



West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Board of Governors Meeting

**Media Clips**

*January 7, – March 9, 2020*



WWUP's Got Talent finalists (from left to right): Olivia Kinder, Austin Grimmatt, Ryan Manley, Tyler Barnhart, Brandi Bush, Tim Bales and Eliza Lawrentz.



Tim Bales was the first-ever WWUP's Got Talent winner. Tim won the hearts of our judges and audience members during the Grand Finale with the performance of his original song "Allies."

**Arnold Ventures Awards \$4.2 Million for West Virginia Student Success**

Philanthropy News Digest

Jan. 7, 2020

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/arnold-ventures-awards-4.2-million-for-west-virginia-student-success>

The [West Virginia Community and Technical College System](#) has announced a \$4.2 million grant from [Arnold Ventures](#) to launch a program designed to help students complete their degrees and move into well-paying jobs.

To be established at [West Virginia University-Parkersburg](#) and [Blue Ridge Community and Technical College](#), the program will provide students with the financial resources and individualized support needed to access advisors, tutoring, and career prep offerings and complete their degrees, setting them up to enter high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, welding, and health care. The program is modeled after the [Accelerated Study in Associate Programs](#) at the [City University of New York](#), which has [substantially improved](#) academic outcomes for participants and contributed to an almost doubling of graduation rates.

Awarded through Arnold Ventures' Moving the Needle initiative, which provides funding for social programs backed by rigorous evidence of large, sustained impacts on meaningful life outcomes, the grant includes support for an independent, randomized control trial to evaluate program impact. If proven to be effective, the program will be scaled to all two-year institutions in West Virginia. An initial cohort of schools will be selected later this year, with full implementation of the program to begin in the fall of 2021.

"Recruitment of students is important, but retention of students is even more critically important. Once we enroll them, we have both a joyful and a solemn responsibility to do everything within our power to ensure their success and completion," said WVU-Parkersburg president Chris Gilmer. "We consider our participation in CUNY's ASAP replication to be a major step toward meeting our goal of turning every student possible into a graduate. We appreciate the confidence [Arnold Ventures] has shown by selecting us for this prestigious partnership, and we commit ourselves fully to its success."

"West Virginia's system of community and technical colleges has become a national leader in implementing meaningful changes that have resulted in more of our students



completing college," said CTCS chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker. "But to reach our goal outlined in West Virginia's Climb initiative — to arm 60 percent of our workforce with a postsecondary credential by 2030 — now is the time to double down on student success. This pilot project at WVU-Parkersburg and Blue Ridge CTC, which we hope to ultimately expand statewide, is one of the most important ways we can get there. I thank Arnold Ventures for this remarkable investment in the Mountain State, and I thank CUNY for their leadership in developing this incredibly successful program."

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**2019: Year in Review**

Tyler Star News

Jan. 8, 2020



WVU Parkersburg Elementary Education Alumni Melissa Smith.

## WVU-P opening new location in downtown Parkersburg

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 9, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/wvu-p-opening-new-location-in-downtown-parkersburg/>



Alice Harris, executive vice president of finance & administration and chief financial officer, gives a report on the financial audit of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Auditors did not find any major issues with the college's finances. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

PARKERSBURG — West Virginia University at Parkersburg is returning to downtown Parkersburg.

The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors voted at its regular meeting Wednesday to establish a new downtown location to house the new West Virginia Center for Civic Life, the Mid-Ohio Valley Arts Collaborative and the community coordinator for a new project that will be announced at a later date.

The board also voted to enter into a rental agreement for the property at 414 Market St. near Fifth Street.

"This month we will formally accept the keys to our new Downtown Parkersburg location," WVU-Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer said. "We are taking WVU-P actively back into the downtown community with a number of other projects under consideration."

The center will be led by Senta Goudy.

Gilmer and Goudy worked to secure \$230,000 in new grant funding from the local Ross Foundation to provide the seed money for the newly formed MOV Arts Collaborative.

“It is an opportunity for the university to take a leadership role in helping to coordinate arts in the Valley and to support nonprofit arts organizations,” Gilmer said.

The space will be used for people to meet with financial aid representatives without having to travel out to the college. It also will coordinate student internships with area businesses.

