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Marshall partners with The Wild Ramp to offer Workplace Farm Share memberships

Marshall students ride FREE with I.D.
Marshall partners with The Wild Ramp to offer Workplace Farm Share memberships

By AMANDA LARCH
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall University’s Sustainability Department is partnering with The Wild Ramp and offering fresh produce to the Marshall community as part of a Workplace Farm Share program. Each week, The Wild Ramp will create Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA, boxes, with a mixture of five fresh fruits and vegetables as well as one homemade item, such as jam, all from local farmers.

Amy Parsons-White, Sustainability Coordinator, said the Sustainability Department contacted The Wild Ramp after learning of the program and asked to be a distribution center. Marshall students, faculty and staff are welcome to register for the program, which costs $100 for four weeks.

“The Wild Ramp works with the local farmers to put the boxes together and then works with us to allow our employees to register,” Parsons-White said. “So, what that means is you can register through their website, and then we’ll be set up once a week in the student center. You can come pick up your box with fresh produce here and help support local farmers.”

The CSA boxes will have different items every week, depending on what has been harvested.

“Thats one fun thing about the box too, is that you never know what you’re going to get,” Parsons-White said. “They do offer boxes if you have allergies or something like that, you can say that in your registration, and they’ll avoid putting certain things in your box. Some of them you can upgrade and get eggs as well, local eggs.”

Parsons-White said she hopes the program will be successful and will encourage community members to support local farmers.

“I would love to see, especially, the faculty and staff really take advantage of this,” Parsons-White said. “This is something really nice, I’d like to see all faculty and staff get involved. It benefits local farmers, it benefits The Wild Ramp and it benefits our community because we keep reinvesting money back into our community by supporting our local farmers and not going to Kroger and buying our lettuce. Instead we can buy it from the guy who’s just right here down the street.”

-Amy Parsons-White,
Sustainability Coordinator

“IT benefits local farmers, it benefits The Wild Ramp and it benefits our community because we keep reinvesting money back into our community by supporting our local farmers and not going to Kroger and buying our lettuce. Instead we can buy it from the guy who’s just right here down the street.”

-Amy Parsons-White,
Sustainability Coordinator

The Workplace Farm Share program will begin as soon as enough people register and will continue until November, at the end of the harvest season. Every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. those registered may pick up their CSAs. Parsons-White said she would like to continue the program in years to come if it is successful.

“I would love for it to be really successful. We have a lot of local farmers in our area that really struggle, and this is a way that we can not only provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our community, but we also support those farmers that really need our help in keeping their farms up and running.”

Amanda Larch can be contacted at larch15@marshall.edu.

The Wild Ramp, located at 555 14th Street West, holds weekly Farmer’s Markets and is a daily source for local produce and other homemade goods.
Native Eats pop-up serves tradition with a flair

By SADIE HELMICK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

After a night of driving through Pikeville, Kentucky, Tim Watson had an idea that eventually lead to the creation of Native Eats, a Native American taco stand. With the Shawnee Indian heritage that came from his grandmother, Watson met with his business partner, Chris Wood, and began making the idea a reality.

“I had heard stories that the Native Americans had actually invented the taco—the Navajo taco, and that idea just started churning in my head,” Watson said.

Wood created their signature hot sauce and barbeque sauce featuring wojobi, a traditional Native American dish. Wood and Watson began selling their signature sauces at vender sales and sold out at their first two sales.

“Our first vender sale was at a carnival-themed event at Saint Joe and I didn’t think we were going to be that big of a hit, but we sold out,” said Watson.

With success among the sauces and future intentions of expanding into a food truck, Native Eats began working to find a temporary home.

“We want to do a food truck and pop-ups, where we can cater to people,” said Watson.

Wood and Watson take up shop Saturdays at Huntington Cycle and Sport located on 1010 10th Street from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

After speaking with the owner of Huntington Cycle and Sport, Watson immediately thought “TCB.”


Watson was careful when branding Native Eats. He took precautions by reaching out to members of Native American tribes to get approval of the food and the branding of the company.

“We are paying homage to Native American culture. I have sent emails to people of Native American culture and they all have been very kind and fully support us,” said Watson. “We aren’t doing anything undignified.”

All ingredients that Native Eats serve can be tracked down within a 50-mile radius of Huntington.

“Everything we do is handmade. The only thing that don’t make is the glass bottles we sell the sauces in, we get everything else local. Everything we can possibly get comes from no farther than 50 miles away.”

