

7-9-2015

The Parthenon, July 9, 2015

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Recommended Citation

Gibson, Jocelyn, "The Parthenon, July 9, 2015" (2015). *The Parthenon*. Paper 498.
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FIREFLY RECAP

MORE ON **Life!** page 5

THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 | VOL. 118 NO. 130 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

INSIDE: NEWS, 2

- > MINING BILL
- > MARCO CORNHOLE
- > KESSLEY'S SON PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES



SPORTS, 3

- > #STRAIGHTTALK COLUMN
- > DEVON JOHNSON



OPINION, 4

- > WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
- > COLUMN: BERNIE SANDERS



LIFE!, 5

- > FIREFLY FESTIVAL RECAP



EPA announces grants to serve Huntington sites, southern W. Va. counties environmental job training



Huntington Mayor Steve Williams addresses the room during Tuesday's news conference in Foundation Hall at Marshall University.
JOCELYN GIBSON | THE PARTHENON

By **JOCELYN GIBSON**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Representatives from the city and the EPA announced at a news conference Tuesday a grant for Huntington and southern West Virginia counties.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the city of Huntington two brownfield grants to provide environmental property assessments and another grant to the Coalfield Development Corporation for environmental job training in four southern counties.

The counties benefitting from the grant are Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln and Mingo.

Representatives in attendance were EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator Jane Vincent, State Senator Bob Plymale, Huntington Mayor Steve Williams,

Marshall University President Gary White and Coalfield Development Corporation Executive Director Brandon Dennison.

"We, living in the area, have become all too familiar with these properties that have just been sitting vacant for years. After a while we start to drive by and we don't see them with the clarity that someone new does coming in. Our greatest opportunity in this city is to repurpose those properties, find ways to bring green infrastructure into the area."

"These grants underscore the EPA's priority of making a visible difference in environmentally distressed and economically underserved communities by providing real value that aligns with local priorities to produce positive results. EPA's brownfield programs empower, states, communities like Huntington and other stakeholders to

work together to assess, safely clean up, sustainably redevelop and reuse brownfield sites."

The two grants to the city of Hunting amounted to \$400,000 to provide environmental assessments on sites contaminated by petroleum and other hazardous substances. In 2008, Huntington was awarded a \$200,000 brownfield assessment grant, enabling them to complete 13 site assessments by September 2011. One property assessed under that grant is being transformed into a hub for creative arts, including a workshop space open to the public.

The EPA awarded \$192,300 to the Coalfield Development Corporation to provide environmental workforce job training throughout southern West Virginia.

Jocelyn Gibson can be contacted at gibson243@marshall.edu.

Citizen Climate Lobby meets to start Huntington chapter



Citizen Climate Lobby volunteers gather on the steps of the Capitol before heading off for meetings with congressional offices.
COURTESY OF CITIZEN CLIMATE LOBBY

By **JOCELYN GIBSON**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The group Citizen Climate Lobby met Tuesday at Ritter Park to try and start a chapter in Huntington, West Virginia's 3rd Congressional District. The group's goal is to start a chapter in each of the state's Congressional Districts.

According to its website, Citizen Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

Jim Probst, West Virginia State Coordinator of Citizen Climate Lobby and group leader of the Charleston chapter, said the turnout at the first Huntington chapter meeting met his expectations, and he added everyone in attendance was interested in the mission of the group.

The overall goal of the group is to rally support for its Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal, which is a policy proposal to internalize the costs of burning carbon-based fuels. The

policy would place a steadily rising fee on the CO2 content of fossil fuels and give all of the revenue from the carbon fee back to households.

The other goal of the Huntington chapter is to spread the word, get community members involved and speak out with their concerns about climate change.

The group has another event coming up July 19, a Group Start Workshop where a national representative from the group will teach training to approach lobbying,

methods for lobbying and methods for talking to legislatures. The event will be held at 2 p.m.

