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THE PARTHENON

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W.Va. falls short on national health rankings

Students work to change low economic and health statistics

BY ASHLEY FOSTER
THE PARTHENON

West Virginia is near the bottom once again this year in national health and economic rankings.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, West Virginia was the eighth worst state in which to make a living in 2011, barely surpassing California who was ranked seventh. These rankings were determined by calculating each state's average adjusted income, which included average income, state tax rate, costs of living and unemployment rate.

West Virginia's average adjusted income was calculated to be \$32,549 annually. West Virginia remained in the top 10 worst states to make a living for the second year in a row, primarily because of its average income levels, which is one of the lowest in the nation.

In addition to West Virginia's low economic rankings, the state also received low rankings in health on a national scale. According to the United Health Foundation, West

Virginia ranked 41st in the national health rankings for 2011. The number of people diagnosed with heart disease per every 100,000 people in West

67.9
is the percentage of adults from the ages of 18 to 44 that are obese in West Virginia.

Virginia between the ages of 18 and 44 was 228.1. In addition, the number of people with obesity was at 67.9 percent, which was slightly above the national average of 63.8 percent.

Katie Britt, junior elementary education major from Huntington, said she stays healthy by working out at the Marshall University Recreational Center during the week.

"I go to the Rec Center Monday through Friday since I pay for it through my tuition," Britt said. "I also cook a lot. Cooking

saves money instead of eating out every day. I try not to snack either. It's easy to go to the gas station and get something to snack on, but if you cut out snacks, you lose weight a lot faster and save money."

Jami Thacker, senior criminal justice major from Delbarton, W.Va., saves money by staying away from fast food.

"I always pack my lunch for work and make my own coffee instead of buying Starbucks," Thacker said. "I also take advantage of Marshall's free workout classes for students."

Robby Hamilton, junior marketing major from Sissonville, W.Va., said there are many free ways to stay healthy.

"Staying healthy could get kind of expensive if you participate in diets or take supplements," Hamilton said. "But if you can do things like drink water, run, lift weights and keep a healthy mind, now that's all free."

Ashley Foster can be contacted at foster108@marshall.edu.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students take to the rec center in January to fulfill their New Year's resolution. West Virginia was ranked 41st in 2011, according to national health rankings.

LET IT RAIN



TYLER KES | THE PARTHENON

Seora Leitner, three years old, took a few minutes out of her evening to have fun in the rain at the Memorial Student Center.

Check us out online!
www.marshallparthenon.com

Art auction to benefit study abroad students

BY: KEYAIRA MCCAULEY
THE PARTHENON

Ian Hagarty, professor of painting at Marshall University, is helping benefit students studying abroad in Florence, Italy by organizing an art auction at 7 p.m. April 14 at Black Sheep Burrito and Brews.

"One of the biggest obstacles we run into is money for students," Hagarty said. "My goal with my class was that I wanted to help students go beyond just Florence and to help them experience things that are beyond the city."

According to Marshall's College of Fine Arts website, The college regularly witnesses how travel changes students' lives and they are committed to providing

students with more opportunities to travel, study, exhibit and perform in this country and abroad.

"In meeting with the students, I started to think of ideas to help raise money for them to do these things and the art auction was something that I'd seen in other programs as a really fun event," Hagarty said.

"I also wanted to help students raise money to do something more than what was already included with their trip."

In order for the art auction to be a success, Hagarty

said art donations must be made.

"My kind of vision is that we'll have professional artwork and we'll have hobbyist artwork," Hagarty

"I have always wanted to study abroad so I know how expensive it can be and anything that can help students with this opportunity is a great thing."
- Erika Staples

said. "The cool thing is that this will provide anyone coming the opportunity to walk out with something."

The college of fine arts has helped students with expenses of travel and study in a number of countries

all over the world such as: Brazil, Italy, Australia, Switzerland and France since 2009.

Hagarty said it is important for students to support other students with study abroad opportunities.

"It's expensive for anyone to go and by donating or purchasing artwork, you're helping one of your fellow classmates," Hagarty said.

Erika Staples, junior psychology major at Marshall, said although she is not an art student, she really likes the idea of an art auction to help fund the students.

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Huntington food bank helps with storm efforts

BY ASHLEY FOSTER
THE PARTHENON

Huntington Area Food Bank announced progress and further efforts concerning the storm relief efforts in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia in a press conference Tuesday at the Big Sandy Arena.

Huntington Area Food Bank has partnered with Big Sandy Superstores, Clear Channel Media and Entertainment, Wal-Mart, Kroger and River Cities Harvest to help those in the

Tri-State area that were affected by the tornadoes in the last month. The press conference was conducted to recognize the efforts on the part of these organizations, private donors and other partners to assist those desperately in need during the two weeks immediately following each of these disasters.

Leigh Anne Zappin, Huntington Area Food Bank executive director, said the food bank acted immediately after the disasters.