Native Eats serves a variety of tacos, including buffalo, chicken and turkey tacos for $8 each. The signature hot sauce can be found at Tulsi at The Market.

Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, Huntington transplants Adam and Liz Schindzielorz enjoyed the local

see NATIVE EATS | pg. 10
MU Speech and Hearing Center offering Parkinson’s Disease voice treatment

By AMANDA LARCH
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall University’s Speech and Hearing Center is offering a new voice treatment for individuals with Parkinson’s Disease. The treatment is separated into two parts, with the first portion, titled SPEAK OUT!, consisting of 12 individual sessions with a speech pathologist over the course of four weeks. The second portion, called the LOUD Crowd, begins at the completion of the first section and is a free, weekly group therapy. The Speech and Hearing Center is the first clinic in the state to offer the new treatment.

Ernay Adams, a speech-language pathologist, attended the Speak With Intent symposium sponsored by the Parkinson Voice Project in Dallas, Texas, earlier this summer, and said she learned a lot about the new treatment method and how it works.

“The voice treatment is based upon the principles of Dr. Daniel Boone, and what we know with Parkinson’s Disease is that it’s caused by a reduction of dopamine,” Adams said. “Dopamine controls our automatic functions, like speaking and swallowing, and that’s controlled deep within the brain. But, when we change our speech into more of an intentional act, we are able to focus on a different part of the brain that is not impacted by Parkinson’s Disease. So, we are focusing on having the clients speak with intent because if they make their speech intentional versus automatic, they’re going to sound much better.”

Adams said the center is seeking clients to begin the treatment process, and those interested in receiving the therapy may contact their physicians.

“[They] would go to their physician and request an order for speech therapy,” Adams said. “I would say most physicians would be willing to give them an order or prescription for speech therapy, and then they would contact us. We would need that prescription, but then we should be good to go after that. They would call, and we would set up the evaluation appointment. Obviously in regard to when they could come or can’t come.”

During her time at the Speak With Intent symposium, Adams said she saw positive results from the SPEAK OUT! and LOUD Crowd treatments.

“Being at the Parkinson’s Voice Project, I got to see probably 30 people who are involved in the LOUD Crowd portion, and their voices sound amazing, and a lot of them you wouldn’t be able to tell that they even have Parkinson’s Disease,” Adams said. “And so, it definitely made me a believer, and gave me the drive to want to come back and provide that to this area, to help these people.”

Marshall’s Speech and Hearing Center also offers many types of treatment, and Adams said the center treats patients of all ages.

“We treat the lifespan,” Adams said. “The youngest patient I see is 17 months old, and we have people come here who are in their 60s and 70s. Any type of communication, swallowing or voicing disorder, we basically treat it or evaluate it here. We also have an audiologist on staff one day a week to perform hearing evaluations, anything, any speech or hearing service that someone would need, we have it here.”

Adams said she is excited to get Marshall students involved with the Parkinson’s Disease voice treatment as well.

“I’m a therapist, and I will be the main one providing the therapy,” Adams said. “Obviously we are a student-based clinic, here at Marshall, and we do train the next generation of speech therapists. While we’re just getting started, I will primarily be the one to provide the therapy; we are looking at incorporating students in the future, but I will definitely have more of a hand in that process than I normally would with other types of therapy. This is something we’ve got to get right.”

Amanda Larch can be contacted at larch15@marshall.edu.
MU Office of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services expands horizons

By HANNA PENNINGTON
LIFE! EDITOR

The Office of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services at Marshall University is working to expand relations between students and issues impacting Huntington and beyond.

Will Holland, director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services, said the office places a significant amount of value on the student experience in regard to being involved with the community.

"Anything that we can do to facilitate that, we're all about," Holland said. "Students should start thinking of my office as a resource; they're welcome here anytime."

Holland said the office's new vision will focus on three main components: regional impact, social change and educating and empowering.

"Regional impact is the pillar in which this office has traditionally been associated with," Holland said. "If a student wants to volunteer in any way, I'd like to be able to do all the legwork for that student, make all the phone calls, that kind of thing."

Holland said while doing good for the community is important, he believes the office can provide much more to students.

"There's a lot of attention on inequality, social injustice, shedding light on certain issues and creating awareness movements, and young people or college students are leading the charge in a lot of these things," Holland said. "How my office can better facilitate that is something that I've been thinking about."