Probst said that he is interested in engaging the Marshall University community in the group. The group had a table at Earth Day and had several students sign up. He said "Students tend to be transitory, but I hope to bring some into the group in the fall. Also, some professors have expressed an interest," he said.

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NOTICE

from the City
of Huntington

The following street closures will be in effect to accommodate the West Virginia HOG Rally.

Veterans Memorial Boulevard from 7th to 11th Streets
-July 9 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

-July 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

-July 11 from 11 a.m. to midnight

300 and 400 blocks of 4th Avenue

-July 10 from 2 to 8 p.m.

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New bill proposed to secure coal miners’ benefits, pension

BY BRITANIE MORGAN
NEWS EDITOR

West Virginia Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) along with Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced the Miners Protection Act in Washington D.C.

This legislation would ensure that the federal government and coal operators honor their obligation of lifetime pensions and health benefits to retired miners and their families who are facing uncertainty as a result of the financial crisis and corporate bankruptcies.

Capito said this legislation is important to her because the mining community has given so much to the state of West Virginia.

“The coal mining community is the heart of West Virginia,” Senator Capito said. “Our hard-working coal miners have dedicated their careers to keeping the lights turned on in our homes, schools and businesses.”

Manchin said he believes more needs to be done to protect the livelihood of miners.

“Our coal miners are some of the hardest working

people in America, and they have dedicated their lives to powering this nation and keeping it the strongest in the world,” Senator Manchin said. “We have a responsibility to protect their hard-earned pensions and health benefits.”

Currently the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) 1974 Pension Plan is underfunded. Unlike other public and private pension plans, the 1974 Pension Plan was well-managed and funded prior to the 2008 financial crisis, which hit at a time when this Plan had its highest payment obligations.

Also 60% of the beneficiaries are retirees whose employers are no longer in the coal business, that paired with the fact that there are only 10,000 active workers for 120,000 retirees has placed the Plan on the road to failure.

If the Plan becomes insolvent, these beneficiaries face benefit cuts and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will assume billions of dollars in liabilities.

Both West Virginia senators echoed one another saying this legislation is the right move to counteract

these issues.

“This bill will provide certainty and peace of mind to our retired miners and their families by ensuring they receive the benefits they’ve earned and deserve, while holding employers accountable for the commitments they make to their workers,” Manchin said.

To address these issues, the Miners Protection Act would Amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. It would transfer funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet existing obligations under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund to the UMWA 1974 Pension Plan to prevent its insolvency.

The bill would also make certain retirees who lose health care benefits following the bankruptcy or insolvency of his or her employer eligible for the 1993 Benefit Plan. The assets of Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA) created following the Patriot Coal bankruptcy would be transferred to the 1993 Benefit Plan to reduce transfers from the AML fund.

Britanie Morgan can be contacted at morgan230@marshall.edu

Marco Cornhole Classic to debut Aug. 1

BY BRITANIE MORGAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Marco Cornhole Classic and Marshall Family Fun Day will offer activities for all ages. The day is presented by Huntington Bank and will feature an afternoon of activities for Marshall alums, faculty, family and friends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harless Field.

According to the Marshall University Alumni Association the new event, featuring fun for the whole family and a spirited cornhole tournament, is coming to Marshall’s Huntington campus on Saturday, Aug. 1.

“We are very excited to bring the Marco Classic and Family Fun Day to Huntington,” said Matt

Hayes, executive director of alumni relations. “We are always looking for fun ways to get our alumni and Marshall supporters in the community out to enjoy a great time and get back on the Huntington campus.”

The event was designed to bring members of the Herd family together. The day will feature the Cornhole Classic tournament, which is open to everyone.

Organizers say that there will be activities for children of all ages, which will include inflatables for multiple age groups, games and face painting. The event will also include music, food and free ice cream, in addition to visits from some familiar faces including Spiderman and Marco.

“We hope people will

bring their entire families out to enjoy a fun afternoon and some great food, courtesy of the Marshall University Alumni Association and Huntington Bank,” Hayes said.

