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WEEKEND NEWS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Morrow Library: not just an old library

By **MACKENZI KYLE**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's John E. Morrow Library is frequently overlooked by students working on research papers, projects and other class assignments.

Morrow Library, dedicated in 1937, is home to 827 unique collections of a variety of different books, articles, videos and more. The collections cover a variety of topics, mostly applying to history, literature and political science majors.

"There are certain academic disciplines that find our collections more interesting than others," said Morrow Library archivist Nat DeBruin.

DeBruin said many students do not realize how many resources Morrow Library has to offer and instead only use the Drinko

Library or online databases.

"Partly because our collections are the older materials," DeBruin said. "I think that probably the single biggest reason, is because ours are the older collections."

Some of the larger collections include the Rosanna Blake Library of Confederate History, The Nelson Bond Papers and the WSAZ TV News Film Archives.

The Rosanna Blake Library of Confederate History contains books and artifacts, many of which pertain specifically to the life of Robert E. Lee. Librarian Jack Dickerson works exclusively in the Blake collection and can help students with papers and projects pertaining to Civil War history.

The Nelson Bond papers is a collection from science fiction author and Marshall graduate Nelson Bond. Bond wrote over

250 short stories during what was considered the Golden Age of Sci-Fi and many of those manuscripts are housed in the Morrow Library.

The WSAZ TV News Films Archive contains film reels from past WSAZ newscasts dating back to the 1970s. Many of the archives are contained on reels, VHS tapes and are currently being transferred to DVD.

The Morrow Library also contains the stack towers, a six-floor system of rooms of bookshelves.

"Stop at the front desk first," DeBruin said. "We will usually draw them a little map."

The Morrow Library staff asks that students sign in and leave their student IDs at the front desk before going into the stacks, so the staff has an account of how many people are in the building for safety reasons.

DeBruin and the other library staff recommend library users announce themselves when entering different rooms in the stacks.

"I try not to sneak up on anyone. You know, just tap on a bookshelf and let them know you are coming," DeBruin said.

The Morrow library has many resources students would not otherwise be able to access through Internet databases. The library staff reminds students not to count them out when working on finals and term papers.

"The traditional library is not dead. All the information you need and you are seeking is not on the computer," DeBruin said. "We have the resources and materials you need to do research right here."

MacKenzi Kyle can be contacted at kyle33@marshall.edu.

Huntington lights the streets with new Christmas decorations

By **JOHN COLE GLOVER**
THE PARTHENON

Downtown Huntington has new Christmas decorations along Third and Fourth Avenues between Eighth and 13th Streets.

The decorations include wreaths, lighted snowflake designs and large decorative globes.

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be held this year at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Dec. 1 is also the beginning of "Kickoff to Christmas," an effort between select businesses to feature ways to express the 12 Days of Christmas.

The Huntington Dance Theater and Cabell Midland Show Choir will perform at the ceremony. Mayor Steve Williams will light the new 22-foot-tall tree.

The new tree and decorations were purchased for \$55,700 after being approved by the Huntington Municipal

Development Authority.

The Christmas Parade of Lights will begin 5:15 p.m. Dec. 12 in the downtown area. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Pullman Plaza Hotel lobby following the parade for free photos, hot chocolate and cookies.

A complete list of Christmas events can be found on the City of Huntington's website.

John Cole Glover can be contacted at glover39@marshall.edu.

POLICE BLOTTER

All information provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

By **SAMANTHA GODBY**
THE PARTHENON

Petit Larceny

Nov. 2, a student discovered his Kindle and laptop were stolen from his room in Towers East. The items were valued at approximately \$170 and have not yet been recovered.

Between the hours of midnight and 8 a.m. Nov. 1, a bicycle was stolen from outside Buskirk Hall. Upon further investigation, the bicycle was found parked at the other end of the building.

Nov. 3, a student left his room at 7 p.m. and returned at 12:50 a.m. to discover an unknown person had ransacked his room. The student's Beats headphones and \$20 from his wallet had been taken. The student's roommate was not there and when the student returned the room was unlocked. MUPD is still investigating the case.

