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Meg Keller | Life Editor



Meg Keller | Life Editor

Campus during a pandemic



Douglas Harding | Managing Editor



Courtesy NSSLHA

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Pres. Gilbert discusses pandemic semester

By **JENA CORDLE**
REPORTER

Marshall University's president, Jerome Gilbert, sat down to discuss what is happening on campus this school year.

Gilbert's day-to-day routine is often filled with meetings, including speaking among face-to-face classes and meeting with the Campus Wide COVID group on Mondays and Wednesdays.

When he is not in meetings, he is active on campus checking in on students, staff and faculty during the COVID-19 test screening on campus or grabbing some coffee from Starbucks. Gilbert said he has adjusted and adapted to virtual campus life and is making the best of it.

As the new school year has started, the science program has adapted to the new changes and have been proactive in the lab, Gilbert said. The College of Science made a proposal to be the unit to do some additional surveillance testing.

The college proposed to take water samples of sewage from the residence halls to detect signs of COVID-19 earlier on than the standard COVID-19 testing. If COVID-19 is detected by one person in a specific residence hall, the procedure would call for that entire building to go through a standard COVID-19 testing.

"If we were to test it and it was all clean, then we would be confident that no one in that residence hall had COVID," Gilbert said.

Using this approach would be an added way to prevent the spread of the outbreak. With coordinated

procedures and planning, Gilbert said he is pleased with the effort and compliance of the staff and student body.

The Marshall University football team have also been actively taking caution and routinely getting tested three times a week during the playing season and have consistently tested negative this year thus far.

"Our football team continues to test and have no positives which is amazing. We've been able to play football while some of the other teams have not been able to play because they've had so many positive cases," Gilbert said.

While adapting to the new normal, Gilbert encourages virtual classes and meetings opposed to face to face interactions, as platforms like zoom and teams have made communication smoother and safer than online and face to face.

With new resources, adjustments in curriculum, and changes to the Drinko and Morrow Libraries, Marshall University has been fully prepared to accommodate the student body during the COVID-19 pandemic and the obstacles that followed, Gilbert said.

As many changes occur this year, Marshall University also negotiated a new contract with Sodexo in a contract to update Marshall's meal plan for campus students and commuters.

"We negotiate the meal plans on a periodic basis with Sodexo, which is our provider, and we can listen to feedback in terms of what are the preferences. So, we use that to help us negotiate with Sodexo for a different package from last year," Gilbert said.

Gilbert, though dealing with COVID-19



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

adjustments on campus, said he is doing his best to remain optimistic for the student body, staff and faculty.

"Next Fall, a year from now, it's too early to tell but we could be doing the same thing in the next fall. Hopefully we'll be beyond the pandemic," Gilbert said. "I give the students a lot of credit, and the staff and faculty credit for being responsible and for doing the right things and keeping the spread minimal."

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H.E.L.P. Center supports students' academic pursuits

By **JONATHAN STILL**
REPORTER

The H.E.L.P. Center is known as the Higher Education for Learning Problems Center located in Myers Hall and it is a place where students that have trouble learning can go to seek help.

It is fee-based and has a team of experts working with students in a total of eight divisions like College H.E.L.P. and Community H.E.L.P.

Sara Barker, coordinator of Skills and Student Development at the H.E.L.P. Center, said the goal of the center is to maximize a student's potential through academic tutoring and to develop skills in their deficit areas.

"Our favorite aspects of working at the H.E.L.P. program are working with the students and tutors to help them realize their



DOUGLAS HARDING | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

goals," Barker said in an email.

Barker said there is also a life-coaching division which focuses on students developing independence by

learning self-advocacy strategies and thriving in their educational environment.

"We are also constantly evaluating and enhancing the program as students

evolve," Barker said in an email.

Laura Rowden, coordinator of the Community H.E.L.P. division, said students in the H.E.L.P. Center grow in so many ways, "Of course, there is the academic growth, but they also develop such self-confidence through their participation in the program," Rowden said in an email.

Rowden said there is a video of one of their students named Sam Warble, who is shown growing in his learning abilities despite his shortcomings, on the community portion website.

The H.E.L.P. Center is offering services through face-to-face sessions or through virtual meetings to continue bringing help to students that need it during the pandemic.