Holland said the social change component might include advocacy training or other tools to help students lead the way for movements on campus.

"A lot of our students may or may not know how to reach out to their Congress person, how to peacefully assemble or how to start a petition," Holland said. "Things like that really can have a long lasting impact on social issues, but maybe they just don't have the tools or the know-how to go about that. They're going to bring the passion, I just want to bring them the know-how and knowledge, and I think that would be a really cool way to work together."

Holland said there will be specific programming regarding certain hot topics around the world, which will be chosen by a select group of students.

"Right now, it could be anything from climate to what's going on in the Middle East to police brutality, and it's important for us to discuss them but also be able to see all sides of an argument and see why people stand on different sides," Holland said. "In that, I don't think it's right for me as one person to say, 'Hey guys, these are the issues that Marshall University is going to cover; this is what should be important to you.' I don't think that's right, so one of the things that the office is creating is a brand new program in which we are starting a panel or council of students who would apply to be part of this."

Holland said he hopes to choose six to nine students, who will be selected through an application and interview process.

"It's going to be a small, select group that are passionate, well-informed, diligent and recommended," Holland said. "They'll serve as the pulse of the students, so it's the students having a voice on those certain issues which I think is very important."

Holland said the final component, educating and empowering, will bring programming to campus which will focus on interaction and empathy building.

"The key word here for me is empathy," Holland said. "If we can think outside of ourselves and think of what it's like to be in a situation we're not very familiar with, if we can start building on that skill, that is something that will make us better people long after we graduate."

Holland said the office is also looking to expand their horizons by providing 'Days of Service' twice each academic year, helping with different drives each month and providing alternative trips for students to attend over breaks.

"Our alternative breaks, our service trips, will fall under the educate and empower component because we need to go into it not thinking, 'We're going to go save this place,' but acknowledging that this is going to be a growing and learning experience for us," Holland said. "So while there, we can think, 'How can I learn to empathize and help others?'

Holland said while the office is looking toward a domestic trip for fall break, students can expect a trip to Puerto Rico for spring break 2019.

Holland said the need for these kind of activities outside of academics is becoming increasingly important for college students.

"The value of an education is still very important, but where more and more people are getting their degrees, there has to be differentiating factors," Holland said. "A student now is expected to have more on his or her resume than a student may have had in decades prior, so that's what we want each Marshall student to have is a well-rounded experience as a student."

Holland said volunteering also helps students network within their community and build a list of references.

"I would love to just make service a bigger part of the culture here," Holland said. "There's enough people on this campus that we can take some of this community's biggest challenges and really make some significant impacts on it."

Hanna Pennington can be contacted at penningto131@marshall.edu.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Marshall University students participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service in February, sponsored by the Office of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services.
WOMEN'S MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

WOMEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

Aug. 9 @Home
Aug. 13 @Youngstown
Aug. 16 @FDU
Aug. 19 @West Point
Aug. 24 @Home

Aug. 31 @Home

Sept. 2 @Ohio
Sept. 7 @High Point
Sept. 9 @Gardner Webb
Sept. 14 @Home

Sept. 20 @U of Texas at El Paso
Sept. 23 @Home
Sept. 28 @Old Dominion
Sept. 30 @Charlotte
Oct. 7 @U of Texas San Antonio

Oct. 12 @Home
Oct. 14 @Home
Oct. 21 @Home
Oct. 26 @Western Kentucky
Women’s Soccer team welcomes new coach

By ADAM STEPHENS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall University Women’s Soccer Team is welcoming a new assistant coach for the 2018 season. Glen Butler, a native of London, England, was hired as an assistant coach specializing in goalkeeping.

“I’ve had a wide range of experiences because I’ve done this so long, so I hope I can bring those to the table and bring different viewpoints,” Butler said. “I’ve already gone through the training experience myself throughout the years having played myself and having coached for so many years.”

Butler said his love for soccer comes from his roots in England, where soccer is a way of life.

“For me it’s part of the culture, having grown up in England, it’s a part of life for me. I enjoy coaching in general so it’s always extremely fun to see the development of players and give back a little bit as well,” Butler said.

Butler has been coaching since he was 15 years old, and had previously coached for the UK Elite Soccer club in Maryland and Virginia. Butler most recently coached goalkeeping at Frostburg State University in Maryland before accepting the same position at Marshall.

Butler also said that he considers it an opportunity for him to learn from the existing coaches and from the players as well.