"In the event of a disaster,

often times aid does not arrive fast enough," Zappin said. "Those affected are still in a state of shock and bewilderment. I think it is important for organizations like Huntington Area Food Bank to react quickly. Through other partnerships, we are able to send storm relief items into the towns of Salyersville and West Liberty, Ky. as requested by county officials. We will continue to be among the first responders in times of disaster in our region as long as we have

the means."

At the conference, checks were also presented to Huntington Area Food Bank and River Cities Harvest from Kellogg's and PepsiCo to help with further relief efforts.

Scott Frasure, Huntington Area Food Bank Director of Development, thanked the companies for their support.

"The strong and continued support of national and regional businesses

See FOOD BANK | Page 5



Faculty Senate Executive Committee to meet Monday

BY SARAH STILES
THE PARTHENON

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet at noon Monday in the John Spotts Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Minutes from the March 5 meeting will be approved and Camilla Brammer, senate chairman, will present informational and procedural items.

Three senate recommendations will be presented

to the executive committee including a revision to the Marshall University Board of Governors course syllabus and two recommendations regarding course changes.

The first senate recommendation, SR-11-12-(22) 60 from the Budget Academic Policy Committee, recommends that the Board of Governors Policy No. AA-14 course syllabus be revised.

The Board of Governors Policy No. AA-14 describes

the academic policy regarding content and distribution of course syllabi to students.

The second recommendation, SR-11-12-(23) 61 in the Curriculum Committee, asks approval of course additions in the college of health professions and course changes in the college of education and college of liberal arts.

The final recommendation presented to the committee, SR-11-12-(24) 62 in the Curriculum

Committee, recommends approval of the listed request for undergraduate addition, deletion, change of a major or program in the college of health professions, minor in the college of business, and area of emphasis in the college of health professions.

An agenda will be set for the April 25, spring general faculty senate meeting.

The agenda for the April 25 meeting tentatively includes remarks from Stephen Kopp, Marshall

University president, and Camilla Brammer, faculty senate chair.

Brammer and Jamey Hallock, college of business chair, will be recognizing retiring faculty and presenting faculty awards at the meeting.

The agenda for two faculty senate meetings on April 26 meetings, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., will also be set on Monday.

The first meeting will consist of an introduction of senators, the election of

faculty senate chair, assistant chair and recording secretary.

Selections for executive committee representatives and standing committee liaisons will also be chosen at the April 26 meeting.

Adjournment to Monday's meeting will end after the agenda is set for the April 26 faculty senate meeting.

Sarah Stiles can be contacted at stiles8@marshall.edu.

Professor to read poetry

THE PARTHENON

An Appalachian State University professor will read her poetry to close the spring Marshall University Visiting Writer's Series.

Kathryn Kirkpatrick teaches poetry, Irish literature, gender and ecological criticism at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. Kirkpatrick's poetry has appeared in Calyx, Carolina Quarterly, Cortland Review and Epoch literary journals.

Visiting Writer's Series coordinator Art Stringer said Kirkpatrick is a woman who wears many hats.

"In addition to being a prolific poet, she is an editor and a critic," Stringer said. "She's also involved in environmental studies and holds both an English teaching position and an environmental role."

Stringer said Kirkpatrick's environmental aspects will appeal to many student's transcendental side.

"I know that our usual audience is English students, but there are a lot of those people who are very interested in nature studies," Stringer said. "Lots of literature is derived from inspiration from nature."

Kirkpatrick will read at 8 p.m. on April 5 in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Residence life keeps students guessing with 'JEOPARTY'

BY MARISSA DEMARIA
THE PARTHENON

With only a mere five weeks remaining in the spring semester, residence life staff is not prepared to stop playing games just yet.

With project deadlines looming and the buzz of finals beginning to settle in for many Marshall students, the mood on campus may seem rather dismal at times.

In order to alleviate some of the distress, residence life staff is playing host to a trivia game for more than 150 participants.

Tracey Eggleston, residence life specialist for the department of housing and residence life said the event was created to help students alleviate some of the post-spring break stress. She said events such as this are important because they provide a forum where students can simply have fun.

While some may have seen spring break as a prelude to stress-free summer days, Eggleston said the week after such a break tends to be stressful for students.

The event has been organized by the Signature Events Committee, which consists of resident advisers and resident directors from the department.

One of the many missions

of the department is to create lasting and meaningful memories for residents and the Marshall University community. In order to see that mission through, the staff saw this event as an opportunity to create an environment suitable for community building.

Britt Frye, resident director of the Twin Towers East Residence Hall, said the event is a social program intended to build community across all areas of the Marshall campus.

"We like having events such as this to get students interacting with one another," Eggleston said. "It allows them to take a break from school and enjoy life a little."

Guest host Sandy Sowell is responsible for the creation and implementation of entertainment resources such as "JEOPARTY." She will be in attendance Thursday to ask the audience randomized questions for the trivia event.

While the event is modeled

after the popular television show "JEOPARDY!," Sowell's version, according to her website, is half as hard and twice as much fun as the real deal. One dominant similarity is the opportunity for participants to compete for money.

