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The Parthenon, July 13, 2022

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Speed Limit Lowered Near Campus



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

Concerns regarding traffic speed and behavior near campus rose when a Marshall student was struck and killed by a car on 3rd Avenue. The speed reduction from 35 to 25 is a part of a larger series of traffic calming initiatives to increase pedestrian safety.

By **EVAN GREEN**

FEATURES EDITOR | GREEN321@MARSHALL.EDU

As a part of a larger effort to increase pedestrian safety near Marshall's campus, West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston has temporarily reduced the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on 3rd and 5th Avenue from 6th Street to 20th Street. Additionally, a new crosswalk has been added on 20th Street to make it easier for university students to reach the

Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

These efforts have been in the works since November 2021, when a Marshall student was killed while crossing 3rd Avenue. The changes have been made after discussions were held between Marshall administrative staff, Mayor Steve Williams, as well as the West Virginia Division of Highways. Mayor Williams called for an...

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Huntington City Council Bans Conversion Therapy for Minors

This week the Huntington City Council Voted 7-4 to ban conversion therapy for minors in the city. Huntington joins three other West Virginia cities in doing so.

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Speed Limit Lowered Continued

audit of the roads surrounding the university just after the deaths occurred, the first part of which took place in the Spring of this year and will conclude in September.

Marshall University President Brad D. Smith and I share the same vision of enhancing safety surrounding Marshall's Huntington campus in every regard," Mayor Williams said. "I am pleased to see that the West Virginia Division of Highways has ordered a temporary speed reduction on 3rd and 5th Avenues as it continues to analyze potential long-term solutions in its traffic safety audit. The Huntington and Marshall University police departments will work collectively to enforce this new speed limit in the affected areas, and my administration will take proactive measures to alert the public to this change." City workers are set to begin efforts this week to adjust speed limit signs in the affected area to help alert the public to the temporary change.

The university also plans on launching an awareness campaign surrounding pedestrian safety starting in Fall 2022. This campaign is aimed at students, faculty, and staff in the hopes that future incidents can be prevented, and Marshall's campus can become safer for pedestrians moving forward.

"The safety of our students, faculty and staff is Marshall's highest priority and I am encouraged with the news of the speed reduction around campus," Marshall University President Brad D. Smith said. "As we wait for the traffic safety audit to be completed, this temporary speed reduction, the new crosswalk on 20th Street and our upcoming educational campaign on campus will add tools for keeping everyone as safe as possible."

The new crosswalk includes beacon lights that alert motorists when pedestrians are about to cross. The project cost the city of Huntington \$151,906.



Photo by Evan Green

Huntington Bans Conversion Therapy for Minors

By TYLER SPENCE

EXECUTIVE EDITOR | SPENCE83@MARSHALL.EDU

This week, the Huntington city council voted 7-4 to ban conversion therapy for minors in the city.

Council members DuRon Jackson, Pat Jones, Tia Rumbaugh, Mike Shockley, Bob Bailey, Sarah Walling and Holly Smith Mount all voted in favor of the ordinance while Tyler Bowen, Teresa Johnson, Todd Sweeney and Dale Anderson voted against it.

Conversation therapy is a practice universally rejected

by leading medical and mental health organizations. The practice attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. The practice almost exclusively targets members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The ordinance adds conversion therapy to the list of prohibited acts of discrimination which is a part of Huntington's Human Relations Commission. Residents can submit complaints for review to the commission, however, the

ordinance doesn't prohibit any parent from seeking advice from a religious teacher or leader.

Residents and non-residents alike spoke to the city council members in support or against the bill. Some spoke about their own personal experience condemning the practice.

Huntington joins three other cities in West Virginia to ban the practice, joining Charleston, Morgantown and Wheeling.

MU Announces New VP for Government Relations

THE PARTHENON

University president Brad D. Smith today announced senior level university administrator, Charlotte Weber, director of RCBI and vice president of federal programs, has been promoted to vice president of government relations, effective Aug. 1. She will oversee federal, state and community government relations for the university.

The continued evolution of the university's organization structure, which includes this announcement, allows for realignment of existing resources, and permits the university to expand areas of emphasis and focus.

"Charlotte brings more than 30 years of professional experience to this leadership post, and I am excited that she has agreed to take on this new role," Smith said. "Her work in workforce, government relations, administration and economic development over the years speaks volumes for her passion for West Virginia. I am confident that she will continue to accomplish important things for our university."

Weber said, "I sincerely thank President Smith for his confidence, and I am eager to work with him, General Counsel [Toney] Stroud, and the MU team to grow the university's presence at all levels of government. At the same time, I am honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to lead the RCBI team for many years, and I look forward to seeing continued growth."

