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'Bring Back The Green Machine': Marshall students push for return of campus bus service

By AVA HYMES
STAFF REPORTER

For Marshall University students who relied on public transportation to get to class, buy groceries or travel around Huntington, the Green Machine's final trip has changed more than their bus routes.

The Marshall-specific Tri-State Transit Authority service ended on May 31, 2026, after the university's access agreement with TTA ended. The change followed a Student Government Association election during the last spring semester in which students voted on restructuring an $18-per-semester student fee.

Under the new allocation, $16 of the fee goes toward campus technology improvements, while $2 goes toward a transportation account for students.

The end of the Green Machine has since prompted students to organize around bringing the service back. On Friday, Oct. 2, students gathered at the Marshall Student Center Plaza for a "Bring Back the Green Machine" meeting to discuss the service, its impact on students and what organizers want Marshall to do next.

Avery Mitchell, a computer science major and Marshall junior, is one of the students organizing around the issue. ≥

Mitchell said they have a particular interest in public transportation and have followed transit systems across the country.

For Mitchell, the issue is not simply about having another way to get across campus. They said losing the Green Machine has affected their ability to complete everyday tasks, including grocery shopping.

Mitchell said they previously lived farther from campus and used the Green Machine to travel to the grocery store. After the service ended, they moved closer to campus.

"I knew my quality of life immediately would decrease," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said that without the Green Machine, getting groceries can require significantly more time and walking. They described one trip in which they were nearly hit by a car while crossing a Kroger parking lot.

They said the transportation change can contribute to food-access problems for students without cars or other reliable forms of transportation.

"It's created food insecurity for myself, and certainly for other people as well," Mitchell said.

The Green Machine was previously advertised by Marshall as a student TTA bus with stops designed around the Marshall community. Archived Marshall materials describe the service as providing access to locations including downtown, Kroger, Walmart and Pullman Square. Archived university materials also show that Green Machine service historically operated into the late evening and overnight hours, with schedules varying by day.

Mitchell said the organizers' goal is not simply to restore the service exactly as it existed.

"At a bare minimum, we would like the service to be reinstated," Mitchell said. They would also like to see the service schedule adjusted to make it more useful for students, including those with early classes.

Marshall student organizer Jadon Gray said he did not realize the Green Machine had been discontinued until classes began. Gray said he attempted to find the Green Machine on the bus schedule and initially wondered what had happened to it.

Since then, Gray said he has primarily walked to places he previously would have traveled to by bus. For Gray, the change has particularly affected his ability to travel to the Marshall Arts Center.

Gray said they have had to transport photography equipment between their residence and the Arts Center on foot, making it more difficult to visit the facility outside of required classes.

"I never go there if I don't have to go for a reason," Gray said.

Grocery shopping has also become more difficult, Gray said. He no longer regularly goes to Kroger and instead sometimes relies on friends with cars for transportation, since he does not own a vehicle.

Green Machine Cont. Pg. 3

Fire Prevention Week highlights fire safety



Fire Prevention Week Parade on Oct. 6, 2026. (The Parthenon/ Phoenix Bishop)

By AVA HYMES
STAFF REPORTER

As temperatures begin to fall, Fire Prevention Week is reminding residents to take precautions against home fires, particularly as cooking and heating become more common.

For those students living in dorms or off-campus housing, as well as any community member with access to a kitchen, the Red Cross recommends staying attentive while cooking and keeping items such as paper products,

food packaging, towels, and

other flammable materials away from heat-producing appliances. A fire extinguisher should also be kept in the kitchen.

Those using space heaters should keep at least three feet of space around heating equipment. The Red Cross recommends placing space heaters on hard, level, and nonflammable surfaces, plugging them directly

into wall outlets, and turning them off before leaving a room or going to sleep.

Marshall's 2026-27 Residence Hall Guide also outlines rules about fire and safety equipment in residence halls. The guide prohibits tampering with safety and security equipment, including smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, as well as the improper use of fire doors, which are for the students' safety.

The Red Cross also recommends having a fire escape plan. Everyone in a household should know two ways to escape from each room and have a designated meeting place outside. In the event of a fire, residents should get out, stay out, and call 911 rather than returning for people, pets, or belongings.

Smoke alarms are another important part of fire prevention. The Red Cross recommends installing alarms on every level

of a home, including inside and outside sleeping areas, and testing them monthly. Alarms that are 10 years old or older should be replaced because their sensors can become less sensitive.

The Red Cross Central Appalachia Region has responded to more than 750 home fires since the beginning of 2026, according to the organization.

"During Fire Prevention Week, we here at the Red Cross urge everyone to develop their evacuation plans, check their smoke alarms, and help keep the members of their household safe," said Erica Mani, chief executive officer for the Central Appalachia Region of the American Red Cross.

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Huntington Happenings

Friday, Oct. 9

The Marshall Softball team will be going up against the Miami University of Ohio on Friday, Oct. 9 at the Dot Hicks Field, 2202 3rd Ave, Huntington, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

A showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show will be premiering at the Foundry Theater, 800 5th Ave, Huntington, on Friday, Oct. 9. The doors will open at 7 p.m with a pre-show skit happening at 7:03 p.m. The showing will end at 10 p.m. Tickets are available at $10 in advance, $15 if purchased at the door and Marshall students will receive a discounted rate for $5 if purchased in advance.

The pre-show skit will include Lost Boy Skit, live performance by local performer Slurpie, raffles, a costume contest and more.

This showing does include a shadowcast. A shadowcast features live performers that will act alongside the film as it plays and interacts with the audience.

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