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The Parthenon, October 7, 2020

Douglas Harding Parthenon@marshall.edu

Denise Jackson

Meg Keller

Brittany Hively

Isabella Robinson

See next page for additional authors

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Authors	
Douglas Harding, Denise Jackson, Goodrich, and Zach Hiser	, Meg Keller, Brittany Hively, Isabella Robinson, Taylor Huddleston, Gran

THE PARTHENON

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Students, alumni raise questions about virtual commencement

By DOUGLAS HARDING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall announced Monday via email that the university's winter commencement, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, will be held virtually because of coronavirus-related concerns. That evening, some students and alumni took to social media to express frustrations about the university's seeming inconsistency in taking such precautions.

"I realize that these are challenging times in which we must practice good social distancing, however, I am dismayed by the double standard that is being presented," Marshall alumnus Austin Sanders stated in a Facebook post.

Sanders, who graduated in May but plans to participate in winter commencement, said it seems illogical to allow sporting events with large crowds, such as football games, while simultaneously refusing to hold a graduation ceremony for students who have spent tens of thousands of dollars obtaining a degree.

At each of Marshall's past two home football games, one Sept. 5 and Sept. 19, more than 1,500 students were allowed to attend in-person.

"While I recognize that Marshall University Athletics has developed a comprehensive plan to address the issue of COVID-19 in its athletic events, I think that the university's

decision to host the commencement ceremony online sheds light on concerns that should be applied to athletic events," Sanders said. "Since we are unable to hold a traditional ceremony for myself and my classmates who have worked incredibly hard over the past four-plus years, then perhaps we should consider canceling athletic events or conducting them without fans present."

Sociology student Matt Adkins said he is immunocompromised, so he has been doing all he can to prevent contracting the coronavirus, but he feels the university is not doing the same.

"I limit my time in the public because I know my limits, and that has kept me healthy thus far," Adkins said. "However, I see my fellow colleagues, students and even professors not following guidelines, and neither is the university, especially when it comes to the football games."

Adkins said the university's guidelines for football games seem to contradict public health and safety guidelines and are not properly enforced, creating an unsafe environment for students and community members.

"They set in place a set of rules to not sit close, have empty rows and other things, but (they) do nothing to enforce it," he said. "You can see on people's social media that they do not wear masks or social distance."

Adkins said despite restrictions, some students and

community members still tailgate on game days, and alcohol consumption makes it less likely for individuals to follow health and safety guidelines.

"Tail-gating still happens, and people are still getting sick," Adkins said. "They allow these events where alcohol is sold, so then people are even less likely to listen (to safety guidelines)."

Adkins said allowing sporting events also endangers student athletes, who already are overworked and undercompensated for their labor.

"They're putting all of these students through all this, not accounting for their mental health, and now they say they can't hold a ceremony for graduation? Why?" Adkins said. "Every single member of the football team and the staff are part of a game with skin-on-skin contact. The closest thing to that at graduation is the paper."

Adkins said there is a clear double standard in how health and safety guidelines are being enforced, and both football games and commencement should have limited or no attendance policies to ensure students and community members are not being endangered.

"It is ridiculous to cut graduation and still allow functions for the games," Adkins said.

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@ marshall.edu.

Rec Center offers adjusted certification courses

By ALEX JACKSON

REPORTER

Marshall University's Rec Center (Rec) is hosting safety certification courses during the fall semester.

The goal of the courses is to teach participants how to preform safety techniques in order to gain safety certification in various fields. The courses do come with differing fees that can be viewed on the rec's website.

The courses have continued during coronavirus, with some extra precautions being taken.

Jonathan Russell, the graduate

assistant of aquatics and safety at the with COVID," Russell said. "For the rec. discussed some of these certification programs.

Russell said the rec is still offering the most taken certification course which is CPR for the professional rescuer. "The standard CPR class learns how to do CPR and how to provide rescue breathing, as well as how to properly use rescue equipment," Russell said.

Russell discussed some of the adjustments the courses have had to make in order to meet proper coronavirus protocol.

CPR class specifically, everyone comes in and has their own station set up, as well as their own mannequin and gloves. They stay at the stations the entire class while the instructors go through the material. All instructors and participants must also wear masks. We have also capped the classes to a maximum of 6 participants"

Russell said the classes have made some minor changes to the first aid responses in the CPR training course.

Russell said, the courses are not "We have taken a lot of precautions having participants lean their head

down and listen for a breath when assessing a victim, but instead having them keep an arm's length away, open the airway, and checking to see if the chest rises or falls.

Russell said the rec is still offering most of the other certification classes but will only create concrete dates for them if there are enough people interested in taking those classes.

Russell said from his point of view the classes have had little issues

Russell said, "I think for the most part, everyone is pretty aware of...

see REC on pg. 11

W.Va. colleges adjusting to coronavirus

By LEXI BROWNING

WEST VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — As students return to their respective higher education institutions across West Virginia during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, they're adjusting to a new learning curve — one filled with new technologies and methods of communication, smaller class sizes and more safety protocols.