“We want to reach out to the community and the best place to do that from is downtown,” Gilmer said.

Earlier in the day at a professional development breakfast for faculty and staff, Gilmer stressed that it will be different than the Downtown Center the university previously had that was eventually closed a few years ago and the property sold.

“We are starting very small in a very fiscally conservative way, establishing a presence there,” he said. “After we receive grants and other money over time we will grow that presence.”

In other business, the Board of Governors accepted the audit report prepared by the accounting firm Clifton Larson Allen to review the college’s finances and purchasing procedures.

Board member John Denbigh of the Audit Committee reported the audit was “*remarkable*” with no findings made on internal controls and no remarks from the audits.

“Without good solid financial footing and control everything else we do is for naught,” he said.

Alice Harris, executive vice president of finance & administration and chief financial officer, said the auditors feel the college’s accounting procedures and how they are implemented are strong.

Cost controls and price comparisons have helped the university save money on numerous things, Harris said.



“Our 7.3 months of operating expenses and reserves puts us far and away ahead of almost every higher education institution in the state,” Harris said. “While our assets are depreciating we are putting an equal amount of money back in to restore and renew them.

“In building reserves, we are trying to make sure the facilities issues don’t get ignored in favor of something more (visible).”

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### **WVU-P brings Winnie the Pooh to Welcome Back Breakfast, training session**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 9, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/wvu-p-brings-winnie-the-pooh-to-welcome-back-breakfast-training-session/>



West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer portrays Christopher Robin Wednesday at a Welcome Back Breakfast and professional development session for the faculty and staff at the university. Gilmer tied the characters from the classic Winnie the Pooh stories into how the faculty and staff see themselves and the traits that will help them help their students succeed. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

**PARKERSBURG** — The staff and faculty of West Virginia University at Parkersburg journeyed to the Hundred-Acre Wood on Wednesday for a Welcome Back Breakfast and professional development session.

Representatives with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg dressed up like characters from the classic Winnie the Pooh stories with WVU-P President Chris Gilmer portraying Christopher Robin.

Gilmer said the characters from the stories can serve as a guide in how the university serves its students, including the maternal instincts of Kanga, who cares for Roo; the wisdom of Owl; the gentle good nature of Winnie the Pooh; the innocence of Piglet; the energy of Tigger and the common sense of Eeyore.

“If we have all of those things, we have everything we need to run a university,” Gilmer said.

He had the staff and faculty divide up into three groups, those who most identified with Pooh, Tigger and Eeyore.



Torie Jackson, vice president for institutional advancement at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, participates in an exercise the faculty and staff of the university did during a professional development breakfast Wednesday. Everyone divided into groups based on which Winnie the Pooh character they identified with. Jackson was part of the group that identified with Tigger with Jackson explaining they were energetic people who wanted to do things and not always talk about them. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

People who identified with Eeyore said he helps bring order to things with common sense and being straightforward; those who identified with Tigger say they like to get things done, don't like to talk about things too long and have a lot of energy; and those who identified with Pooh said they like to show people they care and they love others.



“Pooh symbolizes peace and love and that is what we choose to bring here as a family at West Virginia University at Parkersburg,” said Kurt A. Klettner, executive director for Student Support Services.

Gilmer said the exercise gets people thinking about how they relate to one another and some pointed out how Winnie the Pooh and his friends were different but they all benefited and learned something by having the others around.

“I feel like it is really hard to categorize how I am, as a personality, as on any given day I feel I could be any one of these characters,” said Holly Dexter, accounting instructor. “I feel that helps us relate to others.”

She said she could relate to Kanga, the mother who could be having a bad day or be having an energetic day.

Others said it takes all kinds of people that help the university serve its students and the community as a whole.

Gilmer talked about where the university is in terms of enrollment and its finances.

After seven years of enrollment decline, WVU-P posted an 18 percent headcount and four percent FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) increase between the fall of 2018 and the fall of 2019, Gilmer said.

The university doubled its early college enrollment in one year, doubled its workforce training hours from 46,000 to 96,000 in one year and secured two-thirds of the WVU Parkersburg Proud \$3 million, three-year goal in one year, he said. The university’s Online Child Development degree ranked number one nationally and the veterans program ranked number eight nationally according to various factors.