"The promotion of Charlotte Weber to this position is great news in our effort to build our government relations team," said Stroud. "Charlotte brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, and I look forward to collaborating with her to assemble a team of both internal and external resources to

increase our presence and voice at federal, state and local levels."

Weber joined Marshall in 1993 after working in Washington, D.C. for U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd. With close to 30 years' experience in higher education, government relations and economic development, Weber's leadership has helped to expand the footprint and impact of Marshall University by helping to direct investment to the university and state. During her tenure, Weber became the first female director and CEO of RCBI and the first female vice president for federal programs. She has driven growth in advanced manufacturing, health care, cybersecurity and forensic science, as well as other strategic areas.

Weber is a graduate of the 1995 Leadership West Virginia program, was named a West Virginia Young Gun and then in 2020 was honored to be named a West Virginia Sharp Shooter. Weber was recognized by the Governor of the State of West Virginia and awarded the Governor's Award for Leadership in Advanced Green Manufacturing. She serves on several statewide and regionwide boards, also serves nationally on the American Council on Education and the Association of Public Land Grant Universities, and is a member of the National and West Virginia Society of Colonial Dames. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from George Washington University in 1987.

RCBI Deputy Director Derek Scarbro will assume Weber's duties at RCBI as the university launches a national search for a vice president of workforce and economic development.

Student Recieves Gimman Scholarship to Study Abroad



THE PARTHENON

A Marshall student is the winner of a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study abroad. Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program cost with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas.

Ashley Grimmert is one of the nearly 3,000 undergraduate students from across the United States selected to receive the Gilman scholarship to study or intern abroad through April 2023. Gilman Scholars will study or intern in 91 countries.

Grimmert is a junior double-majoring in psychology and Japanese and said she plans to use the Gilman Scholarship for the bilateral exchange program between Marshall and Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, Osaka, Japan.

Grimmert is also a recipient of the Freeman Award for Study in Asia (Freeman-ASIA), which also will help with the cost of the study abroad.

"I come from a very low-income background—my entire college career has

been funded by a combination of need and merit-based scholarships," Grimmert said. "Never in my wildest dreams could I imagine being able to experience going abroad without them, which is why I'm so thankful for opportunities like these and my professors who have helped me become aware of them."

The Gilman Scholarship supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad and, since 2001, has enabled more than 34,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad. The program has successfully broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.

The Gilman program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Over-the-counter birth control? Drugmaker seeks FDA approval

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, a pharmaceutical company has asked for permission to sell a birth control pill over the counter in the U.S.

HRA Pharma's application on Monday sets up a high-stakes decision for health regulators amid legal and political battles over women's reproductive health. The company says the timing was unrelated to the Supreme Court's recent decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Hormone-based pills have long been the most common form of birth control in the U.S., used by millions of women since the 1960s. They have always required a prescription, generally so health professionals can screen for conditions that raise the risk of rare, but dangerous, blood clots.

The French drugmaker's application compiles years of research intended to convince the Food and Drug Administration that women can safely screen themselves for those risks and use the pill effectively.

"For a product that has been available for the last 50 years, that has been used safely by millions of women, we thought it was time to make it more available," said Frederique Welgryn, HRA's chief strategy officer.

An FDA approval could come next year and would only apply to HRA's pill, which would be sold under its original brand name, Opill. The company acquired the decades-old drug from Pfizer in 2014, but it's not currently marketed in the U.S.

Reproductive rights advocates want to see other prescription contraceptives

move over the counter and, eventually, for abortion pills to do the same.

That potential for a precedent-setting decision once again places the FDA under an intense political spotlight.

Late last year, the agency was condemned by abortion opponents and praised by women's rights advocates when it loosened access to abortion pills. The agency faced similar political pressures in 2006 when it approved over-the-counter use of the emergency contraception pill Plan B.

Many conservative groups stress they are only interested in curtailing abortion, and state bans often explicitly exclude contraception.

Even before Monday's announcement, Democratic lawmakers were calling on the FDA to swiftly consider any such requests.

"We urge FDA to review applications for over-the-counter birth control pills without delay and based solely on the data," said more than 50 members of the House's Pro-Choice Caucus in a March letter.

Many common medications have made the switch from behind the pharmacy counter, including drugs for pain relief, heartburn and allergies.

In each case, companies must show that consumers can understand the drug's labeling, evaluate its risks and use it safely and effectively without professional supervision. HRA spent seven years conducting the FDA-required studies, including a trial that followed 1,000 women taking its pill for six months.

Behind the company's efforts is a coalition of women's health researchers and advocates who have worked for nearly

two decades to make contraceptives more accessible, especially to groups with less access to health care.

