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THE PARTHENO

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Running Five Days a Week! Standard Daytime Service:

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Biden picks ex-West Virginia health official as drug czar

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden is nominating West Virginia's former health commissioner as the nation's top anti-drug official, tapping a doctor who served on the front lines of the nation's opioid epidemic.

Tuesday that Dr. Rahul Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office Policy, also known as the "drug czar."

bipartisan praise from statement. West Virginia officials. Republican Gov. Jim Justice called it "great news," and Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said the pick "means

someone with firsthand knowledge of the opioid crisis, especially in West Virginia, will be coordinating the national fight against the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our nation."

"Dr. Gupta will bring The White House said over a decade of extensive experience combatting the drug epidemic to ONDCP - the office charged with of National Drug Control addressing the drug epidemic that has killed over 90,000 Americans just last The nomination drew year," Manchin said in a

> Gupta most recently served as the chief medical and health officer at March of Dimes.



In this Feb. 10, 2015 file photo, Dr. Rahul Gupta, state health officer of West Virginia, talks in his office in Charleston, W.Va. President Joe Biden is nominating West Virginia's former health commissioner as the nation's top anti-drug official, tapping an official who served on the frontlines of the nation's opioid epidemic. The White House says Dr. Rahul Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, also known as the "drug czar."

Youngest-ever WVa lawmaker back in state government

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A former West Virginia delegate who became the youngest person elected to the Legislature in state history at age 18 is back in government.

State Treasurer Riley Moore announced Tuesday the appointment of Saira Blair as deputy treasurer for the office's local government division. Moore and Blair served in the House of Delegates together.

Blair will oversee a staff of specialists who work on local government and constituent issues.

"When Saira was a delegate, she did a tremendous job representing ish her college education."

the people of her district and working with them to help resolve issues with state government," Moore said. "I know she will bring those same skills to bear in this new role."

Blair was a senior at Hedgesville High School when she defeated incumbent Larry Kump in the May 2014 Republican primary at age 17. She received 63% of the vote in winning the November 2014 general election over a Democratic opponent.

Blair decided in 2018 not to seek a third term, opting instead to fin-

Judge extends order halting WVa needle exchange law

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — A federal judge Thursday extended a temporary restraining order on West Virginia's new law that tightens requirements on needle exchange programs.

U.S. District Judge Chuck Chambers said he will mull the argument by plaintiffs that the law, which was due to take effect Friday, is unconstitutional, The Herald-Dispatch reported.

Republican Gov. Jim Justice signed the bill in April over the objections of critics who said it will restrict access to clean needles amid a spike in HIV cases. The American Civil Liberties Union's West Virginia chapter filed the federal lawsuit last month and Chambers issued the restraining order June 28.

The law would require licenses for syringe collection and distribution programs. Operators would have to offer an array of health outreach services, including overdose prevention education and substance abuse treatment program referrals. Participants also must show an identification card to obtain a syringe.

Programs also would be required to receive majority support from local county commissions and municipal councils.

Advocates view the regulations as onerous.

Supporters said the legislation would help those addicted to opioids get connected to health care services fighting substance abuse. Some Republicans lawmakers had said the changes were necessary because some needle exchange programs were "operating so

irresponsibly" that they were causing syringe litter.

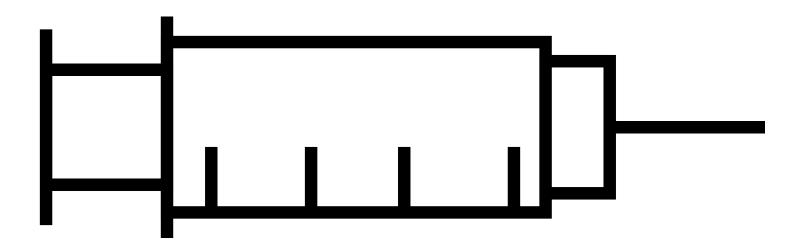
The ACLU chapter said the law would likely lead to more HIV cases and the spread of other bloodborne illnesses.

It would take effect amid one of the nation's highest spikes in HIV cases related to intravenous drug use. The surge, clustered mainly around the capital of Charleston and the city of Huntington, was attributed at least in part to the cancellation in 2018 of Charleston's needle exchange program.

The surge has led to an investigation by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that last month found emergency departments and inpatient medical personnel rarely conducted HIV testing on intravenous drug users in Kanawha County.

Previously, city leaders and first responders complained that the program in Kanawha County led to an increase in needles being left in public places and abandoned buildings, and it was shut down.