This year, the university has a budget of over \$21.8 million and has cash reserves of over \$13.8 million. The percentage of the annual budget that is tuition driven is 40 percent.

Gilmer said 100 FTE students equals \$500,000 in new dollars and 200 FTEs equals \$1 million.

“We are paying our bills and doing extremely well,” he said. “Recruitment is important and retention is even more important in helping get them through.”

The university has seen success with students who use the tutoring center in their grade improvements, Gilmer said.

Gilmer announced plans are being worked on for faculty and employee medical leave and phased retirement options; campus housing options for students; revitalizing the Jackson County Center; a possible sports team and/or other major student services ventures; better marketing of and recruitment of students for all academic programs, and plans to expand into downtown Parkersburg.

Gilmer said within a month WVUP will be moving into a facility on Market Street.

The university will focus on enhancing opportunities for faculty, students and staff; increase focus on success in achieving diversity; focus on increasing grants, and increase the university's regional and national reputation and partnerships.

Gilmer said he and the faculty/staff have listened to one another to accomplish a lot of things together.

"In short, controlling our own destiny through shared governance, visionary leadership, bravery and the recognition that, in the long run, we all rise or fall together," Gilmer said. "When I first came here someone said that WVU-Parkersburg was the best kept secret in town.

"They meant it as a compliment, but I took it as a challenge. I want everyone to know about us and what we are doing."

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### **WVU-P has Welcome Back Breakfast**

The Marietta Times

Jan. 9, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/2020/01/wvu-p-has-welcome-back-breakfast/>



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### **WVU-P Jackson Center enrollment a concern**

The Times Record/Roane County Reporter  
Jan. 9, 2020

An official with WVU Parkersburg said he is determined to increase enrollment at the school’s Jackson County Center.

Dr. Steven Smith, CEO of the center on Academy Drive in Ripley, recently reported student enrollment at 171 for the fall semester. He told members of the Rotary Club of Ripley that enrollment was 650 in 1999 and peaked at 896 after the closing of Century Aluminum.

“I’m trying to understand why we are not attracting the number of students we once attracted,” Smith said. “I want it to be a springboard, a bridge-builder and a place where students young and old can come and achieve their goals and dreams.”

Smith wants the center to expand into a campus, while noting recent upgrades including integrating a blue and gold color scheme, new signage and the addition of a workout room for students.

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### **Actors Guild undergoing renovations [video]**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 10, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Actors-Guild-undergoing-renovations-566886341.html>

**PARKERSBURG W.Va. (WTAP)** - The Actors Guild of Parkersburg, on Market Street, is making some much-needed renovations to its space.

The initial renovation started in their basement, where the actors go between scenes. a brand new Green Room was built, and added a sink and a refrigerator to the downstairs area.

They are now looking to make renovations inside the theater itself. Sprinklers need to be added inside the theater, as well as redoing the ceiling to have more effects during the show.

They are also going to add an elevator where the current lobby bathrooms are, making the lobby more spacious and less crowded during performances.

This has caused two of their shows to be performed elsewhere. Madagascar has been moved to Blennerhassett Middle School, while "Sense and Sensibility" has been moved to a theater at WVU Parkersburg.

Employees of the Actors Guild have had experience moving shows before, and explain what makes it easier with the facilities they have.

"We actually now own, what we call 'The Annex' next door," said David Rexroad, President of the Actors Guild in Parkersburg. "We still can use our rehearsal hall, even though the renovations are going on in the theater at least for now, which is good. So, there's rehearsal space, we just can't get on stage and do things. So, that makes, that part of it made it easier."

The renovations need to be completed by the time the actors need to rehearse "The Producers", which will open in April.

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### **Across the State**

The State Journal

Jan. 12, 2020

[https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article\\_f182ea55-92c9-56b4-8acf-2f2d4eb9c73b.html](https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article_f182ea55-92c9-56b4-8acf-2f2d4eb9c73b.html)

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— Parkersburg News and Sentinel

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### **Actors Guild of Parkersburg, Mid-Ohio Valley Players prep for rest of season**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 12, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/01/actors-guild-of-parkersburg-mid-ohio-valley-players-prep-for-rest-of-season/>

PARKERSBURG — With the arrival of 2020, the Actors Guild of Parkersburg and the Mid-Ohio Valley Players in Marietta will be moving into the second half of their 2019-2020 seasons.

