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## The Parthenon, October 19, 2022

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**Authors**

Tyler Spence, Evan Green, Connor Woodruff, Chayce Matheny, Victoria Ware, Shauntelle Thompson, Rafael Alfonso, Alaina Laster, and Abby Hanlon

## MU Parts Ways With Long-Time Baseball Coach



Jeff Waggoner, pictured above.

Photo courtesy of WVMetroNews

**TYLER SPENCE**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall baseball coach, Jeff Waggoner, will not return to his position next season, Athletic Director Christian Spears said.

“We wish Coach Waggoner well and will begin a search for a new coach immediately,” Spears said.

“The future of Marshall baseball and the experience of our student athletes- as well as the completion of our new baseball stadium - will continue to be our top priority,” Spears said.

Spears also said the search for a new coach will reach nationwide.

Waggoner coached a school-record 820 games with a record

of 339-478-3. During his tenure, he coached 30 Thundering Herd players who were drafted or signed at the professional level, four of which made the major league. In 2016, he was named Conference USA’s Coach of the Year after a program-best, 34-win season.

Waggoner played catcher for two years at Crowder College, a junior college in Missouri, before transferring to Cleveland State in Ohio. He had previously served as an assistant coach at George Washington, Kent State and NC State before taking his first head coaching job at Marshall.

### *EDITORIAL: Pedestrian Safety Has More to Do With Cars Than People*

#### THE PARTHENON

Since the tragic death of a Marshall student crossing 3rd Avenue last fall, several measures have been taken to increase pedestrian safety around the Huntington campus.

Speed limits on 3rd and 5th Avenues were lowered from 35 miles per hour to 25, and a crosswalk was constructed on 20th Street

between the football stadium parking lot and the edge of campus by the Rec Center.

Marshall has chosen October as “Pedestrian Safety Month” and promoted ways students can be safer crossing the street, like ensuring students press the button to illuminate the flashing lights on the aforementioned crosswalk...

**Continued on Page 8.**

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## Resolution C.O.M.E.R. Passes Student Government Association



Photo by Conner Woodruff

By **BREA SMITH**  
STAFF REPORTER

Enabling students to use their campus meal options at local Huntington restaurants is the goal of a resolution that passed unanimously last week by the Student Government Association (SGA).

Senator Nico Raffinengo, a sophomore majoring in political science and international business, began researching this resolution after several students approached him about the lack of on-campus food options. The resolution would urge the university to provide more options for students by allowing the use of dining dollars at restaurants outside of campus. C.O.M.E.R., Raffinengo's resolution, stands for "A Resolution to Continue Opportunities for Marshall by Exchanging with Restaurants in Huntington."

"Medical Daily did research and found that 59% of college students had food insecurities or some concerns over healthy food options, which leads to malnutrition," Raffinengo said.

Several senators had questions about how the student body could be malnourished.

In response, he said, "I think you're misunderstanding what malnutrition and starvation mean. Malnutrition just means you're not getting the right vitamins. So, if you eat Chick-fil-A every day, you're not going to get the vitamins that you need from other food groups."

Raffinengo also explained that if this bill were to pass within the senate, it would only be a starting point.

Raffinengo said, "This resolution is the student body letting President Smith know that they want more meal options for vegans or people that have certain dietary restrictions."

Isabella Robinson, senate treasurer, provided clarity on what exactly the resolution says and what it will do.

"I just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention that this bill is allowing us to look into the options to partner with other companies,"

Robinson said. "I think that the bill looks really good and is a great idea, and I would definitely utilize off-campus eating. It just opens the door."

Matt James, an advisor for SGA, said, "This is nothing against my colleagues at Sodexo, but we're way behind compared to where other universities are at. I had lunch with a colleague today on campus who is vegan, and there was one option."

The resolution passed unanimously after discussion, and from there, SGA President Bella Griffiths and Vice President Walker Tatum will present it to University President Brad Smith towards the end of October.

"He's very on board with the idea because he is a vegan, and he understands that there aren't very many options on campus," Raffinengo said regarding Smith's opinion on the resolution.

## Counseling Center Expands Outreach Programs

By **LUCY BELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

With most COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the Marshall University Counseling Center is focusing on offering students group therapy options in hopes of reducing the stigma surrounding mental health care.

The Counseling Center saw a record number of students in the spring of 2022, according to the center's director Dr. Candace Layne. At its midpoint, the fall 2022 semester appointment numbers surpassed last year's numbers, with 2,608 appointments made since Aug. 22.

"We have had more appointments this year because we increased our group therapy offerings," Layne said.

As campus gatherings reconvene, the counseling center is taking the opportunity to expand its presence on campus and begin to break down hurdles for people looking to obtain counseling services.

"The draw for students to these group therapy sessions is that they do kind of reduce the stigma, because you aren't going to 'therapy,' you're going to an activity," Layne said. "I think it makes people more comfortable, especially to have other people there too."

Nationally, individuals on college campuses report higher levels of anxiety and depression than any other mental health issue. Last year, the counseling center reported higher levels of anxiety and depression at Marshall in comparison to the national average, according to Layne.

