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Herd brings home preseason honors

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014 | VOL. 118 NO. 7 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Marshall announces new director of athletic bands



DALTON

Photo courtesy of University Communications

By MEGAN OSBORNE

LIFE EDITOR

At the end of the spring semester, Marshall said goodbye to Steve Barnett, director of athletic bands for 11 years. The College of Arts and Media is welcoming Adam Dalton to fill the position.

Dalton will oversee the Marching Thunder and pep bands, as well as conducting the symphonic band.

"It kind of just hits me," Dalton said in a press release. "I think, 'You're director of athletic bands at a university right now.' That's a big deal."

Working with the Marshall University bands will be Dalton's first university teaching experience. Previously, Dalton taught at the elementary and studies. Dalton has also perhigh school level in Atlanta.

Dalton earned his bachelor's degree in music education at James Madison University, where he served as a color guard captain for the renowned Madison Scouts Drum Corp.

After teaching in Atlanta, he went on to obtain a Masters of Arts and Music Education and Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting at the University of Alabama, according to a press

Dalton's experience goes beyond teaching at public schools. He performed in multiple national award-winning ensembles during his undergraduate and graduate

formed in winter guards, consistently making finals with his ensembles at Winter Guard International.

guard for Phantom Regiment and Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, both member corps of the Drum Corps International.

Dalton said working with university students will be different from his previous teaching experiences in that the students have more ability and the audience is different.

"Your main goal is to provide entertainment and spirit for the fans and the team," Dalton said.

Dalton said he was excited marshall.edu.

about working with the Marshall community to create something special for the fans, students, and athletes to enjoy.

"My big thing right now is Dalton has taught color crating a really fun and energetic game day experience for everyone," Dalton said.

> "Professor Dalton honor the beloved traditions of the Marching Thunder while bringing a contemporary excitement and energy to our performances," Richard Kravchak, director of the School of Music and Theater said in a press release. "We can't wait for football season to start."

> Megan Osborne can be contacted at osborne115@

Ukraine says missiles from Russia may have shot down 2 military jets

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK

LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

Ukrainian officials said Wednesday that two military jets have been shot down in the eastern part of the country, and the missiles that downed them may have been launched from Russia.

There was no immediate response from Russian officials. The state-run Itar-Tass news agency reported that the planes were shot down by a separatist

The pilots of the Su-25 fighter aircraft ejected from the planes, the Ukrainian government said, but their whereabouts are unknown. The incidents occurred near the Russian border, in a part of the country where the government is waging a battle against pro-Russia separatists.

However, at an afternoon security briefing, a Ukraine defense spokesman said the military believes that the missiles that brought down the planes came not from separatists in Ukraine but from the Russian side of the border.

"They were downed not by terrorists," said Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for the National Security and Defense Council, using the government's term for the separatists. "According to our preliminary information it was done from across the border."

Lysenko cited the fact that the planes were flying? at an altitude of more than 15,000 feet as part of the evidence that the missiles that brought the aircraft down couldn't have come from separatists.

Asked if this contradicted the government's belief that separatists had access to just such a capability in bringing down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which was flying at twice that altitude, Lysenko said, "This is just based on preliminary data" and did not elaborate further, saying only that "an investigation is being arranged."

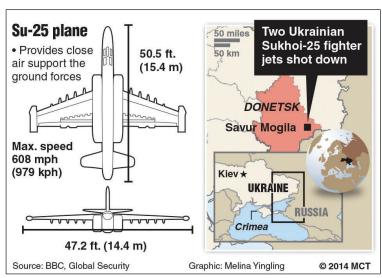
He said the military still did not know the whereabouts of the pilots.

week after the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 by a missile suspected to have been fired by

The pro-Russia paramilitary units have been firing at jets above eastern Ukraine airspace in recent months, bringing down two military transport planes in the days before the Malaysia Airlines disaster. But, if confirmed, the attack Wednesday would be the first strike in the area since the downing of the commercial jet.