Guests will have the opportunity to win cash prizes at the event while participating in mini-games between each round of "JEOPARTY."

The event has been strategically placed in the Ed Gross Room within the Harless Dining Hall for convenience and high accessibility to students. Frye said the staff hopes to attract students who have just finished eating and who may want to socialize for a bit before working on their homework.

"JEOPARTY" will take place Thursday at 7 p.m. and is open to those living on campus and commuters.

Marissa DeMaria can be contacted at demaria3@marshall.edu.

"We like having events such as this to get students interacting with one another. It allows them to take a break from school and enjoy life a little."

> TRACEY EGGLESTON

Gingrich 'at the end of his line,' major donor says

BY KIM GEIGER
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON
BUREAU
(MCT)

WASHINGTON - Casino titan Sheldon Adelson, who has almost single-handedly bankrolled a "super PAC" backing Newt Gingrich's presidential campaign, now believes Gingrich is "at the end of his line."

Adelson earlier this week criticized GOP front-runner Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum, but acknowledged that his preferred candidate has little hope of becoming the nominee.

"It appears as though he's at the end of his line," Adelson said in comments Monday that were reported by JewishJournal.com. "Cause, I mean, mathematically, he can't get anywhere near the numbers, and there's not, unlikely there'll be a brokered convention."

Adelson, along with his wife and children, has donated \$16.5 million to Winning Our Future, a super PAC that was instrumental in paying for advertising to boost Gingrich's cash-strapped campaign. Since its creation, the super PAC has raised a total of \$18.8 million, according to campaign

finance reports through the end of February.

Adelson was speaking informally while attending the Jewish Federations of North America's Tribefest, which was hosted at The Venetian.

He criticized Santorum, a former senator from Pennsylvania, for being too focused on social issues. Adelson described himself as a "social liberal" who is pro-choice on abortion.

"I know Rick; I like him," Adelson said. "We're friendly. But I got to tell you something: I don't want him to run my country."

Turning to Romney, Adelson sounded frustrated by the former Massachusetts governor's unwillingness to commit to his causes.

"He's not the bold decision-maker like Newt Gingrich is," Adelson said. "He doesn't want to _ every time I talk to him, he says, 'Well, let me think about it.'"

Adelson said he had talked to both Romney and Gingrich about agreeing to choose the other as a vice presidential nominee. Gingrich, he said, rebuffed the idea because it would make it harder to gain much-needed support from governors in other states.

Supreme Court wraps up arguments over health care law

BY MICHAEL DOYLE AND
DAVID LIGHTMAN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
(MCT)

WASHINGTON - The future of health care hangs in the balance, as do some political fates, with the conclusion Wednesday of Supreme Court arguments that showed the justices divided but clearly willing to rule on the major questions at issue.

Longer than any since the 1960s, the arguments that ended Wednesday afternoon both clarified and clouded the potential outcome, with justices on the last day assessing whether most of the 2010 health care law could survive even if its most controversial provision, the individual mandate, were struck down.

Over a total of nearly six hours this week, the justices suggested that:

They will almost certainly rule on challenges to the

Obama administration's signature health care law, rather than punt on technical grounds.

They could very well strike down the health care law's central requirement that individuals must buy insurance, and the law's dictate that states expand Medicaid coverage, or even the law in its entirety.

They will be sharply divided in whatever they do. And because opposing sides won't be reconciled, it's more likely that the court itself could become campaign fodder in the fall elections.

Taken together, the arguments foreshadow, by the end of June, a set of binding decisions on one of the country's most ambitious social programs ever, rendered right in the middle of an election year.

"We cannot avoid decisions simply because the case has political implications," Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. said Monday morning,

speaking of another case but with an unmistakable nod toward the health care cases.

The constitutional validity of the entire 2,700-page Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was not in question this week. Instead, Florida and 25 other states as well as business groups were challenging several specific provisions concerning mandatory individual insurance coverage and Medicaid expansion at the state level.

On Wednesday, though, the court considered whether the entire law must fail if the central insurance coverage requirement were struck down. Several conservatives think so.

"My approach would say, if you take the heart out of the statute, the statute is gone," Justice Antonin Scalia declared.

From the liberal side, Justice Elena Kagan suggested that often "half a loaf is better than no loaf," while

some of her colleagues agreed that the court should not move too drastically.

"It's a question between a wrecking operation and a salvage job," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said. "And it seems to me the more conservative approach would be salvage rather than throwing out everything."

The 90-minute argument Wednesday morning will really matter only if the court decides, separately, that the health care law's so-called individual mandate violates the Constitution. At that point, justices also would have to decide whether the damage to the law can be contained or whether the whole ship necessarily must sink.

"If the individual mandate is unconstitutional, then the rest of the act cannot stand," insisted attorney Paul Clement, representing Florida and other states challenging the law.