In Parkersburg, the Guild will be relocating its next production and its Guild Builders program due to renovation work at the Guild Playhouse at Eighth and Market streets in downtown Parkersburg.

The performances of “*Madagascar Jr.*” from Jan. 24 to Feb. 1 by the Guild Builders youth theater program will be moved to Blennerhassett School auditorium. The performances of “*Sense and Sensibility*” from Feb. 28 to March 14 will be in the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Theatre.

The Guild theater will be closed for three months to allow a sprinkler system, new lighting, carpeting and wall covering to be installed, said Guild President David Rexroad.

\* *"Sense and Sensibility"* is adapted by Kate Hamill and offered through Dramatists Play Services Inc.

Set in the 1790s in England, this play concerns the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne, and their journey into happiness and fulfillment. At a time in which a woman's value and place in society is based upon her husband and his wealth, Elinor and Marianne face many challenges. Will they find a husband who can secure their position? Or, should society allow strong, intelligent, capable women their own position? The play is filled with subtly funny moments, tender scenes, and broad comedy.

\* The Guild will present *"The Producers"* on April 24-26 and May 1-3, and 8-9. By that time, the organization is expecting to be back at its Market Street home.

In the show, a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history, thereby bilking their backers (all *"little old ladies"*) out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry: the show is a smash hit.

The antics of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom as they maneuver their way fecklessly through finding a show (the *"Springtime for Hitler"*), hiring a director, raising the money and finally going to prison for their misdeeds is a lesson in broad comic construction. At the core of the insanely funny adventure is a poignant emotional journey of two different men who become friends.

\* *"The Hallelujah Girls"* will be presented June 12-27.

Hilarity abounds when the feisty females of Eden Falls, Ga., decide to shake up their lives. The action in this rollicking Southern comedy takes place in SPA-DEE-DAH!, the abandoned church-turned-day-spa where this group of friends gathers every Friday afternoon. After the loss of a dear friend, the women realize time is precious, and if they're going to change their lives and achieve their dreams, they have to get on it now. But Sugar Lee, their high-spirited, determined leader, has her hands full keeping the women motivated.

\* The final show of the season will be *"Rock of Ages"* from Aug. 7-22.

It's the tail end of the big, bad 1980s in Hollywood, and the party has been raging hard at the Sunset Strip's last legendary venue, a place where sex machine Stacey Jaxx takes the stage and scantily clad groupies line up to turn their fantasies into reality. Amidst the madness, aspiring rock star (and resident toilet cleaner) Drew longs to take the stage as the next big thing (and longs for small-town girl Sherri, fresh off the bus from Kansas with stars in her eyes). But the rock and roll fairy-tale is about to end when German developers sweep into town with plans to turn the fabled Strip into just another capitalist strip mall.

Tickets are on sale at [actors-guild.com](http://actors-guild.com).

In Marietta, 2020 will bring four more productions to the theater at Third and Putnam streets in downtown Marietta

\* *"All My Sons,"* by Arthur Miller, will be presented by the MOVP from Jan. 24-Feb. 1. It will be directed by Suzanne Walker.

During the war Joe Keller and Herbert Deever ran a machine shop which made airplane parts. Deever was sent to prison because the firm turned out defective parts, causing the deaths of many men.

Keller went free and made a lot of money. The twin shadows of this catastrophe and the fact that the young Keller son was reported missing during the war dominate the action. The love affair of Chris Keller and Ann Deever, the bitterness of George Deever returned from the war to find his father in prison and his father's partner free, are all set in a structure of almost unbearable power.

\* *"And Then There Were None"* by Agatha Christie will be performed March 13-21. It will be directed by John Mack McHale.

Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the bloodbath begins and one by one they are brutally murdered in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

\* *"Ring of Fire"* will be performed May 1-9 and will be directed by Chris Walker.