Along with offering various methods of therapy to students, administrators at the Counseling Center focus on a

process called "leveling," according to mental health specialist Sophie Nellhaus.

"Leveling is based on symptom severity and diagnosis," Nellhaus said. "If you have a diagnosis, it depends on what services you would get. So, it's level one to four, with four being the most severe. If you're a level three or four, then you get more consistent, individual counseling services. Level one and two are more like walk-ins and workshops, and then you can kind of evaluate them over time."

While mental health is still often cast in a negative light, social media has a noticeable influence on students and their decision to utilize counseling services.

"Students are kind of coming in with more knowledge than before," Nellhaus said. "Some people will come in knowing exactly what type of counseling they want. I don't want to say it's just a TikTok thing, but I do feel like social media, in general, has been providing people with more information and making them more self-aware."

With 24/7 availability, the Counseling Center remains a stable resource for all students on campus at any time for any reason, according to Nellhaus.

"Our slogan is 'We Are Here for You,' and we really are," Nellhaus said.

**Full story available at  
[marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com)**



## University Receives \$1.1 Million to Boost Workforce Development

### THE PARTHENON

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has been awarded \$1.11 million by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a new initiative that takes a multigenerational approach to workforce development.

The Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy project will leverage the success of the Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment initiative at Marshall Health to enhance workforce readiness and job placement for 400 individuals in a 15-county region across southern West Virginia over the course of the three-year grant. Using the evidence-based approach of CORE among a recovery population, COAL will work with individuals and families who have become disengaged from the workforce due to a decline in the coal and manufacturing industries, limited development of new industry and the pandemic.

“By taking a holistic, systemic approach to workforce development, the COAL project champions the health and wellness of individuals and families while creating jobs with competitive wages and benefits,” said Ashley Shaw, director of the CORE program and leader of the COAL project. “The success of this project has the opportunity to make a positive impact on families and communities for years to come.”

The project will directly engage more than 80 businesses to match participants with employment

opportunities based on the employers’ needs and participants’ professional experience and skills. In addition, the project will also support entrepreneurship and social enterprise with partnerships that provide an apprenticeship model to prepare individuals for the workforce through on-the-job training while earning a competitive wage.

Likewise, COAL will work to develop and support business cultivation alongside project partners including the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce – Jobs for West Virginia Graduates, Circles Campaign, Williamson Health and Wellness – New Heights Consortium, Unlimited Future, Inc. and the Reach Initiative. The project will establish partnerships across southern West Virginia, facilitate business education and training, host virtual entrepreneurship and social enterprise forums, sponsor mentorship for businesses and individuals for the development of enterprise and support local and regional business development incubators.

This award is part of a recently announced \$47 million package supporting 52 projects, including a previously announced \$1.5 million grant to Marshall University to establish West Virginia Grant Resource Centers, through ARC’s POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative.

## Top Positions Filled Within University Administration

### EVAN GREEN MANAGING EDITOR

President Brad D. Smith has announced three new university officials that will begin their roles within the university’s marketing, information technology and finance divisions.

“We are moving forward with three new leaders who are poised to transform our capabilities in finance, information technology and marketing,” Smith said in regards to the new candidates. “We are taking the next steps toward becoming one of the nation’s most dynamic, nimble and progressive educational institutions.”

The first of these officials is Matt Tidd, who has been appointed to the position of chief financial officer. Tidd previously served as West Virginia University’s chief university budget officer. During this time, he

led a number of projects within the university, including the development of a new budgeting system.

David Traube started working at Marshall on Oct. 10 as the university’s chief marketing and communications officer. He previously worked at the University of Charleston as the head of their marketing and communications team.

Next is Jodie Penrod, Marshall’s new chief information officer. She is joining Marshall from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“Being named Marshall University’s CIO is truly an honor and an opportunity of a lifetime,” Penrod said. “I cannot wait to start working with President Smith, the IT group, staff, faculty and students to transform higher education technology at Marshall.”



Top Left: Matt Tidd, Top Right: Jodie Penrod, Bottom: David Traube

Photos Courtesy of UComm

## Appalachian Regional Commission Awards \$47M for Projects

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Appalachian Regional Commission is granting \$47 million to 52 projects aimed at economic diversification in communities affected by job losses in the coal industry.

The funding, which comes from the commission’s POWER Initiative, will reach 181 counties. The funding is the largest to date since the initiative was launched in 2015, the commission said Monday in a statement. It is aimed at creating jobs, expanding skills training and attracting private investments to support industries such as agriculture, food and tourism.

“Our coal-impacted communities are a vital part of Appalachia’s 13 states and 423 counties — when our coal communities thrive, our entire region is uplifted,” said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin.

The POWER Initiative is funded by Congress and has invested \$367 million in 447 projects throughout Appalachia, according to the commission. Hundreds of coal-fired power plants have shuttered over the last decade.