The Obama administration agrees that a few



OLIVIER DOULIERY | ABACA PRESS (MCT)

Demonstrators for and against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act march and chant outside the U.S. Supreme Court Building on Tuesday in Washington, DC. The Supreme Court digs deep into health care this morning, as the justices consider the most important challenge to the law: compelling individuals to buy insurance or pay a fine.

additional provisions of the law are inextricably tied to the individual mandate and must live or die with it. One is the ban on denying coverage to those with pre-existing conditions. Without an individual insurance-buying mandate,

this requirement would drive up rates.

But with many provisions of the law already in effect, the administration and advocates maintain that total repeal would throw many Americans for a dangerous loop.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Stanton approaches career milestone

Softball coach close to eclipsing career win number 400

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Softball coach Shonda Stanton is only three wins shy of 400 for her career.

Stanton is in her 13th season as head coach for the Thundering Herd. Her 397 wins are the most for any coach in Marshall softball history.

Stanton played softball collegiately at UNC Greensboro. During her career, she was a four-year starter and three year captain. During her senior year, Stanton ranked eighth in the nation in runs scored.

After college, Stanton joined the athletic department at Ashland University where she worked with the women's basketball team, women's volleyball team and softball team.

"For me, I do attribute my abilities as a head coach to the experience I had at Ashland," Stanton said. "So I am very thankful for those coaches and what they taught me — all three are excellent coaches."

During her time at Ashland, the softball team earned consecutive bids to the NCAA tournament.

Stanton was the head coach for Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis prior to coaching the Herd. During her time as the head coach, IUPUI had its only winning

season as an NCAA Division 1 program, going 27-25 in 1999.

Former Marshall softball player Amanda Williams, who holds several Thundering Herd records, is now an assistant coach with the Herd. Williams said she is grateful that she had the opportunity to play for Stanton and is just as happy to be coaching beside her.

"Four-hundred wins is a very deserving honor for coach Stanton," Williams said. "She's a great coach and not only cares about her players as student athletes, but she also cares about what kind of person they are off the diamond as well."

During her career at Marshall, Stanton has produced 45 all-conference players and one all-American. Since becoming the head coach, her teams have never posted a grade point average lower than 3.0 for an academic year.

Senior outfielder Melissa Loesing said the approach Stanton brings to the game is what she admires the most.

"If there is anything I have learned from Coach it is to go after what you want," Loesing said. "She is a go getter, and she teaches us to be the same."

Stanton's best season at the helm of the Thundering Herd came in 2003 when the Herd went 41-17. Stanton

has a total of seven 30-win seasons in her 13 years with the Herd. From 2003-2007 her teams won at least 30 games each year.

"The 2003 season is one of my most memorable seasons," Stanton said. "We were coming off a very tough 2002 season and for us to rebound the way we did with eight freshmen and go 41-17 and 20-4 in the conference was amazing. The 2006 season comes to mind too — it was our first in Conference USA."

Stanton said she chose the Herd because once she visited Marshall, she fell in love with the program and their commitment to excellence.

"I won't lie, I was skeptical at first," Stanton said "But I wanted the challenge, and once I visited Marshall, I really fell in love with it. My husband and I agreed this was the best move for my career, and so far it has been."

The Thundering Herd is 17-14 this season. Stanton said the goal is to continue to work hard and win a conference championship.

The Herd continues its season at 4 p.m. Saturday, in El Paso, Texas, when they will play the University of Texas-El Paso. Marshall looks to rebound after losing to UAB last weekend.

Lawren Hightower can be reached at hightower5@marshall.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Head coach Shonda Stanton talks strategy with senior outfielder Jessica Hughes during one of the Herd's games at Dot Hicks Field. Stanton will attempt to leave El Paso, Texas with career win number 400 after a three game series against the UTEP Miners beginning Saturday afternoon. Marshall has 24 regular season games left on its slate before the 2012 Conference USA Softball Tournament in Birmingham, Ala. in May.

Softball team to face University of Texas-El Paso



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Sophomore Natalie Pulver finishes off a pitch during game two of last weekend's three game series with the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

After getting swept for the first time this season, the Marshall softball team returns to the diamond as it hits the road for a three-game series at the University of Texas-El Paso.

The Herd is coming off a stretch of nine games in just seven days. The Herd won five of the first six before losing the final three to the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

"I know our girls were a little bit fatigued last weekend, so it's nice this week to have some time off to plan and prepare fully for UTEP," Marshall head coach Shonda Stanton said.

In the UAB series, the Herd struggled at the plate, accumulating just 13 hits and five runs in the three games.

UTEP on the other hand is an offensive powerhouse. The Miners are scoring over six runs per game and have scored 10 or more runs in nine games this season, including a 25 run performance against Brown in early March.

"Their scores have been ridiculous, so they have weak pitching and weak defense,

but we know they are going to come out swinging," Stanton said. "So we know if we are going to win the games this weekend it's all about the sticks. We've got to bring them."

The Miners defense pails in comparison to its offense. UTEP is allowing its opponents to score just under

to 1.77 runs per game.

Williamson has appeared in 24 of the teams 31 games and has tallied a record of 12-8.