The CDC describes syringe programs as "safe, effective, and cost-saving."



West Virginia health professionals stay silent out of fear

By ISABELLA ROBINSON

NEWS EDITOR

WV Restore is a monitoring program that claims to provide guidance, support, and accountability to chemically dependent health care professionals, such as nurses, however many within the nursing community that have participated claim to have felt misled and are intimidated to speak out against the program out of fear of losing their jobs.

Connie Whorton, the relative of a nurse in West Virginia, said her family member voluntarily went to rehab and was contacted by the nursing board during their time there.

"The board told them that they were going to have to enter this program, WV Restore, and that it was going to require counseling visits, drug screenings, and a visit to a psychiatrist," Whorton said. "It just really threw them for a loop that they were going to have to go through all this, so they did a bit of research on the program by looking on AllNurses.com and by talking to some people that had gone through it and discovered that it was much more extensive than they had led on."

Whorton said after her relative learned more about the program, she decided to call WV Restore personally and inquire about what it entails.

"The program director that I spoke to basically told me how much it would cost to enter the program along with 1 to 2 drug screens per month," Whorton said.

Whorton said she was alarmed when she was informed that the program prohibits the use of prescribed controlled substances.

"I said, 'Oh my goodness, no Adderall? What if you have ADHD?' and I was told that my relative would have to find something that is not a controlled substance despite trying other medications in the past and learning what works for them," Whorton said. "I didn't understand--doesn't the doctor take precedence over the nursing board?"

Depending on the amount of drug testing and counseling required, Whorton said sources reported that WV Restore would cost them up to \$25,000 to \$30,000 after the mandatory time spent in the program, which is

typically 5 years.

All drug tests required by WV Restore must be paid out of pocket by participants.

"We were told that if we did not follow through with this and participate in the program once it is deemed necessary, that my loved one would be subject to consequences decided by the nursing board," Whorton said.

Whorton said other nurses that she has spoken to about WV Restore have told her they are afraid to self-report due to the financial burden and the rigidity of the program.

"It's sad that when a nurse has a problem, they feel like they are being punished rather than getting any kind of help," Whorton said. "I wish they were more supportive of the nurses."

Robert Payne, a formerly licensed professional counselor, social worker and advanced drug and alcohol counselor emeritus, said he believes this program needs to be re-examined.

"I think that having strictly just a monitoring program is not beneficial," Payne said. "It is okay to have a monitoring program, and I understand the necessity of it. Especially when you're dealing with a person's qualifications to provide a service, you must make sure they are being safe to do that."

The official website for WV Restore does not claim to have an individualized approach when dealing with healthcare professionals needing their services.

"I think it's very important to acknowledge that each person needs to have their specific treatment needs addressed. If you put someone into a generic program, it's like a shotgun approach that may find something that benefits them or may not," Payne said. "Programs like this should be tailored to the individual as much as possible or at least make a strong attempt to do that in order to be effective."

Payne said an important component of treatment that is not being considered is the financial burden that is being placed upon participants of WV Restore.

"Many of these nurses are unable to work, so the financial aspect of it is a big deal," Payne said. "If they are losing their insurance, if they even have insurance, the cost of the program and not being able to obtain it is a problem."

Payne said the issue of stigma is a factor that plays a large role in mental health issues and substance use that may act as a barrier to healthcare professionals receiving the help they need.

"We recognize that most people with substance use issues often have other issues that are probably mental health issues, and possibly other outside factors affecting them within their family life or financially," Payne said. "If there is no network of resources for these folks, many times the treatment fails because not all those issues are being addressed effectively."

Payne said he feels that the prohibition of controlled substances while participating in WV Restore should be reconsidered.

"In my experience working with psychiatrists in two hospitals in the state, I have observed that they try to maintain people on their medication even if it is a controlled substance if they need that medication," Payne said.

He said that he remembers instances in which the medication was monitored to assure that it was being taken as the doctor ordered.

"I think that having a monitoring aspect of it is important just to make sure that people are not misusing their prescribed medication, but I think that the policy of not allowing nurses in the program to use any controlled substances is not helpful," Payne said.

He said that doing this can potentially take away something that might be very beneficial simply because there is an idea that all addictive substances should be prohibited.

"From what I know, I think that WV Restore needs to be more flexible with how they allow treatment to occur. That does not mean that they are not monitoring correctly, but they do need to be more flexible and look at the cost of the program and how they might be able to help people," Payne said.