## Interview with Saturday Night Live Comedian, Mikey Day



Photo courtesy of the Marshall Artists Series

By **VICTORIA WARE**  
FEATURES & CULTURES EDITOR

An evening of standup comedy and an audience Q&A with Saturday Night Live (SNL) writer and cast member, Mikey Day, will take place on Oct. 23 at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center.

“It’s not traditional standup that I do,” Mikey Day said. “It’s a lot of telling stories. I show a few slides, and sometimes I’ll talk about SNL pitches for sketches that never made it—that never saw the light of day—and share those. Sometimes I usually close with a Q&A and answer any questions people have, because sometimes people are curious about SNL and how it works and experiences with certain

hosts and whatnot.”

Day said he especially enjoys getting to interact with the audience and meeting people from different places during these live performances.

“I do a lot of colleges. It’s always interesting to meet the young people and realize, ‘Oh, I’m getting older.’ Sometimes I’ll just bring someone up and talk to them for a little bit too. I’ve been doing that at a lot of colleges I’ve been to because I’m just interested in the younger generation, and it’s cool to meet different people. So, I love it. I love that part.”

During the Q&A portion of the evening, Day often receives questions about what

fellow SNL cast member, Pete Davidson, is like. He is also asked which weekly hosts were his favorites on the show and how he started at SNL. “An Evening with Mikey Day” also features fellow SNL writer, Alex English.

“Alex is going to come up there and do some standup,” Day said. “He’s a very funny gentleman—a writer at SNL. He’s very cool. I’ve performed with Alex before last year.”

Day said that he is looking forward to interacting with people from West Virginia.

“I don’t know if I’ve been to West Virginia before,” Day said. “So, I’m excited to talk to some folks from West Virginia.”

## Marshall Football Player Succeeds In Spite of Speech Impediment



Photo courtesy of Herdzone

By **ZACH HIGHLANDER**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Andre Sam, a Marshall senior who has shared his lifelong struggle with stuttering, has become an inspiration to many.

Sam is a sixth year senior who plays safety for the Thundering Herd football team and has had a standout season so far. Sam played for McNeese State before transferring to Marshall.

He first started stuttering at the age of six after his father died, followed by his grandfather shortly after. Sam has stuttered ever since, but he has since gained more confidence in his speaking.

In an interview with Dr. Jamie Maxwell, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Marshall University, Sam told Maxwell, “Do not stop speaking like I once did.”

In an article published by westutter.org,

they state, “Stuttering is more common among males than females.” The male to female ratio is about 4-to-1. It’s estimated that about 1% of the world’s population stutters, though about 5% of children go through a period of stuttering. Three quarters of those who begin to stutter will recover by late childhood, leaving about 1% of the population with a long-term condition.

“For someone to try to say what they really want to say, and they can’t say it, it’s hard,” Sam said. “For someone who doesn’t know, just take your time with them to make them feel that they can always remain themselves around you. That’s what I look for; I look for people who really want to talk to me, and they know that I stutter.”



# Marshall Drops to Louisiana, Remains Winless in the SBC

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall drops its second Sun Belt game and remains winless in conference play after losing to Louisiana by a final score of 23-13 on Wednesday night.

The Herd came off a short bye week after defeating Gardner Webb 28-7 on Oct. 1 at home.

Head coach, Charles Huff, said Louisiana's championship DNA showed up tonight.

"Hats off to Louisiana, they got championship DNA, and it showed up in the second half," he said. "A tremendous group Coach D got."

Louisiana got on the board first as Kenneth Almandares kicked a 42-yard field goal to put the Ragin' Cajuns up 3-0 with 7:03 remaining in the first quarter.

Later in the second quarter, Marshall put a five-minute offensive drive together, resulting in a one-yard touchdown run from Khalan Laborn.

The touchdown was set up by Henry Colombi's 42-yard pass to Corey Gammage and a roughing the passer penalty on Louisiana's Sonny Lawson that gave Marshall first and goal at the one.

The third quarter was all Louisiana, as they put up 13 unanswered points. Scores came from a six-yard touchdown catch by Dontae Fleming and two field goals from Almandares, with one being a career-long 52-yarder.

The scoring didn't stop for the Ragin' Cajuns in the fourth quarter, as Ben Wooldridge found Michael Jefferson for a 32-yard touchdown pass.

Despite a late one-yard touchdown run from Laborn, making it 23-13, it was ultimately not enough, as 23-13 would be the game's final score.

Huff said the Herd's offense is

currently lopsided.

"Offensively, we're kind of a little bit lopsided right now. We're able to run the ball, but we're not able to consistently pass the ball to be able to keep us in position to move the ball down the field," he said. "And again, the penalties show up, and when you're lopsided, it's hard to move the ball when it's first and 15."

Huff added that there are things to clean up.

"We got a lot of things to clean up. I think the discipline is the thing that we got to clean up - the details.

I'm not discouraged by anything," he said. "We are close, but this is the real league. And in this league, you can't just win games by playing hard, and I thought the kids played hard, I really did. I appreciate their effort, but you can't win games in this league by just playing hard. You got to play disciplined, and you got to execute in critical situations and you can't hurt yourself on either side of the ball."