Jonathan Still can be contacted at still3@marshall.edu.

Writing Center open with limited face-to-face

By **JONATHAN STILL**
REPORTER

Students can go to the Writing Center whenever they need to seek help on different assignments such as research papers, but services will look different this semester.

Anna Rollins, Director of the Writing Center and a professor with the English Department, said services from the Writing Center will be offered face-to-face or virtually.

“Face-to-Face appointments are held in Drinko Library and must be scheduled ahead of time,” Rollins said in an email. “We are not offering walk-in appointments this semester.”

Rollins said students and tutors are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing from one another.

She added that plexiglass barriers are also available if needed for extra precautions.

“We are also happy that we have been able to facilitate a safe environment for limited face-to-face appointments,” Rollins said in an email.

Ali Braenovich, a tutor at the Writing Center, said sessions with students feel a little different right now.

“I’m glad we are still able to help students amid the pandemic, but I feel like it’s a little harder to connect to the student,” Braenovich said in an email.

Braenovich said she hoped that students who work remotely will take advantage of having the ability to work virtually with the Writing Center.

“I’m used to several tutors being in the Writing Center all at once and now there can only be two



DOUGLAS HARDING | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

tutors at a time,” Braenovich said in an email.

Students can sign up for appointments on the Writing Center portion of the Marshall website at

<https://www.marshall.edu/writingcenter/>.

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College of Education implements guidelines for student teachers

By **CARSON MCKINNEY**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s College of Education now requires new guidelines due to the ongoing pandemic. During the fall 2020 semester, students can expect to see differences when preparing to student-teach within the classroom.

Melinda Backus, a professor of the College of Education at Marshall, said there are key differences in the entire clinical scope and sequence this semester.

“During this fall semester, we are only placing student teachers, (level two or three candidates), in the public schools,” Backus said. “Level two is typically the semester before student teaching and consists of 75 hours in a

classroom.”

Backus also said there will be accommodations made for students who cannot enter the classroom this semester for clinicals.

“For all of the other clinicals, professors are making alternative assignments instead of sending candidates into the schools,” Backus said. “That is one huge difference between this semester and semesters past.”

Backus also outlined the requirements still needed for student teaching this year.

“The requirements are the same as they have been, the only difference is supervision,” Backus said. “Typically, a university supervisor is assigned to the student teacher. This year, we are trying to minimize the number of

people entering the public schools. Supervising will be virtual, with student teachers sending in videos for supervisors to critique and provide feedback.”

Backus also said that though things are different this year, students will still be learning as they have always been.

“I think our candidates will definitely learn, but what they learn will be different from past years,” Backus said. “As we say in the field of education, ‘You never stop learning. You can’t. If you do, you are letting your students down.’ This year our candidates are first-hand witnesses to experienced teachers learning a whole new way to teach the students in their classes.”

Backus said this year will bring forth other new ideas and experiences for students.

“Our candidates will also be witnesses to experienced teachers as they learn new technologies and tools to teach their children,” Backus said. “And our candidates will be a great assistance to our teachers in helping them navigate in a technological world of unknowns that many public school teachers are currently facing.”

Backus said the ways students will learn this year will be different, but still educational.

“What students learn will be different in many ways from what teacher candidates learned in the past...”

see TEACHERS on pg. 10

Marshall Vintage blows up on social media

By XENA BUNTON
REPORTER

Marshall Vintage, co-created by a Marshall alumni couple, launched their website this fall semester after a high demand from Marshall fans for vintage university gear.

Former Marshall football player, Joey Fields, and Melissa Cieslewski, science graduate, continue to work daily for Marshall Vintage, even when they are 569 miles apart, as Joey visits home in New Jersey and Melissa stays in Huntington. The Marshall Vintage team has about 12 different sources to collect pieces for the website.

"Just hitting the racks at Goodwill was not going to be enough," Fields said. "We started getting in contact with people around the area and even out of state."

The couple said Marshall Vintage needed a new platform when they noticed their Instagram messages and notifications were over-flowing after each post. Fields said he realized this project was bigger than he thought when he had over 45 messages in less than a minute after posting three vintage crewnecks.