The cornhole tournament will feature a double elimination format and is open to players of all skill levels. Entry into the tournament is \$20 per team, with prizes to the top three teams. Prizes will include trophies, custom Marshall cornhole boards and \$200 worth of gift cards to the MU Bookstore.

For more information or to register for the cornhole tournament, please visit www.herdalum.com.

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The Marco Cornhole Classic and Marshall Family Fun Day is presented by Huntington Bank. The day will feture activities for all ages including the cornhole tournament. Entry into the tournament is \$20 per team, with prizes to the top three teams.

Kessler speaks out about son’s drug charges

BY BRITANIE MORGAN
NEWS EDITOR

Jacob Kessler, 25, pleaded guilty to a federal drug charge. As a result of his plea, he will be participating in the Federal Drug Court of the Northern District of West Virginia.

Jacob is the son of West Virginia State Senator Jeffrey V. Kessler (D – Marshall).

Senator Kessler said he is happy that his son is clean and sober and most importantly alive.

The senator has spent his time in public office talking about the dangers of addiction and working to raise awareness and fight for funding for treatment facilities.

“Like anyone else who is dealing with addiction, my son needs help,” Kessler said. “His arrest in December has proven

to be the change he needed to help turn his life around.”

Jacob was released from the Northern Regional Jail in February and entered Miracles Happen, a residential substance abuse program. Following the completion of his 90-day rehabilitation, he entered Lazarus House, a sober living facility that provides a place to live, recover and reconnect with society for those who are recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

Jacob is still living at Lazarus House today.

Senator Kessler said he hopes others can learn from his family’s misfortune and understand that addiction touches countless lives.

“Drug abuse is a huge epidemic in our state and is an equal opportunity destroyer,” Kessler said. “Being an elected

official makes me no different than any other West Virginian who is dealing with a family member’s addiction. Anyone who has faced the illness of addiction in a loved one can relate to what’s happening with my son and the toll it has taken on my family. Nevertheless, I remain today what I’ve always been first and foremost and that’s Jacob’s father. I love my son.”

The senator said he will continue fighting for his son and all other West Virginians who are suffering from addiction.

For more information on Drug abuse and ways to help call the Drug Abuse Information & Referral hotline at 1-800-662-4357

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Senator Jeff Kessler and son Jacob Kessler celebrating Jacobs birthday in November. SCREEN SHOT | TWITTE

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SPORTS

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#Straight Talk: Big talent, small markets

By **MALCOLM WALTON**
SPORTS EDITOR

In just a matter of days, the big-name free agents of this NBA offseason have been snatched off the market.

While LeBron James opted out of his contract to become a free agent and has not yet re-signed with the Cleveland Cavaliers, there is not much concern about James signing anywhere else. As most are aware, the four-time MVP is waiting for management to hand out contracts to his teammates on the market before he re-signs—basically, adding additional pressure on Cleveland’s front office to speed up a process that could otherwise be drawn out. James’ teammate Kevin Love has already been re-signed to a max contract, but Tristan Thompson is yet to receive his. As soon as Thompson signs, James will likely sign as well.

With that being said, the marquee free agents that did decide to leave the cities they called home last season for new opportunities this offseason was LaMarcus Aldridge, DeAndre Jordan and Greg Monroe.

Aldridge left the Portland Trail Blazers to sign with the San Antonio Spurs (and that’s pretty scary considering the rest of the talent on that roster), Jordan left the Los Angeles Clippers to sign with the Dallas Mavericks and Monroe left the Detroit Pistons to sign

with the Milwaukee Bucks.

While Jordan has developed into an outstanding pick and roll finisher, offensive rebounder and rim protector, his inability to create his own offense makes him less valuable when compared to fellow big men Aldridge and Monroe.

If you ask me, San Antonio and Milwaukee landed the two biggest free agents this offseason. When you consider both are smaller-market franchises, landing the most sought-after free agents of the summer is a pretty big deal.