WV Restore declined to comment.

Isabella Robinson can be contacted at robinson 436@marshall.edu.

Ex-Marshall great Pennington appointed to university board

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Former Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington has been appointed to the university's Board of Governors.

Gov. Jim Justice made the appointment last week, board Chairman Patrick Farrell announced. It must be confirmed by the West Virginia Senate.

Pennington played at Marshall from 1995 to 1999 and was a Heisman Trophy finalist in his senior season. He led the Thundering Herd to a berth in the 1995 Division I-AA championship game, then won three straight Mid-American Conference titles, including a 13-0 record in 1999.

Pennington played 11 seasons in the NFL with the New York Jets and Miami Dolphins. He most recently revived the football program at Sayre High School in Lexington, Kentucky, where his son, Cole, is the quarterback. Cole Pennington recently committed to play football at Marshall.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

WVa rural surgery residency program gets planning grant

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — The planning and development of West Virginia's first rural surgery residency program now has the help of a \$750,000 federal grant.

Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine received the three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the university said in a news release.

The federal Rural Residency Planning and Development Program awarded nine grants to help address physician workforce shortages in rural communities. A shortage of

general surgeons is expected across the U.S. by 2025. It's the first time these funds have been awarded to plan a rural surgery residency program, the statement said.

The grant will be administered through the Marshall Community Health Consortium, which will develop curriculum, recruit faculty and address necessary clinical and learning environment needs.

The training program's goal is to attain initial accreditation in 2022 and welcome its first residents in 2023. Residents will spend at least half of the five-year training

general surgeons is expected across residency in a rural hospital, the the U.S. by 2025. It's the first time statement said.







Marshall Invitational August 27, 6 p.m. vs Alabama August 28, 12:30 p.m. vs Austin Peay August 28, 6 p.m. vs Miami (OH)

Wright State Invitational

September 3, 4 p.m. vs Depaul September 4, 12:30 p.m. vs Wright State
September 4, 4 p.m. vs Ball State

Southeast Missouri State Invitational September 10, 11:30 a.m. vs SEMO September 10, 5:30 p.m. vs Kansas City September 11, 2:30 p.m. vs Arkansas State September 11, 5:30 p.m. vs Memphis

Morehead Invitational September 16, 6 p.m. vs Morehead September 17, 2 p.m. vs Pittsburgh September 18, 11 a.m. vs Toledo

Conference Schedule

Sept. 24, 6 p.m. Sept. 25, 12 p.m. @WKU

Oct. 8, 1 p.m. Oct. 9, 1 p.m. @FAU

Oct. 22, 4 p.m. Oct. 23, 4 p.m. @CLT

Oct. 1, 6 p.m. Oct. 2, 2 p.m.

Oct. 15, 6 p.m. Oct. 16, 2 p.m.

vs ODU

Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Nov. 6, 2 p.m.

"ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME"





THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE PARTHENON'S CORRECTIONS POLICY

"Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

THE FIRST | The Constitution of the AMFNDMFNT | 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.

OPINION

Herd Reads

By BRITTANY HIVELY

Shadow and Bone Triology By Leigh Bardugo

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Shadow and Bone novels grew in popularity through TikTok's hashtag "BookTok," where users can share book reviews or recommendations, talk about their favorite characters, and anything else literature related. The trilogy & Bardugo's other two duologies, "Six of Crows" and "King of Scars" were adapted into a Netflix series based off the Grishaverse. Bardugo's novels take place in the same world but in different countries.

Shadow and Bone follows Alina Starkov as she discovers newfound powers and a destiny that is much bigger than herself. She is a Sun Summoner, a Grisha, meant to destroy the Fold, a dark and ominous sea that separates Alina's home and the resources her country needs to survive. The Fold is filled with dangerous beings called volcra, making the passage through the sea dangerous. With Alina's power, she could destroy the Fold and save the people of Ravka but when is a journey like that ever as simple as it sounds.

Bardugo's ability to create such a complex and interweaving world is one of the most compelling aspects of her novels. Her storytelling makes you feel as though you are right there next to her characters in their universe along for the journey. Throughout her stories there is an underlying theme of darkness and creating this embodiment of darkness brought to life by the Fold with the contrasting element of Alina's ability to harness the sun. That is what separates it from other fantasy novels.

Bardugo attended Yale University where she studied English. Before the publication of her novels, she worked in journalism and copywriting. She has osteo-



necrosis and often uses a cane, which was the inspiration for one of her characters in the Grishaverse who also uses a cane.