“It’s a good opportunity, and for me with my coaching development I feel like I can learn a lot from Kevin (Long) and from Erika (Duncan) and working with players with such a high standard,” Butler said.

Butler also said he looks forward to living in Huntington and to experience the culture here.

“It seems like a very growing town so it will be fun to see that as well,” Butler said.

The first Women’s soccer match will be in Huntington against Morehead State University Aug. 9.

Adam Stephens can be contacted at

Super Bowl champ to play sax with Philadelphia Orchestra

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Orchestra has acquired a Super Bowl champion.

Eagles center Jason Kelce will play baritone saxophone with the orchestra Tuesday to benefit the team’s autism challenge. The music will accompany the team’s highlights from NFL Films.

In the off season, Kelce played with the Avalon String Band during a Mummer’s parade to celebrate Mardi Gras. Mummers are costumed bands most known for their lavish New Year’s Day performances in Philadelphia.

The group provided Kelce with the Mummers outfit he wore in the championship parade honoring the Eagles for their Super Bowl victory over the New England Patriots.

Kelce has played sax since high school.
EDITORIAL: Modern America is George Washington’s worst nightmare

“But, if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated.”

This line in George Washington’s Farewell Address is shocking and distressing. It seems as if Washington was writing this in 2018, rather than in 1796. As the first president of the nation, as a founder and framer of the American government, he was warning against what he felt would destroy the nation, warning against what is happening now.

At the time, Republicans and Federalists were already laying manifest a polarizing political atmosphere, and to this day, it is clear that this fury of party spirit, this polarization has only widened, into something of a nation very much divided. Washington said, “it is that your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty…(partisan misrepresentations) tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.”

Washington would be greatly distressed by the current political atmosphere, and all of the United States should be, too.

Since 2016, Russia has been in headlines, an it is now fact that the Russian government interfered in the United States presidential election, something that should shake us to our core. They favored one candidate over the other, and their preferred candidate won. Although American intelligence agencies affirmed this, President Trump stood in front of the world along side Russian president Vladimir Putin, and questioned his country’s own intelligence agencies, surrendering to the “mischiefs of foreign intrigue” that George Washington warned about.

“To guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism”—this line only brings to mind one name: Donald Trump, who is putting America first, making America great again, a trust-fund kid fighting for our coal miners and a draft dodger defending veterans. He harasses football players who don’t stand for the national anthem. He uses trigger words and false fears, and the media is fake and spews lies, because they hold him accountable. He has put on an act in an effort to feed his ego and attain power.

The mere fact that he dodged the draft during Vietnam would lead him to be despised and untrusted by George Washington himself, and Alexander Hamilton would have a multitude of words about this man. Donald Trump is no patriot. He is an egotistical, angry man who plays the part, cooing to people he doesn’t know. He understands nothing about the Constitution, about public service or government. He is a selfish, greedy despot who tricked his way into the White House.

Washington really did believe in this country, and really hoped and dreamed it would be a prosperous land. But all his greatest fears have come true, and America has to do something now to fix it.

Editor's note: This is an adaption of previously published piece from March 2, 2018.

LET ME BE FRANK: On Summer Blues

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

A few days ago I was sitting in my barber’s chair, where we complained about the heat. I told him I hated summer, to which he said, “Well, I wouldn’t go that far.”

Summer is so many peoples’ favorite season, but I dread the sweaty, long months. For me summer is a period filled with unsteadiness and boring routine, clouded by the expectation that I am supposed to be having grand adventures. It’s hard for me to explain my disdain for the summer months, but recently I saw a post from one of my favorite Instagrammers, Mari Andrew, that put it quite poignantly.

She compared summer to, “a dangling voicemail to return. Misplaced, indirect longing. All the pressure of a weekend for four months. A To-Do List full of opened, abstract tasks. Overgrowth.”

Yes. Finally. My feelings are vindicated and put into relatable circumstances. “I love warmth and sunshine but summer as a season is so, so hard for me,” Andrew wrote. “Why is that?”

Maybe it’s the slowness of summer that I dislike. Typically I keep a fast pace, going to school full-time and working multiple jobs—it’s normal in the Fall for me to leave my home at 8 a.m. and not be back until late.

Or maybe it’s the inconsistency of my social climate, with friends travelling and school friends living in their hometowns that leaves me feeling blue.