While the Spurs are one of the most well respected and structured franchises of all time, you never see free agents rushing to move to San Antonio. It just doesn’t happen. The Spurs have traditionally built its success through near-genius draft selections and player development. Sure, picking future Hall-of-Famer Tim Duncan with the first overall pick in 1997 was a no-brainer. However, since then, the Spurs have not had another lottery pick in the draft, but have managed to win five NBA championships.

The traditional Spurs formula never consisted of a four-time all-star free agent in the prime of his career signing with the team until Aldridge decided to go against the norm and signed a four-year contract with San Antonio worth more than \$80 million.

On the other side of the country, the Milwaukee Bucks— yes, the Bucks, who unlike the Spurs, have not experienced real success in literally decades— signed Monroe to a three-year deal worth roughly \$50 million.

In case you weren’t away, Milwaukee is a franchise that never gets big-name free agents.

Maybe it’s due to the team’s lack of success throughout the years or maybe it’s due to the team being located in Milwaukee or maybe it’s both. Either way, while Monroe is no Aldridge, the 25-year-old who seems to be finding his own in the NBA is the biggest free agent the team has signed in recent memory.

With two small-market teams winning big in free agency this summer, one question immediately comes to mind: why in the hell can’t the Los Angeles Lakers land a free agent worth mentioning lately?

(I should mention I am a huge Kobe Bryant fan who does not want to see his childhood idol end his career as a member of a 20-win team.)

Once upon a time, everyone wanted to play at the Staples Center in front of Jack Nicholson and the rest of Hollywood’s brightest while sporting the purple and gold. And everyone—well most— wanted to play alongside Bryant, one of the all-time

greats.

Aside from the Lakers being arguably the most successful franchise in league history, the city of Los Angeles itself has always been a prime destination for big-name free agents until recently.

I mean, where else would a young man with unlimited spending ability rather live than LA?

However, it is a new day in the NBA and for some reason the Lakers are having trouble adapting.

The Lakers once again placed all its free agency hopes this offseason on Aldridge much like they did last year in its pursuit of Carmelo Anthony. Neither was an ideal fit for the team given the rest of the roster, but both were stars and the Laker organization respects star-power.

Location and market size no longer seem to matter as much in the NBA anymore, but it is as if the Lakers are still counting on those things to reel in players. Today, it’s about analytics, but most importantly it’s about winning, something the Lakers aren’t doing much of anymore.

And, besides, even though there’s not much to do in Milwaukee and San Antonio, those huge paychecks still clear in those cities.

Malcolm Walton can be contacted at walton47@marshall.edu.

LAMARCUS ALDRIDGE BACKS DOWN GRIZZLIES’ FORWARD ZACH RANDOLPH DURING A FIRST-ROUND MATCHUP IN THE 2015 NBA PLAYOFFS.
AP PHOTO/DON RYAN, FILE



GREG MONROE ATTEMPTS TO POST-UP CLEVELAND CAVALIERS’ FORWARD KEVIN LOVE DURING A 2015 REGULAR SEASON GAME.
AP PHOTO/MARK DUNCAN, FILE



Devon Johnson on prestigious list for national player of the year



DEVON JOHNSON BREAKS AWAY FOR A BIG RUN AGAINST FLORIDA ATLANTIC DURING A GAME LAST SEASON AT THE JOAN C. EDWARDS STADIUM

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University running back Devon Johnson was named to the Maxwell Award Watch List Tuesday for the 2015 season.

The Maxwell Football Club has presented the award annually to the national college football player of the year since 1937. The 2015 Maxwell Watch List includes 80 players.

The senior running back from Richlands, Virginia rushed for 1,767 yards and 17 touchdowns last season for the nationally-ranked Thundering Herd. Johnson had 10 games of 100 or more rushing yards, including a school-record 272 yards in an Oct. 25 victory over Florida Atlantic.

Johnson’s 8.58 yards per carry topped all FBS running backs who carried more than 150 times during the season. Johnson ranked fifth nationally with 135.9 yards per game and his 1,767 rushing yards ranks second in the university’s history.

