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The Parthenon, March 26, 2015

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THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015 | VOL. 118 NO. 107 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

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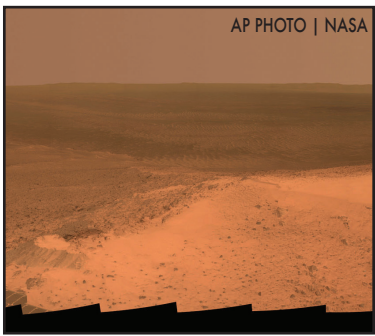
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TODAY'S WEATHER:

PROVIDED BY MARSHALL UNIVERSITY METEOROLOGY STUDENTS

Meteorology Thursday
www.marshall.edu/met

Morning Cloudy with Scattered Showers		56
Afternoon Cloudy, Breezy, Some Sun		69
Night Rain Showers and Thunderstorms		41

forecast provided by Student Meteorologist Bradley Wells & Joseph Fitzwat

THEY COME RUNNIN' JUST AS FAST AS THEY CAN...

to see ZZ Top take the Big Sandy stage

By **SOFIE WACHTMEISTER**
THE PARTHENON

American rock group ZZ Top will take the Big Sandy Superstore Arena stage 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The southern rock and blues trio from Texas last performed at the Big Sandy eight years ago.

The band consists of Billy Gibbons, Frank Beard and Dusty Hill. Ironically, Beard is the only member of the group who does not don the recognizable long beard and sunglasses like the other members do.

ZZ Top will perform its hits ranging from the '60s through its most recent album released in 2012, "La Futura."

Cara Hedrick, marketing and sales manager at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena, said she expects a big crowd.

"We've had a really good response to this show on our social media pages," Hedrick said. "We think it's going to be a good mix of people. I've talked to people in their 20's all the way up to their 60's. The band really reaches across the board."

The band is set to release its greatest hits collection this summer titled "The Baddest of ZZ Top."

Hedrick said there are limited tickets left for purchase.

"I would encourage anyone who wants tickets to get those now," Hedrick said. "We hope to have a sold out house."

Tickets begin at \$49.50 and are available for purchase through the Big Sandy Superstore Arena or online.

Sofie Wachtmeister can be contacted at wachtmeister@marshall.edu.



Dusty Hill, left, and Billy Gibbons, right and above, of the band ZZ Top perform in concert at The Electric Factory March 14 in Philadelphia.

PHOTOS BY OWEN SWEENEY | INVISION | AP



JOB FAIR BRINGS OPPORTUNITY TO CAMPUS



Shelby Paxton, human resource associate at BrickStreet, speaks with Mirissa Roles, junior, during Job-A-Palooza, the Career Services part-time job and internship fair Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center.

LEXI BROWNING | THE PARTHENON

Huntington debuts Restaurant Week, Final Friday Art Crawl

"It really gives an opportunity to showcase the vitality of our downtown, the heart of our community." -KEVIN CRAIG

By **LEXI BROWNING**
THE PARTHENON

The inaugural Restaurant Week begins Friday, and nine restaurants in Huntington are working with the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce to showcase the city's finest meals.

Customers are invited to partake in three-course lunches for \$10 with Jim's Steak & Spaghetti House, the Marshall Hall of Fame Café, River and

Rail Bakery and UNO Chicago Grill.

Three-course dinner options for the week include 21 at the Frederick, Black Sheep Burrito & Brews, Le Bistro, Prime on 4th, Savannah's Restaurant and UNO Chicago Grill for a fixed rate of \$35.

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams said Restaurant Week will set Huntington apart and has contributed to giving the city the most innovative downtown for at least 100 miles.

"Each of [the events] are new to the area and certainly help us make sure that we're promoting downtown in a way that we haven't been able to do before," Williams said. "The opportunity for Restaurant Week is pretty special in Huntington."

Williams also announced the debut of the Final Friday Art Crawl, a second event series that will blend both

See **HUNTINGTON** | Page 5

Profile, ad for MU president released

By **AMY NAPIER**
THE PARTHENON

The Association of Governing Boards search firm released the advertisement and profile for the position of Marshall University's 37th president.

AGB consultants visited Marshall's campus earlier in the semester and offered an open-forum session to better understand what the university is looking for in its next leader.

The advertisement and profile said the new president should exhibit great leadership qualities, possess creative thinking skills and uphold high integrity.

The search firm is currently accepting applications and nominations until April 10.

Ginny Painter, senior vice president for communications and marketing, said the documents are posted in scholarly magazines such as the Chronicle of Higher Education, Hispanics in Higher Education and Women in Higher Education.

"Our goal is still to have somebody on by the start of the 2015 fall semester," Painter said. "It is an aggressive scene, but everyone is happy that it's moving along schedule accordingly."

Once the search firm has reviewed all the candidates, it will provide Marshall's search committee with a suited pool of applicants.

See **PRESIDENT** | Page 5

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MARCH PARTHENON

Jason Miller Performs for Jazz Series Finale

By **KAITLYN CLAY**
THE PARTHENON

Trombonist Jason Miller performed Wednesday with Marshall University faculty to end the Guest Artist Series at the Jomie Jazz Center.

