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The Marshall University Lambda Society represented the gay community Monday by unofficially marrying couples to kick off Pride Week.

West Virginia became one of 37 states to legalize gay marriage Oct. 9, 2014. Britt Aguayo, vice president of the Lambda Society, said anyone could be married, and to prove that point, the first couple of the day was a straight couple.

“We want to normalize things,” Aguayo said. “We want to say, ‘Hey, we are the same, and we should be treated as such.’”

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Bombing trial enters penalty phase amid life or death debate

By DENISE LAVOIE
AP LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

The guilt phase of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s trial was considered a slam dunk for prosecutors, especially after his lawyers bluntly admitted during opening statements that he participated in the deadly 2013 attack.

But the outcome of the next phase of the trial is much more difficult to predict. The same jury that decided whether Tsara

nev, 21, should be put to death or spend the rest of his life in prison. The penalty phase begins Tuesday in U.S. District Court.

Outsiders wonder whether Tsar

nev should get the death penalty immediately rejected recently after the parents of Martin Richard, an 8-year-old boy who was killed in the bomb

ings, urged federal authorities who was killed in the bomb

explosion, urged federal authorities seeking the death penalty, but /ernment has its reasons for /ening reliving the most painful day of our /unishment could bring years of appeals and / continue the pursuit of that /enalty versus life is much more /hinking about execution is warranted. /en he was shot during a fire

ight with police and ran over by Dzhokhar in a getaway car.

Several survivors testified about devastating injuries, including lost limbs.

Others described watching friends and loved ones die, including Martin Richard, the 6-year-old Boston boy; Lingzi Lu, a 23-year-old Boston University graduate student from China; and Krystle Campbell, a 29-year-old restaurant manager from Medford.

If even one juror votes against the death penalty, Tsarnaev will get a life sentence.

Public opinion polls have shown that a major

ity of Boston-area residents oppose the death penalty for Tsarnaev. Massachusetts abolished the state death pen

alty more than 30 years ago, but Tsarnaev is charged under the federal death penalty statute.

MUPD has no suspects.

But New York Law School professor Rob

ert Blackburn said the Justice Department has to consider the larger question of denouncing terrorism.

“They go forward with it. It will not change the decision. Denunciation is a legitimate pur

pose,” Blackburn said.

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The Carter G. Woodson Distinguished Student Award is one of the awards being given.

Sarah Book, committee chair of the Carter G. Woodson Distinguished Student Award Ceremony, said:

“Flags of the Field”

In this courtroom sketch, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, second from left, is depicted standing with his defense attorneys William Fick, left, Judy Clarke, second from right, and David Bruck, right, as the jury presents its verdict in his federal death penalty trial Wednesday, April 8, in Boston.

In this courtroom sketch, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, second from left, is depicted standing with his defense attorneys William Fick, left, Judy Clarke, second from right, and David Bruck, right, as the jury presents its verdict in his federal death penalty trial Wednesday, April 8, in Boston.

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By JILL SHEMANSKI
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's softball team is looking to get back on a winning streak after coming off the first loss following 10 straight wins.

The team plays non-conference rival Northern Kentucky University at 2 p.m. Wednesday in a doubleheader. The second game of the day is set for 4 p.m.

The Herd is looking forward to the mid-week doubleheader after suffering their first loss in 11 games to Florida Atlantic University Saturday.

"I don't feel the loss affects our team," freshman second baseman Eliicia D'Orazio said. "Wednesday's game is a game that we will use to get us ready for UTEP this weekend. Beating FAU just gave us the momentum to know that we are still heading in the right direction, and we will dominate Wednesday against Northern Kentucky."

Freshman shortstop Kylie Howard said even though NKU is a non-conference opponent, the team plans to approach Wednesday's game as they would any other.

"Conference game or not, every game means a lot," Howard said. "We will tackle every practice just like we do every other week. We will just focus on getting better each day and doing everything we can to win."

Jill Shemanski can be contacted shemanski@marshall.edu.

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**Player of the week: Corey Bird**

Position: Center Field  Class: Sophomore  Hometown: Pinch, West Virginia

By BRADLEY HELTZEL
THE PARTHENON

Corey Bird turned in an efficient weekend of work as the sophomore led the Herd to a 2-1 series victory over Conference-USA foe, Old Dominion University.

Bird collected seven total hits in the series and put on a clinic in game two of the series going 4-5 with runs from the batter's box in a 5-1 Herd victory.

Bird also drove in a run during the Herd's fourth inning scoring frenzy, fueling the team's 6-1 win in the opening game of the weekend.

Bird has been effective throughout the season as the Herd's leadoff hitter, repeatedly flustering pitchers and providing a baserunner for the team's heavy hitters.

Bird leads the team with 50 hits this season, and his .314 batting average ranks second on the team of all players with more than 70 at bats.

He has abided by the job description that comes with batting leadoff producing a .389 on base percentage.

Bird's speed inside the base paths has also been a valuable offensive asset as he's tied for the team-lead with seven stolen bases this season, consistently threatening to reach scoring position after getting on base.

Bird's fielding work has also been a welcomed success this season patrolling centerfield. He has registered a .982 fielding percentage this season while amassing just two errors in 38 starts.

"I've been working with coach Waggoner on my hitting," Bird said. "He's been helping me a lot with not trying to do too much, but rather just stick with my strengths. Anything that helps the team is good for me."

Bradley Heltzel can be contacted at heltzel1@marshall.edu.
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The Constitution of the United States of America

State tax code reform for W. Va.?

“Lawmakers will need to resist pressure from both the left and the right.”