The Oral Contraceptives Over-the-Counter Working Group helped fund some of HRA's research and is mobilizing support behind a media campaign dubbed Free the Pill.

"A lot of our research has been about making the case to help inspire and support a company to take this work on," said Kelly Blanchard, president of Ibis Reproductive Health, a group member that supports abortion and contraceptive access.

Birth control pills are available without a prescription across much of South America, Asia and Africa. Last year, Paris-based HRA won U.K. approval for the first birth control pill available there without a prescription.

Advocates were particularly interested in HRA's drug because they say it's likely to raise fewer safety concerns.

The pill contains a single synthetic hormone, progestin, which prevents pregnancy by blocking sperm from the cervix.

Most birth control pills contain progestin plus estrogen, which can help make periods lighter and more regular. Progestin-only pills are generally recommended for women who can't take the more popular combination pills due to health issues.

But estrogen also accounts for most of the blood clot risk associated with oral contraceptives. FDA's labeling warns against their use in certain women already at risk for heart problems, such as those

who smoke and are over 35.

For most women, the drugs are overwhelmingly safe. For every 10,000 women taking combination pills annually, three to nine will suffer a blood clot, according to FDA data. That compares with one to five clots among 10,000 women who aren't taking birth control.

And medical professionals point out that blood clot rates are much higher in women who become pregnant, when hormone levels and reduced blood flow increase clotting risk.

"What I definitely see is a misunderstanding of the dangers of these pills. It is much safer to take the pill than to be pregnant," said Dr. Maura Quinlan, a Northwestern University physician and member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She was not involved in HRA's application or research.

The medical association supports unrestricted access to all hormone-based contraceptives over the counter. Last month, the nation's largest physician group, the American Medical Association, endorsed making birth control pills available for over-the-counter purchase without an age requirement.

Still, support is not universal.

Diana Zuckerman of the nonprofit National Center for Health Research says comparing the safety risks of the pills with

pregnancy is not the right approach.

Many women take birth control pills to regulate their periods or reduce bleeding, said Zuckerman, whose group evaluates medical research. "Those are real benefits, but they are not worth the risk of potentially fatal blood clots," she said.

The FDA has long monitored the safety of oral contraceptives, updating their warnings over the years.

Last year, the agency placed a hold on a study by drugmaker Cadence Health, which has also been working on an over-the-counter pill. The agency told the company to conduct additional blood pressure checks of trial participants. The company says it is "working to overcome this regulatory hurdle."

The FDA is required to hold a public meeting to evaluate HRA's application before making a decision. Safety considerations are likely to take center stage.

Executives at HRA, which is owned by Perrigo Co., expect a decision in the first half of 2023.

Advocates hope it will be the first of many.

"Once we see the approval of this product, it will demonstrate that it's possible and that the data is strong," Blanchard said. "Hopefully we'll see the process speed up from here."



AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli,



Marshall University's Physician Assistant Class of 2023 as they prepared to begin their clinical training earlier this year.

Photo Courtesy of UComm

Physician Assistant Program Receives \$1.5 Million for Rural Training

THE PARTHENON

The Physician Assistant (PA) program at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has received a \$1.46 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance the rural training experience of every physician assistant student at Marshall University.

Through the five-year grant (#T9DHP45836-01-00), program leaders will implement a four-week rural primary care rotation

requirement that may be completed at a site affiliated with Lincoln Primary Care Center in southern West Virginia or Pleasant Valley Hospital in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, with the option of an additional four-week rotation at the other site.

“Consistent with our mission within the School of Medicine, our PA program prioritizes training that prepares students to meet the unique health care needs of

Appalachia in hopes that they will decide to stay in West Virginia after they complete their training,” said Program Director Ginger R. Boles, M.S., PA-C, who serves as principal investigator on the project. “The number of PAs practicing in rural medicine has decreased over the last several years. The hands-on learning that will happen through this grant ensures a well-rounded PA training program and helps our students hone a love for rural medicine in a real-

world environment.”

Lincoln Primary Care Center and Pleasant Valley Hospital will also benefit from access to additional equipment including portable ultrasound scanners and simulators; software; guest lectures; and other supplies through the grant.

The Marshall University Physician Assistant program was established in 2018 and is provisionally accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the

Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). Its first class began the program in January 2021 and will complete the 28-month program in May 2023. The program requires students to complete at least one rural rotation as part of their training.