Miller was a professor in the past and is a composer who writes all of his own music.

Miller has a history with jazz music and has played numerous shows across the Hudson Valley and New York City.

Miller played his favorite songs during the set before playing his own.

"It's turning out to be a night of playing all my favorite songs," Miller said. "I promise we will get to the ones I wrote eventually. I just can't seem to stray from some of my all time favorites."

Alicia Downard, a Huntington resident, said she loves coming to the jazz series.

"I love coming for all the jazz shows," Downard said. "Jazz has always been one of my favorite genres so I love being able to have access to new musicians with this series of performers."

Miller was accompanied by Zach Arbogast on the piano, Steve Heffner on the bass and Rod Elkins on the drum.

Miller recently finished recording on West Point Jazz Knight's album and Miller's personal music can be found on Spotify and other music streaming services.

The artist series finished its jazz showcase and will continue with senior showcases to end the spring season.

Kaitlyn Clay can be contacted at clay122@marshall.edu.



Trombonist Jason Miller, left, performs Wednesday at the Jomie Jazz Center to close out the Guest Artist Series.

KAITLYN CLAY | THE PARTHENON

SURE program offers research opportunities to Marshall undergrads

By **PATRICK BREEDEN**
THE PARTHENON

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program will provide research funding for 11 Marshall University undergraduate students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics this summer.

Marshall Chemistry Professor Michael Norton said 17 students applied to receive \$4,000 in funding for summer research.

Applicants are expected to have a background in research with a faculty member, and a member of faculty will act as the researcher's mentor for the duration of the program.

The program is a way for students to continue research projects with faculty members by receiving funding.

Norton said researchers of many different fields are encouraged to apply.

"We should have engineers applying," Norton said. "Anyone from the college of science, psychology is a [National Science Foundation] subject area, and other NSF subjects related to STEM."

Norton said the program is designed for students who plan to pursue graduate or doctoral degrees.

"[Applicants] should be students who plan to become Ph.Ds in the future," Norton said. "We are hoping that some of those Ph.D students plan to remain in state."

Research for the SURE program will be conducted from May 18 to July 31.

Participants are barred from enrolling in other courses or maintaining weekday employment during the program's 10 weeks.

The students who did research last year performed studies in the fields of biology, chemistry, physical geography and geology. Topics ranged from the statistical modeling of hurricane frequency and severity to the effects of high fructose corn syrup on adult neural stem cells.

Brain drain—or the relocation of educated people from their original locations—is a concern for Norton. He said it is acceptable for a student to earn a Ph.D. outside of West Virginia, but he hopes he or she returns after his or her degrees are completed.

Students are encouraged by faculty members to apply for the SURE program, but Norton said he would like to see students engaged in research decide to join the program on their own.

The SURE program is funded by the West Virginia Research Challenge fund. Funding is administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Division of Science and Research. The program is also available at other state universities like West Virginia University.

Patrick Breeden can be contacted at breeden16@marshall.edu.

Vietnam veteran gets dying wish to visit Pearl Harbor



Joseph Hooker, a terminally ill Vietnam veteran, sits in a wheelchair and looks at the spot on the battleship USS Missouri where Japan surrendered in 1945 during a tour with his brother Lester Hooker, center standing.

AP PHOTO | JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

By **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When a Vietnam veteran briefly stopped in Hawaii on his way home from war, he vowed to return one day to honor the people who perished during the attack on Pearl Harbor. With just less than two months to live, Joseph Hooker realized his longtime dream on Wednesday.

The Marine Corps veteran, who has heart disease and cancer, traveled from his home in Essex, Maryland, to Honolulu to visit the site of the Japanese attack that pushed the United States into World War II. The Dream Foundation, which grants wishes for those who have life expectancies of a year or less, arranged for the journey.

Hooker's brother and sister-in-law, who are his caregivers, took turns pushing him in a wheelchair as they went on a private tour of the battleship USS Missouri.

The Hawaii dream stems from a 20-minute stop in the islands in 1971 as Hooker headed home from Vietnam, Hooker said from his Waikiki hotel room Tuesday. He was let off the ship just long enough to make a phone call to his family and eat some ice cream. He promised to come back someday "to honor the men and women that gave their life at Pearl Harbor."

More than four decades later, Hooker visited the spot where Japan surrendered on the deck of the USS Missouri and got a rare peek inside the captain's cabin. "I've never seen a battleship like this before," he said.

The Dream Foundation's new program, Dreams for Veterans, made Hooker's wish possible. In applying, Hooker wrote a letter saying that he longed to visit Pearl Harbor to "learn, touch and understand what happened there."

In the letter, he described voluntarily enlisting in the Marine Corps when he was 17, saying, "My heart was telling me that I was a Marine and that I was going to work hard and train to be the best."

Veterans often see Pearl Harbor as a symbol of why they served in the military, said Jessie Higa, a volunteer historian for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, who accompanied the Hookers on their tour. "They served to serve those before them," she said.

The decorated veteran moved up through the ranks to become a sergeant.

"My dream was to see Pearl Harbor," Hooker said while resting in the Missouri's captain's cabin — a location where presidents have visited. "I can go home now and rest in peace."

