# Dance Thunder hosts Fundraiser for Childhood Cancer




*Dancing Thunder holds several events during the year to suppor a variety of causes, including the Splash-A-Thon. (The Parthenon/Morgan Watson)*

**By MORGAN WATSON**
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall University united to support pediatric cancer awareness and Hoops Family Children's Hospital on the Memorial Student Center West Lawn Friday, Sept. 4, for Dance Thunder's Splash-A-Thon.

The Splash-A-Thon is an event that combined campus fun with an important cause. Students were able to dunk familiar faces, while making a donation to charity. Outside of the Splash-A-Thon, Dance Thunder hosts a number of fundraising events, awareness campaigns, activities and community outreach opportunities.

Their mission is to support children and families receiving cancer care at Hoops Family Children's Hospital through fundraising, awareness and community engagement led by Marshall University students and Dance Thunder brought that message to campus through an afternoon of fundraising, awareness and community engagement.

Students could take their chances at dunking Alissa Davis, student body president, Jimmy John Jacob, student body vice president and Emily Price, the executive director of Dance Thunder. Participants could take a few throws at the target or choose the mandatory dunk option, giving students a chance to cool off while supporting Dance Thunder's mission.

Alissa Davis said she knows that not only are events like these important for awareness, but also for community building throughout campus.

"It encourages students to help their community, build compassion and understanding for others even through their own struggles, and maybe even get out of their dorm and have some fun," said Davis.

September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, with gold serving as the month's symbolic color. The month is set aside to honor the strength of children facing cancer and the families who stand beside them through every appointment, treatment, setback and victory. Emily Price said she has her own connection to this cause as she is a childhood cancer survivor.

"As a survivor, I know that behind every diagnosis is a child, a family, and an entire community hoping and fighting for a better outcome," said Price. "Being involved with Dance Thunder allows me to turn my experience into something positive."

Through events like Splash-A-Thon, Dance Thunder aims to remind those families that they are not facing that fight alone.

Davis said, "Emily Price, Braden Cotton, and the whole Dance Thunder team have profoundly educated both myself and other Marshall students in the realm of pediatric cancer and watching their impact in such a short period has been amazing and I will always be a cheerleader and a partner in anything that they do or need."

Each splash helped turn a fun afternoon on campus into an opportunity to make a difference for families affected by pediatric cancer.

**Morgan Watson can be contacted at watson273@marshall.edu.**

# Increased special event parking rates coming soon

**By TALEIGH WHITE**
STUDENT REPORTER

The City of Huntington recently announced an upcoming increase in special event parking fees from 50 cents per hour to $10 per event day.

This change will take place on Sept. 15 but will be implemented only on special event dates and in certain areas of the city.

The new rate will apply only to cars parked in these areas:
- East 24th Street, north of 3rd Ave. to the river
- 2100 block of 3rd Ave., north side of the street only
- 2100 block of 2nd Ave., north side of the street only
- 2200 block of 3rd Ave., north side of the street only
- 500 block of East 21st Street, east side of the street only
- 500 block of East 22nd Street, both sides of the street

The currently scheduled dates and times in which these areas will be impacted is:
- Saturday, Sept. 26: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 10: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 20: 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 14: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 21: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

When asked how the rate increase might affect customer parking and business, Gavin Cole, the owner of the Jimmy John's Huntington store, didn't seem concerned.

"If someone wanted to get a sandwich, there's parking around," Cole said. "I don't think parking is stopping customers from coming in."

"The [most] we ever saw parking here for an event was for the Zach Bryan concert," Cole said. "We see more traffic driving by, and we get more sales from it, but we don't really have people parking all the way down here most of the time."

City Council member Holly Smith Mount said she believes the costs and benefits of the change will be evaluated, but she seemed hopeful in its success.

"I would imagine that eventually special event parking will expand to other parts of town, such as downtown around the Civic Center and in places where large events that attract people from out of town are held, like the Keith Albee, for example," Mount said.

In response to public concerns about the upcoming changes, Mount said: "I think what we need to do collectively as a community is to pay attention to what's going on and engage with our elected officials."

"Reach out to whoever is your representative and ask questions. I welcome any questions that anyone might have about anything regarding the city," Mount said. "[Students should] engage in the Democratic process and know who the representatives are so that if they have concerns or questions, they can help shape the future of the community that they are living in."

**Taleigh White can be contacted at white992@marshall.edu.**



*The new event parking fees will launch on Sept. 15 for special events in Huntington. (The Parthenon/Soleil Woolard)*