Sun Belt Opponent Profiles

By TYLER KENNETT

REPORTER | KENNETT@MARSHALLEDU



Appalachian State
2021 Record: 10-4 Overall

Appalachian State is likely the Herd's most anticipated opponent in all of the Sun Belt. For the past two years, Marshall has competed against the Mountaineers in games that made national headlines due to the animosity that the two fanbases have shared. For Marshall, App State was a win in 2020 that fueled the fire for being a ranked team for the large majority of the season. For App State, 2021 was a revenge game, defeating the Herd with a powerful run game in Head Coach Charles Huff's first season as the leader for the Thundering Herd.

The Mountaineers have been battling with Louisiana for the Sun Belt Championship since the beginning of the Sun Belt Conference Championship game in 2018. Appalachian State has played in all three games, with the exception of a 2020 no contest due to COVID-19.

Appalachian State is more than just a rival for the Thundering Herd. Their powerful offense returns almost every weapon except for the receiving corps and an all-star center Baer Hunter. With a weakened receiving core, though it is still consistent, expect the Mountaineers to focus on the run. Camerun Peoples, who had three touchdowns against Marshall last season, returns alongside a three headed monster of a backfield that includes multiple players averaging 5 yards per carry. Appalachian State is a perennial contender in the Sun Belt, a powerhouse that is here to stay.



Coastal Carolina
2021 Record: 11-2 Overall

Following a 2020 campaign that had Coastal Carolina competing against Louisiana for a Sun Belt championship, the Chanticleers found themselves proving to the college football world that Coastal Carolina is no joke. Winning the Sun Belt championship is the only thing missing for the Chanticleers. Both of CCU's losses in 2021 combine for a margin of just 5 points, meaning that a single touchdown was separating this team from a potential undefeated run.

Star quarterback Grayson McCall returns this season following a decision that came as a bit of a surprise to past mock drafts. McCall was once heralded as a future NFL star, with mocks placing him as high as the ninth pick in 2022. While McCall will likely be drafted in 2023, he is no longer the prospect that many had him placed as, which may provide some comfort for Coastal Carolina. However, the leading receiver for McCall will be Braydon Bennett, a running back with only 24 receptions last year. No one else on the roster has 10, meaning that McCall will be forced into a leadership position with an extremely young core.

Coastal Carolina is a circle on the Herd's schedule alongside App State and Louisiana as a team that could provide a spark if Marshall expects to win in the SBC early. However, with CCU's team being stripped of many stars, the Chanticleers will also be looking for a few sparks to continue the recent success.



Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns
2021 Record: 13-1, SBC Champs

Who can stop the Ragin' Cajuns? This has been the question for essentially every team in the Sun Belt since 2018. Louisiana has played in every championship in the SBC since the beginning of the Sun Belt championship game format and looks to continue the dominance.

However, this may be a little tough for Louisiana. The offensive line has holes, losing Max Mitchell to the NFL. Chris Smith, a former backup to NFL RB Elijah Mitchell, returns as a star running back that is used to picking up where others left off. The loss of Levi Lewis at Quarterback, though, will likely be the biggest hole for the offense. As a five-year starter, Lewis was a large part of so much of the Ragin' Cajuns success. With his absence looming, it will be interesting to see who takes the helm for the offense in the fall.

Defensively, Louisiana nearly ranked in the top 10 of the entire NCAA as a total unit in 2021. Struggles come for mid-major programs that find that much success, though, as top tacklers transferred and other stars were drafted. Zi'Yon Hill will likely be a major contributor up front on the defensive line, attempting to keep the defense as a powerhouse in the NCAA.

Louisiana will have a major target on its back this season as a team that lost so many major pieces, but there is a reason that Louisiana has won two Sun Belt championships in three years. It is the team to beat.



Marshall Launches Fan Committee

THE PARTHENON

Marshall Athletics announced Thursday, June 30, the plans for its first Fan Committee. The athletic department is now accepting applications for the Marshall Fan Committee in search of members

who can help create the best fan experience on Thundering Herd gamedays and throughout the year.

“Our Fan Committee will play a critical role in helping us develop our gameday experiences,” said Christian Spears, Marshall’s Director

of Athletics. “We are excited to put together a great group.

The athletic department is looking for a diverse pool of members, comprised of 20 to 25 people. Members who are selected are then appointed to a term of two years,

with meetings occurring quarterly. The committee will be announced in the coming weeks, with the first meeting scheduled for late July. The Marshall Fan Committee is open to all fans.

The committee will focus on

enhancing all aspects of the Marshall Athletics fan experience, including, but not limited to, athletic department communication, fan outreach, in-game experience, facility amenities, ticketing and donor support and customer service.

Marshall Athletics Earns C-USA Academic Accolades

THE PARTHENON

Three Marshall University athletic teams and two student-athletes earned academic honors from Conference USA for the 2021-22 academic year, the league office announced.