Second-graders to interview Marshall students

By **CAITLIN FOWLKES**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University will have two second-grade classes from Peyton Elementary visiting 9:30 a.m. Friday to interview students from the Society of Black Scholars.

This trip was scheduled Feb. 20 for a Black History Month case study, but was rescheduled due to snow days.

Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of Intercultural Affairs, said around 20 black scholars originally volunteered to be interviewed. Due to the cancelation and busy schedules of the scholars, seven scholars and one other student are being interviewed.

Barbara Maynard, program director of the June Harless Center, said

the elementary school students were studying famous African-Americans during Black History Month and asked to borrow books from Marshall.

The students were looking for famous African-Americans specifically from West Virginia for their case studies when the idea of interviewing the Society of Black Scholar students was created.

"Right now they are doing a case study in order to provide students with role models of as many ethnicities, genders and occupations as possible," Maynard said. "They also want to highlight the role of African-Americans in our community."

The Marshall student will be grouped with two to three children who will ask

the Marshall student three questions each about any struggles or obstacles the student has faced in their life being a minority.

The elementary students will ask the Marshall students questions pertaining to his or her strengths and accomplishments.

The students will tour the John Deaver Drinko Library and take a class picture in front of the John Marshall statue.

The interviews will follow in Corbly Hall and Marshall's golf coach will show the children how to putt before they leave campus.

"I think it will be amazing for the second-graders to have an opportunity to be on campus and see that opportunity

is there for them, that they can go to college," Maynard said. "I think in interviewing the students, particularly about any challenges they've had in their life, these children may have had challenges as well or may face challenges and will be able to have a mentor that's overcome those challenges."

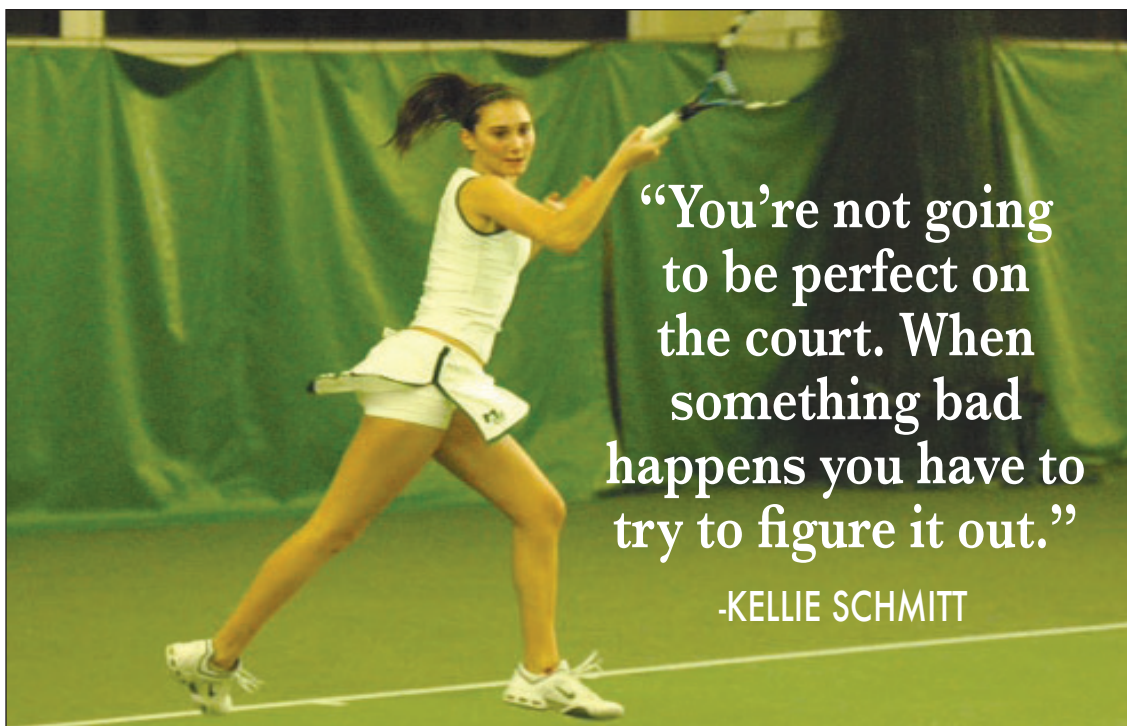
The June Harless Center, College of Education and Professional Development, Cabell County Schools, Peyton Elementary principle Ryan McKenzie, Peyton Elementary teachers Stephanie Cade and Melanie Grobe, Maurice Cooley and the Society of Black Scholars worked together to plan this event.

Caitlin Fowlkes can be contacted at fowlkes2@marshall.edu.

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SPORTS

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“You’re not going to be perfect on the court. When something bad happens you have to try to figure it out.”

-KELLIE SCHMITT

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Seasoned tennis star continues career as Herd coach

By KASEY MADDEN
THE PARTHENON

The assistant coach for Marshall University's tennis team Kellie Schmitt traveled in 2005 from Pittsburgh to begin her tennis career at Marshall University.

Schmitt started at Marshall as an accounting major, but later switched to exercise science.