Nov. 6, a student said he noticed his Madden 16 game for Xbox One was missing from his room in Towers East. The game is valued at approximately \$60. The student noticed it missing between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Nov. 5. The game has yet to be recovered.

A student returned around midnight Nov. 9 and discovered her laptop was missing from her room in Towers West. The student had been gone since Nov. 6. The laptop has yet to be recovered and the case is still pending.

Fraudulent Use of a Card

Nov. 8 a student noticed her Marshall ID was missing. Someone used her ID at the Memorial Student Center at 1:02 p.m. for a charge of \$22.79.

Underage Drinking

A student was seen sitting in the lobby of Wellman Hall in his own vomit in a severe, inebriated state at 11:16 p.m. Saturday. The suspect was 19 years old. Officers left the student in the care of another student. The suspect met with the officer the next day and was given a citation for public intoxication and underage consumption.

A white female, not a student, was seen in the lobby of Freshman North, Saturday at 1:03 a.m. The female was seen with another student, both severely intoxicated. Both persons had red glassy eyes, slurred speech, staggered movements and the odor of alcohol. Both were issued citations for unlawful drinking under 21.

Controlled Substance

Officers were dispatched to Drinko Library to address a potential drug overdose Sunday at 2:07 p.m. The suspected drug users had exited the building. A white male and white female were observed in a verbal altercation in Corbly Hall. The suspects were separated and their personal belongings were searched. The officers recovered a marijuana pipe in the female's purse and a spoon containing heroin was found in the right front pocket of the male. EMS arrived on the scene to examine the female who denied using heroin. EMS confirmed she had not used the substance. The female's pipe was confiscated. The male was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance.

Samantha Godby can be contacted at godby17@marshall.edu.

Syrian refugees are put through years of screening before entering a country

By **JEFF KAROUB and SOPHIA TAREEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over and over, Nedal Al-Hayk and his wife traveled up to three hours by bus from their temporary home in Jordan to an office where U.S. Homeland Security officials put them in separate rooms and asked them many questions in many different ways: Where were you born? Where were your parents born? Were you part of a rebel group? Were you politically outspoken?

Finally, nearly three years after the Syrian couple fled their war-ravaged homeland, they and their two young children arrived in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills, ready to start a promising new life in a new country.

"I came here to succeed and have a quality of life, not to be a hindrance to the government and the citizens of America," the 28-year-old Al-Hayk said through a translator. He is working at a factory and studying English with hopes of pursuing the agricultural engineering degree he started in Syria. "Even if I need to start over, I'll start over."

As some governors, lawmakers and presidential candidates vow to block the resettlement of more Syrian refugees in the U.S. for fear that terrorists will slip into the country and carry out Paris-style attacks, those who have made it here describe an arduous screening process that they would not have undergone if they didn't want to make America their permanent home.

"They are human beings and human beings with no home," said Al-Hayk, who arrived in the U.S. seven months ago. "They ache to come to a country like America because they know the kinds of opportunities it grants to people."

The Obama administration, which has announced plans to accept about 10,000 Syrians refugees in addition to the 2,500 who have settled here since 2011, disclosed new details this week about how they are investigated.

They must undergo a screening process that can take nearly three years, during which they are fingerprinted and required to submit other biometric information, subjected to criminal and terrorist background checks and

put through repeated rounds of questioning about their families, friends and political activities, authorities said.

The process takes so long that experts said it would be unlikely for an extremist group to rely on a refugee program to sneak someone into the U.S. Terrorist organizations could instead send operatives to America as students or tourists or appeal to people already living in the U.S. to carry out attacks.

Fears about refugees were triggered, in part, by a Syrian passport found near the body of one of the Paris suicide attackers, though its authenticity has not been established and officials said it might have been planted to stoke fears.

Even so, the House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to approve legislation requiring stringent new background checks that would, in effect, suspend admissions of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Republicans said that in dangerous times, the government must first protect its own.

"It is against the values of our nation and the values of a free society to give terrorists the opening they are looking for," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

Al-Hayk, who had friends who died at sea trying to get to Europe, said he understands the need for the intensive scrutiny he underwent. For him, seeking asylum in the U.S. was far more time-consuming but less dangerous than attempting to go to Europe.