Regardless of the why, I know that I long for cool breezes and crisp leaves. For snowfall and winter coats. But I am trying to be content in this season of slowness. I’m learning that I’m impatient and prone to boredom, that stillness is difficult and isolation is damaging. No matter the season, there is always a lesson. For, “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.
RCBI revamped summer programs give campers hands-on experience

By HANNA PENNINGTON
LIFE! EDITOR

The Robert C. Byrd Institute is working to onboard a new generation into 21st century opportunities throughout the state with 3D Printing and Maker Camps for middle and high schoolers at their Huntington, South Charleston and Bridgeport locations.

Although these camps occur each summer, this year’s programs featured more advanced technology and complex components such as robotics and soldering.

Deacon Stone, Maker Vault and STEM Education Coordinator at RCBI, said these sophisticated week-long camps teach kids to create as well as think on their own.

“The goal in these revamped camps is to throw them into the deep end and let the water teach the swimming and be there to scoop them out if they need us to,” Stone said. “So our philosophy here was really they can go. We can cram in 3D design and printing into one week. They custom designed and printed objects the very first day.”

While 3D printing was a very important component of the camp, what campers at the South Charleston program said they were most excited about was their creation of robotic cars.

“Making our own line following robots was fun,” Ethan Blackburn, a student at Winfield Middle School, said. “I’ve never really done any of this before. It was a real experience here.”

Jarrett Jones, a student at Bible Center in South Charleston, said some of his favorite parts about the experience were learning 3D printing, soldering and electronics.

“For the electronics part we made a robot that will follow a line,” Jones said. “Then for 3D printing we made a nametag, then we got to print something we made or found on the internet.”

Camp counselor Rachel Cochenour said the program has really developed into a complex camp compared to when she began volunteering four years ago.

“We started just with 3D printing, and each year we were trying to perfect the year before and make it easier,” Cochenour said. “This year with Deacon on board adding that maker aspect to it with soldering and robotics and things like that, it just completed it. You learn a lot more, a larger variety, and it’s the same amount of time and it’s a lot of fun.”

Cochenour said it is important to get kids interacting with technology at such a young age.

“They’re so eager to learn,” Cochenour said. “But also there are so many opportunities with this, so even if you’re not interested in it exactly there is always something you can learn from it.”

Cochenour said the staff hopes to one day have specific camps for middle and high schoolers instead of combining the two.

“There are a lot more programs geared toward younger kids and older kids specifically,” Cochenour said. “And even with the older kids, they use programs that they actually use at RCBI, so it’s career-ready almost.”

Campers had a chance to show off their creations and newfound knowledge to both family and the public at a ‘Mini Maker Fest’ at the end of each week.

Hanna Pennington can be contacted at penningto131@marshall.edu.
Greek forest fire survivor tells of dramatic flight, rescue

By DEРЕК GATOPOULOS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFINA, Greece (AP) — The fire came suddenly, and the group of friends ran. When they reached the beach and there was nowhere more to run, they swam into the ocean, choking and blinded by the smoke and pulled by the strong current.

The same winds that fanned the flames had whipped up the seas, and soon they lost sight of the shore and became disoriented.

For two hours the group struggled to stay afloat, until salvation came in the form of a fishing boat and its Egyptian crew. Nikos Stavrinidis was pulled to safety. So was his wife and two of their friends.

But two more — a woman and her son — had disappeared into the waves.

“It is terrible to see the person next to you drowning and not be able to help him. You can’t,” Stavrinidis said, his voice breaking. “That will stay with me.”

The couple had gone to the Greek port of Rafina to prepare their summer home for their daughter, who planned to visit for the summer, when they were caught up in Greece’s deadliest wildfires in more than a decade.

“It happened very fast. The fire was in the distance, then sparks from the fire reached us. Then the fire was all around us,” he said. “The wind was indescribable — it was incredible. I’ve never seen anything like this before in my life.”

And so they ran, making their way toward the beach, but even that wasn’t safe.

“We ran to the sea. We had to swim out because of the smoke, but we couldn’t see where anything was,” he said. “The current was strong and the smoke blinding, and the friends fought to stay afloat.”

“We fell into the sea and tried to distance ourselves, to get away from the smoke. We went as far in as we could,” he said. “But as we went further, there was a lot of wind and a lot of current and it started taking us away from the coast.

“We were not able to see where we were.”

Stavrinidis credited the crew of the fishing boat for saving the surviving friends.

“They jumped into the sea with their clothes still on,” he said. “They made us tea and kept us warm. They were great.”