“When I was here playing, I was either going to try to play afterwards or I was going to coach,” Schmitt said. “I mean I’ve been playing since I was six, so I feel like it’s just been a part of my life.”

Schmitt's tennis career at Marshall is filled with records, victories and national tournaments.

She currently holds three records at the university for career singles victories, career singles winning percentage and career overall victories.

Schmitt's record for career overall victories is 236, securing that spot by 38 wins from the number two spot.

Schmitt played number two singles and number one doubles as a freshman but from her sophomore year on, she played number one in both.

“I never thought coming into Marshall I was going to do as well,” Schmitt said.

Schmitt was named player of the year in C-USA from 2007 to 2009.

She received the honor of C-USA player of the month four times and C-USA player of the week 10 times.

Schmitt was first team C-USA All-Conference singles all four of her years and first team C-USA All-Conference doubles in 2009 with teammate Karolina Soor.

In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Schmitt's doubles team was recognized as the doubles team of the C-USA Championship with Lynzee Kever in 2006-2007 and Soor in 2009.

Schmitt had the opportunity to travel to

various tournaments including the Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American Championships from 2006-2008 and the NCAA Intercollegiate Indoor Championship.

“I mean seriously, I had one of the best experiences ever,” Schmitt said.

In spring 2009, Schmitt was the No. 1 ranked singles player in the East Atlantic region. Her highest national singles ranking was 19 in January 2007 and highest national doubles ranking was 14 in September 2008 with Soor.

Schmitt was the Intercollegiate Tennis Association East Region's player to watch in 2008 and received the Dr. Dorothy Hicks Female Student-Athlete of the Year Award in 2008 and 2009.

Schmitt's accolades set the bar high for her players, and she said she tries to guide the players based on her experience.

“I try to help people, like get the best out of them because I had so much help growing up,” Schmitt said. “I try to pass that to the girls a little bit.”

Schmitt said coaching is harder than playing, but she continues to do so in her third year at Marshall.

Schmitt said tennis has taught her to overcome adversity on and off the court.

“I feel like just the adversity part is huge,” Schmitt said. “Again, you're not going to be perfect on the court and in life when something bad happens you have to try to figure it out.”

Schmitt said having the support of coaches over the years has helped her especially head coach John Mercer and his wife Laurie.

“Them, and having Marshall in general, just having that support made me want to work even harder to help the program,” Schmitt said.

Kasey Madden can be contacted at madden24@marshall.edu.

Herd women's golf prepares to tee off in Maryland

By KASEY MADDEN
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University women's golf team tees off in Maryland Sunday through Monday for the Hoya Invitational in Beallsville, Maryland.

The Hoya Invitational is the Herd's second tournament of 2015.

The Herd played in the 3M Jaguar Invitational in Augusta, Georgia March 13-15 and placed 11th overall.

Senior Korakot Simsiriwong led the team, finishing 14th individually.

“It felt great to kind of improve,” Simsiriwong said. “I really knew that I had a lot more potential than that and honestly, I knew that I could finish a whole lot better.”

Simsiriwong said it was her goal to finish in the top five or top 10, but the tournament was a learning experience.

Head coach Tiffany Prats said despite the team's high expectations going into the Jaguar Invitational, the team did not perform as well as they hoped.

The winter weather that hit Huntington going into March prevented the team from practicing outside until this week.

The team plans to practice outside every day this week for the first time this semester to prepare for the Hoya Invitational.

“One thing we're lacking is that competitiveness right

now because we haven't been outside,” Prats said. “So we're going to create some matches this week but still have fun and be serious and get ready.”

The tournament is hosted by Georgetown University. Last season, the Herd finished seventh out of 16 in the tournament.

“Georgetown's still a really good team” Prats said, “they're having a great year, but if we don't finish I'd say top three there, it will be really disappointing.”

Simsiriwong said the team has a lot to work on this season.

“We know how well we can play and are working hard to accomplish that goal of ours and honestly just finish great ranking in a tournament or individual finish,” Simsiriwong said.

Prats started as head coach for the Herd in July 2014 and said this season is exciting.

“You can see the culture of the team changing every day, from just walking around with everyone on campus to competing,” Prats said. “It's a different team that shows up from when we showed up for our first event in the fall. We were just kind of there and not really sure where we fit in and now when we go to tournaments, we expect to compete.”

Kasey Madden can be contacted at madden24@marshall.edu.



Senior Korakot Simsiriwong takes a swing Sunday at the 3M Jaguar Intercollegiate at Forest Hills Golf Club in Augusta, GA.

HERDZONE PHOTO

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OPINION

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

THE PARTHENON

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the 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.