Both Fields and Cieslewski started their thrifting journey on their own separate

accounts before the couple created a Marshall Vintage account on Instagram and later launched the website. Fields sold a mix of vintage graphic tees and Marshall gear that he would collect. Cieslewski currently sells redesigned vintage pieces as an owner of Body Thrifted.

Cieslewski said they both contact a lot of older fans that let them in their homes to look at vintage gear and to tell stories of their Marshall experience. Marshall Vintage relies on the dates of their merchandise and the memories that come with it.

"People do not realize that thrifting is really not just going to goodwill and stuff," Fields said. "It is also going to thrift markets, houses and making that connection."

Fields and Cieslewski said they both take the time to do research on the tags and the stitching of the merchandise to identify the time range for their customers.

"We just enjoy finding these cool pieces because when you find something from the early '90s, you probably won't find many others like it," Cieslewski said. "You aren't getting something from the bookstore that you see on everyone walking around campus or to a game."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL VINTAGE

Fields said that right now is the best time for Marshall fans to buy some of the handpicked pieces to reminisce during the football season.

"The nostalgic feel of the '90s at Marshall is like nothing else and we want to bring back that feel," Fields said. "Now that we are

winning right now, it kinda fits perfectly."

The couple said they plan to sell vintage wear for a long time and may open a store in Huntington if their company continues to grow.

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Homeless in Huntington: Adam Pingle

By DOUGLAS HARDING
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Adam Pingle is 43 years old and is from Perry County, Ohio. He has been practically homeless in Huntington for less than a week.

"Anybody could be homeless; It happens so easily," Pingle said. "That's just the way it is. You never realize what you have until it's taken away from you."

Pingle said he feels fortunate to be able to stay in hotel rooms each night until he manages to find a more permanent place to stay.

He recently became homeless after being laid off from his job at the City Mission, likely as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and its impacts on communities and businesses.

Pingle said he very much enjoyed working at the City Mission because it allowed him the opportunity to help others who are in need.

"I had a better job offer for more money, but I wanted to work at the Mission so I could help people," he said. "The Mission does a lot of good things for a lot of people around here."

Pingle said it is alarming how quickly his life transitioned from stability to insecurity. He said there are

various factors that have led to his current situation, and all of them seemed to happen all at once.

"I had a nice house. I was living in a nice neighborhood. Everything was great. I felt like I could do anything," Pingle said. "Then I got kicked out when life started getting too crazy, and I started having too much bad company around me. Even when I was working, I couldn't stand people being out on the street with nowhere to go, so I'd let everyone stay at my house all the time."

Pingle has been more economically unstable and "truly homeless" before, he said, in times of his life when he had nowhere at all to sleep at night, not even in cheap hotel rooms.

"I never thought I'd be back in this situation again," he said. "There have been times in my life when I've been on the streets, truly homeless with nowhere to go. Then I got back on track, worked for everything I had, and life was good. You could sleep good at night and hold your head high and everything like that. But I lost it all so quick, man. I really did."

Pingle said he would like to do social work in the future, and has attempted to take online classes on several occasions throughout his life, but he currently

is unable. When he was younger, he graduated from a technical college where he studied, among various other skills and subjects, heavy machinery.

Since coming to Huntington some time ago, Pingle said he has learned a lot about the city and the people who live there.

"This city definitely has its ups and downs," he said. "But it's not all bad. There's a lot of good here too."

He said that based on other locals he has met, he understands a lot of people struggle to find good-paying jobs with adequate benefits. He said many of them are unable to get into transitional living and other facilities because most require passing drug tests before receiving support.

Pingle said one of his favorite hobbies before being in his current situation was playing pool with his friends at his house, where he had his own pool table. His dream job is to be a professional pool player or fisherman. He would love to have his own fishing show on television.

"Growing up, I always imagined having some sort of fishing show or playing pool professionally..."

see HOMELESS on pg. 10

Local candidates introduce 'strongest cannabis bill in U.S.'

By MEG KELLER
LIFE EDITOR

Politically progressive candidates from the state of West Virginia teamed up with cannabis advocates to announce their plans for what they call "the strongest cannabis bill in the United States" on Friday, September 18th.