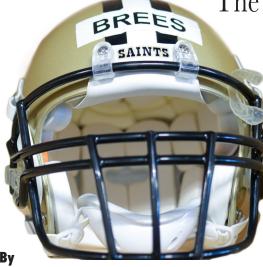
Despite the general proximity to the Malaysia Airlines crash site, one of the reported shootdowns Wednesday, over Lysychansk, is about 100 miles north of Grabovo, where much of the wreckage from the Malaysian plane ended up last

The separatists have denied any involvement in the Malaysia Airlines strike, and Russia has denied supplying them with the weapons systems required for such an attack. However, the U.S. and other nations believe that Russia has been providing the separatists with surface-to-air missiles, including the kind suspected in the Malaysia Airlines downing, and have demanded that Moscow halt support of the breakaway group.



The Saints come marching in

The New Orleans Saints begin training camp at new facilities at West Virginia resort



LEXI **BROWNING**

FOR THE PARTHENON

New Orleans Saints coach, Sean Payton is determined to provide the finest opportunities for his team's training—even if it entails traveling over 800 miles to do so. For the first time since 2008, the New Orleans Saints will be training away from their home grounds in Louisiana to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia in a state-ofthe-art facility built by Jim Justice, owner of the Greenbrier Resort.

Justice addressed the media on Monday in the New Orleans locker room, where each

player's space was

neatly arranged with new gear in anticipation of their arrival.

"It's unbelievable when you think about it. This is... a little over 90 days in the doing, and with a whole lot of earthmoving, it had to be done before that," said Justice. "It's a beautiful facility, and I know the Saints are really excited and we're out of our minds to have them and to have them in West Virginia."

Prior to mid-March, neither the fields nor facility existed. Both the Saints and Jim Justice approximated a cost of

upon completion 131 days later, the total has risen to almost \$30 million.

know about running a hotel?' I didn't know very much, but I could see that The Greenbrier had all the history and all the tradition and all the elegance, but it had become old and sleepy," Justice said. "What it needed was a strategy to retain the elegance and retain the history and tradition and the high end luxury of what it is, but you've got to infuse

some energy in the place" The resort's transformation in Justice's five-year ownership has established new flourishing such as the Greenbrier Classic and concert series into the historical edifice, making the resort attractive and sought out by all demographics.

The Saints new

\$20 million for the facility, but performance facility adds onto that legacy.

The sports training facility itself takes up a broad "When I got it [The Green- 55,000 square foot space, brier], a lot of people said, harboring three practice fields, indoor conditioning areas, and closets full of Gatorade for the incoming NFL team. Classrooms made specifically for each coach and position line the hallways for studying between field performances.

"Coach Payton said to me the other day, he said, 'Jim it's my dream that long beyond when I'm through coaching and long beyond when you're through running the Greenbrier, The Saints will still be coming to the Greenbrier every summer to have their camp.' And that would be my dream,

Lexi Browning can be contacted at browning168@ marshall.edu



THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

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Amazon opens first of expected 15 'sortation' centers



Amazon workers in the new 300,000-square-foot sortation center in Kent, Wash., sort packages by ZIP codes, place them on pallets and deliver them to local post offices.



Chelsea Pfeiffer scans items at Amazon's new sortation center in Kent, Wash. "Tens of thousands" of packages will go through the facility.

By JAY GREENE

THE SEATTLE TIMES (MCT)

As Mike Roth steps into Amazon.com's newest warehouse here, he spreads his arms wide and asks what is different about this facility from the 96 other warehouses the Web giant operates around the world.

To anyone who has ever set foot in one of those 1 million-square-foot buildings, known in Amazon parlance as fulfillment centers, the answer is obvious. There is not a product in sight. No books. No toasters. No toothpaste. There aren't the rows and rows of shelves on which those products are shelved. There aren't any workers who stow the products, pick them from the shelves or box them up.

Instead, the newly opened Kent warehouse is teeming with sealed parcels, full of items Amazon customers have ordered. Those packages zip along a maze of conveyor belts, where computers and workers sort them to ultimately deliver them to individual post offices in Seattle, Portland, Ore., Spokane, Wash., and points in between.

By controlling the delivery process right up to the last mile, Amazon can get packages to customers on Sunday, a service it announced with the U.S. Postal Service last November. And with the opening of the Kent facility, Sunday delivery has begun in the Pacific Northwest.