BE HERD: GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

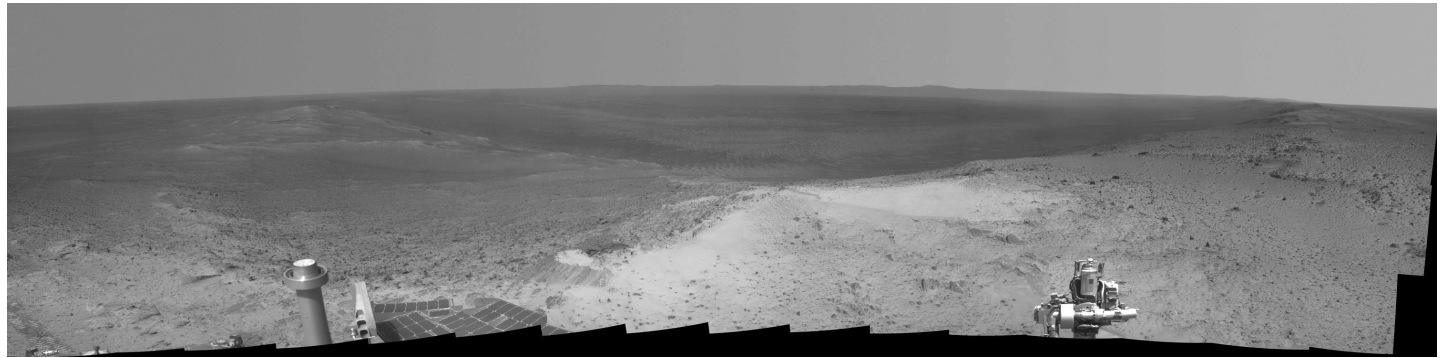
Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

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.

EDITORIAL



This Jan. 6 panorama provided by NASA of a Martian hilltop was taken by the NASA rover Opportunity. The space agency said Tuesday Opportunity completed a marathon on Mars by driving over 26 miles. NASA | AP

Never to return again

Permanent colony could be established on Mars by 2027

As we look ahead to a future that involves the colonization of other planets, Mars has become the agreed-upon destination for this endeavor.

NASA has already begun work on Orion, a spacecraft designed for the specific purpose of sending men farther into space than ever before, with Mars looming in the distance as the program's eventual destination. Orion has already been space tested, with another test flight to occur in the near future.

The earliest launch date for the spacecraft is sometime in 2021, with Mars colonization planned for the 2030's.

In response to the Orion program, Dutch entrepreneur Bas Lansdorp announced the Mars One mission in 2012, a one-way trip with the bold goal of establishing a permanent colony on Mars by 2027. Now partnered with aerospace giant Lockheed Martin Space Systems, the Mars One team is in the process of choosing the 100 people from around the world who will take the

seven-month trip to the red planet. Once launched, these chosen people will never set foot on Earth again.

Once on Mars, the colonists must be successful in maintaining a colony in a hostile and isolated environment.

be established practically, rather than on paper.

We should instead focus on building a colony on the moon as a test run for Mars. In that way, we can iron out any unforeseen problems that might occur from otherworldly colonization.

We can refine building materials that will work, perform equipment tests and essentially learn how to colonize a foreign world before blindly setting out to a planet from which we can never return.

We can make several trips back and forth to the moon as needed to refine and improve the colony, or to shuttle colonists back and forth. And if something goes wrong on the moon colony, help is only a few days away, rather than non-existent.

Through this method, humans can become adept at colonizing another world, learn what will work, what will not work and use that knowledge to ensure that the trip to Mars has a far greater chance of success than it has now. In that way, the next great leap for mankind has far less chance of failure.

We should instead focus on building a colony on the moon as a test run for Mars. In that way, we can iron out any unforeseen problems that might occur from otherworldly colonization.

Although NASA's plan is far less ambitious than the Mars One mission, both have the same destination. Although it is exciting to imagine man might establish a colony on another planet in just 12 years, it is also a dangerous prospect.

They are going to another world with no lifeline connecting them to Earth, and no chance of help should something go wrong.

It seems more prudent to put the colonization of Mars on hold until the practice of world colonization can

COLUMN

Top 5 places to visit in Huntington

By **BRI SHELTON**
COLUMNIST

As a native Huntingtonian, I'm always proud to brag on our city and tell my fellow Marshall University classmates where the best places to go are around here. Below is a list I constructed of what I believe to be the five best spots to go and see.

1. Fat Patty's

Does this even need a paragraph to explain why this is a definite place to visit in Huntington? Fat Patty's is by far one of the best restaurants here and somewhere everyone needs to eat. Their cheeseburgers are to die for, and they have a burger that caters to the tastes of everyone practically. As a short walk from campus, this eatery is a go-to for a quick dinner or a Friday night hang-out with friends.

2. Spring Hill Cemetery Marshall Memorial

The fountain at the Memorial Student Center isn't the only place in Huntington where the 1970 plane crash is honored. There is another site at Spring Hill Cemetery, which is located about a mile from the university. If you start out at the stadium and follow 20th Street, you eventually come to a hill that leads to the cemetery. There are signs from there

that guide you to the memorial. Once inside, you'll see a statue with the list of names of those who perished in the crash along with the graves of seven members of the team. This is

a specific locale to see in Huntington, especially as a member of the Marshall community.

3. Beech Fork

If you're looking for a weekend of fun and sun, Beech Fork

is definitely the place to go. They have a bit of everything in terms of outdoor galore with activities ranging from fishing, camping and even hiking. Whether you want a weekend

trip involving a tent and some friends or a day out at a lake, this is somewhere to check out and visit.