West Virginia democrats such as Rusty Williams, Chris Yeager, Mike Lockard, Nikki Ardman, Cory Chase and Hilary Turner met at Chris Yeager's hemp farm in Southside, West Virginia to introduce a bill to decriminalize the cultivation, production and personal use of cannabis for all West Virginians over the age of 21.

The comprehensive cannabis bill was introduced to modernize hemp laws and keep the wealth here in West Virginia, according to a press release provided by WV Can't Wait.

"We've got a lot of wrongs to right," Rusty Williams, candidate for House of

Delegates in the 35th district, said.

If passed, the bill will expunge the record of non-violent cannabis offenders in West Virginia and release them from incarceration, as well as aid them in the transitional process back to society by helping them earn an education and afford housing.

A major goal of this bill is to prevent large corporations from exploiting the work of small hemp farmers in West Virginia by implementing micro-permits. It will institute the framework for the taxation of commercial cannabis product sales.

"One of the major criticisms we've had with the medical cannabis act was that the entire industry is going to be run by 10 companies," Williams said. This proposed bill would establish small, local farms the opportunity for wealth.

"When we end prohibition, we've got to make sure that we clear a path for small business and small farmers to get



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST VIRGINIA CAN'T WAIT

Local candidates announce plans for new cannabis bill to decriminalize the drug at hemp farm in Southside, WV.

in the game and participate in this industry," Williams said.

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Listening, Language, Learning Lab highlights Deaf Awareness Month

By XENA BUNTON
REPORTER

Marshall University provides the only listening and spoken language lab in W.V., leaving the lab and the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association to highlight the National Deaf Awareness month of September.

The Luke Lee Listening, Language, and Learning Lab, also known as "The L", was founded in 2006 as the first preschool program in W.Va., to provide listening and spoken language outcomes to children with hearing loss. Jodi Cottrell, program director, is also the only listening and spoken language specialist in the Mountain State.

Cottrell said her goal now is to get more people certified in this field because she should not be the only one providing the learning and listening services.

"If you were to ask me how I felt about my position six years ago, when I got my certification, I would have said super happy," Cottrell said. "But now that I am the only certified person in the state, it makes me sad because that just means there are not enough people certified for these kiddos."

Cottrell said she does not work with deaf and hearing children that use sign language, instead she teaches the children how to talk by using technology

and cochlear implants. She said these deaf children, similar to her students, do not get recognition.

"Deaf people that get cochlear implants, who do not learn sign language, get people who say they are not part of the hearing society," Cottrell said. "I think it is important for people to understand that even though they are deaf, and they use technology to communicate, they still struggle in certain situations. We need to be more understanding and patient."

Cottrell said cochlear implants are a life-changing piece of technology that allow deaf people to have access to all the sounds of speech and be a part of their family through speech.

"We do have to teach them, so they can't just get a cochlear implant when they are a year old and go about their life and develop a spoken language," Cottrell said. "They have to be taught in a very structured way using specific strategies and also making sure the implants are programmed correctly."

According to the World Health Organization, over 900 million people will have disabling hearing loss by 2050. With the lack of specialists and the growing number of deaf people, the NSSLHA at Marshall University is driving the focus of raising awareness.

"With this being my fourth year at Marshall, I can confidently say that I have struggled to find awareness

towards all disabilities and ways to support those individuals on campus," Allison Buroker, NSSLHA president, said. "Our mission as NSSLHA is to actively advocate and raise awareness monthly on different disabilities. Everyone must be heard and know that they are not alone."

Having worn a hearing aid since she was in fourth grade, Buroker said she was bullied by students and friends. She said schools should make American Sign Language a requirement for students and that they should embrace the differences with their peers that have hearing loss.

"Society must do better," Buroker said. "There are many misunderstandings about hearing loss and the majority of these misunderstandings come from the social stigma. The best way to support could be doing something as simple as learning a few basic beginner signs in American Sign Language."

The association met on September 16., at the Memorial Student Center Plaza, providing factual information about deafness and hard of hearing, to get Marshall students involved with the awareness month.

NSSLHA activities chair and senior communication disorders major, Haley Black, said...

see LISTENING on pg. 10

FOR No. 25 Marshall

BYE-WEEK...PART TWO

By **TAYLOR HUDDLESTON**
SPORTS EDITOR

Now as a nationally ranked team, the No. 25 Marshall University Thundering Herd will face yet another early bye-week due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This is the second bye-week for Marshall.