The Thundering Herd’s three programs that claimed the top team grade point average in their respective sports are women’s basketball, women’s golf and swimming and diving. Marshall had the second-most teams at the top behind Rice. Eight other schools had one team each.

Individual accolades went to senior Jackie Schmidt who was named C-USA Scholar Athlete of the Year for women’s golf, and sophomore Madeline Hart for swimming and diving.

The women’s basketball team finished the academic year with a 3.49 overall GPA. Fourteen of the 15 players on the team were named to the Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll and three earned the Academic Medal and five were honored by the Women’s Golf

Coaches Association as All-America Scholar Athletes. Senior Torren Kalaskey earned the prestigious Jim Castaneda Postgraduate Scholarship award. The team finished the spring semester with a GPA of 3.85.

Swimming and diving ended the spring with a 3.75 GPA, tied for the seventh-highest across all of Division I. Thirty were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll while 18 earned the Academic Medal. The squad was recognized as a College Swimming and Diving

Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America Team, while Sophomore Paige Banton and freshman Kailee Payne were named All-American Scholar Athletes.

Schmidt wrapped up her Marshall golf career as a four-time member of the Commissioner’s Honor Roll and a two-time recipient of the Academic Medal. She earned All-America Scholar honors and was also named the Conference USA Spring Spirit of Service Award winner for the Herd. Schmidt competed in all 10 events

this season for Marshall and was the Herd’s top finisher three times.

Hart was a member of the Commissioner’s Honor Roll and earned the Academic Medal this past academic year. The sophomore was named to the C-USA All-Academic Team as well. Hart won the 200 Butterfly at the Liberty Invite in November and posted the sixth-best time in the 100 Butterfly in team history (55.16).

'Trump girl': WV National Guard Member Admits Role in Capitol Riot

JOHN RABY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia National Guard member who wore a hoodie that read “Yes, I’m a Trump girl” inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda during the Jan. 6 riot pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor Wednesday. Jamie Lynn Ferguson entered the plea to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building during a conference call with a U.S. magistrate judge in Washington, D.C. The charge carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Prosecutors asked that three other

charges be dismissed. Ferguson, 44, also agreed to pay \$500 restitution for damage caused to the Capitol. Sentencing was set for Nov. 18. On Jan. 3, 2021, Ferguson shared an article on her Facebook account containing a picture of a crowd in front of the Capitol with a storm cloud and Mount Rushmore above it. A caption in the post read, “I pray this is exactly what D.C. will look like on Jan. 6th. #HoldTheLine.” A comment on the post asked whether Ferguson was going to the Capitol and she replied, “I am,”

according to court documents. In an interview with FBI special agents a week after the riot, Ferguson admitted attending former President Donald Trump’s “Stop the Steal” rally in front of the White House before heading to the Capitol. Ferguson was wearing a dark hoodie with the phrase “Yes, I’m a Trump Girl” in white lettering when she entered the building. She spent nearly an hour inside, mostly walking around the Rotunda, the documents showed. A report submitted to the FBI by the U.S. Air Force Office of Special

Investigations said Ferguson was on leave from the National Guard from Jan. 5 to Jan. 7. Ferguson said she attended the rally with her parents, who left afterward. Ferguson said she proceeded to the Capitol because she believed she would be able to see Trump again. Ferguson was arrested in May in Lynchburg, Virginia. She is a technical sergeant and a drill status guardsman assigned to the West Virginia Air National Guard. “As a matter of policy, the 130th Airlift Wing and the West Virginia National

Guard do not comment on civilian criminal matters,” the Guard said in a statement Wednesday. Under the conditions of her release, Ferguson was ordered to stay at the Virginia home of her parents. More than 830 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol riot. More than 320 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanor charges, and over 200 have been sentenced.

Jan. 6 Takeaways: Extremists and 'Screaming' in Trump Meet

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **FARNOUSH AMIRI**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — House investigators are laying out the origins of the violence at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, using video testimony and live witnesses to describe former President Donald Trump's "call to action" in a December tweet and how White House advisers urged the president to drop his false claims of election fraud.

At its seventh public hearing, the Jan. 6 panel is not only detailing the plans of extremist groups like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers ahead of the attack, but is keeping its focus on what was happening inside the White House at the time.

A major focus of the hearing is Trump's Dec. 19 tweet about a "big protest" at the coming joint session of Congress: "Be there, will be wild!"

Florida Rep. Stephanie Murphy said the tweet "served as a call to action and in some cases as a call to arms." She said the president "called for backup" as he said Vice President Mike Pence and other Republicans didn't have enough courage to try to block President Joe Biden's win at the Jan. 6 joint session.