4. The Pottery Place

Art skills or not, this is a place

where no judgment is passed on skills or abilities. They welcome everyone to come in and paint a tile, owl, or any other ceramic project they offer. The Pottery Place has multiple locations, but the closest one to campus is at Pullman Square. So when the creativity strikes, grab a friend and make your trek here. It takes about a week for the kiln to fire and finish your work, but then you have an Über cool decoration to add to your dorm or apartment.

5. Camden Park

Want a reminder of childhood and all things amusement parks? If so, I highly recommend making the drive out to this wonderful place. It may be geared more toward the younger generation, but there are several rides to enjoy and food favorites. The park is located in the Kenova-Ceredo area, and opens officially May 2.

In other words, get out there! Find some favorite places of your own and make some memories. There's a lot that Huntington and the surrounding areas offer in terms of food and recreation you can't find by staying on Marshall's campus.

Bri Shelton can be contacted at shelton76@marshall.edu.



Children visit the Healing Field, a memorial for those who died Sept. 11, 2001, the 1970 Marshall plane crash victims and veterans of the armed forces Sept. 10, 2014 in Spring Hill Cemetery.

LEXI BROWNING | THE PARTHENON

Mining for tourists? A dubious economic savior in Appalachia

By JONATHAN DREW and ALLEN G. BREED
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mines built this company town. Could vines — the wine grapes growing on a former strip mine in the hills above — help to draw visitors here?

Jack and Sandra Looney sure hope so.

Their Highland Winery — housed in the lovingly restored, mustard-yellow “company store” — pays tribute to coal-mining’s history here, as do their signature wines: Blood, Sweat and Tears.

“The Coal Miner’s Blood sells more than any of them,” Jack Looney says of the sweet red.

He and his wife have converted the store’s second and third floors into a bed and breakfast. They’ve also bought and restored a couple dozen of the old coal company houses as rentals, and rooms fill up during their annual spring Miner’s Memorial Festival.

Seco, like so many Central Appalachian communities, owes its existence to coal — its very name an acronym for South East Coal Company. But as mining wanes, officials across the region are looking for something to replace the traditional jobs and revenues.

In some of the poorest, most remote counties, about the only alternative people can come up with is tourism — eco-, adventure, or, as with the Looneys,

historical and cultural. There are mining museums, festivals, wilderness adventures. Sub-regions have been rechristened with alluring names like the Hatfield-McCoy Mountains or the PA Wilds.

Will it work? Proponents point to the region’s assets, its natural beauty, its distinctive mountain character — and characters (like the feuding Hatfields and McCoys). But others note the paradoxes: Environmental degradation alongside unspoiled areas, a history of poor education that for decades didn’t preclude high-paying jobs, an away-from-it-all feel partly caused by a lack of good roads and other infrastructure.

There’s a gap between desires and infrastructure in many areas hoping to develop tourism, says University of Tennessee researcher Tim Ezzell. “We have community colleges that will teach you to be an X-ray tech, but they don’t have culinary arts,” he said.

For all but a lucky few places with both assets and access, recent studies and spending data suggest, tourism may be a dubious savior.

“It’s kind of really odd that economic practitioners push tourism to be a propulsive industry when it has such low wages,” says Suzanne Galloway, an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro

“It’s not a panacea,” adds tourism consultant Carole Morris. “It’s not going to be that cure-all.”

Appalachia covers 205,000 square miles, encompassing 420 counties in 13 states, from northeast Mississippi to southwest New York, according to the official definition offered by the Appalachian Regional Commission. West Virginia is the only state wholly included.

The region includes many cities and has a range of industries. But many areas in Central Appalachia are at an economic crossroads, as mining and logging give way to services jobs.

Sociologist Rebecca Scott, author of a book on mountaintop removal in her native West Virginia, says, “It’s important to really point out the situation of the state being caught between the condition of being an extraction economy, a sacrifice zone, and yet having most of its sort of long-term successes in tourism being around nature-based tourism. I think that it’s a really big contradiction.”

Galloway, who did her doctoral thesis on tourism development in the region, found that while tourism and hospitality accounted for 16 percent of all jobs in the region, those sectors produced just 7 percent of the wages.

“I think tourism can always be part of a diverse economy,” says Galloway, who teaches at UNCG’s Bryan School for

Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality. “But I wouldn’t put all of my eggs in that basket, no matter who you are.”

A look at some tourism initiatives around the region shows challenges as well as successes.

A 2012 report compiled for the Mountain State’s Division of Tourism found that spending and hospitality employment have been slow to grow in many counties.

A glaring exception was Harrison County, where direct tourism spending has more than doubled since 2004 — to \$142 million — and hospitality employment has increased by more than 50 percent. But those numbers can be deceiving.

Many rooms in the area’s hotels are being occupied by workers drilling in the nearby Marcellus shale formation, as coal has been replaced by hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas, says county commission president Ron Watson.

According to the economic report, tourism-related jobs in the Hatfield-McCoy Mountains — the marketing label for a cluster of coal-producing counties — actually dropped from 1,400 to 1,300 from 2004 to 2012.

Another area that includes the New River Gorge and the Greenbrier resort shed 700 tourism-related jobs during the period, the report shows.

PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

Painter said the committee will select five to eight candidates from that pool, and then invite them for off-campus interviews.

“Out of those interviews, we should hopefully have two

or three serious candidates that we will invite to campus,” Painter said. “Their names and identities will likely be revealed at this point.”

The complete profile and advertisement are available online.

Amy Napier can be contacted at napier168@live.marshall.edu.

HUNTINGTON

Continued from page 1

artists and businesses into monthly experiences.

The series begins 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday and will occur on the last Friday of every month until October.

Participating businesses for the inaugural Art Crawl include Empire Books, Holiday Inn & Suites, Huntington’s Kitchen, Mug & Pia, Prime on 4th, Pullman Plaza Hotel and Uniquely Huntington.

Each business will host local visual or performing artists, making each encounter unique.

Kevin Craig, chair of the HRCC board of directors, said both Restaurant Week and the Art Crawl series made Huntington a destination for new and veteran customers.

“These two events are perfect for the Chamber to promote because they showcase our great Chamber retail businesses, our local artists, the excellent food in Huntington,” Craig said. “It really gives an opportunity to showcase the vitality of our downtown, the heart of our community.”

According to Craig, the Chamber serves 500 businesses throughout the tri-state region, and in 2014, the organization made an effort to add more programming for small businesses.

Craig said helping small businesses succeed and grow was

the primary goal of the HRCC.

“Statistics tell us that small businesses are responsible for a majority of the private workforce jobs and provide the charm and the uniqueness to our community,” Craig said. “By partnering with the city of Huntington, the Cabell County Commission and other small business services, our goal is being achieved.”

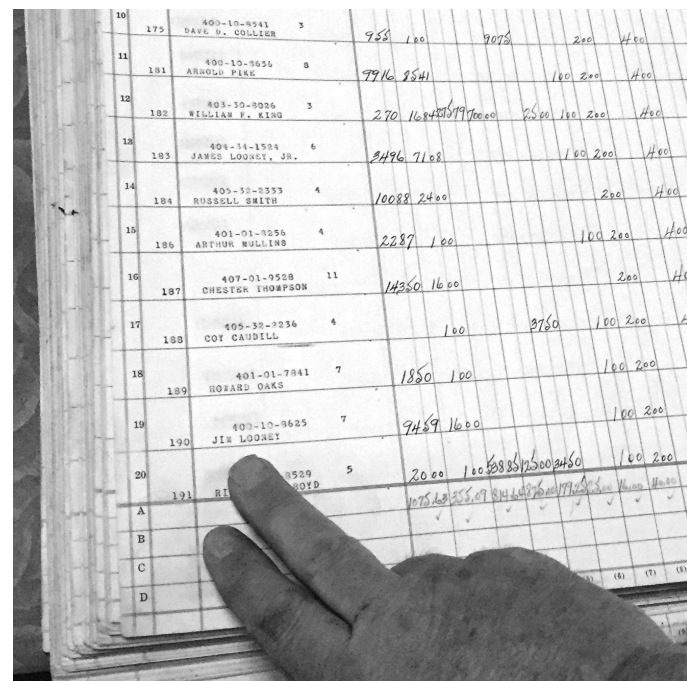
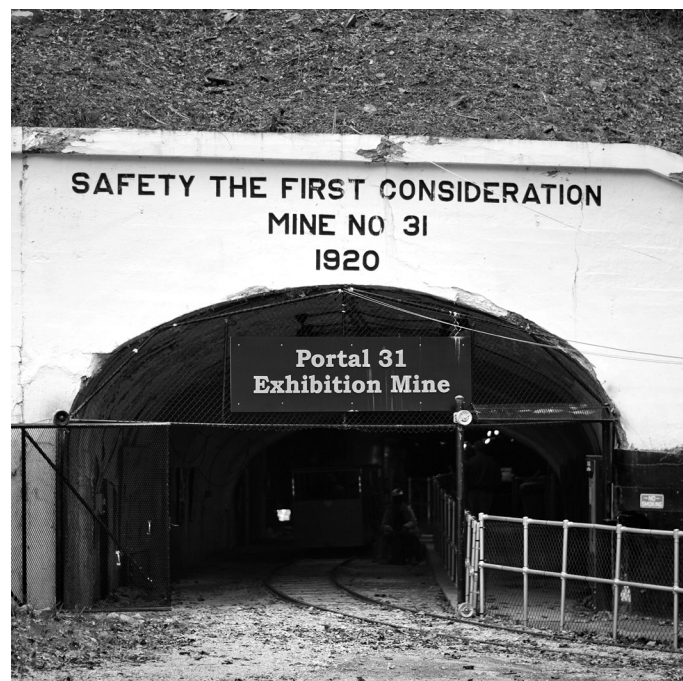
Xavier Staggs and Eric Fizer of Prime on 4th both said they agreed the Restaurant Week will evoke a progressive environment in Huntington.

“We’re super excited about Restaurant Week,” Staggs said. “Our team consists of people who have moved back to Huntington from cities such as New York, L.A., Providence, St. Augustine and Columbus. We’ve all participated in Restaurant Weeks in all these cities, and we’re just super excited to be a part of Restaurant Week in our hometown of Huntington.”