The Herd (2-0) is coming off a huge upset victory over the previously nationally ranked No. 23 Appalachian State University Mountaineers this past Saturday, 17-7.



"We had to be the best team on the field in all three phases," Marshall head coach Doc Holliday said. "We're doing our best trying to keep our guys fresh and we'll start to work that plan and keep our guys going in the right direction."

Redshirt senior offensive lineman Alex Mollette said it's a dream come true to be a nationally ranked football team.

"It's real exciting," Mollette said. "It's obviously something everyone on our team has dreamed about our entire lives. Our coaches do a really good job of getting us off time and when to practice. They do a great

job of keeping us locked in, watching film, involving us as a team and unit. We're all close-knit brothers."

Marshall does not have another scheduled game planned until Saturday, Oct. 10 when the team will travel to Bowling Green, Kentucky to face the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers.

However, all games are subject to change due to COVID-19.

"It's almost normal at this point," Mollette said. "It has made us locked in closer as a team since March. Every single day was something new from March to now. It feels normal. Things are going to change every day and we are used to it."

Two-time captain, redshirt junior running back Sheldon Evans said the win over the Mountaineers was well-deserved.

"I knew we deserved it because of all of the work we put in," Evans said. "We can't get to our heads. It was a great win and we have to move on to the next and finish."

As a captain, Evans constantly reminds the team why they play and provide motivation. "Every day I just try to tell the guys to not forget why we are here and why we work so hard," Evans said. "Our ultimate goal is to win a championship. Just doing the little things is the most important especially with corona. We got to put our heads down and go back to work. We got plenty of games ahead of us."

The Herd will take advantage of the second bye-week and prepare for WKU, for now.

Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at huddleston16@marshall.edu.

Beckett earns both a national and weekly honor

By **GRANT GOODRICH**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Leading Marshall in tackles in a 17-7 win over Appalachian State, redshirt senior linebacker Tavante Beckett was awarded Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week and Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week.

It was the second time in two seasons Beckett has been awarded the CUSA honor, but he was the first Marshall player to receive the Nagurski honor since Vinny Curry in 2011.

Anchoring the middle of the defense, Beckett compiled a career-high 16 tackles with eight being solo takedowns. He also

forced a fumble, although it was not recovered by the Herd.

Moreover, he was at the forefront of a defensive effort that held No. 23 Appalachian State below 100 yards rushing and to an average of 2.9 yards per carry on 33 attempts.

The Mountaineers were a top 20 run offense a season ago, averaging 231 yards per game, and in its first game of 2020 against Charlotte, the running game looked like it was picking up where it left off, running for 308 yards and 6.2 yards per carry.

But the Herd, led by Beckett,

held the Mountaineers to its lowest rushing total in six years.

Appalachian State was the 2019 Sun Belt conference champions, and in the first few weeks of this college football season, the Sun Belt conference has proven to be formidable.

Louisiana beat the Big-12's Iowa State, and Arkansas State toppled another Big-12 school, Kansas State. Not to mention, Kansas lost for the second year in a row to Coastal Carolina.

See BECKETT on pg. 11



Tavante Beckett (4) prepares for a defensive play with Derrek Pitts Jr (1).
PHOTO BY ZACH HISER

Athlete of the Week

Steven Gilmore, football



PHOTO BY ZACH HISER

ABOUT STEVEN GILMORE:

Position: Cornerback
Class: Junior
Height: 5'11
Weight: 175
Hometown: Rock Hill, South Carolina

PERFORMANCE: vs. No. 23 Appalachian State

Seven total tackles (four solo)
Three pass breakups
One interception

Not only did Gilmore's performance help Marshall come up with the victory over Appalachian State, but he also overcame adversity and played with the mindset required of a cornerback.

After the Marshall offense went on a 14-play drive that resulted in gaining a 10-7 lead, the Appalachian State offense took the field with 2:28 left in the first half with a chance to take the lead into halftime.

On the third play of the drive, App State quarterback Zac Thomas targeted Gilmore down the field, and although the ball was not on target, a flag for pass interference was thrown by an official after some contact between Gilmore and the receiver.