The tweet "electrified and galvanized" Trump's supporters, said Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, especially "the dangerous extremists in the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys and other racist and white nationalist groups spoiling for a fight."

Raskin said Trump emboldened the groups around a common goal. "Never before in American history

had a president called for a crowd to come contest the counting of electoral votes by Congress," he said.

The committee spliced together video clips from interviews to describe a meeting from Dec. 18, in the hours before Trump's tweet, in almost minute-to-minute fashion.

Former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson, who testified live before the panel two weeks ago, called the meeting between White House aides and informal advisers pushing the fraud claims "unhinged" in a text that evening to another Trump aide. Other aides described "screaming" as the advisers floated wild theories of election fraud with no evidence to back them up, and as White House lawyers aggressively pushed back.

The video clips included testimony from lawyer Sidney Powell, who had pushed some of the wildest theories, including of breached voting machines and hacked thermostats that she somehow tied to the false claims of fraud.

White House lawyer Eric Herschmann, one of the aides who pushed back, said the theories were "nuts" and "it got to the point where the screaming was completely, completely out there."

The aides described a chaotic six hours of back and forth, starting with Trump talking to a group of the informal advisers with no White House aides present. Both Cipollone and Powell said in interviews that Cipollone, the White House counsel,

rushed in to disrupt the gathering. Powell said sarcastically that she thought Cipollone set a new "ground speed record" getting there.

Cipollone, who sat with the committee for a private interview last week after a subpoena, said he didn't think the group was giving Trump good advice and said he and the other White House lawyers just kept asking them, "where is the evidence?" But they did not receive any good answers, he said.

Hours later, at 1:42 a.m., Trump sent the tweet urging supporters to come to Washington on Jan. 6.

As they have done several times before, the committee showed video testimony from White House aides who said they did not believe there was widespread fraud in the election and had told the president that. Many said they were firmly convinced Biden's victory was a done deal after the states certified the electors on Dec. 14 and after dozens of Trump's campaign lawsuits failed in court.

Ivanka Trump, the former president's daughter, said it was her sentiment that the election was over after Dec. 14 and "probably prior as well." Former White House Press Secretary Kayleigh



Vice Chair Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., left, listens as Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., speaks as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 12. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

McEnany said she planned for life after the White House at that point. Eugene Scalia, the Labor Secretary at the time, said he told the president in a call that it was time to say that Biden had won.

Former Trump press aide Judd Deere said he told Trump "my personal viewpoint was that the electoral college had met" and the time to pursue litigation had closed.

"He disagreed," Deere said.

The panel is holding the hearings in an effort to establish the truth about the events of Jan. 6, and the weeks beforehand, as Trump and some of his GOP allies try to downplay it or deny it altogether. Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, one of two Republicans on the panel, said at the beginning of the hearing that the committee had observed "a change in how witnesses and lawyers in the Trump orbit approach this committee and their strategy" over the past few weeks.

Instead of denying involvement, Cheney said, witnesses and those in Trump's orbit have increasingly tried

to "blame people his advisers called 'the crazies.'"

"President Donald Trump is a 76-year-old man. He is not an impressionable child," Cheney said. "And just like everyone else in our country, he is responsible for his own actions and his own choices."

She also spoke to people who still believe his false claims of fraud.

"These Americans did not have access to the truth, like Donald Trump did," Cheney said, and they wanted to believe him. "For millions of Americans, that may be painful to accept. But it is true."

Trump has railed against the committee and denied much of its evidence on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Psychology Clinic to offer Parent-Child Interaction Therapy



THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Psychology Clinic is expanding its therapy offerings by providing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy or PCIT, is a short-term, specialized behavior management program designed for young children experiencing behavioral and/or emotional difficulties and their families.

PCIT teaches caregivers to manage their child's difficult behaviors, while increasing their positive behaviors. PCIT works with the child and caregiver together to improve behavior and reduce parenting stress. PCIT consists of weekly sessions conducted in two treatment phases.

Caregivers are taught the PRIDE skills: Praise, Reflect, Imitate, Describe and Enjoyment. These skills promote positive child behaviors.

Parent-Directed Interaction (PDI)
Caregivers learn to use effective commands and discipline procedures. The PCIT therapist helps caregivers manage their child's behaviors in many settings.

Dr. Jennifer Tiano is a certified trainer in Parent-

Child Interaction Therapy at the Psychology Clinic. She says being able to offer this service to the Huntington and Marshall community is important.

"PCIT is an effective treatment that helps strengthen the relationship between caregivers and their young children," Tiano said. "The Marshall University Psychology Clinic has a large group of students who have been trained in this program. We are very excited to offer these much-needed services to the families in our area."