"When you see us announcing Sunday delivery, you can assume a sortation center is close by," Roth said.

The "sortation center" also lets Seattle members of its \$99-a-year Prime subscription service order as late as 11:59 p.m. to get two-day shipping at no extra charge. That's nine hours later than the previous cut-off time for two-day delivery. Non-Prime customers in Seattle also can use the later cutoff order times for two-day delivery if they are willing to pay for the service, which starts at \$1.99 an item and climbs depending on size and weight.

In addition to the Kent facility, adjacent to a site where Amazon is building a new fulfillment center, the company has quietly opened sortation centers in Atlanta; Dallas; Houston; Phoenix; Avenel, N.J.; Hebron, Ky.; and San Bernardino, Calif., in recent weeks. By the end of the year, Amazon will have more than 15 sortation centers, all in the United States, according to Roth. Each will employ several hundred workers.

couple of months," Roth said.

The sortation centers make sense only because Amazon has grown so large. The company won't disclose how many packages it ships daily, nor will it say how many go through the new Kent facility, except that it will be "tens of thousands" a day. It's that massive volume that makes it financially feasible to control the shipping on so many parcels right up to the last mile. It's unlikely any other online retailer has enough volume to even try their own sortation center.

"Our size and scale now allows us to optimize more of the fulfillment service," Roth said.

Increasing the speed of delivery is a top priority for Amazon. The retail titan can offer many advantages over brick-and-mortar rivals. But the one glaring disadvantage is that the local bookstore, electronics chain or toystore can offer instant gratification, letting customers immediately walk away with the product they purchased.

Sortation centers move Amazon a step closer to erasing one of the key barriers to customers shopping online. Ultimately, Amazon would like to handle nextday delivery from the Kent site, something a company spokeswoman said is possible from other sortation centers.

The facilities enable Amazon to hold on to packages much farther down the delivery chain. In the past, Amazon might have shipped a DVD ordered by a Seattle shopper, for example, from its fulfillment center in Sumner, Wash. There, workers would have boxed the item and handed the package off to one of several carriers, such as UPS or FedEx.

Now, Amazon will put that DVD onto a truck that will bring it, along with tens of thousands of other packages on other trucks to this Kent site, generally within a day or so for items that are shipped two-day

Amazon workers, then, sort all the packages by ZIP codes, place them on pallets and deliver them to local post offices _for now, the new sortation centers will deliver only to U.S. Postal Service offices _ by 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. to arrive in that day's mail.

"We can control the packages much longer," Roth

And control is key for Amazon. Last holiday season,

"There's going to be very rapid growth in the next Amazon was singed by UPS shipping delays that left some customers without gifts under their Christmas trees. UPS acknowledged that it was unprepared for the volume of packages it received. Those delays led Amazon to refund shipping charges and offer customers a \$20 gift card.

> "A lot of e-commerce companies are pretty nervous about this holiday," said Robert W. Baird & Co. analyst Colin Sebastian. "Amazon being in more control over deliveries means there is less chance of one of its partners causing problems."

> Controlling packages longer is clearly important to Amazon. Roth wouldn't disclose the cost of building the 300,000 square-foot sortation centers, except to say that it's "quite an investment." By comparison, Sebastian estimates that the larger fulfillment centers cost at least \$100 million to build.

> Holding those packages longer could also help reduce Amazon's shipping costs, which climbed 31 percent in the first quarter to \$1.8 billion. Though Amazon won't disclose the financial arrangements of its deal with the Postal Service, it presumably pays less when it bypasses the Postal Service's sorting operations.

> The sortation centers make Amazon's already complex delivery system even more elaborate. Over the years, the company has developed algorithms to figure out the most optimal way to get orders, often containing multiple items shipped from different warehouses, to customers.

> While the sortation centers should make delivery even more efficient, it adds another layer of algorithmic intricacy to the process. Roth said developing the sortation centers has taken "a couple

"It's a milestone for us," Roth said.

The move pushes Amazon even farther into package delivery.

The company already delivers groceries and many other nongrocery items through its Amazon Fresh service, which is available in Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

And The Wall Street Journal reported in April that Amazon has been testing delivering items directly to customers, bypassing carriers such as the Postal Service altogether.