Then, two plays later, an almost identical set of circumstances occurred, resulting in another pass interference penalty on Gilmore. Marshall head coach Doc Holliday was livid after the second flag was thrown on his junior corner, triggering another 15-yard penalty.

Regardless of whether or not the flags should have been thrown, cornerbacks are taught to have a short memory. The ability to put a bad play behind them is a key trait for any good corner.

With the ball at the Marshall 19-yard line, the Mountaineers were in position to take the lead into the half or at least tie it up with a field goal.

SEE ATHLETE ON PG. 10

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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.

EDITORIAL: Black Lives Matter



MEG KELLER | LIFE EDITOR

Huntington residents protest police brutality and systemic racism during a demonstration at Ritter Park earlier this month.

Seventeen Republican state senators from West Virginia recently made headlines for penning a letter to Marshall University and West Virginia University criticizing the universities' football teams for wearing "BLM" stickers on their helmets.

In the letter, Sen. Eric Tarr (R- Putnam) and 16 other Republicans refer to the Black Lives Matter movement as "a domestic terrorist group" which promotes "hate speech that is inciting deadly and destructive riots, assassination of police officers, and denigration of our Republic."

The falsehoods expressed by these senators are simply staggering.

Black Lives Matter is not a terrorist organization; it is an organization dedicated to combatting systemic racism and police brutality. Black Lives Matter does not encourage violence; it publicly condemns such behavior. Black Lives Matter does not promote hate speech; Republican senators from West Virginia—and across America—do that.

The irony of claiming Black Lives Matter encourages assassinations of police officers, also, is staggeringly untrue. In fact, the opposite is true. American police assassinate poor people and people of color every single day in this country. Police in American kill over 1,000 people each year, and over 99% of those killings go unpunished. Most guilty officers actually are rewarded for their killings with several weeks or months of paid time off work.

And systemic racism, put simply, is an undeniable and obviously present issue in America. For

example, using data only from this year, nearly 30% of police killings were committed against black people (and an even greater percentage against minorities in general), despite black people making up less than 15% of the national population.

Additionally, a 2014 study conducted by the University of Michigan Law School concluded that: "Black men constitute 6% of the U.S. adult population but are approximately 35% of the prison population and are incarcerated at a rate six times that of white males. One in three black men will be incarcerated at some point in his life."

The evidence of systemic racism, especially in law enforcement and criminal justice, is unquestionable, and these circumstances are worsening, not improving. The only explanations for such statistics are that American law enforcement and criminal justice are blatantly white supremacist and systemically racist, or that black people and other minorities are somehow inherently more likely to commit crimes worthy of incarceration or death. Believing the latter option is the very definition of racism.

Furthermore, the vast majority of domestic terrorist groups in America are the exact opposite of Black Lives Matter. This country is plagued by white supremacist terrorists—not young people protesting passionately in the streets for racial and economic justice. Only one of these things is inherently noble and patriotic...

see BLM on pg. 10

COLUMN: Generational Hustle

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**
MANAGING EDITOR

"It's those damn millennials ruining everything," say the older generations.

"Ruin? We're just trying to live on a world you ruined," say the millennials. "Oh, and there's an entire generation after millennials now, so stop lumping us together!"

These two arguments are things that I have not only heard but been victim to over the years.

As a proud millennial, I have found myself agitated with the stigma of not only my generation, but those after me and really those before me too.

We are so quick to point out the flaws of others. "They did this, and they didn't do that. Well, if they would have only..." It is never-ending. And frankly, I am over it.

Every generation is full of people breaking their backs to make a life for themselves and hopefully do what makes them happy. Every generation is faced with unique dilemmas, situations and hardships that other generations who do not understand. And, surprise, every single generation has a few bad seeds that abuse the systems, con their way through, avoid work and are basically the "bad" that we tend to deem the generation above and below us.

I personally think it is time we put an end to the blame game and work on being better humans as a whole.

My grandmother, Granny, was born in 1944, Granny has faced so much in her 76 years of life. She was born at the tail end of The Silent Generation and beginning of the Baby Boomers.