The Marshall University Psychology Clinic is run by the Department of Psychology to serve as a training facility for graduate students enrolled in the clinical psychology program at Marshall University. The clinic provides high quality, low cost psychological services to individuals on the campus and from the local community. The psychology clinic provides psychotherapy, psychological assessment, group psychotherapy and educational workshops.

After West Virginia Opioid Verdict, Another Case Postponed

By JOHN RABY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A trial in a lawsuit accusing three major U.S. drug distributors of causing a health crisis throughout West Virginia was postponed Tuesday, a day after the companies prevailed in another case in the state.

Attorneys who represented Cabell County and the city of Huntington on the losing end of a verdict announced in federal court Monday were granted a continuance of a trial a day later in Kanawha County Circuit Court. The trial involves more than 100 other cities and counties statewide against the same defendants: AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp.

Attorneys for the municipalities and the companies met in the judge's chambers just prior to the start of the hearing. Once in the courtroom, attorneys for the plaintiffs asked that the start of the trial be continued. The defense had no objections and the request was approved.

In the federal bench trial, U.S. District Judge David Faber said the plaintiffs offered no evidence that the companies distributed controlled substances to any entity that didn't hold a proper registration from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration or the state Board of Pharmacy. The defendants also had systems in place to monitor suspicious activity, as required by the Controlled Substances Act, he said.

"Plaintiffs failed to show that the volume of prescription opioids distributed in Cabell/Huntington was because of unreasonable conduct on the part of defendants," Faber wrote in a decision that came nearly a year after closing arguments in that case.

The Cabell County-Huntington lawsuit alleged the distributors created a public nuisance by flooding the Ohio River

community with 81 million pills over eight years. The suit sought more than \$2.5 billion that would have gone toward abatement efforts. But Faber said West Virginia's Supreme Court has only applied public nuisance law in the context of conduct that interferes with public property or resources.

He said to extend the law to cover the marketing and sale of opioids "is inconsistent with the history and traditional notions of nuisance."

The companies blamed an increase in prescriptions written by doctors along with poor communication and pill quotas set by federal agencies.

Huntington has long been an epicenter of the nationwide opioid addiction and overdose epidemic that has been linked to more than 500,000 deaths over the past two decades. That status led West Virginia to being aggressive in lawsuits over the trauma earlier than most states. It settled with the three distributors in 2017 and 2019 in deals worth a total of \$73 million.

But the state did not participate in a \$21 billion nationwide settlement with those companies that was finalized this year and would have resulted in a larger payout for West Virginia than what the state received in the earlier deals.

The nationwide impact of Monday's ruling in West Virginia could be muted because the companies have struck the broader settlement, which is intended to have most of the funds go to fighting the opioid crisis.

In another lawsuit, the state of West Virginia reached a tentative \$161.5 million settlement in May with Teva Pharmaceuticals Inc., AbbVie's Allergan and their family of companies and a \$26 million settlement in March with Endo Health Solutions.

What Does It Mean to be a 'Person'? Different Cultures Have Different Answers

By **ROBERT LAUNAY**

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Opponents and proponents of abortion rights often frame their positions in terms of two fundamental values: “life” or “choice.”

However, many defenders of “life” are comfortable with taking human life in situations such as war or capital punishment. Many on the side of “choice” advocate for government regulation of guns or mandates on masking and vaccines.

As I see it, “life” and “choice” are not, in and of themselves, really the issue. The central question is what – or who – constitutes a person.

This question has long preoccupied anthropologists, particularly those like me who specialize in the study of non-European religions. Some ideas usually taken for granted in the United States and Europe about what it means to be a person

are, quite simply, not shared with followers of other religious traditions and cultures.

Ideas about personhood in U.S. culture are largely a product of Christianity, in which personhood is inextricably tied to the notion of the soul. Only a being who possesses a soul is a person, and personhood is treated as a black-and-white matter: Either a being has a soul or it does not.

As a specialist of religion in Africa, I have become aware of religious traditions that treat personhood in very different and more nuanced ways. The majority of people in Africa identify as Muslim or Christian, but indigenous religions remain widespread, and many view personhood as a process rather than a once-and-for-all phenomenon.

This is well illustrated by beliefs about babies in the Beng culture of Côte d’Ivoire, which anthropologist Alma Gottlieb details in her remarkable 2004 ethnography, “The Afterlife Is Where We Come From.”

For Beng, all babies are reincarnations of people who recently died. They emerge from a place called “wrugbe,” which is simultaneously the afterlife and a sort of before-life.