"To come to the U.S., you go through a very troublesome process, but it's justified because these agencies ... are doing their job and doing it very meticulously," he said, adding that he is "grateful for America, regardless of how long it took" to get here.

In Chicago, 35-year-old Hakam Subh, who underwent a roughly two-year vetting before coming to the U.S. in April, said he is happy and excited to have made it here with his wife and two young sons.

"I love it here. This is a safe country," he said. "I decided America is my country."



PAUL SANCYA | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria refugee Nedal Al-Hayk works as a fabricator Nov. 16, in Warren, Michigan. Several U.S. governors are threatening to halt efforts to allow Syrian refugees into their states in the aftermath of the coordinated attacks in Paris, though an immigration expert says they have no legal authority to do so.

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WEEKEND SPORTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

| THE PARTHENON

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Column: Stakes high for Marshall football

By **JOSEPH ASHLEY**
THE PARTHENON

The stakes are paramount as the Marshall University football team prepares to play Western Kentucky University Nov. 27.

The game is scheduled to be played on Black Friday with television coverage to start at noon. The winner will be the Conference USA East Division champion and will most likely host the conference championship game.

The teams enter Friday's match up with almost identical win-loss records. Both teams have lost two games, but WKU has two games left against Florida International University and Marshall.

The Hilltoppers are 8-2 overall, while the Herd is 9-2 overall but has just one game left in the regular season schedule with a bowl game eligibility achieved and the potential of the conference championship game.

Marshall, after a grueling schedule of week-to-week matchups, has a bye week to prepare for the game while WKU will travel to Miami Saturday.

Marshall's two losses came at the hands of historical rival Ohio University and conference opponent Middle Tennessee State University.

WKU lost its two games to traditional Southeastern Conference power Louisiana State University and Big Ten member Indiana University.

One commonality that does not bode well for Marshall is that WKU has not lost a home game this season. Marshall has not lost a home game either, but the game will be taking place in L.T. Smith Stadium located in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Another identifier of the two teams can be seen in the West Division of Conference USA. Louisiana Tech and the University of Southern Mississippi sit atop the west division standings with identical 7-3 overall records and 5-1 conference marks.

The lone conference losses were to Marshall for Southern Mississippi and Western Kentucky for Louisiana Tech.

Both games were different but had similar traits. However, one of the primary keys of each was turnovers. Western Kentucky forced two turnovers and won its matchup by three despite a spirited comeback attempt by Louisiana Tech.

In Marshall's match with Southern Mississippi, the defense shined forcing five turnovers with a defensive score off a fumbled ball deep in Golden Eagle territory. The fumble was forced by defensive end Gary Thompson and caught out of the air by senior defensive tackle Jarquez Samuel, who then dove into the end zone for the final score of the game.

The significance of these two particular games is more than past matchups. Marshall will most likely schematically have a similar approach to Louisiana Tech. The prolific offense of Western Kentucky is similar to the passing attack of Southern Mississippi and the best way to keep those types of offenses from really damaging chances of victory is to give them as little chance to operate as possible.

Louisiana Tech attempted to accomplish this by rushing the ball but fell behind early in the game and had to adjust strategy.

Kenneth Dixon, the leading rusher for Louisiana Tech, rushed for 168 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries against WKU. Those are quality numbers, but his team fell behind 21-3 early into the second quarter, and he could have easily had much more of an impact.

As for the Herd's matchup, head coach Doc Holliday said if preparation and game planning are mirrored by the scoreboard, his team should not fall into the early deficit Louisiana Tech did.

"We got great kids and great leadership on this team," Holliday said during his weekly press conference Tuesday. "Yesterday I looked up and they were all around (the facility). You look at them, they were in the building; they are watching tape on their own. And mentally, you don't have to worry about them being mentally sharp and getting ready to go play; they'll do that."

Holliday continued as he praised his team's attitude and preparation during the bye week. While time will tell if the Herd can overcome the only team to defeat it last year, it is almost a certainty that it will be prepared.