"I think our pitching will do well against their hitters, but their hitters that can really go yard and you have the lighter air out there as well," Stanton said. "So

pitched to Carrera twice last week, and she hit two home runs, and then they intentionally walked her so it depends on the situation whether we pitch to her or not."

For Marshall, Stanton knows in order for the Herd to win the series her team must return to their roots, stealing bases.

Last season the Herd led the nation in stolen bases, and this season junior Ashley Gue is second in the conference with 22.

"We can run on their catcher," Stanton said. "So if we can't play to our strengths its going to be tough to beat them offensively. But if we're doing that we do well, then we should be in command of things."

The Herd goes into the series with a record of 17-14 (5-4 C-USA), while the Miners are just 12-21 (2-7 C-USA), despite its offensive prowess.

The series gets underway with a double-header at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and concludes at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Jarrod Clay can be contacted at clay105@marshall.edu.

“

Their scores have been ridiculous, so they have weak pitching and weak defense, but we know they are going to come out swinging.”

> SHONDA STANTON, SOFTBALL COACH

eight runs per game and have committed 60 errors as a team.

"We definitely need to bring out sticks offensively, and our small ball kids need to put the ball in play because they (UTEP) will make a lot of mistakes defensively," Stanton said.

The Herd will have to lean heavily on its pitching staff, which is lead by junior Andi Williamson. The right-hander currently leads Conference USA with 139 strikeouts and is holding opponents

sometimes it can homerun alley with the wind blowing out and the altitude."

Helen of Troy Field has proven to be a hitter's ball park, especially for sophomore Camilla Carrera and senior Chelsea Troupe who have hit a combined 34 homeruns in just 33 games.

Troupe has knocked out 13 while Carrera has hit a C-USA record 21 homeruns and has a batting average of .484.

"This weekend is huge," Stanton said. "UTEP is a team that hits — they can swing it. East Carolina

OPINION

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

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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.

ONLINE POLL

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Who will win the NCAA basketball championship ?

- University of Kentucky Wildcats
- University of Louisville Cardinals
- The Ohio State University Buckeyes
- Kansas University Jayhawks

EDITORIAL

EPA should appeal federal decision to allow MTR in Logan County

Last week, a federal judge in Washington, D.C. ruled that a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007 to not allow mountaintop removal in Logan County was unconstitutional. Amy Berman Jackson, the judge who ruled on the decision stated, that the EPA's decision to ban mountaintop removal at Spruce Mine No. 1 in Logan County, said the EPA reached over its boundaries and was not in compliance with federal law by issuing the permit to stop mountaintop mining.

Arch Coal, the company which owns Spruce Mine No. 1 can now go full speed ahead with mountaintop removal — thanks to the ruling by Jackson. This comes as little surprise and demonstrates the sway coal has not only in West Virginia, but also in D.C.

Now that MTR will be allowed at Spruce No. 1 mine, 2, 278 acres of land will be destroyed. Hundreds of miles of stream will be lost to valley fills, and the impoverished individuals who live below the MTR sites will continue to have adverse health effects. Birth children with deformities and illnesses because profit and efficiency are put before human life and well-being. The EPA ruling that banned MTR at the Spruce Mine No. 1 was a

helping-hand to the people of Logan County — not an overreach of the EPA's power, as Judge Jackson ruled it was.

Despite MTR having an infamous reputation for violating the Clean Water Act, Jackson argued that it does not. Someone should offer Jackson a drink from a faucet that sits below an active MTR site. One would guess she would not drink it. But now since her ruling, families in Logan County that live near MTR sites will continue to be subjected to poisonous water and flash flooding caused by valley fills.

Even West Virginia State Senator, Joe Manchin III, is unwilling to protect the people of his own state. "I always knew that the EPA's decision to retroactively veto a coal mining permit for the Spruce No. 1 Mine in Logan County was fundamentally wrong and an unprecedented act by the federal government," Manchin said. The EPA should appeal this decision and fight both for the dignity of the agency and the dignity of the residents of Logan County. However, it is not all up to the EPA. It is up to the residents of West Virginia to put a stop to this egregious process which puts profit before people and the environment.

COLUMN

US should stop waging perpetual war

BY JACOB WHITE

IOWA STATE DAILY, IOWA STATE U. VIA UWIRE

"There is no instance of a country having benefited from prolonged warfare."

This quotation is attributed to Sun Tzu, who wrote the most influential treatise on warfare in history, "The Art of War." That tome is more than two millennia old and is still as important today as it was two-and-a-half thousand years ago.

And yet here in the United States, the most advanced and powerful empire in world history, our leaders are still unable to understand this simple and eloquent passage.

American military forces have been involved in the war in Afghanistan for more than a decade. And what do we have to show for it? There is still little resembling democracy; the Afghan police force is still ill-trained, ill-equipped and

unprepared to handle the country once we (if ever) leave Afghanistan; and the Taliban is simply waiting in the shadows. Throw in a corrupt president who happens to be the brother of an opium drug lord, and you have got yourself a wonderful mix just waiting for collapse.