Marshall has dropped three of its last four games as they head to face James Madison next Saturday, Oct. 22, at 3:30 p.m.



Henry Colombi being tackled by two Louisiana defenders at midfield.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



# No. 4 Ranked Herd Falls to ODU



Milo Yosef walking near midfield.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 4 ranked Marshall University men's soccer team lost to Old Dominion by a final score of 2-1 Saturday night.

ODU started early in the 15th minute as ODU's Tristan Jenkins fed a corner kick into Michael Eberle, who nailed it in to make the score 1-0.

Going into halftime, Marshall outshot ODU 14-5, but the Monarch's defense stayed strong to keep a 1-0 lead.

After the break in the 64th minute, ODU's Samuel Mar Kristinsson headed in a corner-kick pass from Louis Beckett to make the score 2-0 over the Herd.

Ten minutes later, Marshall

finally got on the board as Gabriel Albvies netted a goal in, his first of the season.

Ultimately that would not be enough for Marshall as they drop to ODU by a final score of 2-1. The Herd outshot the Monarchs 25-8.

Marshall men's soccer head coach Chris Grassie said his team had many opportunities.

"We had a lot of chances, a lot of corners. That's soccer sometimes. Sometimes it goes our way; sometimes it doesn't," Grassie said.

Marshall will next go on the road to face Georgia State Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m.

# Women's Soccer Ends Scoreless Drought in Draw

By **JOHNATHAN EDWARDS**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Friday night was the first time Marshall had found the back of the net in three games as the Herd came to a draw against James Madison University.

Despite the Dukes considerable defensive efforts, Marshall's Kat Gonzalez ended the team's scoring drought in the second half. This crucial goal kept Marshall from dropping yet another game.

Alexis Wolgemuth made six

saves, facing seven shots on goal on the night. Her efforts, along with the aforementioned Gonzalez goal, made the difference between drawing and losing.

The goalkeeping efforts by Wolgemuth did not go without acknowledgment alongside the whole goalkeeping room for the Herd.

Marshall women's soccer head coach, Michael Swan, said, "They're

a great group of goalkeepers."

The emphasis on team effort was on full display throughout the match for Marshall, as the ball found its way between several members of the depth chart.

The Herd will be back in action Thursday night, Oct. 20, making the trip down to Conway, South Carolina. Marshall will take the pitch at 7 p.m. against the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina.

# Bolly's Bets Looks at CFB Week eight and NFL Week seven

By **ZACH BOLLINGER**  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

I took last week off from Bolly's Bets because I wanted just to sit back and enjoy watching the games this weekend... then Marshall and the Baltimore Ravens broke my heart again, so let's just get into this week's games.

## Marshall versus James Madison

The Marshall Thundering Herd will open this week's lines as 13-point underdogs to the new kids on the block, the JMU Dukes. James Madison and Marshall are coming off conference losses; Marshall lost to Louisiana, and James Madison lost to Georgia Southern. Despite the disappointing losses this year, Marshall's most significant point differential was only a 10-point loss to Troy. While JMU has proven their offense can put up points, they have also shown signs of being turnover-prone after surrendering four

turnovers to Georgia Southern. I think the Herd should keep this game close, or at least closer than 13 points, so for this game, I'm taking Marshall +13.

## Mississippi State versus Alabama

A classic matchup of two ranked SEC teams meeting in Tuscaloosa. The 6-1 Alabama Crimson Tide are 21-point favorites at home against the 5-2 Mississippi State Bulldogs. Usually, whenever two SEC defenses meet in Tuscaloosa, I love taking the under, but this is not your typical Alabama defense. Alabama has been prone to giving up big plays, and fortunately for Mississippi State, they have an explosive offense capable of making big plays, as State has scored over 40 points in three games this year. With two explosive offenses going head-to-head and Alabama's nation-leading 66 penalties, I think over 61 points is the

best play for this game.

## New Orleans Saints versus Arizona Cardinals

Each week I tell myself that this Thursday night game will be better than the others, and I'm wrong each week. The Cardinals open up as 1.5-point favorites over the beat-up New Orleans Saints. The Saints are entering Thursday unsure of which starting receivers, if any at all will be available. The Saints are expected to get back QB Jameis Winston, but how healthy he will be is still to be determined. The Cardinals acquired WR Robbie Anderson from the Panthers this past Monday.