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Men's basketball drops season opener



Marshall University guard Justin Edmonds handles the ball Nov. 12 against Bluefield State College.

MEGAN OSBORNE | THE PARTHENON

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University men's basketball team lost Thursday in its season opener against the University of Tennessee, 84-74.

The Herd led 38-35 at halftime and opened the second half with a 13-0 run to go up by 16 with less than 15 minutes remaining in the contest.

Marshall, however, was undone by a subsequent 26-2 run by Tennessee, in which the Volunteers erased the 16-point deficit in less than four minutes of game action to take the lead 54-53 with 11:09 remaining.

Tennessee's run continued until the 9:21 mark when junior transfer guard Stevie Browning knocked down a jumper to cut the Volunteers' lead to 61-55.

The Herd, however, never got closer to recapturing the lead as it scored just four points over

the next three and a half minutes, missing six of its next eight shots and committing two turnovers.

Browning and preseason all-conference selection Ryan Taylor led the Herd in scoring with 18 points apiece. Browning connected on six of his 16 shots, including 2-5 from 3-point range while also adding six rebounds and five assists.

Taylor combined his 18 points on 6-12 shooting with 11 rebounds to earn a double-double.

Miami transfer forward James Kelly joined Taylor with a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 12 rebounds before fouling out.

Wings Justin Edmonds and Austin Loop also scored double digits with each tallying 11 points. However, the duo's scoring efficiency was not as impressive, as the two combined to shoot 8-24 from the field, including 6-20 from 3.

As a team, the Herd shot just 36.5 percent for

the game with nearly half of its shot attempts coming from 3-point range, where the Herd connected on just nine of 35 attempts.

Tennessee shot 40 percent from the field and 7-23 on 3s, but the Volunteers more than doubled the Herd's output from the free throw, going 25-30 compared to the Herd's 11-14.

Forward Armani Moore led the Volunteers in scoring with 20 points on 6-13 field goals and 7-11 from the free throw line while also adding eight rebounds.

Guards Robert Hubbs III and Kevin Punter each scored 19 points for Tennessee, with 17 of Punter's scoring total coming in the second half.

Marshall falls to 0-1 on the season and will be back in action 7 p.m. Tuesday when it takes on Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky.

Volleyball team faces WKU in quarterfinals

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University football team will not be the only Marshall athletic team attempting to keep its conference champion hopes alive against Western Kentucky University.

The eighth-seeded Marshall volleyball team will take on top-seeded Western Kentucky in the Conference USA Tournament quarterfinals 6 p.m. Friday in San Antonio, Texas.

Marshall earned the final spot in the tournament with its five-set comeback victory over Middle Tennessee State University Saturday.

Although the Herd was able to qualify for the conference tournament for the fourth consecutive season, it will face a difficult task in upsetting the Hilltoppers.

Western Kentucky, the defending conference champion, is ranked 21st in the country with an overall record of 28-3 this season, including a 15-1 conference mark.

The Hilltoppers, which have won 22 of its last 23 matches and five consecutive in straight sets, are led by a trio of All-Conference selections — Alyssa Cavanaugh, Noelle Langenkamp and Jessica Lucas.

Langenkamp leads the team with a .392 hitting percentage and ranks second on the team in kills 336, trailing only Cavanaugh with 353. Setting up those kill opportunities for Langenkamp and Cavanaugh has been Lucas who finished the regular season with 1,195 assists en route to being named setter of the year.

As a team, Western Kentucky ranks second in the conference in kills and assists and leads the

conference in both hitting percentage and opponent hitting percentage.

The Herd, which is nestled in the middle of the conference rankings in each of the aforementioned statistical categories, will lean on the play of junior middle blocker Ally Kiekoover and junior libero Allie Kellerman.

Kiekoover was the lone member of the Herd named to the All-Conference First Team after leading the conference with a .405 efficiency.

In the team's must-win match against Middle Tennessee, Kiekoover recorded 18 kills with a .593 hitting percentage.

"Kiekoover has been unflappable this season,"

woman shows up prepared to practice and competes hard every day. Combine that with talent, and she is truly maximizing her impact for the Herd."