This semester, it's not just the students getting acclimated. In colleges and universities around the Mountain State, staff and faculty are adopting new practices as they work to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It's a challenging time for the students and also the institutions

Though there have been some dips in enrollment at the institutions, the declines were not as steep as they had initially expected, said Dr. Sarah Tucker, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

"At baccalaureate institutions, there were slight drops in enrollment, but not the significant drops we were worried about," Tucker said. "Our community colleges are all over the place — some experienced significant growth and others experienced pretty dramatic declines. We're still trying to hammer out what those numbers look like."

Decline in revenue

Financially, Tucker said the institutions have lost revenues from auxiliary sources, such as athletic events and special university events. Even smaller fees, such as parking, can make a difference if fewer students are purchasing, she noted.

"All sorts of things like that add up, and end up impacting the school's financial situation," Tucker said. "There are a lot of moving targets to keep our eye on."

Citing the financial impacts of the coronavirus on the university, Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert recently announced a second round of temporary salary cuts for employees making more than \$50,000. Previously, in July, the university announced temporary salary cuts for employees making more than \$100,000.

In a press release from the university in September, the president attributed the second temporary wave of cuts to lost revenue.

Gilbert said the cost-cutting measure is needed to balance the university's budget in the face of enrollment declines for the fall semester the release read. Gilbert emphasized the reductions are intended to last no more than one year and that salaries may be restored earlier if revenue improves. He added that university officials had been waiting until they had solid fall tuition revenue estimates to determine if the second phase of salary cuts would be needed.

As the coronavirus pandemic began to spread in mid-March, colleges and universities turned to remote learning to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. In switching to online forums and remote learning environments, costs began to accumulate, Tucker said.

"We've had a lot of costs associated with technology, costs for getting our students and employees the types of equipment that they need to be successful from their homes," Tucker said. "That has been a significant cost to the institutions."

In late July, Governor Jim Justice allocated \$2.5 million in federal Coronavirus Aide, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to testing all college and university students and staff for the novel coronavirus before the start of the fall semester.

"We've had a lot of costs associated with testing and with surveillance testing, and, thankfully, the governor stepped in and paid for testing for the institutions at the beginning of the fall semester and is now doing the same for surveillance testing," Tucker said. "That takes a huge burden off the institutions."

Tucker said when conversations about surveillance testing began, West Virginia University was paying upward of \$175,000 a week, and Marshall University was paying \$45,000 per week.

"Initially everybody was tested, and we have been working very closely with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the colleges to ramp up testing that's happening in the colleges," Tucker said. "It's our goal to have 10 percent of our campus population tested every week."

All institutions also have a designated location for students who need to isolate, Tucker added. During a press conference on September 16, Governor Justice announced that college students with the virus isolated in congregate settings would be counted as a single case.

"We have not had a whole lot of positives in the state of West Virginia among our student population," Tucker said....

see full story online at marshallparthenon.com

Police Blotter

By CARTER TRUMAN

REPORTER

Drug Possession: Marijuana

On Sept. 23, at 1:45 p.m., police officers patrolling the Third Ave. parking garage approached two females, both 18. The officers noted that the females, allegedly, smelled of marijuana. The officers said the two females attempted to cover up the smell by spraying perfume on themselves. The two identified themselves and admitted to having a bag of marijuana and an elephant-shaped bong. The marijuana and bong were taken by the officers and placed into the evidence locker. Police issued one of the females an arrest citation for possession of marijuana.

Fraudulent with access device

On Sept. 25, at 12:25 p.m., a woman reported that after having entered her debit card information into a man's phone to order food from a phone application, she was charged \$411.99. Police found the man, who claimed he was unaware that the debit card he was using was the woman's. On Sept. 28, the man came to the Marshall University Police Department office, with \$411.99 in cash for the woman. After the incident, the woman did not wish to press charges.

Fleeing while D.U.I.

On Sept. 26, at 2:20 a.m., police officers traveling south on the 300 Block of 16th St. approached the intersection of fourth and 16th, witnessed a vehicle, with three occupants, traveling east on Fourth Ave. at a high rate of speed. The vehicle's driver allegedly drove through the red light at the intersection and made a left-hand turn, almost striking the officers. Police preceded to activate their lights, turn and follow the driver...

see BLOTTER on pg. 10



PARTHENON FILE GRAPHIC

Celebrity canine supports Marshall

By XENA BUNTON

REPORTER

After taking photographs with children, helping the homeless in Charleston, S.C. and making strangers smile, Max, a four-year-old Yellow Lab, shows off his Marshall University gear in his free time.

"Every day is a good day to support the Herd," Max's owner, Nic Porter, said on social media.

Max is mostly wearing his sunglasses or reading glasses, occasionally a Rolex watch, and sometimes his Marshall jersey when walking in Charleston, S.C., and Huntington W.Va., to represent his owner.