The first year and a half of her life took place during World War II. She was only 11 years old when the Vietnam World started. Granny has lived during 14 different presidents in office. She was alive during the

initial Civil Rights Movement. Granny was alive for the first birth control option was released, Elvis' reign and the Beatles breaking up.

And those are just a few of the things that happened before my time. She's seen war, tragedy, new beginnings, a lifetime of a change and development and major world events.

Despite the all the things that previous generations were responsible for during her lifetime Granny never let it stop her.

At five years old she started working in the fields picking beans for pennies. She left home at 11 years old and traveled to New York where she worked as a housekeeper in the same building as the mafia. She traveled to Chicago and sold paintings to the mayor and other city officials to pay for nursing classes. Granny worked at a truck stop diner as a cook, drove a semi and did several different healthcare jobs over the years.

Not only did she do all of these jobs throughout her life, but she raised four kids and several of her grandchildren and "adopted" two navy sailors that came home with her son during his years of service.

She took care of her husband during his years of Parkinson's disease. She helped care for her parents and siblings when they needed it. She has opened her home to more people than can be counted and fed thousands.

Granny has lived a full and eventful life. She busted her ass to make ends meet and live a comfortable life. At 76, she continues to teach the next generation of grandkids to work hard, love harder and to be good people.

While Granny had every reason to blame others and take the easy way in life, she chose to work hard for everything she has.

I was born when Granny was 46 years old. While I have not seen all the things she has seen, I have seen my fair share and worked hard to be where I am in life.

In fact, this time last year I was on not one, but six different payrolls while attending graduate school.

I grew up in a broken home and dealt with things that kids should never have to know about. I moved out at the first opportunity and lived with Granny while finishing high school. I headed to North Carolina after I graduated and started working as soon as I could while taking classes I could afford. College was not an option for me after high school, but I eventually made it happen



BRITTANY HIVELY | MANAGING EDITOR

and graduated with a bachelors in two fields last year.

Before I ventured into the college life, I got married and had two children. My kids have traveled around with me, attended classes with me and even sat at work with me at times when schedules conflicted.

Major life events that I remember include 9/11, the current political chaos, the life of cellphones entering the world and internet taking over. I remember the rise of boy bands and Britney Spears. Friends was- and in my opinion still- the greatest sitcom of our generation. I have watched family members and friends fall victim to the opioid crisis. I have witnessed major strides and fights for equality and a better world trying to be paved.

I have sat with my friends and brother during some of the hardest times of their lives. I cared for my dad during his bout with cancer until he passed in my arms. I am now living during a global pandemic while dealing with constant blows to my family.

There is 46 years between Granny, The Silent Generation, and I, the millennial. We have lived completely different, but equally challenging lives where we worked hard for what we have and cared for those around us.

Neither one's life hardships can be blamed on the other's generation. It is time we stop the blaming and realize we are all living life the best that we can. We have no idea what one or the other has been through. We all have our own hardships; we have all worked hard in different ways. We have cannot continue to criticize an entire generation for the few bad eggs.

It is time to set aside the blame game and start being better humans while we all navigate our own generational hustle.

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Granny with one of her many paintings.

BRITTANY HIVELY | MANAGING EDITOR

TEACHERS cont. from 3

... but they are learning how to teach in a changing world," Backus said. "While in the past one of the main goals for our teacher candidates was to be learning as much as they can, I think the main goal of this year is to help the public school teacher and the public school students with this ever-changing version of school in the year 2020. We feel our residents and student teachers will be a great asset to the public school system this year."

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ATHLETE cont. from 7

...However, on third-and-9 with 54 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Gilmore jumped an out route and intercepted the Thomas pass, earning redemption from his two penalties and sealing the Herd's lead heading into the half.

It was a great singular play, but his impact did not stop there. On the Mountaineers first three drives of the second half, all three drive ending plays were made by Gilmore.

On the first drive of the second half, he blanketed the receiver on a go route, thwarting the attempt at the back-shoulder completion.

On the second drive, he flew downhill and blew up a screen, wrapping up the tackler and laying the hit stick at the same time. Throughout the game, he tackled well, racking up seven total tackles and four solo.

On the third drive, again covering the Mountaineers top wide out, he was all over the slant, breaking up another pass.