They had just about given up hope of making it onto the shore. Then they heard someone calling.

“Come here! Come here!”

The group ran to the shore, where they found a man with an outboard motor.

Then they ran to the fishing boat, which was moored nearby.

Stavrinidis and his wife were rescued first.

The group was then transported to a nearby hospital, where they were treated for smoke inhalation and other injuries.

Stavrinidis said he was grateful to be alive, but his daughter was not so fortunate.

She had been caught up in the heat of the flames and was burned over much of her body.

“I can’t help but think of my daughter,” he said. “She was so young, and now she has to live with this forever.”

The couple had gone to the Greek port of Rafina to prepare their summer home for their daughter, who planned to visit for the summer, when they were caught up in Greece’s deadliest wildfires in more than a decade.

“With all the smoke and heat, we didn’t know if we were going to make it out alive,” Stavrinidis said. “But we did, and we’re grateful.”

Stavrinidis’ daughter was later airlifted to a hospital in Athens, where she underwent surgery for her burns.

“I don’t know if she’ll ever recover,” Stavrinidis said. “But we’re doing our best to support her.”

The couple had just returned from a vacation in the south of France when they were caught up in the wildfires.

“We were on our way to the beach when we saw the smoke,” he said. “We knew something was wrong, but we didn’t know what.”

The group ran to the beach and tried to escape, but the fire was too hot.

“We had to swim in the ocean to get away from the flames,” he said. “It was the only way.”

Stavrinidis and his wife were eventually rescued by a fishing boat, but their daughter was not so lucky.

“She was caught up in the heat of the flames and was burned over much of her body,” he said. “It’s been a nightmare for us.”

The couple said they were grateful to be alive, but they were also angry at the government for not doing more to prevent such disasters.

“We need to do more to protect our citizens,” Stavrinidis said. “We can’t keep having these tragedies.”

The couple said they were going to sue the government for compensation.

“We deserve justice,” Stavrinidis said. “We deserve to be compensated for our losses.”

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“We deserve justice,” Stavrinidi...
President Donald Trump speaks at the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars national convention on Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

By ZEKE MILLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — President Donald Trump tempered his threatening rhetoric toward Iran Tuesday, two days after he sent an all-caps warning of future conflict.

Addressing the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Trump took credit for pulling the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear accord, but said his administration stands ready for Iran to come back to the negotiating table.

“We’re ready to make a real deal, not the deal that was done by the previous administration, which was a disaster,” he said. While U.S. intelligence agencies maintained that Iran complied with the Obama-era agreement to halt its nuclear program, Trump had complained that the deal didn’t do enough to curb Iran’s malign influence in the region.

Trump also highlighted part of his agreement with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un last month to transfer some remains of Americans killed during the Korean war back to the U.S. as an example of his support for the nation’s veterans as his new VA secretary begins his work.

Speaking in Kansas City, he emphasized efforts to help more veterans see private doctors, known as the “Choice” program.

He said he made the trip “to pay tribute to men and women who make freedom possible.”

“Veterans Choice has been passed,” Trump boasted to applause, promising it would reduce wait-times for medical care.

Robert Wilkie, the new secretary of Veterans Affairs, has insisted that he won’t privatize the VA despite concerns raised by Democrats. Wilkie accompanied Trump to Kansas City.

Trump noted that Wilkie was confirmed Monday by an 86-9 vote, joking that the Democratic lawmakers voting now are the “Super lefts who are running against me in 2.5 years.”

The president also maintained his position in the ongoing culture war over professional athletes kneeling during the Star-Spangled Banner. On Friday, Trump called on the National Football League to impose stiff penalties no any player who protests during the national anthem.

“We don’t apologize for America anymore,” Trump said. “We stand up for America. We stand up for the patriots who defend America. And we stand up for our national anthem.”

Trump is also raising money for Missouri Senate candidate Josh Hawley, who is challenging Sen. Claire McCaskill in a race that’s key to Republican efforts to maintain their Senate majority.
American Queen makes stop in Huntington

The American Queen, the largest steamboat ever built, docked at Harris Riverfront Park Thursday, July 19, allowing guests to explore Huntington. Visitors took a bus tour of Huntington highlighting Pullman Square and the Touma Medical Center. Visitors were also greeted with the Best Virginia artisan market in Pullman Square. For more photos of the American Queen and the artisan market, view our gallery at www.marshallparthenon.com.