Recent events have only further cemented the notion that the war in Afghanistan is going dreadfully awry. These events point toward at best carelessness and, at worst, downright incompetence. First, five American troops were "disciplined" for the accidental burning of a pile of Qurans, which led to riots and heightened tension between Afghan and American military officials. According to the inquiry, the Muslim holy books were mistaken for garbage and taken to a landfill to be burned.

The riots that took place in response to the burning

within Afghanistan saw 30 Afghan and six American military personnel deaths that were directly related.

The second event, which was by all accounts atrocious, was the unprovoked slaughter of civilians in which an American soldier went into an Afghan village, shooting and killing 16, then setting several of their corpses aflame.

There should be no reason for this ever happening in warfare. If the soldier was in need of psychological help, there is no logical reason that he should be on a military base, able to procure weaponry so easily and do what he did. With the immense budget the U.S. armed forces have, certainly there is treatment available for soldiers in that kind of condition. This event led to the Taliban turning its backs on negotiations of any kind with America, a situation that will certainly hinder any attempts at a

successful withdrawal from Afghanistan.

These two incidents, while hard to stomach, are merely two more in a nearly endless line of incidents that seek to prove that the war effort in Afghanistan is lost. From drones killing civilians and videos of Marines urinating on dead Taliban soldiers to purpose-driven death squads and torture of Afghan civilians at Bagram, these recent extreme cases hardly seem anecdotal anymore.

At this point, after more than a decade at war, after countless casualties of both belligerents and civilians, it is this author's opinion that America cannot achieve a graceful exit from Afghanistan. Afghanistan has been dubbed the "Graveyard of Empires" for a reason. It successfully resisted British occupation in the 19th century, and the Soviet Union was horrifyingly unable to occupy the country

during the 1980s, playing a crucial role in the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

So what is to be done? With increasing international pressure for America to leave Afghanistan, the targeted withdrawal date is by the end of 2014, which will mean we will have been at war with [enter enemy here] for 13 years.

Perpetual warfare has always been feared by intellectuals throughout the ages. The current case of the Afghanistan war is no different. An entire generation of youth has never seen an America at peace. And with the war drums sounding again with Iran, it is unlikely that America will see peace again for perhaps another generation, if both Afghanistan and Iraq are to be used as guides.

We have been told for a decade now that we are fighting an enemy that hates the freedoms we enjoy. These same freedoms,

such as the right to protest peacefully, the right to be protected from unwarranted searches and seizures, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment and the right of habeas corpus, have been chipped away at over the last decade by the very people who told us to support the war: Congress.

The Patriot Act, National Defense Authorization Act 2012, suspension of habeas corpus, unusually sadistic treatment of nonviolent Occupy protestors — these are all things that have been happening to Americans by Americans over the last decade.

I will leave you with one more quote, from one of America's favorite Frenchmen, Alexis de Tocqueville. "All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and the shortest means to accomplish it."

GREEK WEEK PREPARATIONS



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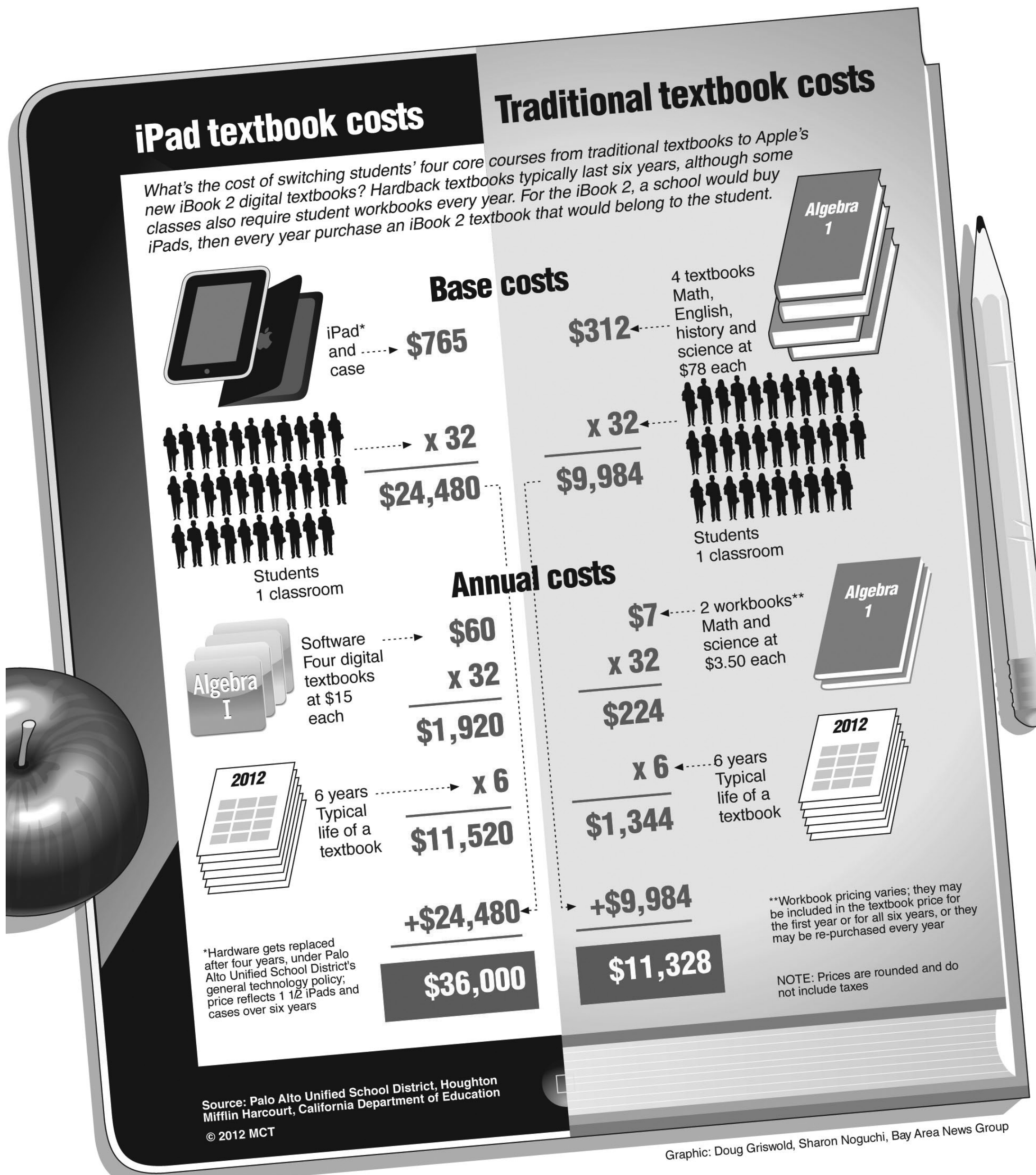
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AUCTION
Continued from Page 1