Leigh Bardugo is a #1 New York Times bestselling author of fantasy novels and the creator of the Grishaverse (now a Netflix original series) which spans the Shadow and Bone Trilogy, the Six of Crows Duology, The Language of Thorns, and King of Scars—with more to come. Her short stories can be found in multiple anthologies, including the Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy. Her other works include Wonder Woman: Warbringer and Ninth House (Goodreads Choice Winner for Best Fantasy 2019) which is being developed for television by Amazon Studios.

If you have a fantasy or fiction book recommendation, please email hanlon10@live.marshall.edu.

Opinion: West Virginia, it is time to take responsibility

By Brittany Hively EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Someone once said, "just like a bird, it takes both wings to fly," referring to the way both sides of politics should work together for the best interest of the country.

According to a Pew Research study in 2020, only 4% of registered voters said they had or would vote a split party ticket.

Earlier this week, West Virginians, including Gov. Jim Justice, took to social media calling for Del. Joe Jeffries to apologize and resign his position after a series of distasteful and NSFW TikTok videos circulated.

This was not Jeffries first time in the not-so-good spotlight. In Feb. 2021, Jeffries made national headlines for wearing a mesh mask during legislative and committee meetings.

While Jeffries is under fire this week, he is not the first West Virginia elective to be put under the spotlight, showing the not-so-great side of West Virginia politics. Some of the more recent ones include former Del. Derrick Evans recorded and later deleted a video of himself with hundreds of rioters storming the U.S. Capitol.

Former member of the West Virginia House of Delegates was defeated in the 2020 election after making national headlines for comparing the LGBTQ+ to the KKK.

While I could go on, I will just use this quote from a 2019 piece published in the Pacific Standard Magazine that said, "But in West Virginia, where the entire arc of the state's history has been perverted by a seemingly endless run of bad guys..."

This makes me so angry. Why do we

continue to vote in people who represent West Virginia in such a negative manner? Why do we allow this people to be in a position of not only power, but as a role model to the younger generations who will one day take over these leadership positions?

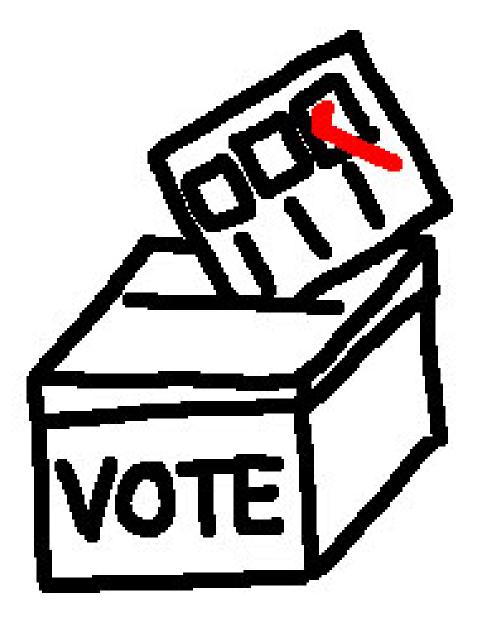
Is it because we as a state have given up or simply do not care? Because I don't think that is the case. Next to Texas, I think West Virgnia is one of the most prideful states I have witnessed. Our citizens love this state.

I think it is time for West Virginia to take voting more seriously. It is time we stop voting for that guy because we heard our sister's friend's brother knows him. It is time we stop voting for someone because they held that position before and the state is still standing. It is time we stop voting for someone simply because there is a D or a R.

It is time for us as responsible citizens to start doing our part to research the candidates – who they are, what they represent and how they plan to help our state. It is time we go into the polls prepared. It is time for us to start voting ALL elections, not just the presidential election.

West Virginians, it is our time to stop letting deplorable actions represent our state. It is time we take responsibility and start voting for people who are going to make West Virginia shine like we know she can.

As voters, we have the power, and it is time we start using it. Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes 100@marshall.edu.



U.S. Department of Education announces temporary changes to federal aid verification

Editor's note: The following was a press releasesent out on July 13

Today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced temporary changes to the federal student aid verification process for the 2021–22 award year. The temporary changes will provide relief to millions of students and colleges facing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department will focus aid verification on identity theft and fraud for the 2021–22 application cycle, significantly reducing other barriers that have prevented students most in need, from accessing critical financial aid funds. Today's action is part of the Department's broader efforts to provide relief to students and borrowers impacted by the pandemic, and address inequities made worse by COVID-19.

