously pop up is whether creationism, which suggests that all life is the result of intelligent design, should be taught in schools to replace the academically consensual theory of evolution. Scientists, of course, reject this notion, while creationists (see Christians) fervently push their agenda at every opportunity.

The problem is that both viewpoints operate under the assumption that one belief is correct and the other is not. Despite, evolution seems like a logical, one that is based on more than 350 years of scientific study and research, it is still just a theory. Christianity is simply a collection of beliefs based on an old book written by unknown authors.

If both creationists and the theory of evolution are correct in this way, there is no reason why both cannot be taught in schools. Neither of these beliefs should be taught as anything more than what they are. Kids should be educated that some people believe in one thing, and the reason for that belief and the rationale behind it should be presented as such. So, what happens if a child asks God is it real? The response is simple: some people believe he is. If a child asks I Jesus is the Son of God, tell them that Christians know there was a man named Jesus who was crucified by the Romans early in the first century, but the only document that claims him to be divine is a written book by an anonymous source.

The same can be said of evolution. If a child asks if evolution is real, the answer is that some people think it is and why is here. Present facts, not beliefs, and let the student decide for themselves what they believe.

Both religion and science are part of human culture and should be taught to expand a child’s knowledge of the world around them. It is when the classroom becomes a church, and the blackboard an altar, that a teacher de- penses a student of the gift of original thought. That is not education, it is coercion. A child’s mind is very impressionable; forcing ideas into a child’s head is not only unethical, it is abusive. Parents may choose to raise their child how they wish, but the public school system should be more responsible.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Honoring President Kopp through Jenkins Hall renaming

When I met President Kopp and his wife in their home in August it took me only a few minutes to realize he was seri- ous about the educa- tion of all the students at this great university with a growing national profile. He was always responsive to me within hours of being contacted via email. When I met him he requested a copy of my latest book: Prayers, Poets, Philoso- phies and Paintings via email to which he responded the next day. When I told him that I needed his help on an issue regard- ing my education via email he had his staff respond immedi- ately and resolve the issue. Many people have come to me with stories to tell about him and I am not pretending to be special. This is simply how he is in deed and miss.

So, when you may not know is how Jenkins Hall be- came a starting point of unity. President Kopp has put his name on it and his name is our pride.

Today the Hall still stands as a seminal building, housing a powder- room of fires that we shared our lives. We continue to be affected by what we know

Diaspora, of which is why we have to stop the school system, at times were at their toughest. And that is why put- ting his name on Jenkins Hall would be an important moment in the growth of this university. Just as important as our found- ing of unity at the center of this great university.

It would once again show the world that not only through the ashes of a fiery plane crash we found unity, we also spoke with the world that not only through the ashes of a fiery plane crash we found unity, we also spoke with
“American Sniper” is a film that has been the topic of much debate and controversy. The movie, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Bradley Cooper, tells the story of Chris Kyle, a United States Navy SEAL who is considered one of the most decorated American soldiers in the war on terrorism. Kyle is portrayed as a hero, but the film has also been criticized for its portrayal of Kyle and the war in Iraq.

The film was released in the United States on December 19, 2014, and quickly became a box office sensation. In its opening weekend, the film grossed over $55 million and went on to become the highest-grossing film of 2014, netting over $350 million in North America and over $750 million worldwide. The film was also nominated for several Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Actor in a Leading Role.

The film has sparked a lot of controversy, with some people praising it for its honest portrayal of war and others criticizing it for glorifying violence and military service. The film has also been accused of being overly sensitive and not representing the true experiences of veterans.

Despite the controversy, “American Sniper” has been a huge success at the box office, and it is clear that it has resonated with audiences around the world. As the film continues to be shown in theaters, it will be interesting to see how it continues to be received and what impact it will have on the public's perception of war and military service.