He was targeted twelve times by Appalachian State; he gave up three receptions but broke up three passes, intercepted one and defended all other targets well.

LISTENING cont. from 5

...it is important to take the time to educate people who do not think about deaf awareness. "Deaf and hard of hearing people are fairly common these days so it is important that we know how to communicate and remember to have patience," Black said. "I think it is important to understand that not all people who are deaf think that they have a disability, they just have a difference."

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HOMELESS cont. from 4

...or something," he said. "I used to love playing pool at my house, but I can't do that anymore—don't have a house or a pool table. Now I spend my time walking around the city and trying to figure out what I'm going to do with myself, looking for a place to stay."

If he had a million dollars, Pingle said he would use his fortune to reconnect with his children, who currently live a couple hours away with family.

"If I got a million dollars today, I'd go see my kids and take them to do something," he said.

Although he currently is experiencing one of the tougher phases of his life, Pingle said he always tries to remain optimistic and to adhere to his personal values.

"I've always said this, and I honestly

do believe it: if you live right and think positive and trust in God, eventually good things will come your way," he said. "If you live right no matter what—no matter who's looking or anything—eventually it will come back to you."

Looking upward toward the sky imagining where life may take him in coming months and years, Pingle said as his modest smile turned to a laugh, "Maybe I could take Trump's job. Why not?"

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BECKETT cont. from 6

None of those three Big-12 schools could hold its Sun Belt opponents below 100 yards rushing, but Marshall held the reigning champs below that mark.

It was one of the most dominant performances a Marshall defense has produced in the Doc Holliday era.

Beckett led the charge with his speed and physicality, setting a tone for the run defense and the unseasoned linebackers beside him.

One of the best examples of Beckett's effort and tone in the game came early in the second quarter when the Mountaineers were in Marshall territory and driving to take the lead.

On a second-and-2 play, he ejected himself into the gap toward the running back and stuffed the play to force App State to make a third down conversion. Subsequently, the Mountaineers were backed up by a false start, and on the third-and-6, Beckett forced the quarterback into a sack.

If he wouldn't have made that play on second down, there was a chance App State could have continued its drive all the way to endzone, taking the lead and shifting the momentum of the game.

Beckett made sure his defense would not let the momentum shift, and it never did.

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or by appointment

Rec provides swimming lessons

By **ALEX JACKSON**

REPORTER

Marshall University's Recreation Center (Rec) is providing in person swimming lessons and group swimming classes.

The classes have come with changes as the COVID pandemic continues.

Vincent Murphy, a lifeguard for the Rec, talked about the guidelines.

Murphy said, "Instructors are wearing plastic face shields while in the water. Everything is being thoroughly sanitized, and the Rec staff is very stern about enforcing the guidelines. The class sizes are also much smaller, and anyone who wants to use the pool must reserve it ahead of time."

Murphy said other guidelines The Rec is taking include self-screenings by staff as well as participants, mandatory wearing of face masks when entering or exiting the building and social distancing.

The swim classes and lessons have differing times and a wide age range.

"The group swim classes are 40 minutes, and the private swim lessons are 30 minutes," Murphy said. "We have classes for people as young as toddlers, all the way up to adult classes."

The ongoing COVID pandemic has caused changes in how many people are participating in swimming lessons.

"It's a lot slower," Murphy said. "With the pandemic going on, I expected less people to sign up for

lessons and classes, and that has definitely been the case."

Katelyn Roberts, a lifeguard for the Rec, said this fall has been completely different.

"I currently have no group swim lessons or private lessons," Roberts said. "It is completely unprecedented for me to not have any classes, as under normal circumstances I am heavily booked."

Some of the changes the Rec has made to the guidelines have been appreciated by the community.

"Rec members seem to appreciate being able to reserve swim times to guarantee themselves a spot when they arrive," Murphy said. "Normally the pool is first come, first serve, and if someone we're to arrive too late, they may not have a spot. Under our new guidelines, if a person makes a reservation, they will have a place to swim."

Murphy said the overall response from the community has been positive after using the pool.

"From what I can tell, people seem to feel safe using the facilities," Murphy said. "We have a strong set of guidelines and they are constantly being enforced by the staff."

The swim school schedule can be viewed on The Rec's website, and private lessons are available by appointment.

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