As a Marshall alumnus, Porter said he likes to visit Huntington with Max for the homecoming game and tries to visit two games to spend some time with his college friends and support the football team. Porter will be at the homecoming game with Max this year.

With 5,000 calories to eat in one day to maintain 81 pounds, Max, while sitting in a chair, is handfed bacon and chicken, which gets the attention of strangers. Porter said Max won't eat without his assistance.

"It's almost like "America's Funniest Home Videos" because there's a dog with glasses on, not touching his food and when no one else is around him—People just lose it." Porter said. "I take a conscious effort to

help and try to make people smile."

Porter said Max is not the only sociable dog he has had. When Porter was enrolled at Marshall University, he was known for keeping a Yellow Lab, TEKE, in the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house he lived in and taking the dog to work with him.

Since Max has to stay active daily, Porter said he also brings Max to work with him and will decline meetings if Max is not allowed to attend.

To support small businesses, Porter will post photos of Max at the business on his Instagram that reaches to more than 4,000 people, but as a Charleston resident, Max's fame also helps local homeless charities.

Max and Porter started visiting a shelter in down-town Charleston every Thursday, one summer to provide resources by responding to the weekly 20 to 30 messages sent to Max's social media. Porter said if someone wanted a photo with Max, they can visit him at the shelter with water to donate.

"I am the luckiest 40-year-old alive," Porter said. "I am very fortunate and appreciative, so I do everything I can to give back. Pay it forward, that's what we do with him [Max]."

Xena Bunton can be contacted at Bunton2@ marshall.edu.



@CHARLESTONMAX | INSTAGRAM

Max poses in front of the Memorial Fountain.

Marshall launches Violence Prevention and Response program

By ALEX JACKSON

REPORTER

Marshall University has a new Violence Prevention and Response program to educate students about the risks of sexual and interpersonal violence.

Liv Giovingo, the program coordinator of the Violence Prevention and Response program discussed the program and how it aims to help students.

Giovingo said, "It is a Violence Prevention Response program that is dedicated to educating the campus community on issues of sexual violence and interpersonal violence. We do that through awareness campaigns and a lot of marketing to make sure that students know we exist. We are also here to help students if they need any help navigating the criminal justice system."

Giovingo noted the program is not confidential and must report things to Title IX, and that the program works closely with other programs at Marshall and has a special focus on preventive and educational efforts.

Giovingo said, "The biggest thing this program has added is the amount of dedication to education and prevention programs. We have been able to build so much of that bystander intervention program since we have been strictly dedicated to that. It is great that we have the time to dedicate to that educational piece."

"There have definitely been some challenges

in starting the program and building traction, but we have had a lot of engagement online from students and have connected in a meaningful way through anonymous chats," said Giovingo regarding the pandemic's affect on the launch of the program.

Kellie Parkin, a senior criminal justice student at Marshall discussed the importance of the program.

Parkin said, "The educational aspect behind the program makes me excited because there is not enough information on how bystanders can help. Educating can go a long way in making a difference. I am a criminal justice major who has been involved with several crisis services and had never heard of this new program. Spreading the word is absolutely huge."

Giovingo said students who are interested may volunteer for the Violence Prevention and Response Program.

Giovingo said, "Students are always welcome to help out with our programs if they are interested in advocating for this type of awareness. We are always open to students getting involved."

For further information, The Violence Prevention and Response Program has information on their website for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The program is located in the Rec Center at the Wellness Suite behind the front desk.

Alex Jackson can be contacted at jackson418@live.marshall.edu.

Record-breaking 'Maximum Capacity' exhibit on display

By XENA BUNTON

REPORTER

The "Maximum Capacity" exhibit, a continued edition to "Minimum Capacity," with various displays created by 12 Marshall students, including the largest collection of origami shirts in the world, is open Oct. 5-23 in the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Gallery in the Visual Arts Center, in downtown Huntington.

Supported by the Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professors in the Arts Endowment, Sandra Reed, professor in the School of Art and Design, led the grant-funded project in collaboration with Atlanta-based artist, Craig Drennan who visited the campus in January and joined students during a trip to New York.

Drennan worked with the students on their projects and offered advice for their follow-up production of "Maximum Capacity."

"I remember being a kid in the library and I was always drawn to the Guinness World Records," Peyton Dolin, a senior visual art major said. "When the artist, Craig Drennan, said I needed to push it further, my mind went to a world record."

Dolin's display includes 3,552 origami shirts, recycled paper from old magazines and scrap paper hanging from the ceiling and pinned on the wall with thumb tacks and sewing pins. The display also includes a centerpiece of nine stacked



XENA BUNTON | REPORTER

shirts made from clay, four clay shirts hung on the wall imitating a clothesline and a video projection to show up-close photos of the origami pieces.

Dolin filled out the Guinness World Record application along with photo, video and witnesses for proof and is currently waiting for an email response.