Deadline for Dan O'Hanlon Essay contest approaching

THE PARTHENON

The 2014 Marshall University Dan O'Hanlon Essay Competition deadline is July 30. Entries should be postmarked by that date.

The contest, started in 2009, is a way to promote scholarship related to the Constitution and simultaneously honor retired Cabell County Circuit Court Judge Dan O'Hanlon. Prior to his long career on the bench, Judge O'Hanlon served as professor and chair of the Marshall University Criminal Justice Department.

The topic of this year's contest is "Edward Snowden, Counter-terrorism and the National Security Agency: Does the Government's Collection of Telephone Metadata Violate our Fourth Amendment Rights? The Courts Do Not Agree."

First prize is \$1,000 and second prize is \$500.

Winning entries should demonstrate a thorough understanding of reasoning of each court's decision. All entries should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted on standard paper. Suggested length is 10-15 pages, but there is no required length or page limitation.

The contest is open to any Marshall student who will be enrolled full-time and in good academic standing by September.

Submit entries to Patricia Proctor, director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, at Marshall University, Old Main Room 230L, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. You can also email entries to patricia. proctor@marshall.edu.

Last year's winners were Laurel Anne Peace (first) and Adam Shaver (second). Winners will be recognized in a special awards ceremony dedicated to the Essay Competition as part of the celebration of Constitution Week in September.

For more information and essay background information, visit http:// www.marshall.edu/spc/ about-the-perry-center/.

House passes NASA budget with calls for manned flights to Mars By GREG GORDON

MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON

BUREAU (MCT)

With bipartisan support, the House of Representatives on Monday passed a bill authorizing \$17.6 billion in fiscal 2014 spending for U.S. space programs, roughly matching President Barack Obama's budget request and underscoring the nation's commitment to sending American astronauts into deep space.

"We are committed to once more launching American astronauts, on American rockets, from American soil,"

Republican Rep. Steven Palazzo of Mississippi, the chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, said on the House floor before passage.

The bill, he said, "will serve as a pathway to Mars."

After taking office, amid budget pressures from the financial crisis that had devastated the economy, Obama canceled the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Constellation program, an effort to modernize the aging space shuttle system, but plagued itself by delays and cost overruns.

The decision forced the United States to rely on the Russian Federal Space Agency to carry American astronauts to and from the International Space Station and to rely on commercial partners developing rockets for other missions.

However, neither Obama nor Congress abandoned human space flight. Rather, they required work on a nextgeneration system, the Space Launch System, a heavylift rocket launcher more

powerful than any built before, as well as on a new Orion spacecraft designed to take humans farther than they've ever gone before. The first mission integrating the two systems is scheduled for 2017.

While reinforcing those aspirations, the House bill passed Monday leaves to NASA the task of setting a road map for the next steps in space exploration.

The subcommittee's ranking Democrat, Maryland Rep. Donna Edwards, said that the bill "is indeed a bipartisan effort."

"It didn't start out that way," she said. "The nation should be glad it ended up that way."

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has yet to pass its version of a NASA reauthorization bill.



Tickets, sponsorships available for Paint the **Capital City Green**

THE PARTHENON

Individual tickets and corporate sponsorships are now available for Marshall University's 17th annual Paint the Capital City Green pep rally in Charleston Aug. 12 at the Embassy Suites hotel.

To order tickets or become a sponsor, call 304-696-7138 or email paintthecapital@marshall.edu. Individual tickets

are \$60 and will not be sold at the door. Ticket sales close Aug. 15.

Paint the Capital City Green is the nation's largest indoor pep rally for the Thundering Herd. Fans will enjoy a tailgate spread, entertainment by Marco, the cheerleading squad, dance team and the Marching Thunder.

Doc Holliday and his senior players will speak about the future of Marshall football.

Ticket holders will be entered into a drawing to win hotel accommodations and free admission to an away game.

Student-athlete program seeking tutors

THE PARTHENON

The Buck Harless Student-Athlete Program is now hiring academic tutors for all subjects.

Multiple part-time positions are available with pay and flexible hours to work around the tutors' schedule.