While the challenges students experience with verification extend beyond the pandemic, data from the National Student Clearinghouse show college undergraduate enrollment rates fell 4.9 percent in Spring 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. For students of color and students from low-income backgrounds, those declines were even steeper. These enrollment declines have also been sharpest at community colleges, which saw a 9.5 percent decrease in enrollment and are already significantly resource-constrained due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Department research shows that targeting verification this aid cycle, can help approximately 200,000 more students from low-income backgrounds and students of color enroll in college and continue on the path to a degree.

"This has been an exceptionally tough year," said Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer of Federal Student Aid (FSA). "We need to ensure students have the most straightforward path to acquiring the financial aid they need to enroll in college and continue their path to a degree. Targeting verification to focus on identity theft and fraud this aid cycle, ensures we address immediate student needs, continue to protect the integrity of the Federal Pell Grant Program, and reduce barriers to access for underserved students. We will continue to evaluate what improvements can be done longer-term to make the verification process more equitable while still preventing fraud."

Verification is an administrative process by which the Department requires a subset of federal student aid applicants who are eligible for Pell Grants to submit additional documentation, such as transcripts of tax returns, to verify their income and other information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Non-Pell-eligible applicants are not selected for income verification. As a result, the verification process disproportionately burdens students from low-income backgrounds and students of color. The process can be extremely challenging for students, particularly because at least 20 percent of Pell-eligible applicants are exempt from tax filing due to their low-income levels. This prevents them from using the automated Data Retrieval Tool to easily import verified income data from the IRS onto their FAFSA form, and can impose difficulties in acquiring the necessary documentation to prove their income.

Typically, more than three million potential Pell Grant recipients are selected for verification each year. Unfortunately, due to the challenges they face in acquiring the required documentation, some students never complete verification, and thus do not receive the financial aid they need to enroll. Targeting verification for the 2021–22 FAFSA cycle will make it easier for millions of students from low-income backgrounds to access federal financial aid. It will also alleviate some of the burden faced by financial aid administrators, allowing them to focus their time and resources on administering emergency relief funds, getting students into and through higher education, including by updating FAFSA information for students who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and by helping students learn about and access emergency financial aid grants provided under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

This temporary verification process accompanies the many tools and oversight measures the Department uses to monitor suspicious activity, mitigate fraud, and identify over- and under-awards of Pell Grant funds. Current tools and oversight measures include the following:

FSA works with the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to constantly monitor for fraudulent activity among groups of FAFSA filers.

FSA conducts compliance reviews of colleges and universities. These compliance reviews ensure that fraud is not occurring at the campus level and that improper payments are not being made.

FSA's Ombudsman receives complaints of cases of potential fraud through the Feedback Center. Such reports of suspicious

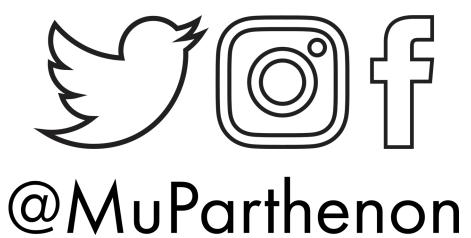
activity are further examined by FSA and the OIG.

FSA encourages the use of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool that FAFSA filers can use to automatically import their tax data directly into the FAFSA form. About 52 percent of filers use this tool, which eliminates the need to further verify their income.

Today's announcement builds upon the Biden Administration's commitment to addressing inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and targeting resources and relief efforts toward the colleges and communities that need it most. Under the American Rescue Plan, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the Department has provided \$76 billion in economic relief for students and colleges impacted by the pandemic.







Campus squirrels are the best squirrels.

PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY BRITTANY HIVELY | HAYES100@MARSHALL.EDU



Editor Recommendations: Underrated movies

- Ingrid Goes West
- Maximun Ride
- Step Up 2: The Streets
- Code 8
- King Arthur- Legend of the Sword

Abby Hanlon Campus Editor



Courtesy Unsplash

- Now and Then
- Fried Green Tomatoes
- The Secret Garden
- My Girl
- Fools Rush In

Brittany Hively Executive Editor

- Moonrise Kingdom
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower
- Portrait of Lady on Fire
- Juno
- Fight Club

Isabella Robinson News Editor



- Napoleon Dynamite
- Little Miss Sunshine
- Romy and Michele's High School Reunion
- Uptown Girls
- 50 First Dates

Xena Bunton Managing Editor