With the help from roommates and instructors, Dolin said she started the 12-step origami folding process in Feb. but stopped at 400 shirts, thinking the exhibit would not happen due to coronavirus.

Dolin made 100 more origami shirts during the summer and then had to make an additional 3,052 more shirts in less than 2 weeks for her display.

Dolin said clothes help identify personalities and target people with the similar mindset to build a friendship.

"I wanted a feeling of grandiosity when you look at the installation and get a sense of all the identities that can be represented," Dolin said.

Dolin said she wants to sell the origami shirts for \$1, where the proceeds will go to Women's Addiction Recovery Outreach Center (HER Place) in Huntington.

The exhibit portrays other examples of the "Maximum Capacity" theme such as video, audio, ceramics, embroidery, paintings and sculptures. All art in the exhibit has evolved since "Minimum Capacity" to turn into a physical display.

"After taking their ideas through the twist and turns of this past year," Reed said. "These students are ready for anything."

Moving all non-Marshall students displays to fall 2021, Jamie Platt Marshall University gallery director, said she is happy Marshall students can present their work in the open space.

Platt said there will be a virtual reception at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, to allow the students to present their work and answer questions.

Xena Bunton can be contacted at Bunton2@marshall. edu.

Campus living drastically different this semester

By JONATHAN STILL REPORTER

Among the big changes that college students have faced is life in the residence halls.

The coronavirus pandemic caused everyone to move out of the dorms in the spring, but now students can live on campus while following proper health guidelines of wearing masks along with limited occupancy in the common areas.

Maddie Bostick, a junior majoring in dietetics, said it feels different because she feels there is less people living in the dorms.

"Due to corona, there's less people hanging out in the lobbies and such," Bostick said.

Before the pandemic started, Marshall University had a bustling campus filled with students heading to classes and multiple events being held.

However, student presence has decreased drastically this semester.

Kristen Shomo, a senior biology major, said people just come in and go to their rooms shutting themselves off from meeting new people.

"Occasionally, there are a few people that will

play ping pong in the lobby, but nowhere near how many people used to always play," Shomo

Shomo said it is weird only allowing two people on the elevator or in the laundry room.

She said it is also weird always having to wear a mask in the hallways.

"It's a new way of life now and hopefully we can get things back to normal soon," Shomo said.

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

Marshall to travel to Western Kentucky

By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Football has returned for the Marshall University Thundering Herd as it prepares to take on the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers Saturday, Oct. 10.

It has been three weeks since the Herd (2-0, 0-0 Conference USA) has played in a game, but the team has taken the bye-weeks as a learning experience and advantage to focus on game plans and to get better.

All eyes are on the Hilltoppers (1-2, 1-0 C-USA) as this is one of the biggest rivalries in Conference USA.

The Hilltoppers are entering the contest after defeating conference foe Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders, 20-17.

This is the first road game for Marshall during the coronavirus era of college football.

Marshall head football coach Doc Holliday said captains for this week are Sheldon Evans and Cain Madden on offense and Tavante Beckett and Steven Gilmore on the defensive side.

"(We've) got a great challenge in Bowling Green," Holliday said. "Most experts have them picked to win the league. We got to play every play. You never know what play is going to make a difference.

First game in three weeks Games when you play teams like this are

Redshirt senior offensive lineman

Ulmer said the byeweeks have served its purposes as being valuable.

tight, it's critical."

"I think it's beneficial." Ulmer said. "It gives us more time to focus on the little things and the fundamentals. We're focused on the game plan."

The rivalry between the Herd

and the Hilltoppers brings a different atmosphere feeling to both teams.

"There's a certain energy that surrounds this game," Ulmer said. "This game means a lot to both teams. It's more high stakes. We have to prepare the same way. We may have an extra chip on our shoulders."

Sophomore linebacker Eli Neal said regardless of rivalry and the Hilltoppers being a great team, it's going to be a tough

> He said the rivalrv viewed who is better on this side of the conference.

matchup.

"They're a great team and it's a great rivalry." Neal

"They're going to bring their best game and so are we. We both know

on both sides what the rivalry means. As Coach Lambert, our defensive coordinator said, 'You don't win the game on Saturday. You win it on the days before.' Every day is a game day for us."

Redshirt junior running back Brenden Knox said he would put Marshall's offensive line against anyone and that the

team is doing their respective jobs.

"We have great love and confidence for our offensive line," Knox said. "For conference and rivalry, it's a different mentality. Everybody has a different job. I feel like we've really capitalized it across the board, guys stepping up and the hard work is showing up."

This game will be the first rival matchup for Marshall's redshirt freshman quarterback Grant Wells and is looking at this game as any other normal matchup.

"We're just taking it week by week and looking at the positives," Wells said. "It's just another game to us. This might be my first time playing them, but they have an experienced defense. It does mean a little more that it is Western. Anytime you go into a game like this, you expect it to be a little chippy. We got to expect everything."