Johnson was one of 10 semifinalists last season for the Doak Walker Award, which is presented to the nation’s top running back. He led Conference USA in rushing and was voted by league coaches as an all-conference first team selection.

The Herd will open the 2015 season 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6 against the University of Purdue at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

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EDITORIAL

World Cup puts inequality on full display

It was a pretty good weekend for the United States this past weekend. Not only did it celebrate its 239th birthday, but the United States Women's National Soccer Team won the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The USWNT finished the seven game tournament unbeaten, finishing with arguably its best performance ever in the final, scoring four goals within the first 20 minutes and winning 5-2, avenging a 2011 World Cup Final loss to Japan.

It was the first time since 1999 that the team had won the World Cup, which is played every four years. It was also the first time a lot of people began to fall in love with the team. Sure, most casual fans knew of Abby Wambach, Alex Morgan, and Hope Solo, the team's most popular players, but viewers saw Carli Lloyd score a hat trick and Becky Sauerbrunn lead a defensive back-four that gave up just three goals in seven games.

In fact, the final game was the most watched U.S. soccer game in history, men or women. For comparison, 25.4 million viewers tuned in for Sunday's game, over seven million more than when the US men's team played Portugal last summer, which had set the previous record. The game also drew more viewers than any game of the NBA Finals, numbers that were the highest since the Jordan-era, according to Huffington Post.

Forget the boys of summer, 2015 is all about the women.

But still, despite the success and rising fame, the women's team – World Cup champions – still lives in a country, and world, where they and their competitors are not treated as equal.

Before the games could even be played teams had to go through mandatory gender verification tests. Apparently, it was up to the teams how they verified and there was no word from the USWNT on this issue, but it made news in places like England and Germany.

Still, they played and they won (England finished third, but not without getting patronized by their male counterparts on Twitter).

Then, there's

the playing surface. In the lead-up to the World Cup, many star players, including Wambach and Japan's Homare Sawa, voiced their displeasure with having to play the games on turf, especially since the men played on natural grass in Brazil last summer.

Artificial turf is known to cause injury and recovery problems across all sports, and the women knew that. That's why they planned to file a gender discrimination lawsuit against FIFA, which would eventually get dropped. Still, they played and they won.

Finally, there's the most talked about issue that arose amid the celebration of the USWNT win – pay. Despite a roster full of players who have grown up in the Title IX era, the USWNT will be paid 40 times less than the men's team.

The actual numbers are even more embarrassing. Germany, the men's champions in 2014, got paid \$35 million for their first place finish. The U.S. women? Two million dollars.

The total combined payout is even more staggering. In 2014, the men's teams got \$576 million, while the Women's World Cup teams split the \$15 million in pocket change that FIFA could spare.

Things aren't any better at the domestic level, either. In

the National Women's Soccer League salaries range from \$6,000 to \$30,000 – some well below the poverty line, with most financial support coming from endorsements.

Still, they play and they win. Sports, at times, can be a wonderful microscope on society, exposing social flaws and injustices in everyday life. While this has been an analysis of how Women's World Cup teams were treated, it also mimics how women in the United States and across the world are treated.

Despite Title IX, the 19th amendment and the right to work alongside other men (which is still not a guarantee in some occupations), an American woman made 78 cents for every dollar that a man made in 2013.

In a seemingly new age of equality advocacy, the fact that the gender pay gap still remains year after year is mind-numbing.

It makes all of the sense in the world to pay women equally. Not only does it strengthen the economy, but it also strengthens the household. But regardless of the economic reasons, the more important issue is treating women fairly. Women shouldn't have to prove their gender to play on an unforgiving surface only to be paid less.

American women are going to keep winning, it's about time they get paid for it.

COLUMN

Give Sanders a chance

By JOCELYN GIBSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Let's be honest, our democratic hearts were set on Hillary and our first female president. Clinton, a long-time role model for women when it comes to not being afraid to achieve, seemed like to obvious choice for democratic voters...then Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders joined the race and was too good to be true.

