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Herd overthrows Monarchs for Sun Belt title

By ALANA ROMERO LOZANO
SPORTS EDITOR

Head coach Chris Grassie opened his postgame news conference by jokingly calling Tuesday night's performance "rubbish." In reality, the only thing tossed in the trash was Old Dominion's chance of spoiling Marshall's championship run.

The Thundering Herd captured the Sun Belt Conference regular season title with a decisive 3-0 shutout over the Monarchs.

Carl Romberg led the charge with two goals, while Alvaro Alvarez netted a third to complete a mandated five-game winning streak.

Old Dominion thrives on making matches messy, but Marshall refused to get dragged down.

"They are a good team, well coached, and they have their own style," Grassie said in a postgame news conference. "Introduce a lot of chaos into the game. I thought we managed those moments very well and then we just got it down and played."

Romberg looked perfectly comfortable in that chaos. Grassie said he appreciated the forward's patience and lethal finishing inside a crowded penalty box.

"Everybody is sliding, diving," Grassie said in the press conference. "He is just moving it, waiting for his luck, and then bang."

Lifting the trophy is massive validation for a rebuilt roster featuring 18 new players. However, the Herd has a short time to celebrate. The Sun Belt Conference Championship tournament begins this weekend and Marshall will look to keep their momentum rolling when they host Kentucky at home on Sunday, Nov. 8.

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Herd Men's Soccer will continue to fight their way to the top in the Sun Belt Tournament. (Logan Lowery/The Parthenon)

Healthcare training receives federal grant

By AVA HYMES
STAFF REPORTER

A previously closed high school in rural West Virginia is getting a new purpose as a healthcare training center, backed by nearly $5.8 million in federal funding intended to expand employment opportunities in a region of Appalachia that has struggled with economic hardship for decades.

The 1982 Foundation, a nonprofit established in August 2021 by members of the Calhoun County High School Class of 1982, was awarded $5.7 million through the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative. The funding will support Onward Upward, a healthcare workforce training program based at the former high school in Grantsville.

According to Ridgeview News' Oct. 20 report, the initiative aims to train 600 healthcare workers across 14 West Virginia counties over three years. Training opportunities will include nursing, phlebotomy, medical assisting and emergency medical technician positions.

The program is also designed to address barriers that can prevent rural residents from pursuing additional education. Ridgeview News reported that $2.4 million of the award is designated for participant support, including stipends and childcare assistance. These resources are intended to help people who may struggle to leave their jobs, arrange childcare or afford the costs associated with training.

The award is part of a broader federal investment in rural workforce development. The WORC Initiative, administered by the Department of Labor in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission and other regional commissions, supports training programs that connect workers with employment opportunities and help communities address local workforce needs.

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'Of course this can be you:' Women In Aviation Symposium to inspire new aviators

By SOLEIL WOOLARD
NEWS EDITOR

Aviation is happening all across the world and Appalachians are a part of its future, a Marshall Aviation faculty member said.

Marshall University will host the Women in Aviation Symposium at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Encova Auditorium at the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation at Marshall's campus.

"Not only are we one of the pillars for Marshall, but the reason we are a pillar is because Appalachia itself has decided to make a stance."

– Nancy Ritter, Marshall Aviation

The symposium will feature a keynote address by aerobatic pilot Patty Wagstaff, a three-time U.S. National Aerobatic Team champion and National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee.

Nancy Ritter, Marshall's chief of Aviation Operations and chief instructor, said Wagstaff was instrumental in the development of the Marshall Aviation program and that the relationship has just continued to blossom.

"When Alys [Smith] came to us with this idea of including aviation in her repertoire of symposiums, the first thought of our collective brain was, 'I wonder if Patty would help us with this,'" Ritter said.

Ritter said Wagstaff's national and international recognition as a woman in aviation would set an incredible tone for the symposium.

"Her energy towards the next generation of aviators is legendary," Ritter said. "To have her immediately agree and want to be part of this here in Appalachia is tremendous to us."

West Virginia's history isn't one tied with aviation, but that isn't stopping Appalachia, Ritter said.

"I think the story we have at Marshall Aviation is one of— 'Of course you can do it, of course this can be you,'' Ritter said. "It's happening all across the United States and all across the world."

Ritter said the aviation program is not only excited to be able to share what they do with campus, but to bring relevant information regardless of if you're in aviation or not.

"I would describe it as bringing relevant technologically advanced information to somebody's fingertips about an industry that is incredibly new to Appalachia, but has incredible support in Appalachia," Ritter said. "Not only are we one of the pillars for Marshall, but the reason we are a pillar is because Appalachia itself has decided to make a stance."

The symposium is free and available to the public for anyone interested in attending.

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Women In Aviation Symposium keynote speaker Patty Wagstaff. (Courtesy of Parker Armstrong)

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