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. EST./ 6:30 p.m. CST on Stadium at Houchens Industries-L. T. Smith Stadium on Saturday.

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



ZACH HISER | THE PARTHENON



SPORTS COLUMN

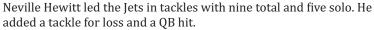
Herd in the NFL

By GRANT GOODRICH

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It was a quieter weekend for former Marshall players in the NFL. Nevertheless, there were two players who still made some noise.

Getting Week 4 started on Thursday Night Football, the New York Jets lost to the Denver Broncos 37-28. In the loss, linebacker



Although the Jets are 0-4 on the season, Hewitt has put together one of the better statistical seasons so far on his team. He is first on the team in total tackles and third in solo tackles.

The Jets have not been a great scoring defense, nor have they been a great yards per game defense. However, they have been more middling than terrible when it comes to yardage given up per game, ranking 18th in the league in yards per game defense.

The second and final former Marshall player who played during Week 4 was Detroit Lions cornerback Darryl Roberts. With Desmond Trufant retuning from injury, Roberts saw his recent increase in playing time plateau even though he was recorded with starting the game.

He recorded no tackles, although he did record a pass defense and an interception.

On the Saints' first offensive play of the game, Roberts picked off a Drew Brees pass after it was deflected by defensive tackle Danny Shelton. He returned it six yards into the red zone, setting up a Lions touchdown and a 14-0 Detroit lead.

However, the lead would not hold; the Saints rattled off five straight touchdown drives with no answers from the Lions. Although Detroit came close to making a comeback, New Orleans sustained its lead and won the game 35-29.

A third former Herd player, Tennessee Titans cornerback Chris Jackson, would have had a chance to make an impact if his team's game was not canceled due to the NFL's first COVID-19 outbreak. Slatted to take on the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Titans had a total of eleven positive tests throughout the week, leading to the postponement of the game to Week 7.

Grant Goodrich can be contacted at goodrich24@marshall.edu.



THE PARTHENON

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CONTACT The Parthenon: 109 Communications Bldg
Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu
@MUParthenon

DOUGLAS HARDING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR harding26@marshall.edu

DENISE JACKSON

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR jackson463@marshall.edu

MEG KELLER

FEATURES EDITOR keller61@marshall.edu

BRITTANY HIVELY

MANAGING EDITOR hayes100@marshall.edu

ISABELLA ROBINSON

NEWS EDITOR robinson436@marshall.edu

TAYLOR HUDDLESTON

SPORTS EDITOR
huddleston16@marshall.edu

GRANT GOODRICH

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR goodrich24@marshall.edu

ZACH HISER

PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR hiser1@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK

FACULTY ADVISER sandy.york@marshall.edu

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THE FIRST | The Constitution of the AMENDMENT | 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: Democracy requires debate



Democratic candidate Paula Jean Swearengin and Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito.

Paula Jean Swearengin, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate District 2 in West Virginia, and incumbent Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito were trending for several hours on Twitter over the weekend as Swearengin and posters from around the world called upon Capito to debate her challenger before the general election in November.

The trending moment began with several posts by Swearengin aimed at Capito and calling out the 5-year incumbent for her lack of accessibility and responsibility both to her constituents and to her opponent.

The first of countless posts Friday evening came in the form of a seemingly lighthearted "Where's Waldo" meme, reading, "Where's Capito? #CapitoDebatePaulaJean."

However, the tone of Swearengin and her supporters quickly turned more serious when one Twitter user posted a "Now This" video in which, as the user explained, "(a) mother, whose daughter has cancer, challenge(s) Capito on her record to vote to repeal the ACA." The tweet acknowledges that Swearengin is a prominent supporter of Medicare-for-All, while, "Capito wants to kick over 8 million people off healthcare." Swearengin

and hundreds of other Twitter users shared the video.

Moments later, Swearengin posted a tweet calling out Capito for having six constituents arrested in 2017 for attempting to make contact with her outside of her office.

"I promise you will never have to fear getting arrested for trying to speak to me!" Swearengin posted, with an accompanying screen shot of a news story about the 2017 arrests.

As each of the posts continued to garner thousands of interactions from random users and prominent political figures across the country, Swearengin posted another meme, this time one in the form of a "Wanted" poster. The meme is accompanied by text reading: "2018 Teacher's strike? I was there. CWA strike? I was there. COVID relief? You'd have to drag me kicking and screaming off the Senate floor before I left Americans out to die! Where was Capito? In her ivory tower every. single. time. #CapitoDebatePaulaJean."

At this point, several other famous actors, musicians, and media figures had hopped onto the trending #CapitoDebatePaulaJean:

see DEBATE on pg. 11

COLUMN: Pause the chaos; Play the memories

By BRITTANY HIVELY

MANAGING EDITOR

Instant messages, cell phones always in hand, instant news notifications, full schedules of things to do and the list goes on. This is how our world currently runs, everything needs to be done instantly and we need to be as busy as possible from the time we open our eyes until the moment we can no longer keep them open. But why?