Sanders has a platform that liberals are falling hard over. According to his platform, he is prepared to fight hard for the middle class against income inequality. He has made

headlines for refusing super PACs to fund his campaign. "I do not believe that billionaires should be able to buy politicians," Sanders has said in support of his decision.

He has a few issues working against him in the eyes of voters. For one, he isn't as popular as Clinton, but media attention is picking up in his favor. Another thing voters might find issue with is the fact that he self identifies as a "democratic socialist."

Socialist is a term that scares Americans, since few of them know the definition of the term. If voters take the time to research his policies

and platform, there is a good chance they will cast their vote in his direction.

The differences between Sanders and Clinton are not numerous or extreme, but to some voters they might make a difference.

Sanders voted against the war in Iraq, while Clinton voted in favor of it. He has spoken up about environmental issues that Clinton has remained silent on. One example would be in leading an effort against the Keystone pipeline.

Clinton has made a point to aim her campaign at the "working people," but Sanders may have an even stronger

appeal to the middle class. He advocates for taxing the rich more heavily and pushing more programs serving the middle class and poor. He advocates for equal pay for women and raising the minimum wage.

Foreign policy is the big area where Clinton and Sanders differ. He advocates a much more hands-off approach when it comes to interference abroad. He supports use of air strikes and limited Special Forces to fight with Islamic State militants rather than sending troops into the region.

Where Sanders might win over liberal voters is with his views on social issues. He is a supporter of same-sex marriage and has been since the mid-1990s when he voted against the Defense of Marriage Act. He favors abortion rights, opposes the death penalty, and is a strong advocate for vaccines. He also has a strong environmental stance. He refers to climate change as one of his key issues he wants to address.

So, as much as we all love Hillary and want a female president. The fact is, Sanders might be a candidate more aligned with the policies and issues we want to see change. Either one would be a good vote, but the closeness of their views will warrant that voters look a little closer at their respective platforms before reaching a decision at the polls.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the edition at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be

edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.

STATE EDITORIAL

U.S. Senate returning as a deliberative body

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

It was known as the "world's greatest deliberative body," a phrase believed to have been coined by former President James Buchanan in 1867 of the U.S. Senate's reputation for deep, intelligent and impassioned debate.

Of course, that was back in the days after legendary orators like senators Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.

Unfortunately, after Nevada Democrat Harry Reid became majority leader in 2007, the U.S. Senate was anything but great or deliberative.

Fortunately, voters sent a majority of Republicans to the nation's upper chamber in 2014, including West Virginia's own Shelley Moore Capito. Reid was demoted to minority leader and Kentucky's Mitch McConnell is now the leader.

McConnell, Capito and the Senate have done well in the six months since Republicans took over.

"It is an encouraging development for the country to see the Senate addressing big problems after years of inaction when it was controlled by Democrats," wrote former Republican majority leaders Bob Dole and Trent Lott in the Wall Street Journal last month.

"In only six months, the progress has been dramatic. Committees are up and running. Senators in both parties are debating and amending bills ... Not only is legislation