From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and home and family. More than two dozen classic hits — including *"I Walk the Line,"* *"A Boy Named Sue,"* *"Folsom*



*Prison Blues*” and the title tune, paint a musical portrait of The Man in Black. Though he is never impersonated, Johnny Cash’s remarkable life story is told through his music, climaxing in a concert that will both move and exhilarate.

\* The final show of the MOVP season will be *“The Dixie Swim Club”* from June 19-27 with Rod Poling as director.

Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina’s Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other’s lives. The show focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of 33 years.

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### **Looking Back at Stories from 2019**

Pleasants County Leader

Jan. 11, 2020

Sept. 18: The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from Fleming Insurance Agency and Westfield Insurance Foundation to support its Purple Pride Scholarship Program.

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### **Martin Luther King programs set in Parkersburg, Marietta**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/01/martin-luther-king-programs-set-in-parkersburg-marietta/>

PARKERSBURG — Several programs and services honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in connection with the holiday in his honor will be held in the coming week.

\* Zion Baptist Church will honor the late King at 3 p.m. Sunday at the church at the corner of Eighth and Clay streets in Parkersburg.

The guest speaker will be Eric M. Ellis, MA, president and CEO of Integrity Development Corp. and author of *“Diversity Conversations Finding Common*

Ground.” Other guests are scheduled to include West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer, Mayor Tom Joyce and others.

Integrity Development Corp. is a firm that helps to build organizational cultures where diversity, inclusion and respect flourish, which drives sustainable, improved business results.

Ellis is recognized as one of the nation’s leading consultant and strategist on matters related to diversity and inclusion.

He was recognized as the Minority Business of the Year for Ohio in 2015 and received the 2016 NAACP President’s award, in addition to many other leadership and business awards.

Since 1991, Integrity Development has served major corporations, law enforcement agencies, and educational institutions by providing customized solutions that enable clients to gain the most from their talent and meet the demands of the global marketplace.

\* The Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg will be open on MLK Day for club members from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Monday. Membership requires a one page application, proof of age, and \$20 annual fee.

With the theme *“The Power of Words & Action,”* several activities are planned.

\* 10:30 a.m.: *“Power of Words and Actions”* kickoff. Every club member is challenged to set a goal for how their words or actions will have a positive impact on themselves and others over the next two months. A follow-up event will be held during national Boys and Girls Club Week. Presentation on peaceful conflict resolution and building positive community connections.

\* 11 a.m. to noon: *“Words”* Art project illustrating quotes King.

\* Noon to 12:30 p.m.: Lunch provided

\* 1-3 p.m.: *“Actions: What are you doing for others?; “Stations”* (service projects to benefit Humane Society, Gabriel Project and the club); History Obstacle Course: combining information regarding civil rights movement

Keystone Club (14-18 year old) and Torch Club (11-13 year olds) are club-based groups of 12 members focused on leadership development and community service.

\* In Marietta, Marietta College will be closed Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. While classes will be closed, students and employees are encouraged to participate in one of the service activities organized through the Office of Student Life. The programs will be on-campus and in the community.

Among the projects will be GoPacks, a community-based organization that provides local elementary school children with nutritious food options for weekends and school breaks; packing critical needs kits; creating seed packets; and working with a variety of local organizations including the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley, the Boys and Girls Club, Betsey Mills Club and others. The afternoon will feature a variety of workshops and speakers.

\* In Parkersburg, West Virginia University at Parkersburg will celebrate the legacy of King with a historical lecture at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday on the cafeteria stage. Dr. Robert Anderson will present and President Chris Gilmer will also be speaking.

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### **Artsbridge bridges the community to the arts**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 17, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Artsbridge--567088211.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP)** - For decades a non-profit has sculpted the arts around the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Formed in 1966 as the United Alliance for the Arts, community members probably know this non-profit better as Artsbridge.

“Our records show that about 250 citizens got together and said we need an organization specifically to support the arts in this community, and that’s how we started. Then in 1986, we took on the name Artsbridge,” said Executive Director Amanda Stevens.

Headquartered in the bottom floor of a small building on Market Street in downtown Parkersburg, Artsbridge continues to expand and explore the arts in the MOV. With a primary focus of art education, Stevens says Artsbridge’s programs serve five counties.