*The rest of this column can be found on [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com).*



# Homecoming Royalty Candidates 2022



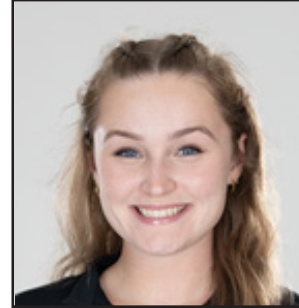
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Delta Zeta



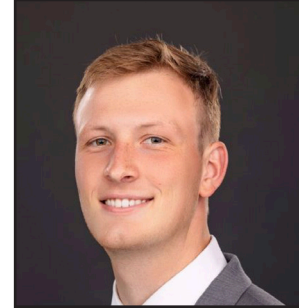
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Kappa Sigma



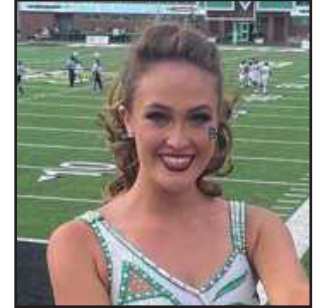
Austin Dingess  
Residence Hall Association



Brooke Burns  
Marshall Geology Club



Calvin Hunter  
Society of Yeager Scholars



Catherine Blankenship  
Marching Thunder



Elise McClelland  
MU Got That Beat



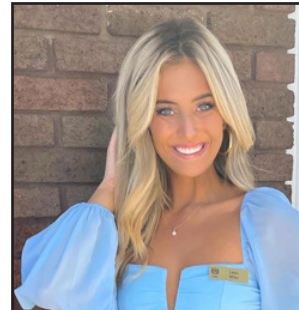
Gracie Queen  
Baptist Campus Ministries



Joelle Williams  
Women's Swimming and Diving



Joshua Dauber  
Financial Management Association



Laney Miller  
Alpha Xi Delta



Lilly Barickman  
Sigma Sigma Sigma



Michaela Marshall  
Cru



Miranda Valles  
History Club



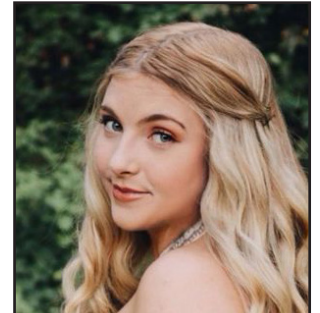
Nicolas "Nico" Raffinengo  
ECA Marshall



Neveah Harmon  
Society of Black Scholars



Olivia Harrison  
Fellowship of Christian Nurses



Olivia Moncada  
Student Government Association



Olivia Ziolkowski  
Marshall Women's Basketball



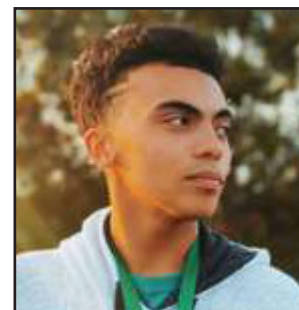
Samantha "Sam" Riddle  
Marshall Collegiate 4-H



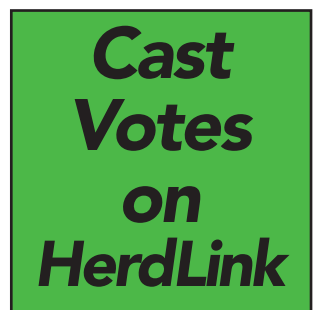
Sophia Benincasa  
Alpha Chi Omega



Taylor Isaac  
Marshall's Village Projects



Trey Moss  
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation



Cast  
Votes  
on  
HerdLink



# Pedestrian Safety Month Has More to Do With Cars and Less to Do With Pedestrians

Continued from Front Page

## THE PARTHENON

...on 20th Street with a skit featuring Marco on the university's TikTok page.

All of these efforts are well-intentioned; however, they shift the responsibility incorrectly towards pedestrians and away from drivers.

Drivers, and generally poor pedestrian infrastructure, are the real threat to student safety while walking across streets. Drivers are still consistently going significantly over the 25 miles per hour speed limit, not stopping at the crosswalk

even when pedestrians are crossing, and making dangerous right-on-red turns when pedestrians have the right of way.

After the initial weeks of the semester, police presence significantly dropped, and drivers have had no reason to not speed.

Spend any time observing traffic around Marshall and this clearly is the case.

It should be noted that this is not the university's fault. The United States has an atrocious reputation for pedestrian safety and a general

lack of pedestrian infrastructure in many cities. Additionally, the U.S. car culture prioritizes car speed and views pedestrians as an inconvenience.

In Salt Lake City, instead of slowing down traffic and ensuring they stop for pedestrians, the city installed orange flags for pedestrians to carry as they cross the street. This is a perfect example of the backward nature of U.S. city planning.

Pedestrian deaths have increased by 50% in the U.S. since 2009, and although it is difficult to determine only one explanation, it is obvious that cities and communities still rely

on cars.

The city, state and university should consider more approaches to slow traffic and create a pedestrian-first environment. This includes reducing lanes on 3rd and 5th Avenues and putting speed bumps before crosswalks.

The Netherlands frequently uses raised crosswalks where sidewalks are at a continuously raised level across the intersection. This acts as a natural speed bump for cars, but also emphasizes the accessibility of those in wheelchairs. Innovative and proven concepts like these should be more frequently considered in

American urban planning.

Universities are often safe havens for walkable communities in the United States, and it is essential to protect and expand the pedestrian infrastructure these areas have. As more thought is given to the streets around the university, consider the tried and true methods of calming the loud and fast traffic surrounding campus.

*Editorials represent the opinion of the Parthenon's Editorial Board.*

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students on Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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## THE PARTHENON'S CORRECTIONS POLICY

Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error.