"I have always wanted to study abroad so I know how expensive it can be and anything that can help students with this opportunity is a great thing," Staples said. Hagarty said donors and patrons have been extremely

generous with providing scholarships for tuition but there are still a lot of expenses like airfare and food. Donated artwork can be taken to the Birke Art Gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Keyaira McCauley can be contacted at mccauley12@marshall.edu.

FOOD BANK
Continued from Page 1

like Big Sandy Superstores, Wal-Mart, Kroger and Clear Channel help to make operations like this possible," Frasure said. "Without them, efforts like this would be extremely difficult and costly for Huntington Area

Food Bank, an agency which already has great demands in our everyday operational capacity." The Huntington Area Food Bank is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Feeding America. Ashley Foster can be contacted at foster108@marshall.edu.

MADONNA
Continued from Page 6

she's singing a bad lullaby instead of a pop song most of the time. The offensive simplicity of the background music demands Madonna to infuse some energy, but she doesn't. Her

voice seems detached and childish. Are we watching the intermediate rounds of "American Idol," or listening to one of the biggest pop artists of all time? Where's the energy? Not in MDNA. The lone highlights of the album come not from anything Madonna offers, but rather from Nicki Minaj

— whose characteristic pizzazz generates some welcomed energy in "Give Me All Your Luvvin' "— but the positive experience is over too soon, and we are left with the bare, bare bones of Madonna and silly techno beats. Considering Madonna's larger-than-life celebrity

status, it would've been nice to justify it with an engaging album. Instead, we're left scratching our heads, asking depressing questions such as "why is this person so famous?" and "why does our society put her on a pedestal?" Sadly, MDNA gives us no answers.

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MU Greek Week games underway

BY BRITTANEE BARTON
THE PARTHENON

In the third day of Greek Week, Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Phi claimed victory in volleyball. Sororities and fraternities battled in their respective brackets at the Marshall Recreation Center, with each eventual winner earning the most points for their chapter.

Sigma Sigma Sigma defeated Alpha Chi Omega in the first round to move on to the finals.

Junior Sigma Mollie Hamrick said she was happy with her team's performance.

"It went pretty well," Hamrick said. "We played really hard and beat them in two games to 15 so we're just looking forward to the final. We need to work hard together and make sure the ball stays off the ground."

Delta Zeta beat Alpha Xi Delta in two games, sending them to the finals. Delta Zeta won the first game of finals, but Sigma won the second game in extra points, as ties forced play to 20. Each match was timed at 30 minutes, and when the clock ran out in final game, Delta Zeta had the lead, giving them bragging rights for the volleyball tournament. Sigma finished

in second and Alpha Xi won over Alpha Chi, landing them in third place.

Fraternities played their bracket after sororities. Junior Pi Kappa Alpha Nathaniel Fawley was confident in his team's planned strategy.

"We want to set it to a few players and get them to spike it," Fawley said. "We're hoping Justin Howe makes some moves, along with John Alley."

After a nine team fraternity bracket, Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Sigma Phi played in the championship game, with Alpha Sig winning and Pi Kappa Alpha placing second. Delta Chi finished in third place over Kappa Alpha.