A couple of weeks ago I wrote a column titled: Generational Hustle. I talked about the fight between generations and the challenges each of them faced. I spoke about my granny and all the things that happened in her lifetime and the struggles she faced compared to some of mine.

This week, I lost Granny. She's in a better place and I'm left in heartbreak, unsure how I will ever live without her.

What do chaotic lives and losing Granny have in common? The time I do not regret being with her.

Granny had four kids, 12 grandchildren, a bunch of great-grandchildren, and her first great-grandchild on the way.

Out of those grandchildren- my cousin, Jess, and I are the only granddaughters. Jess always joked that she was the favorite grandchild because Granny babied her. This morning I realized how true it was because I was her favorite child.

My Granny was the constant in my life that I never fully realized. I lived with her more than anyone else. I stayed with her every chance I could growing up. She took care of me when I was sick and always made sure I had what I needed. She's the one I was the most afraid of my now-husband meeting when he

met the family. She's the one who taught me about Jesus, hardwork, unconditional love, and to be a good human. She was not just my Granny, she was G, the woman who raised me.

My entire life I struggled to find out where I fit in. I was not like the others in my family. I did not have the same thoughts or do the same things. I struggled. This week I realized that I always fit in with Granny.

Growing up I spent every single Sunday with Granny. I would go stay with her often. I would go to church with her. I moved in with her when I was 18 and again during the first few months of my marriage. She was the first I wanted to tell about my pregnancies and college. As an adult I helped her run errands and take her places when she just wanted company or did not feel like driving. My kids would ask about her if it had been a few days before we visited (we visited at least once a week).

When I started to write, Granny asked where her copy of my stories were. I brought her a copy of every story I wrote and she would read them. She is the only person who has read every single thing I have written, except for my Generational Hustle piece, which was about her.

She was my biggest supporter, but she never told me my stories were good. She never said I was going to do big things, none of that because as parents do, she had to teach me to be humble.

I can count on one hand the days I did not see Granny over the past few months and most were due to hospital stays and coronavirus restrictions.

During the past month or so, Jess and I were her full-time



Granny reading a copy of The Parthenon

caretakers. My kids said they lived with Granny now and they did. They gave her love every morning and every night. She asked about them constantly. They could not wait to show her their school shoes and backpacks and tell her about their day. They filled her walls with art. I truly believe they kept her going.

see MEMORIES on pg. 10

Column: How a Democracy Falls . . .

By TYLER SPENCE

CONTRIBUTOR

In 1858 when Abraham Lincoln gave a speech, saying a house divided against itself cannot stand, he was not President, or even running for president. Lincoln gave this speech after he had just accepted the Republican nomination for state senator of Illinois. At the time, the United States was split on what the future of the country looked like, with a delicate balance between slave and free, urban and rural, working-class and wealthy, and of course

black and white.

Amazingly, we have managed to recreate most of these same divisions over the past decade. But now, these divisions are created and broadcasted and amplified within our own homes and social media pages and then taken advantage of by our media and politicians. In many of our minds, our fellow Americans have become the enemy.

The question in my mind this summer has been how can a democracy properly function if the other side is actively working to sabotage the country? How can the institutions of a republic last if the people themselves no longer trust the government has their best interest in mind? These attitudes are a recipe for extreme cynicism and distrust, it's in these spaces politicians like Donald Trump thrive.

As citizens, we are responsible for this, but additionally responsible are the media, politicians, and institutions who gave us a reason to doubt their motives. It's difficult to trust one's federal government when President Trump sends federal troops into the city of Portland without state

permission, using excessive force and taking protesters away in unmarked mini-vans with Florida license plates. It's difficult to trust our police system when the killers of Breonna Taylor will never face punishment for their fatal mistakes. It's difficult to trust the rule of law when children are separated from their parents at our southern border for months or years, or when parents are ripped away from their children by ICE agents.

see FALLS on pg. 10

MEMORIES cont. from 9

Over the course of caring for Granny, I did things I never dreamed of doing. No sugar coating here, I am a writer and PR professional, not a caretaker. But I did it. Because it was Granny and I would do anything she needed.

Jess and I knew Granny better than any grandchild, maybe even better than her kids. We did not hesitate when she needed us and sometimes it was hard. We had to work our schedules around caring for Granny, we gave things up to be there for her when she needed us, we dealt with the mood swings that came with her illness. We stayed up all night and had deep conversations during her more lucid moments at 3 a.m. We cried and comforted each other in private when she would get mad at us or be hateful because of her situation.

While it was some of the hardest times, I would do it all again.

During those moments, we were with her. She knew if she needed something we were there. She knew she was cared for and loved.

During those early morning moments when I was running on six hours of sleep in four days and she would pull me to her, rub my arms and tell me she loved me. I knew it was worth it.