Traffic has become a major concern on Marshall's campus over the last year, leading to Huntington reducing speed limits around campus.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



# NC Appeals Court Rules Who Will Hear Education Voucher Suit

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A legal challenge to North Carolina's taxpayer-funded scholarship program for K-12 children to attend private schools — focused on claims of bias based on religion and sexuality — must be heard by three trial judges, the state Court of Appeals ruled on Tuesday.

The majority on an appeals court panel reversed last year's decision by Wake County Superior Court Judge Bryan Collins, who ruled the lawsuit filed by several North Carolina parents in 2020 should remain before a single judge.

Republican legislators defending the "Opportunity Scholarship Program" created in 2013 appealed Collins' decision, saying three Superior Court

judges are required to hear the case because the litigation was seeking to throw out the program in its entirety on grounds it violates the state constitution.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit have said the scholarships are lawful in some formats but unconstitutional as carried out in each of their individual circumstances, so only a single judge should preside. For example, some plaintiffs are in same-sex marriages who say they're being discriminated against because some private religious schools benefiting from student grants oppose LGBTQ rights or expel openly-gay students.

The scholarships are considered one of the chief education policy accomplishments for Republicans at the General Assembly since they took

control of the legislature over a decade ago. Nearly 23,000 students in low- and middle-income families received awards during the last school year, and over \$63 million in grants are being disbursed this school year, according to program data.

Program opponents include Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and the North Carolina Association of Educators, which describes the awards as vouchers.

The General Assembly agreed in the 2000s to start using panels of three trial judges to hear redistricting challenges so as to prevent plaintiffs from "judge shopping" by filing cases in certain counties. Their use was expanded in 2014 to cover any lawsuit that sought to declare a state law "facially" unconstitutional, or in every situation.

The chief justice, who is currently Republican Paul Newby, appoints the three judges in these matters, each of them from a different region.

Writing Tuesday's majority decision, Court of Appeals Judge April Wood said it's plain that the lawsuit seeks to strike down the program completely and prevent students from being awarded grants. No evidence has been presented that the plaintiffs applied for scholarships or were constitutionally denied enrollment to the program, she added.

The "plaintiffs have been unable to identify any conceivable remedy for their claims that would not require either rewriting the statute or imposing sweeping court supervision on

scholarship approvals by regulators," Wood wrote. "These remedies are unmistakable markers of a facial challenge."

Court of Appeals Judge Richard Dietz sided with Wood. In a dissenting opinion, Judge Toby Hampson wrote that it was premature for the appeals court to decide the breadth of the challenge in the lawsuit, and thus who should hear the case at trial.

Given the split 2-1 ruling by the Court of Appeals, the state Supreme Court would be obligated to review Tuesday's decision if the plaintiffs appeal. In 2015, the justices ruled 4-3 that people who challenged the program's legality failed to prove it violated the constitution.

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Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington  
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Visit our website for Worship Services and for other times of Bible study, worship, and activities for children, youth, and adults.  
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Daily Masses: 12:05 on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
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Sunday 8 am, 11:00 am & 6:30 pm  
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[www.ourfatimafamily.com](http://www.ourfatimafamily.com)  
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Saturdays 4:15-4:45pm  
or anytime by appointment  
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm  
**Rev. Fr. Thomas**

**St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church**  
HUNTINGTON, WV  
526 13th Street  
(304) 525-5202  
Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer  
**Sunday Mass Schedule**  
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm  
**Confessions**  
Saturday 8:25 am  
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm  
or by appointment

## Study Abroad Programs Resume After Two-Year Pause



Photo of Casandra Bhagroo, a study abroad student pictured above

Photo by Lucy Bell

By **LUCY BELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

After taking it upon herself to experience more than her traditional collegiate path, one graphic design student sought out scholarships to study abroad now that many pandemic restrictions have lifted.

Cassandra Bhagroo, a Marshall University senior, said in an interview on Thursday, Sept. 8, that she spent her previous spring semester studying industrial art at Kookmin University in Seoul, South Korea.

After spending the semester away and being the only American student in the program, her understanding of not only South Korean culture but also her own has completely changed, according to Bhagroo.

“Going abroad definitely shook

my perceptions of how I saw the world,” she said. “Everyone can have a very ethnocentric point of view about how it’s just a natural thing. You grow up, you see the world based on how others around you are and when you are like that for, you know, 18 plus years, that becomes a part of who you are.”

After taking a two-year hiatus from study abroad trips, the Marshall School of Art and Design is now opening the opportunity back up for students.

The university offers several study abroad opportunities all over the globe ranging from semester-long stays to two-week trips that students are encouraged to consider, according to Jamie Platt, School of Art and Design gallery director.

“The university knows that

when students study abroad, it changes them, and it gives them a broader sense of the world and the interconnectedness of the world,” Platt said. “And so, they understand how important it is to have that kind of cultural interchange and also just in terms of someone’s personal growth. So, they know that it’s important, and they definitely encourage it.”

Platt went on to say that students gain personal and work experience through study abroad in a way that only those programs provide.