Greeks have already competed in several events this week, such as the banner competition, tug-of-war, soccer and spades. Interfraternity Council adviser Lee Tabor said the spades tournament added a unique element to Greek Week.

"The National Panhellenic Council, historically black fraternities and sororities, did spades tournament last night, and that was actually the first time they've been involved in Greek Week for years and years," Tabor said.

Panhellenic Council adviser Megan Kelley said

upcoming events include football, trivia, field day, campus relay, basketball, an eating competition and Greek Sing.

"Each event is worth 10 points, but our big event at the end of the week is Greek Sing, which is worth 15 points," Kelley said. "Obviously, it can get very competitive with our fraternities and sororities competing for the title of Greek Week champions."

Tabor said Greek Week is not all about sports and competitions, as service is also involved.

"Today was the day of service where all the chapters went out in the community and did anything from adopt a highway to volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club and local churches," Tabor said. "They've been doing all kinds of events, and their participation will actually fit into the points as well."

Junior Alpha Sigma Phi Derek Ramsey said he likes that Greek Week promotes unity.

"Greek Week is one of the most looked forward to weeks of the year for the entire Greek community," Ramsey said. "It not only gives us a chance to compete and take part in athletics



BRITTANEE BARTON | THE PARTHENON

Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority gears up for a Greek volleyball game at the Marshall Rec Center on Wednesday.

some of us may not have taken part in since high school, but at the same time, it lets us all

come together and show Huntington how much we can do for a community."

Brittane Barton can be contacted at barton35@marshall.edu.

Volleyball tournament coming to Big Sandy Arena

BY CHELSIE SCHULDIES
THE PARTHENON

The eighth annual West Virginia Spikefest Volleyball Tournament will be Friday through Monday at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

The Charleston Volleyball Club will play host to the event. The tournament is for

the Junior Olympic Club volleyball players.

Paul Claridades, executive director of the Charleston Volleyball Club, said this is the fifth year the tournament has been in Huntington.

"I was one of the people who started the Charleston Volleyball Club," Claridades said. "In 2000, I retired from

competition and realized West Virginia was not even close to Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia in competition so a couple of friends and I put together the Junior Olympic club to gear toward high school students."

More than 1,000 girls aged 13 to 18 will compete in the event. Athletes range from the Tri-State area and

Pennsylvania with 96 teams total. College coaches will also be in attendance to recruit players.

Claridades said more than 40 former members of the Charleston Volleyball Club Junior Olympic program have gone on to college careers as scholar athletes.

"Many of those players

play for national club teams," Claridades said. "We were lucky to have three girls who used to play in the junior program come back and now act as coaches for us."

The tournament begins Friday from 6 p.m. through midnight. Ages 18, as well as 16 and under, will compete. The competition

begins Saturday at 8 a.m. with 14-year-olds and 15-year-olds playing until 4 p.m. then 18-year-olds and 16-year-olds. The tournament completes Sunday at 8 a.m. with 13 and 14-year-olds. Playoffs start at 1 p.m. for all four divisions.

Chelsie Schuldies can be contacted at schuldies@marshall.edu.

ALBUM REVIEW

Madonna does little to justify larger-than-life status

BY GEOFF MARINO
MICHIGAN DAILY, U. MICHIGAN
VIA UWIRE

Madonna has been getting a lot of attention lately. Her Super Bowl halftime show conjured up controversy, though mostly about M.I.A.'s scandalous antics. But it's undeniable that the paparazzi are back in full force patrolling Madonna's every move. While her new album, MDNA, sees her reemerge onto the popular-music scene, with collaborations from more contemporary figures such as Nicki Minaj and M.I.A., it doesn't justify all the scrutiny. It's a lackluster musical effort, coming off more like a dumb publicity stunt than anything with character.

The beats underlying Madonna's voice are sparse and uninteresting productions. They seem to combine hangovers from the '80s and '90s with bass tactics more characteristic of popular music today. "Turn Up the Radio" is a pop song that begins with an evenly spaced synthesizer reminiscent of techno hits from the '80s and eventually transitions into the chorus, "Turn up the radio," with a wash of bass much like you would hear from a dubstep song today.

It's not the combination of

musical genres that makes it bad — obviously, great musicians do this all the time with success. Likewise, picking and choosing from the past can be a source of innovation for the future. But it would be laughable to suggest this album breeds invention. It seems as if the tinny-sounding beats were made in two minutes from contemporary producers who listened to some of Madonna's old hits and mixed them with a bit of what we're used to listening to today.

"Gang Bang," the album's second song, is a miserable effort that truly epitomizes the lack of musicality in this work. Madonna is trying to sound like a badass over a pumping beat resembling the soundtrack of a Nintendo Game Boy game. For a song to prompt video game nostalgia rather than appreciation for the actual production is certainly bad news, and unfortunately, Madonna does little in the rest of the album to grab our attention.

Her voice is an instrument of annoyance throughout the album, airily floating around the corny beats. It fails to exhibit any significant contrasts, and she sounds like

See MADONNA | Page 5



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