There’s no one-size-fits-all model, because each state is different. Some have no income tax. Some tax corporate income but not individual income. Some rely heavily on sales taxes; some have no sales tax. License fees and property taxes play varying roles in each state. Of course, the phrase “comprehensive tax reform” will be a signal for lobbyists and policy wonks of all stripes to descend on Charleston, asking for special consideration for their industries and interest groups.

Lawmakers will need to resist pressure from both the left and the right. They should remember that similarity is an illusion. The tax system is unique. It’s too complicated and it’s an obstacle to economic growth and the creation of jobs.

Columns should be between 300-500 words, well-written and researched. Columns will be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling statements, available space and newsworthiness will be the determinants of publication. Letters may be printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space. The Constitution of the United States of America

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WRITE A COLUMN!
By WHITNEY BURDETTE

This March 7 photo shows workers remove the historic windows in the of the Houston Company Store in Kimball, W.Va. The store is going through being resurrected as museum, as she watched workers remove the historic windows in the of the Houston Company Store in Kimball, W.Va. The store is going through its first half of the 20th century. — intact and operating into the 22nd century. In its re-purposed incarnation, the 1923 vintage building will become a museum, as it will be transformed into a cultural and educational space. The Children’s Home Society, said the agency helped 13,479 children and families come out of the ashes of coal mines. Thousands of Euro-Ameri cans who lived in company housing, the community life, and serve as a educational project underway in Kimball this month. First Lady Joanne Tomblin helped kick-start the campaign. “The need for help is overwhelming,” she said. “This campaign will not only raise awareness about West Virginia’s kids. These are real people who are facing real challenges.” OMEGA President Jan Vineyard. “This campaign will provide funds to the Children’s Home Society of West Virginia, which has shelters and assistance programs in every corner of the state, to help these children and their families in need.” OMEGA members, including Go-Mart, Little General, Dee Stop and the Kanawha City Foodland, among others, will sell the pa-per products for $1 each and post them in the windows to show support for the agency. The campaign raised more than $90,000 last year and more than $2 million since 2003 for a variety of programs that improve the health, safety and well-being of West Virginia’s children. “This effort not only gives back to the communities where our members live and work, but it demonstrates the philanthropic nature of our industry,” Vineyard said. “This is a win for all involved: the children, our members and the public.” Currently, more than 4,000 children are placed in out-of-home care and 1,200 children are in need of adoption. The new West Virginia mine families became part of an economic system controlled by the coal industry, in which miners worked in company mines, using tools they leased from the coal companies and living in company housing, the rent for which was deducted from their pay. Miners spent their wages, paid in coal company scrip, at company stores, which also housed coal miners’ families and were the community gathering places. When the store, with its wide front porch and expansive lawns bordered by two streams, a two-room rock wall and shade trees, was just such a place. According to documents supporting the store’s addition to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991, the Houston company store was constructed during the early years of the automobile age, and although not many, miner’s owned cars, the building seems to have been built with the miners’ residence in mind. The store was in some cases out of reach of a coal miner who could not afford a car. “Our history is a story of mobility,” said McDowell County Commission President H. Harlan Rodriguez. “We’re gaining some ground here,” said McDowell County Commission President H. Harlan Rodriguez. “We’re gaining some ground here,” said McDowell County Commission President H. Harlan Rodriguez. “We’re gaining some ground here,” said McDowell County Commission President H. 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Kaleena Burgess said. “Suddenly, everything made sense.”

I’d made in my life had pushed me closer to finding this person,” unlike her son did not involve a stolen dog. Burgess’ mom, 30-year-old Kaleena Burgess, laughed at his response and shared her thoughts on the definition of love—which unlike her son did not involve a stolen dog.

“Love is when you can trust someone, they always have your back, and they never steal your dog,” Burgess said.

Rahonia Burgess, a 9-year-old in the third grade, also has his own definition of love. “Love is when your mom lets you eat chocolate and chicken,” she said. “I can relate.”

Burgess’ mom, 30-year-old Rahonia Burgess, laughed at his response and shared her thoughts on the definition of love—which unlike her son did not involve a stolen dog. “I love it when I realize that every single choice I made in my life had pushed me closer to finding this person,” she said.

As we get into middle age, love becomes a sense of comfort and security, and for some, religion,” 59-year-old teacher T.C. Clemons said. “As the generations matured, so did the responses. As we get into middle age, love becomes a sense of comfort and security, and for some, religion.”

Monna Skaggs, 80, said she is still happily in love with her lifelong partner. “Love is a blessing and a gift, it’s the feeling of pride at their accomplishments, feeling happy just because they are happy and sad when they are sad,” Skaggs said.

WILLIE NELSON Becomes Latest Celebrity in Marijuana Business

Now, you can really roll him up and smoke him when he dies.

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Country music star Willie Nelson announced plans Monday to roll out his own brand of marijuana, capitalizing on his association with pot and the unofficial stoner holiday, 4/20.

“The move makes the 85-year-old ‘Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die’ singer the latest celebrity to jump into the marijuana marketplace.”

Walter's followers will be green and sold in Colorado and Washington states after pot is made legal. Nelson said in a statement that he’s “looking forward to working with the best growers in Colorado and Washington to make sure our product is the best on the market.”

Nelson joins other famous pot personalities, including rapper Snoop Dogg, who endorses vaporizing products; singer Melissa Etheridge, developing marijuana-infused wine; and reality TV star and self-help guru Bethenny Frankel, who is working on a strain of Skinnygirl weed that wouldn’t leave users with the munchies.


In this Feb. 5, photo, Willie Nelson performs at the 17th Annual GRAMMY Foundation Legacy Concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles. Nelson announced Monday, he plans to roll out his own brand of marijuana called Willie’s Reserve, that will be grown and sold in Colorado and Washington, two states where recreational use of the drug is legal.

Willie Nelson becomes latest celebrity in marijuana business

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