Visit the program's office in Gullickson Hall Room 210 or call 304-696-6302 for more information or to pick up an application.

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SPORTS





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Watch List



Rotary Lobmardi Award

Watch List
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Watch List



THE PARTHENON THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014 MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

— EDITORIAL —

Open W. Va. seat in Senate forces voters to make a tough choice

Elections are fast approaching and West Virginia voters have some decisions to make as far as their votes are concerned for a new member to the U.S. Senate to replace Senator Jay Rockefeller.

Democrats concerned with environmental issues might feel torn, considering their options.

Democratic candidate Natalie Tennant isn't the greatest representative of all West Virginian Democrats in terms of her stance on environment because she opposes the coal regulations proposed by President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Her coal and energy agenda, as outlined on her website,

reads: "Instead of working economy, and education will against West Virginia with reckless regulations that hurt coal jobs, Washington should work with West Virginia to bring new technologies to market that will keep coal strong."

While it does go on to say that she also supports the development of more environment-conscious energy sources like wind and solar, it seems clear that she doesn't want to move away from coal and natural gas to implement these but rather add them to our existing energy industry.

On the other hand, her policies regarding small business and education are likely on par with what voters want, so those concerned with environment, have to weigh these options carefully.

Republican candidate Shelley Moore Capito also has plans to fight Obama's coal regulations which her website says are part of his "anti-coal and anti-West Virginia agenda."

Unlike Tennant, Moore's campaign does not seem to include any plans to branch outside of coal and natural gas for our energy needs.

Considering the recent water crisis and its lingering affects on West Virginia, it seems that voters would be more concerned about coal regulations and the preservation of the state's environment as well as its citizens.

Those who want to cast a vote for environmentalism have little choice between Tennant and Capito who both take a pro-coal stance.

Mountain Party candidate Bob Henry Baber joined the race to be that voice for the environment.

Babar said in a recent interview that he doesn't expect to be elected, but he feels the need to run as a representative of environmental truth — which he says should be common sense.

Clearly, Moore and Tennant are the main contenders in the race, meaning it is highly likely that West Virginia will — for the first time — elect a woman to represent the state in the Senate.

Online Polls YOU CAN BE HERD

What is your favorite summer leisure activity?

Swimming Reading Playing video games

Voice your opinion. It is your right. Tweet us your answer at @MUParthenon.

COLUMN

Defining 'Voluntourism'

This is the sixth in a series of columns about Halie's experiences in Tanzania.

By HALIE PUTOREK

GUEST COLUMNIST

The term "voluntourism" is a relatively modern creation. While the two base words, volunteer and tourism, are familiar apart, they raise questions when placed together. At its core, "voluntourism" refers to the act of volunteering in some capacity while taking part in tourist-like activities. In a recent article, the idea surfaced that voluntourists actually do the communities they work in more harm than good. As "proof" of these problems, the article targets volunteers who take pictures while volunteering and accuses them of strictly trying to get the "perfect profile picture." This picture for their "humble and altruistic" actions.

Voluntourists have gained somewhat of a bad reputation in developing countries. Because some volunteers seem more focused on taking pictures and immersing themselves in the more interesting or happier aspects of their volunteer community, the service itself seems pointless. If one is not focused on a task wholeheartedly, the task might never get completed.

For example, while I have been in Tanzania, I have been teaching preschool children. One of the tasks I have is to teach them the English alphabet. In order to fully teach the children, however, I have to first and foremost keep their attention. I do not speak Swahili fluently, so I have to use the words I do know in a way that makes them want to pay attention to me. If I begin waving around a camera, not only are they now focused on the "mzungu's toy" (white person's toy), they are completely uninterested in learning the English alphabet.

Another reason voluntourists are sometimes considered ineffective as a whole is because they are generally unfamiliar with cultural norms in their area of service. Schools in Tanzania, for instance, allow corporal punishment. This is the act of physical punishment during school. Since voluntourists are often from developed areas of the world, their beliefs in punishment might clash with teachers at their volunteer placement. If a child cries in this country, teachers only punish the child more. Often, the child comforts him or herself.