The conversation I will never forget was when she said, "just pray for me." In which I responded, "always. That's how you raised me. You raised me to be good and strong. Do you know how much I love you and how much you mean to me?" And she responded, "yes. I know, I know I did," and kissed my forehead as she rubbed my arms.

Those are the moments I will never forget and are the most precious.

I have kids and multiple jobs and things that need done, but the chaos of the world being put to the side was worth it for the memories over the years. Everything slows down at Granny's house.

My kids will always remember their Granny and all of the memories they have made with each other. Ben will always have his Granny's cookie recipe and remember his dubbed "cookie spot." Maddie will always have the memories of their chair cuddles and matching flannel.

The days seem so long and we tend to keep them filled to the brim, but this is our reminder to slow down.

Go visit Granny or Aunt Ethel or whoever may need visited. Go to the park or for a walk with the kids. Put the phones and electronics away for a day and just be with each other. Make the cookies, cuddle on the couch, make the memories.

A few months shy of 30 years of memories with Granny will never be enough.

Every good part of me is because of her and I will cherish every memory made, every afternoon spent with her instead of being full of the chaotic world, every gossip session and lesson she taught me.

While she said she knew, I hope she truly knew how much I loved her and how much she meant to me.

Pause the chaos; play the memories.

Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes100@marshall.edu.

BLOTTER cont. from 3

The driver made his way onto Tenth St., driving onto the southwest sidewalk, where he struck a light pole and ran over a parking meter. After the collision with the light pole, the rear passenger fled the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle allegedly backed over a parking meter and continued to flee northbound on Tenth St., before almost striking a parked vehicle. The driver stopped the car at Fourth Ave. and Tenth St., where he exited the vehicle. Police made a felony stop, the driver complying, police were

finally able to identify the driver as a 22-year-old male. Police transported the drive to Western Regional Jail on the charges of fleeing while driving under the influence, reckless driving, failure to obey speed traffic devices, speeding, failure to maintain control, traffic control signal violation, destruction of property, driving with revoked for D.U.I., and no insurance. The driver also had a bench warrant.

Carter Truman can be contacted at truman 18@marshall.edu.

FALLS cont. from 9

Additionally, the federal governments completely inept failings to contain and respond to the Corona Virus and adequately respond to the tremendous financial burden many Americans and business are facing this year only weaken this sense of trust. The single \$1,200 checks delivered in April ran out months ago, and the disfunction on the creation of a second relief package does little to inspire the American people with confidence.

Somehow after all of this, many Americans are still surprised when they hear those advocating "defund the police" or defunding other institutions like the Department of Homeland Security. When the laws themselves are the problem, how could we expect our citizens to trust their safety and wellbeing is protected?

Oppositely, the incessant bashing of Mr. Trump on late-night television and across the media spectrum continues to reinforce his own theory of his persecution. Or the fact that a candidate on a major party ticket would refer to millions of Americans as a "basket of deplorables," is the type of attitude that could lead to the end of a functioning democracy. Huntington has seen this attitude on full display with the recent suspension of a

Marshall professor, who was recorded making offensive remarks about Trump supporters, which was quickly circulated around conservative media. Anyone with any cognitive function left can criticize the stupid and offensive things Mr. Trump says and tweets on their own, or the extremist and sometimes violent coalitions that support him. Both sides of the American political spectrum can lay some claim to the violent clashes seen in our cities, and the long-lasting damage given to the very institutions that keep our democracy functional.

The solutions, if there are any, remain unclear to me. Depending on who you ask, Americans great divisions could be blamed on the CEOs of social media companies, President Trump, the rapid rise in popularity of dangerous conspiracy theories, or the intentional spread of misinformation from foreign adversaries including Russia. It seems to be a perfect storm of all of these, which results in extreme hyper-partisanship. If our nation's founders were concerned about potential partisanship and warned against it, I could not even imagine the fear they would have over the current future of the United States.

DEBATE cont. from 8

Independent media host Tim Black posted: "Look who's avoiding having to explain their record @SenCapito? It's not rocket science. A public servant who will not sit in front of their constituents and speak to the issues with their challenger is hiding something. Debate Paula or resign. #CapitoDebatePaulaJean."

Mark Ruffalo, producer and actor in the 2019 film "Dark Waters," which tells the story of a West Virginia town contaminated with dangerous chemicals by DuPont, posted: "Hey Shelley Capito!, your state wants to know why you are afraid to debate your opponent? Stand up for what you believe and meet @paulajean2020 on the debate stage."

Even Swearengin's primary opponent, former state senator and presidential candidate Richard Ojeda, joined in, posting: "If Capito doesn't have the courage to debate then why does she deserve anyone's vote?"