Kellerman, meanwhile, broke the program record for digs in a season with 538.

In addition to the duo's excellence on the court, the two also performed in the classroom as both were named to the All-Conference USA All-Academic Team.

The Herd faced the Hilltoppers twice earlier this season losing both times. Marshall lost 3-1 in Huntington Sept. 23 and 3-0 in Bowling Green, Kentucky Nov. 12.



Marshall University's volleyball team gathers around head coach Mitch Jacobs during a game last season.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

Marshall head coach Mitch Jacobs said. "This team has been all over the map when it comes to consistent play, but not Kiekoover. This young

If the Herd is able to pull off the upset, it will play 2:30 p.m. Saturday with a chance to earn a spot in the conference championship game.

WEEKEND EDITION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

DAILY STRUGGLES

by TREY COBB



Playing this old video game reminds me of my childhood. Remembering my childhood reminds me of all the embarrassing stuff I did as a child... I should probably go to bed.

The best and worst of Thanksgiving, according to the editorial staff

BEST

WORST

JOCELYN

cooking food + eating food

The stress of too many obligations
Thanksgiving day

MEGAN

side dishes + old friends

"So what are you going to do after graduation?"

SARA

mashed potatoes + seeing my dog

"Are you still dating _____?" -_-

MALCOLM

seeing family

it's only a week long

BRADLEY

seeing family, eating food and finally getting to see Tony Romo play again instead of freaking Matt Cassel and Brandon Weeden

not seeing you guys

SHALEE

football, food, family

coming back to campus for finals

MIKAELA

cooking with my mom

coming back to school

WILL

dessert

running out of beers

KAITLYN

driving home through WV in the fall

My mom always makes turkey... I don't like turkey.

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

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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.

Lewis College of Business starts mentorship program for international students

By **KELSIE LIVELY**
THE PARTHENON

The Lewis College of Business has started an international student mentorship program where faculty and staff help international students get into the Marshall University community and student life away from home.

Syed Hasanabbas, LCOB student, implemented the program to help other international business students feel more welcomed on campus and in the LCOB.

"I came up with this proposal to set up a mentorship program within the Lewis College of Business and we wanted our faculty and staff to be involved," Hasanabbas said. "We have over a dozen faculty and staff who volunteered to participate with the program."

Having been through the process himself, Hasanabbas said he wanted to help other international students integrate more easily into their new home.

"We at Marshall University have a big international population and myself being an international student, I have gone through the whole process of coming from a different country," Hasanabbas said. "In the beginning, it's very easy to get lost, and even little things like buying a toothbrush or where to open a bank account, you need someone like a mentor to talk to, a person you can go to."

This specific mentorship program is centered on students within the LCOB to help both the students and mentors become more accountable for

the students' transition.

"The program is not only beneficial to the students, but it's equally beneficial, if not more, to the mentor and to the community in general because it increases the knowledge, acceptability and it helps the international students gel in better with the local community," Hasanabbas said.

With holidays around the corner, most international students are not able to go home. Mentors will help students sort out where they will be going for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day dinner.

"Hassanabbas came to me with this idea and I told him to write it up," said Jackie Agesa, associate dean for the LCOB. "So he implemented it. I am also going to be a mentor in the program, so I'm looking

forward to that. Actually my husband and I, since we're both faculty members here, we each are mentors in the program."

"I had gotten some feedback from the students that they were feeling somewhat isolated," Agesa said. "I think it's going to help them not feel as isolated and what's really important is that I want them to look at the faculty members as people they can count on and if they problems they can come and ask us. I want them to know that we're here to help them succeed in any way that we can."

The LCOB international student mentorship program officially started this week.

Kelsie Lively can be contacted at lively37@marshall.edu.

The Latest: Jury breaks without verdict in ex-coal CEO trial

By **JONATHAN MATTISE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors have recessed after their second full day of deliberations without reaching a verdict in the trial of ex-Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship.

They began deliberating for about an hour Tuesday and all day Wednesday and Thursday.

Earlier Wednesday, jurors said they could not agree on a verdict, but the judge sent them back to continue deliberating.