I am considered a voluntourist. However, I have taken strides to insure that represents the volunteer's my work here is of good drive to receive recognition quality. I am trying to learn the local language, under stand the local culture and teach a language I was lucky enough to be taught from birth. I want the children I work with to have a fighting chance in a country where the majority of children do not make it past secondary school. That being said, I have absolutely taken pictures and I am unashamed of this fact. I want to have reminders of the people and community that have changed my life.

> If you are interested in volunteering, do not be discouraged by the negative remarks concerning voluntourism. There is no better way to learn about a culture than by immersing oneself in both volunteer activities as well as tourist attractions. If at all possible, go into the experience knowing that more people will benefit from service if one attempts to keep the experiences and adventures somewhat separate.

Halie Putorek can be contacted at putorek@ live.marshall.edu or visit her blog at haliewanders. wordpress.com.

GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



NATIONAL EDITORIAL

The FDA cracks down on e-cigarettes

Chicago Tribune (MCT)

Fifty years ago, the U.S. surgeon general issued a landmark report warning Americans of the profound health risks from smoking cigarettes. Millions of Americans eventually quit; millions more tried to quit. Many wished they had been warned decades earlier.

On Thursday the federal government moved to control a new, higher tech smoking risk. The federal Food and Drug Administration proposed a sweeping set of rules to crack down on what officials called the "wild west" of electronic cigarettes.

E-cigarettes are batterypowered cylinders that heat up nicotine-infused liquids to create vapor. The e-cigarette smoker inhales — some of these devices even mimic a cigarette with a glowing light at the tip — and then puffs out a white mist.

The proposed FDA rules focus, rightly, on two areas:

Children and public awareness. The FDA proposes to ban

the sale of e-smokes to anyone under age 18. E-cigarette manufacturers would be required to divulge the ingredients in their products. That will help researchers and potential smokers to better understand the risks e-cigarettes pose to

The debate is still simmering about the dangers of e-cigarettes. Unlike traditional cigarettes, e-smokes do not contain tobacco or some of the other harmful chemicals proven to cause cancer. So ecigs may be less harmful that traditional cigarettes, and could help smokers trying to quit.

But there is mounting evidence that electronic cigarettes pose significant health risks. One recent, preliminary study concluded that the nicotinelaced vapor "promoted the development of cancer in certain types of human cells much in the same way that tobacco smoke does," The New York Times reported. Another study found chemicals such as formaldehyde and acetone in

exhaled e-cig vapor.

Meanwhile, more young people are being drawn to the product. The National Youth Tobacco Survey found last year that 1 in 10 high schoolers had tried "vaping," as it is known. That was double the number in the previous year. That number is likely rising, to the alarm of public health experts who say the dangers of e-cigarettes are still far from established.

The FDA is currently funding dozens of studies on the scientific and public health risks of e-cigarettes, Mitch Zeller, director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, told reporters Thursday. "We don't know enough now to say anything remotely definitive" about those risks, he said. "We can't even tell you what the compounds

are in the vapors." That will likely change through the FDA proposal to require manufacturers to divulge ingredients and provide scientific evidence to substantiate claims that e-cigs are safer than regular ones. Under the FDA

proposal, e-cigarettes would carry a warning label, just as regular cigarettes do.

Another important question to be answered: Are e-cigarettes a gateway to tobacco use? Some manufacturers target young people by marketing e-cigarettes in fruit and candy flavors. A recent congressional report on e-cigarette marketing found that major producers target young people by giving away free samples at music and sporting events. The FDA ruling would ban the distribution of free samples, but allow makers to continue their advertising and market as they see fit.

The FDA is taking a sound approach with its focus on curtailing e-cigarette sales to youngsters, warning adults about the dangers, and promoting more research.

If you're tempted to vape, understand what we know and don't know about the risks. Tough federal scrutiny now will help clear away confusion so millions of Americans one day won't regret their choice.

The Parthenon

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

> 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.

TAYLOR STUCK **EXECUTIVE EDITOR** stuck7@marshall.edu

JOCELYN GIBSON MANAGING EDITOR gibson243@marshall.edu

GEOFFREY FOSTER NEWS EDITOR foster147@marshall.edu

ADAM ROGERS SPORTS EDITOR rogers112@marshall.edu

MEGAN OSBORNE LIFE! EDITOR osborne115@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK **FACULTY ADVISER** sandy.york@marshall.edu

ment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the

editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space

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Please keep letters to the edi-

tor at 300 words or fewer. They

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The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.