“It’s pretty incredible, because if you think about the fact that this artwork [her artwork] could only exist having had that experience,” she said.

## Birke Art Gallery Hosts Last Show Before Moving

By **LUCY BELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

After nearly 50 years of displaying artists’ collections on Marshall University’s main campus, the Birke Art Gallery moves to join the university’s two other galleries in the Visual Arts Center in downtown Huntington.

Renovations are underway at the Visual Arts Center in preparation for the Birke Art Gallery’s grand reopening on Nov. 16. The inaugural show will take place on the same night and host student artists’ work. The

students featured in this show have completed the foundation’s review process through the School of Art and Design and will display their best work from the semester.

While it may seem bittersweet to close the doors on a space with such a deep history in its walls, this change is welcomed, according to gallery director Jamie Platt.

“I am going to miss this,” Platt said. “This gallery has so much history, and it is also a presence of the School of Art and Design

on the campus of Marshall University. However, I’m so excited about the good things that it will bring that I feel like we can close this chapter and feel good about what it was and what it is going to be.”

The current exhibition for viewing in the Birke Art Gallery is likely to be the final show presented in that space. The exhibition “Senses” features the work of photographer Christiana Caro and sculptor Kimberly Lyle.

While neither artist knew the other beforehand, there was a coincidental nexus between the two works.

The Birke Art Gallery will join the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Gallery and the student gallery on the downtown campus. Consolidating the three galleries allows for a more cohesive experience for guests as well as the administration.

“We have the potential to have art on view every single day,”

Platt said. “When I’m traveling between the two galleries, if something happens in one gallery, but I’m in the other one, I can’t be there right away. And if someone comes in and they have a question, then they have to wait for me. So, it’s just going to be very simple for me to be able to oversee all the galleries in one place.”



# Student Loan Forgiveness Application Website Goes Live

By COLLIN BINKLEY and SEUNG MIN KIM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday officially kicked off the application process for his student debt cancellation program and announced that 8 million borrowers had already applied for loan relief during the federal government's soft launch period over the weekend.

He encouraged the tens of millions eligible for potential relief to visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and touted the application form that the president said would take less than five minutes to complete. An early, "beta launch" version of the online form released late Friday handled the early stream of applications "without a glitch or any difficulty," Biden said.

"It means more than 8 million Americans are — starting this week — on their way to receiving life-changing relief," Biden, accompanied by Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, said Monday. The president called his program a "game-changer" for millions of Americans saddled with student loan debt.

The number of borrowers who applied during the testing period already amounts to more than one-fourth of the total number of applicants the administration had projected would submit forms, underscoring the popularity of the program and the eagerness of borrowers to receive the debt relief. Some 8 million borrowers who have income information already on file with the Education Department would see their debt canceled without applying.

Biden's plan calls for \$10,000 in federal student debt cancellation for those with incomes below \$125,000

a year, or households that make less than \$250,000 a year. Those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college are eligible for an additional \$10,000. The plan makes 20 million eligible to get their federal student debt erased entirely.

Biden promised to pursue widespread student debt forgiveness as a presidential candidate, but the issue went through more than a year of internal deliberation amid questions about its legality. His plan sparked intense debate ahead of the midterm elections, with Republicans and some Democrats saying it's an unfair handout for college graduates. But on Monday, Biden offered a full-throated defense of his decision.

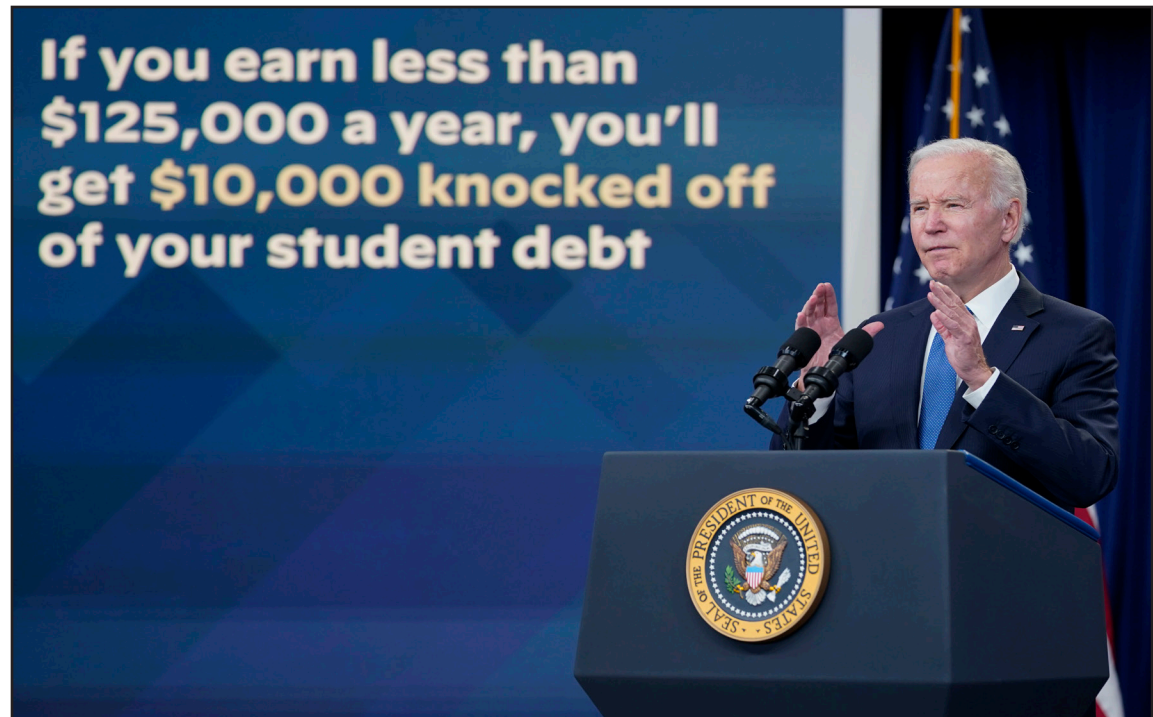
"My commitment was if elected president, I was going to make government work to deliver for the people," Biden said. "This rollout keeps that commitment."