Blankenship is charged with conspiring to break safety laws and defrauding mine regulators at West Virginia's Upper Big Branch Mine, and lying to financial

regulators and investors about safety. The mine exploded in 2010, killing 29 men.

Prosecutors contended that Blankenship was a micromanager who meddled in the smallest details at the mine, and cared more about money than safety.

Blankenship's defense team said the government offered no evidence he was involved in a conspiracy.

The jury returns to continue deliberating Friday morning.

Jurors have told a judge they cannot agree on a verdict in the trial of ex-Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship, but the judge ordered them to continue deliberating.

The jury sent a note to Judge Irene

Berger late Thursday morning asking how long they should continue deliberating and saying they could not agree.

Berger assembled jurors in the courtroom and told them that given the length of the trial and the number of witnesses, they must continue trying to reach a verdict.

The jury deliberated for an hour Tuesday and all day Wednesday.

Blankenship is charged with conspiring to break safety laws and defrauding mine regulators at West Virginia's Upper Big Branch Mine, and lying to financial regulators and investors about safety. The mine exploded in 2010, killing 29 men.

Possibility of a shorter school year turned down by White

By **CADI DUPLAGA**
THE PARTHENON

Interim President Gary White did not sign the 14/14 week school calendar suggesting 14 weeks in the Fall 2016 semester and 14 weeks in the Spring 2016 semester.

The Faculty Senate proposed a 14/14 week school calendar and sent the resolution to White to sign and become law. However, White did not agree with the proposal and now Faculty Senate as well as the Student Government Association are back to square one in regards to coming up with a new plan for the next school year.

"Obviously we (SGA) passed a 14/14 resolution a couple of weeks ago, and (Faculty Senate) passed a 14/14 resolution as well, but since it wasn't signed, they have to go back to something else, so that will most likely mean a 15/15 week solution," said Alex O'Donnell, the SGA chief of staff.

O'Donnell said he was in a budget and academic policy meeting Friday, Nov. 13 and they considered proposing a 15-week calendar, adding an extra week in the fall semester in December.

Sophomore dietetics major, Allison Wooten, said she hopes the university comes to a conclusion on the situation quickly and takes into consideration the tuition of students.

Tuition continues to increase each year, however, the university used to operate on a 16/16 calendar. Students may become angry if they are paying more in tuition and receiving less time in their courses.

No resolution was found during this meeting and it is still up for debate what will happen for the next school year.

The Budget Academic Policy Committee was emailed a document Wednesday, which included a possible 15/15 week school calendar for next year. Out of the 10 members that voted on the calendar, eight voted in favor.

Members hope to solve the issue during the Dec. 10 Faculty Senate meeting.

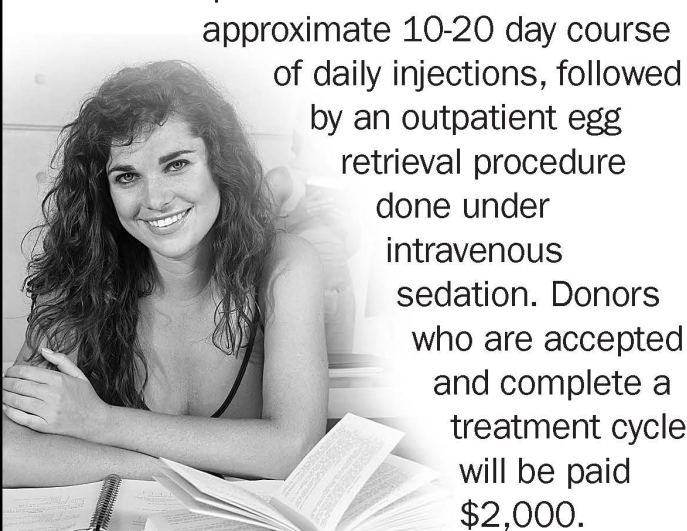
Cadi Duplaga can be contacted at duplaga2@marshall.edu.

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A regional infertility treatment center is seeking women 20-32 years old willing to donate their eggs anonymously to infertile couples. Treatment involves an



approximate 10-20 day course of daily injections, followed by an outpatient egg retrieval procedure done under intravenous sedation. Donors who are accepted and complete a treatment cycle will be paid \$2,000.