Please send news releases to the editors at parthenon@ marshall.edu. Please keep in mind, letters are printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space.

page designed and edited by JOCELYN GIBSON | gibson243@marshall.edu

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STARTING FROM SCRATCH

Local restaurant starts fresh to create a new image



By GEOFFREY FOSTER

THE PARTHENON

For more than two decades, the business located at 1318 Fourth Ave. went through an ever-changing roulette wheel of names, from The Drop Shop to The Thirsty Whale. Regardless of its colorful array of titles, however, it has always been exclusively a nightclub, rarely branching out beyond its rigidly constrained formula of alcohol and live music. At least that was true before 2013, when owner/opera- when you were a kid and your parents got upset when you didn't eat tor Mackie Robertson closed The Thirsty Whale and started from

The result is The Huntington Ale House.

The restaurant still serves alcohol and features live entertainment like its predecessors, but it is also a full service restaurant, serving food all day. Additionally, the bar serves 90 varieties of beer from all over the world, 17 of which are available on tap.

Robertson, who has owned the building since 2007, said a change of style was something he had been working on for a long time.

"The nightclub scene in Huntington has changed a lot," Robertson said. "It attracts a rough crowd now and we just didn't want to be a part of that anymore. We wanted to be more involved with the community. We started to toss around the idea of a change about two years ago. I wanted to be open all day, to serve food and to get away from the nightclub scene completely. A lot of people go out during the day now; they don't go out after 10 or 11 o'clock anymore. So, it was a matter of both personal and financial interest to serve food and be open during the day."

The restaurant's menu, designed by Robertson himself, includes appetizers, sandwiches, burgers, steaks, chicken and seafood. Since the re-opening, the menu items have gained a great deal of popularity. Robertson said he believes it is the quality of the food that has

garnered such positive feedback.

"A lot of our sauces and seasonings are homemade," Robertson said. "Our steaks are hand cut daily. Our burgers, unlike some other places, are hand pressed. Our breads are bought locally. A lot of our entrees are homemade as well. I think that makes a big difference. We got more compliments on the food than anything else, which is satisfying for me since they are all my recipes. You might remember the food they made for you; well, I can really appreciate that now."

The menu also features regular specials, such as 99 cent sliders all day and half price appetizers everyday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Another menu feature is Lunch To Go, a delivery service between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Robertson also said that he is hoping to include a brunch menu, possibly by the time fall semester begins, which could include items such as steak and eggs, pancakes and

Although the menu may be the main attraction at the moment, the establishment offers live entertainment for the night crowd as

"We have open mike night Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.," Robertson said. "The first six acts that sign up and play before 10 p.m. receive a \$20 tab towards their food and drinks. We also feature live music fairly consistently, especially on Fridays."

Recent acts to play the venue have included Travis Egnor & The Horse Traders, G-Snacks, Sound Alliance and Nick Dittmeir.

One of the more popular events at The Ale House last year, which has been absent of late, was a weekly movie showing.

"We plan on bringing the movie showings back," Robertson said. "When we first opened up during the holidays, we were brand new and trying to break the feel of the Thirsty Whale by not featuring any dance music whatsoever. One of our solutions to that was the movies. They started to catch on, but after we quit doing them, we got everybody wanting us to bring them back. So, we are working on getting our seating upgraded, so we can bring the movies back once a week, very much like a cinema cafe."

However, Robertson said that one of his key goals in re-inventing

nis business was to become a greater part of the community. "We are trying to serve the community to a greater extent and become involved with the city more," Robertson said. "All things Huntington—that's why we call ourselves The Huntington Ale House. We want to attract a more mature, local crowd in the city and Marshall University as well."

The Huntington Ale House is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Geoffrey Foster can be contacted at foster147@marshall.

The main dining room of Huntington Ale House. The restaurant now features open mic nights and other entertainment instead of dance music to separate it from the nightclub scene.

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page designed and edited by MEGAN OSBORNE 1 osborne115@marshall.edu