Fizer said Restaurant Week had inspired a few menu changes.

“We’re going to take some of our stars and kind of put a twist on them,” Fizer said. “Something that might be pushing the edge for your typical diner, but nothing too far out of the box that’s gonna be off-putting. We’re trying to get people to be a little more adventurous.”

Lexi Browning can be contacted at browning168@marshall.edu.



TOP: This May 9, 2012, photo shows the Grandview State Park overlooking the New River Gorge National River in Grandview, W.Va. The state offers numerous trails for hiking and other spots with scenic views.

AP PHOTO | THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE | KENNY KEMP

LEFT: This Oct. 18, 2014 photo shows an entrance to the Portal 31 coal mine that has been turned into a tourist attraction in Lynch, Ky. Passing through a concrete archway topped by the words “SAFETY THE FIRST CONSIDERATION,” visitors ride a miniature train several hundred feet into the hillside as a guide and animated exhibits illustrate coal mining’s evolution from hand loading to the mechanization that forced many to leave these mountains in search of work.

AP PHOTO | DAVID GOLDMAN

RIGHT: In this March 23 photo, Jack Looney points to an entry for his grandfather in an old mining company ledger at his Highland Winery in Seco, Ky. Looney’s father and both grandfathers shopped at the old “company store,” which Jack has restored and converted into a bed and breakfast to help revitalize the old coal mining settlement.

AP PHOTO | BEN GISH

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#INTOMUviews | Tony Zhang

By **JARED CASTO**
THE PARTHENON

Tony Zhang is a Chinese INTO Marshall University student who has been in America for a year. Zhang previously earned a Bachelors degree at Shenyang University in his home country studying piano and education. When he arrived in America, he was initially disappointed that Huntington was not more similar to the cityscapes and environment he had come to know America for in movies. However, after a while he began to appreciate Huntington for the kind and hospitable people. In his free time, Zhang is an avid piano player and is also involved in the Chinese Student Association. After completing the INTO MU program, Zhang would like to continue his studies at Marshall in Smith Music Hall.

Jared Casto can be contacted at casto178@marshall.edu.

Q: How do you think you have adapted to America and Marshall University?

A: Here's my story. Before I came to America, my understanding of America was just from movies. In the movies you can see the tall buildings in New York City and the sunshine and beautiful beach in Miami or Los Angeles. (...) I wanted to come here to touch it, to smell it, to feel it (...) It's like when you are watching "Iron Man," you have that strong desire. You want to get that armor and fly in the sky. That's my feeling when I watch American movies, so I came here. I still remember the first time I arrived at Huntington. It was January of last year and it was freezing winter. When I arrived here, I was asking myself "Where are the tall buildings?" "Where's the sunshine and beautiful beach?" They were not here, and I felt a little upset. When I tried to go to the market, it was really far away, and I didn't know which bus I had to take and I was really afraid to ask people in English at that time. In class, I always felt confused about what the teacher said. I was shy, so it was a really hard time. (...) But, later, the people living here changed my life. When you are walking on the street, the strangers smile to you and say 'Hi.' (...) The most unforgettable thing is that some days ago there was heavy snow and my car was stuck. Six people saw it and came out of their house and helped me to push my car off the roadside. These things really melt my heart, and I think it's warmer than any emotionless tall building, emotionless sunshine, and emotionless beach in the movies. I think that the real life here is better than what you watch in the movie. I stress that any international student who feels upset here just concentrates and pays attention, and they will find many happy things here.

Q: What is the biggest difference from your home?

A: The biggest thing I think is the people. People are different. I come from a big city in China. (...) The people there are very, very cold to each other. They think they don't have time to help each other, so they just focus on their own things and don't focus on other people.

Q: How and why did you choose to come to Marshall?

A: One reason is because of the movie, you know, "We Are Marshall." I'm a movie fan. I think the most important thing is not the environment. I think the most important thing for me was to choose a university with spirit. I think Marshall is kind of like a group. (...) When I came here I bought a lot of Marshall things like t-shirts, license plates, many Marshall things. It's like a big family. Even last summer break I went back to China and took many Marshall t-shirts and wore them in China. I think I'm proud I'm from Marshall. There are also many foreigners in my hometown. We've talked and they've asked me where I am studying in America and I said Marshall University. They said 'Is that from the football game movie?' and I said 'Yes.' I think the culture, the spirit, made me feel like I love Marshall.

Q: What do you think your favorite experience in America has been?

A: I think I've tried to join many activities. I'm in the Chinese Student Association group. Several days ago, there was a Chinese New Year party, and I performed and sang. It's also like the movies. When I am in America, I just want to do things as American students do. Always join some activities, join some parties, and talk with others.

Q: Do you plan on continuing your education at Marshall after you complete the INTO MU program?

A: Yes. I hope I can go to Smith Music Hall to continue my music education.



JARED CASTO | THE PARTHENON

“These things really melt my heart and I think it's warmer than any emotionless tall building, emotionless sunshine, and emotionless beach in the movies. I think that the real life here is better than what you watch in the movie.”

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