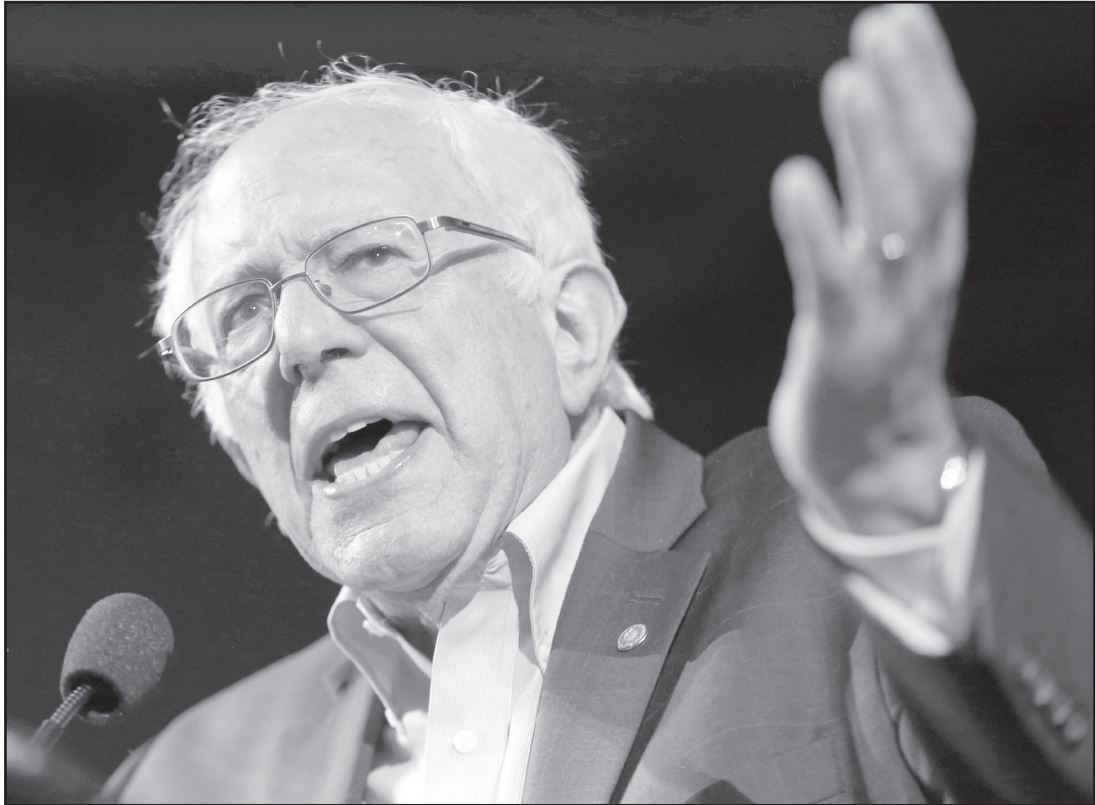
now passing, bills are actually making their way to the president's desk."

In the first six months of 2015, the Senate passed more than 40 bipartisan bills. It has reported more than 110 bills out of committee, and 18 have been signed into law by the president. The Senate also passed its first balanced budget act in more than a decade and is debating amendments to bills at nearly 10 times the rate as under Reid's leadership.

Capito is pulling her weight. She has introduced several bills, including the ARENA Act to protect access to affordable energy. In addition to her roles on the Environment and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources committees, she is a key voice on the Appropriations Committee.

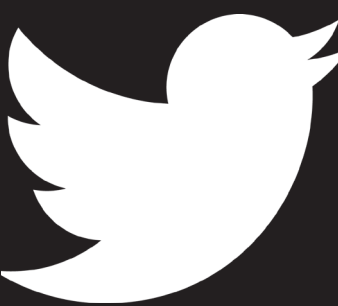
Capito secured language in the Department of Interior appropriations bill to limit EPA funding and roll back excessive regulations. She also secured increased funding for fossil energy research — some of which will be spent at the National Energy Technology Lab in Morgantown - to spur new technologies for more efficient use of coal and natural gas.

We could go on, but suffice it to say the U.S. Senate is looking much more like the lawmaking body it was designed to be, and no longer the house of obstruction that it was under Harry Reid.



ROBERT F. BUKATY | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks at a campaign rally in Portland, Maine.