Interested individuals should call 304.526.2652 for additional information and application materials.

Jake's Sports Bar showcases newly remodeled bar and drink menu



SHALEE ROGNEY | THE PARTHENON

The new Jake's Sports Bar offers a larger lounge area, larger patio area and live music.

By SHALEE ROGNEY
LIFE! EDITOR

Downtown Huntington is home to a selection of different bars that appeal to a wide variety of people. Among those bars is Jake's Sports Bar. Over the summer, Jake's remodeled in hopes of attracting a new kind of crowd.

Jake's owner Jacob Morton expressed that the bar needed to be remodeled because the bar opened in the '90s. Morton said he wanted to transform the bar into a 21-and-up environment to keep Jake's in Huntington for years to come.

"I've been in the bar business for 17 years now and it seems like the 18-and-up bars they have a really, really short shelf life," Morton said. "I mean they'll be real popular for a year to four years. The 21-and-up bars have a lot more longevity and so we were hoping to create a nice atmosphere for an older crowd and this place will be around a little bit longer."

The newly remodeled Jake's opened Aug. 22 2015 and showcased a new open layout, a new bar and an expanded patio area. The new bartop is made up of pennies, an idea that was suggested by Morton's wife after she had spent a little time on Pinterest.

"My wife gave me the idea for the bar top. She was looking around online," Morton said. "We were trying to find a unique idea and she said 'Let's try a penny bar.' I didn't even know what it was. She showed me some pictures and we ran with it from there."

The bar isn't the only new thing at Jake's. Morton has started adding live music to the new atmosphere. Musicians

from Huntington and areas outside of the Mountain State have played at Jake's.

The drink selection at Jake's has also changed. Introducing new drinks is something Morton said he thought was important to keep people interested with the bar.

"I wanted to build a different drink selection here," Morton said. "We've been basing a lot of our new drinks on bourbon. I have one of the best bourbon selections in Huntington. Trying some different avenues."

Since opening the remodeled bar, Jake's has experienced a few bumps in creating a new reputation and leaving the old one behind.

"It's been building," Morton said. "Granted, it was a little bit of a rocky start because everyone still had that impression that we were the freshman bar. It's been a building process, changing out the old crowd and getting the new one back in."

Morton was the driving force behind the complete remodel and expresses his hopes of adding new features such as a kitchen and a full outdoor bar on the patio.

"We are going to try and add a few things going into the spring and summer," Morton said. "We are thinking about adding a full bar on the patio for next year and possibly adding a kitchen within the next couple months. I don't want to do anything over extensive. We want to do something besides a burger. We are looking for a different bar food that not everyone has."

When designing the remodel, Morton was focused on making Jake's a place where anyone could come and have a good

time regardless of their usual crowd. Bars around Huntington cater to the needs of specific cliques, but Morton wanted to break away from that idea.

"I wanted to have a real even and roundabout mix where you don't have to be part of a clique to have good time," Morton said. "I want everyone to feel accepted and everyone to come in and say 'Oh this is a bar for everyone, not just a certain group' like a lot of the other places."

In the midst of violence in the Huntington bar scene, such as the Whiskey Rock's shooting, Jake's is putting safety at the top of its priority list.

"Another main thing we were really going for is safety," Morton said. "There has been so many problems in Huntington over the past few years with this violent act and that violent act and a bunch of stupid stuff happening at bars like the Whiskey Rocks incident a couple years ago. Our main focus was keeping it really safe and chill environment."

In order to keep their customers safe, Morton takes the hiring of his staff very seriously. Morton hand picks his bouncers based not only their physical appearance, but also their experience as a bouncer.

"If you saw my bouncers, it kind of speaks for itself," Morton said. "Anyone can hire four or five younger guys to work the door, but you need an experienced staff. Most of my guys have been working in bars for five to 10 years. They've been there, they've been in the middle of it and they know what to look for. They all do a really good job."

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SHALEE ROGNEY | THE PARTHENON

Jake's Sports Bar is located at 1436 4th Ave Huntington and Jake's is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.