The idea that babies are reincarnations, especially of ancestors, is hardly specific to the Beng – or to African religions, for that matter. Indeed, a newborn has not really left “wrugbe” until her

cut umbilical cord has dried out and fallen off. Only then is the infant considered in any sense a person. If she dies beforehand, she does not receive any sort of funeral. Even afterward, until children are several years old, people believe they remain poised between “wrugbe” and the world of ordinary humans.

For Beng and many other peoples, rituals mark the development of personhood. Some cultures believe children do not fully have a gender until they have undergone initiation. The process of initiation itself is a symbolic death and rebirth, as though the initiate becomes a new person. In some societies – for example Tallensi of northern Ghana – if an individual ever achieves full personhood, it is only after death, when they become an ancestor, fully involved in the lives of their descendants.

“Persons” are not even necessarily human. In Mande cultures in West Africa, such as the Dyula communities where I have done research, every clan is associated with a “ntana,” a large and dangerous wild animal species: lions, leopards, elephants, crocodiles or pythons, for example. Members of the species are considered persons, but only for individuals in the associated clan.

Each one has a story about the origins of their relationship with their ntana – typically of how the ancestor of the species rescued the ancestor of the clan, such as by

pulling him out of a pit into which he had fallen. Members of the clan must not kill or eat their ntana, and contact with or even sight of the remains of the dead animal is considered dangerous.

Two aspects of personhood stand out in particular when we compare how paradigms vary from culture to culture.

First, personhood is sometimes viewed as a process, not a steady state, and is not something each individual automatically possessed. Second, personhood is not a purely individual phenomenon, but intrinsically caught up in social relationships – especially between parents, siblings and children; between spouses and in-laws; and between the living and the dead. Christianity, on the other hand, emphasizes the soul and individual salvation: A being either possesses a soul or doesn’t, and this soul’s salvation or damnation is the individual’s responsibility.

In Christian-majority societies, it may not always be apparent to what extent our taken-for-granted notions of personhood derive from a Christian foundation, until they’re compared with other religious traditions. From my perspective, to embed these ideas into law – notably by banning abortion or even allowing its prohibition – is to embed theology into legal principle.

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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Baby Stars, Dancing Galaxies: NASA Shows New Cosmic Views

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sparkling landscape of baby stars. A foamy blue and orange view of a dying star. Five galaxies in a cosmic dance. The splendors of the universe glowed in a new batch of images released Tuesday from NASA's powerful new telescope.

The unveiling from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope began Monday at the White House with a sneak peek of the first shot — a jumble of distant galaxies that went deeper into the cosmos than humanity has ever seen.

Tuesday's releases showed parts of the universe seen by other telescopes. But Webb's sheer power, distant location from Earth and use of the infrared light spectrum showed them in a new light.

"It's the beauty but also the story," NASA senior Webb scientist John Mather, a Nobel laureate, said after the reveal. "It's the story of where did we come from."

And, he said, the more he looked at the images, the more he became convinced that life exists elsewhere in those thousands of stars and hundreds of galaxies.

With Webb, scientist hope to glimpse light from the first stars and galaxies that formed 13.7 billion years ago, just 100 million years from the universe-creating Big Bang. The telescope also will scan the atmospheres of alien worlds for possible signs of life.

"Every image is a new discovery and each will give humanity a view of the humanity that we've never seen before," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said Tuesday, rhapsodizing over images showing "the formation of stars,

devouring black holes."

Webb's use of the infrared light spectrum allows the telescope to see through the cosmic dust and see faraway light from the corners of the universe, he said.

"We've really changed the understanding of our universe," said European Space Agency director general Josef Aschbacher.

The European and Canadian space agencies joined NASA in building the telescope, which was launched in December after years of delays and cost overruns. Webb is considered the successor to the highly successful, but aging Hubble Space Telescope.

Kaltenegger, who wasn't part of the Webb team, said in an email.

The images were released one-by-one at an event at NASA's Goddard Space Center that included cheerleaders with pompoms the color of the telescope's golden mirrors.

"It moves you. This is so so beautiful," Thomas Zurbuchen, chief of NASA's science missions, said after the event. "Nature is beautiful. To me this is about beauty."

The world's biggest and most powerful space telescope rocketed away last December from French Guiana in South America. It reached its lookout point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) from Earth in January. Then the lengthy process began to align the mirrors, get the infrared detectors cold enough to operate and calibrate the science instruments, all protected by a sunshade the size of a tennis court.



This image released by NASA on Tuesday, shows the Southern Ring Nebula for the first time in mid-infrared light. It is a hot, dense, white dwarf star, according to NASA.
Photo Courtesy of NASA