He also took aim at Republican officials who have either criticized the plan or are working in court to defeat it.

"Their outrage is wrong and it's hypocritical," Biden said. "I will never apologize for helping working Americans and middle class people as they recover from the pandemic. Biden on Monday said the White House has received more than 10,000 comments and calls of thanks from borrowers. Indeed, thousands took to social media to share the form, with many saying they submitted their applications with little trouble.

The Biden administration has touted it as a "simple, straightforward" application. It asks for the borrower's name, Social Security number, contact information and date of birth. It does not require income information but asks users to check a box attesting that they are eligible under the program's income limits.

That information will be checked



President Joe Biden speaks about the student debt relief portal beta test in the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington on Monday, Oct. 17 in Claremont, California.

Photo courtesy of AP Photos

against Education Department records to help identify applicants who are likely to exceed the income limits, the administration says.

Those people will be asked for more information to prove their incomes. An estimated 1 million to 5 million people will be required to provide that extra documentation, the Education Department said in a recent submission to the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

Creating and processing the form is estimated to cost nearly \$100 million, a figure that angered advocates who view the application as an unnecessary barrier. The form is meant to help exclude the roughly

5% of borrowers who exceed the income limits, but advocates say it could also deter some lower-income Americans who need the relief.

Once the Education Department begins processing applications, borrowers should expect to see their debt forgiven in four to six weeks, officials say. Most applications submitted by mid-November will be processed by Jan. 1 — the day federal student loan payments are set to resume after being paused during the pandemic.

Borrowers will be able to submit applications through the end of 2023.

The Biden administration is pushing ahead with the debt cancellation even

as it fights a growing number of legal challenges. Six Republican-led states are suing to block the plan, saying it oversteps Biden's authority and will lead to financial losses for student loan servicers, which are hired to manage federal student loans and earn revenue on the interest.

A federal judge in St. Louis is now weighing the states' request for an injunction to halt the plan. In court documents, the Education Department has vowed not to finalize any of the debt cancellation before Oct. 23.

Biden acknowledged Monday that litigation is ongoing but said his administration believes the lawsuits won't ultimately affect the program.



# Marshall Basketball Takes Over Downtown Huntington



The women's team celebrates after defeating the men in the skills challenge.



Photos by Tyler Spence

By **EVAN GREEN**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Marshall's men's and women's basketball teams kicked off their season by hosting their inaugural Hoops in Huntington event in Pullman Square.

The event included introductions and autographs from players, activities for kids such as face painting and inflatables as well as a number of different basketball competitions that community members could participate in.

The event took place on Thursday, Oct. 13, on Third Avenue between Ninth and Tenth street. One of the main features of the event was a scrimmage that took place on the outdoor court set up for the event.

"Part of building a program is getting the community to know

your student athletes. It gives you a chance to actually look them in the eye and actually know who they are, and maybe you're more likely to come to a game if you actually know who the players are," Christian Spears, Marshall's athletic director, said.

"I love the fact that we're in a brand-new league and, for the first time, we can participate against a bunch of different schools and see what kind of program we're going to have," Spears said in regard to the upcoming season.

Hoops in Huntington is designed to mark the transition from the basketball off-season to the preseason, and many other events like it are being held by basketball teams across the country.

Many notable figures in Huntington attended the event, including Huntington Mayor

Steve Williams, student body President Isabella Griffiths, as well as the men's basketball coach, Dan D'Antoni, and the women's coach, Tony Kemper.

"I'm feeling good [about this season]. We're going to turn this thing around. I'm feeling very confident in what we've got to do this year," David Early, a member of the men's team studying sports management, said. "At this event, I'm looking forward to meeting new people and having a good day with the fans."

The first regular season game for the men's team is against Queens on Nov. 7, and the women's team will play their first regular season game against Purdue on Nov. 10.



Taevion Kinsey walks onto the court in downtown Huntington on Thursday.