Perhaps the most damning comment of the night though, was posted by Swearengin toward the end of the trending moment. Garnering several hundred reposts and nearly 1,000 "likes," the

post features another "Now This" video showing constituents attempting to reach Capito at her office and resorting to flying paper airplane notes into her window when she refuses to open the door or to answer her phone. Accompanying the video is text reading: "My opponent says she is 'there' but you can see with your own eyes that she is NOT. Constituents shouldn't have to fly paper airplanes into her office to get her to care that people will die without healthcare. #CapitoDebatePaulaJean."

For democracy to function, candidates cannot simply refuse to respond to their constituents or to participate in public debates with other candidates. Capito needs to accept Swearengin's challenge for a debate before the general election in November so voters can better understand the differences between the two candidates and the likely implications of casting a vote for either of them.

Visit this link: https://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-landing to see how you can contact Capito to let her know your opinions about these hugely important issues.

REC cont. from 2

...what is going on and have been willing to follow the guidelines. We have not had anyone who has been a challenge to teach. One of the few issues we have is the limited capacity in the classes which can cause scheduling conflicts."

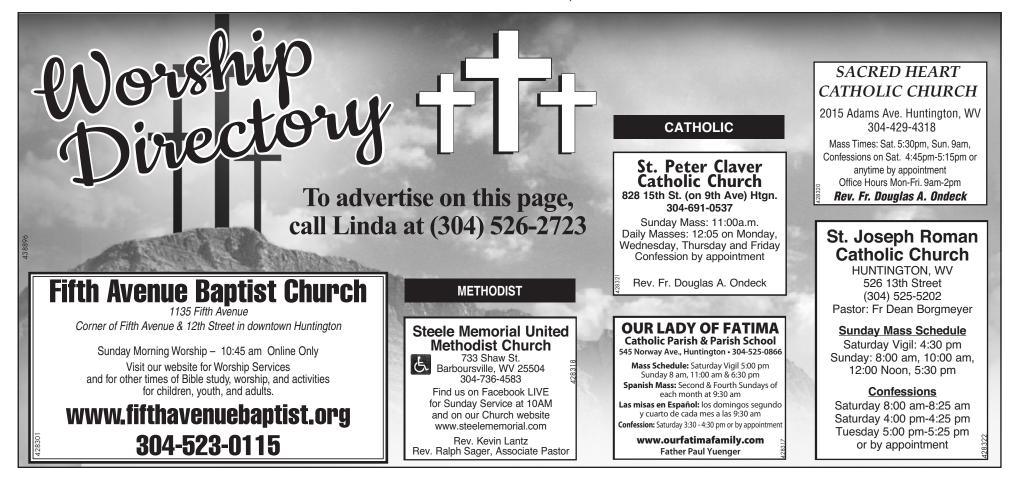
Gabriel Estes, a Marshall nursing student, talked about the CPR certification courses and the important information they contain.

"Marshall still being able to provide these courses safely is important," Estes said. "Any given day, someone could be at a movie and see someone else fall to the ground because of a heart attack. Seconds are crucial when the brain is not getting oxygen, so the faster blood flow can be restored, the better chance of survival. The more people who are CPR certified, the better."

For information about certification programs and dates, students can visit the Rec's website.

Alex Jackson can be contacted at jackson418@live. marshall.edu.

PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY DOUGLAS HARDING | HARDING26@MARSHALL.EDU



FEATURE: Desmond Besong

By SEQUOIA WARE REPORTER

Desmond Besong, a fourthyear student in the School of Pharmacy and who is from Cameroon, Africa, obtained his citizenship last month.

Besong said after he graduates, he wants to work in rural communities and work to give back to the people who remind him of those from his home country.

"It's such a privilege to be here and going to school in America," he said. "So, the only way I can give back, to me, is to serve the rural area."

Besong said he wishes to educate people about their health and run a diabetic clinic.

"Most of the time people with serious conditions, like diabetes, what they are lacking is basic knowledge. What they need is somebody who can help them with their medicines and personal health, but they also need someone to show them empathy," he said.

Besong said he came from a rural area, so helping in rural cities is something that would remind him of home.

"I am from a rural area in Africa," he said. "I want to help people who remind me of where I come from and help them with basic health needs."

Besong said he didn't

have much to say about the process of obtaining citizenship, but he did say he was appreciative of it.

"I'm very grateful to be apart of this country and I'm willing to give it my best and make it a better place for everyone," Besong said. "This country offered me what my home country couldn't, and I will strive because of that."

Besong also wanted to say how thankful he is for the Marshall staff and his advisor, Dr. Babcock.

"I come from Africa, and English is not my first or second language," he said. "I had a wonderful advisor and faculty that worked to make sure I succeeded. And I want to thank the Marshall faculty so much, especially my advisor."

Besong said when he decided on Marshall, he was in graduate school in Mexico, and he was being told his English was not good enough and graduate school was not for him.

"It was Dr. Babcock who told me, 'You can do it,' and I worked hard to pass all my classes, and I'm about to graduate on time. I will never be able to thank Dr. Babcock, and the Marshall faculty, enough," he said.

Sequoia Ware can be contacted at ware 53@marshall.edu.



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