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Summer Fun Day at the Clay Center in Charleston

By Shalee Rogney
LIFE! EDITOR

The Clay Center is having its annual Summer Fun Day that allows everyone free admission to the museum on Sunday July 12, 2015 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Clay Center Summer Fun Day is a celebration of the center’s birthday. The Clay Center opened in July of 2003 and the first Summer Fun Day took place in July of 2004. The mission behind Summer Fun Day at the Clay Center is to give everyone the chance to come and learn something new while having fun. LeAnn Cain, the Clay Center’s media contact said, “Summer Fun Day is our annual free day for anyone and everyone to

come check out the Clay Center and enjoy a fun afternoon learning and playing together.” The Clay Center will be offering a free planetarium show in the Digital Dome that has been recently updated. Other activities available at Summer Fun Day include live music, face painting, balloon animals and magic tricks. There is a fresh new lineup of musicians prepared for this year’s Summer Fun Day. Performers include Ron Sowell & The Killer Tomatoes, Mark Parsons-Justice and Spencer Elliot. The Digital Dome will be showing “Losing the Dark.” This show has never been screened at the planetarium before. Seating will be limited. There are several different

exhibits that are being displayed at Summer Fun Day. One of the exhibits is the “Use the Force” exhibit that reveals the science behind motion, magnets, air pressure and simple machines. At the Museum of Art guests will be able to explore the world of “MATH+ART” an exhibit where artists used shapes, patterns, symmetry and proportions to create their artwork. “We expect another year of new faces and lots of fun. Summer Fun Day is a great opportunity to check out the Clay Center for the first time,” Cain said, “So we hope to once again make some new friends at this year’s event.” Shalee Rogney can be contacted at rodney@marshall.edu



COURTESY OF THE CLAY CENTER

The Clay Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

Firefly Festival Recap

By Megan Osborne
THE PARTHENON

Firefly is a festival that’s all about the music and not about the experience. The demographic at Firefly was a little different than what I was used to at Wakarusa and Bonnaroo. In other words, I was the dirtiest hippie there and it was weird. While I have my critiques of how the festival is run, the lineup was absolutely worth every mishap and discomfort.

Top Firefly performances:

1. Modest Mouse

My number one priority for Firefly did not disappoint. The six piece alt-rock band delivered a performance worthy of a main-stage slot while billed as a pre-headliner for Paul McCartney with the perfect festival set list that crammed their entire nearly twenty-year career into an hour and 15 minutes, from “Drama-mine” (my personal favorite song) to “The Ground Walks, With Time in a Box” off their latest album.

2. Snoop Dogg

If nothing else, a Snoop performance is one to mark off the bucket list. I was fortunate enough to have a spot within one hundred feet of the King himself, in the middle of what is likely to be the thickest cloud of second-hand smoke I’ve ever experienced. Aside from playing hit after hit, Snoop was busy hitting the largest blunt I’ve ever seen throughout the entire set, generously provided by a couple of show-goers who were promptly invited backstage after Snoop declared it to be one of the best he’s ever smoked.

3. Elliphant

“It’s a six-foot Swedish woman yelling at you, it’s awesome,”

was what I was told to expect from the dude standing next to me as we waited for Elliphant. The stage was tiny and I walked right up to the front, much to my surprise. I’m not even sure of the actual size of the crowd, but she performed as if she was

4. Zedd

Simply put, Zedd is a lighthearted good time. Unlike a lot of EDM shows that make a point to go as hard as possible, Zedd keeps the crowd jumping with tracks that infect listeners with uncontrollable smiling. A Zedd show is chock full of throat-busting sing-alongs, infectious hooks and killer drops accompanied by a light show that puts every psychedelic and jam band to shame.

5. The Killers

What a way to close out the festival. Breaking out onstage with an immediate throwback to 2004 with “Mr. Brightside,” The Killers went on to throw out a Creedence Clearwater Revival cover and encored with “When You Were Young.” Although Kings of Leon got cancelled because of a thunderstorm that caused Firefly to evacuate the venue, The Killers paid homage to the band by covering two of its songs, a true testament to The Killers’ musicianship and general coolness as humans.

Honorable Mention: Kid Cudi

I have to say something about Cudi because his set was cut short because of the aforementioned rainstorm, but the few songs he played were a throwback worthy of losing one’s voice over.

Note: Paul McCartney isn’t on this list because it is a given that he was the best one there and no explanation or review is needed. Megan Osborne can be contacted at osborne115@marshall.edu



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Elliphant performing at Firefly.



Snoop Dogg live at Firefly.

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