“Art Cart is the biggest one. It’s the fastest growing one,” said Stevens. “We started out in one school as a pilot project, and now we are in all... we’re in 18 of the 19 Wood County Elementary Schools.”

Stevens says Artsbridge tries to be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

“The main point Artsbridge tries to get across is that the arts are for everyone. They should be accessible to everyone and there shouldn’t be any barriers. That’s why we’re going out into the communities and making things free and accessible. Not everyone has transportation,” said Stevens.

Artsbridge even puts on a day of activities for students with special needs, every March.

“Every year we have between 300 and 500 special needs students come together for a day at WVUP where they have hands-on arts activities all day long,” said Stevens.

Everything Artsbridge does is put on by a small staff, with Stevens being the only full time employee.

“It’s bigger than it’s ever been. We have more programs than we’ve ever had. We have a great board, we’ve got 18 members of our board, they make it happen. We have volunteers outside of the board and we have four staff members. So the four of us remain very busy people,” said Stevens.

And to Stevens, the arts are vital.

“The arts are just so important. They make our lives colorful and exciting and they help us to dream. I just, I think it’s the most important subject,” said Stevens.

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## **WVU-P announces spring 2020 student teacher candidates**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 18, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/wvu-p-announces-spring-2020-student-teacher-candidates/>



From left, student teachers in the spring 2020 class at West Virginia University at Parkersburg are Brittany LaMar, Shawni Hill, Hannah Hamon, Hanna Argabrite, Hannah Harvey, Alexis Saunders, Laura Taylor, Paige Burner and Camie Martinez. They will student teach in schools in Wood and surrounding counties. (Photo Provided)

**PARKERSBURG** — The WVU Parkersburg spring 2020 class of student teacher candidates are making the transition from student to professional by sharing the classroom with experienced teachers in Jackson, Pleasants, Roane, Wirt and Wood counties in West Virginia.

The college's Education Division Friday presented its student teacher candidates. They are:

- \* Hanna Argabrite, Wood County Schools.
- \* Paige Burner, Wood County Schools.
- \* Hannah Hamon, Jackson County Schools.
- \* Hannah Harvey, Wood County Schools.
- \* Shawni Hill, Wirt County Schools.



- \* Brittany LaMar, Wood County Schools.
- \* Camie Martinez, Wood County Schools.
- \* Alexis Saunders, Roane County Schools.
- \* Laura Taylor, Pleasants County Schools.

*"I am excited to apply the teaching theories and strategies we learned to the classroom and improve my own methods as I get a real feel of what it is like to be a teaching professional and create positive relationships with the students," Hill said.*

Hill is a Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship recipient. Established in November 2017, the scholarship is made available to self-identified minority students enrolled at WVU Parkersburg with the intent of completing a baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

*"Receiving the Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship has been wonderful because it offers the extra monetary support that makes schooling a possibility," said Hill. "Being a mother of three and having a husband that works to provide for the family, the scholarship allows me to pursue my education while also making sure the needs of my family are met."*

In the elementary education program, students gain hands-on experience as early as their freshman year observing and practicing teaching skills in real school settings. This includes learning key decision-making skills, creating effective lesson plans, developing and assessing one-on-one and group instruction, integrating new technologies into the classroom and more.

*"Starting today, our WVU Parkersburg students will leave our classrooms for elementary classrooms as they aspire to be teachers," David Lancaster, chairman of the Education Division, said. "At the end of their clinical placement, they will be a certified teacher; they will also be my colleague and considered to be a hero in many of their students' eyes. I am so proud of these wonderful individuals."*

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**Ellis: King's faith, message relevant as ever**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 20, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/ellis-kings-faith-message-relevant-as-ever/>

PARKERSBURG — Finding hope in disruptive times was the focus of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day service Sunday at Zion Baptist Church in Parkersburg.

The service started with excerpts from King's various speeches from the Civil Rights Era and included impressions of King and his work from community leaders; scripture readings from various ministers from the area; as well as prayer, music and more.

The featured speaker was Eric Ellis, President and CEO of Integrity Development Corp., a firm that helps to build organizational cultures where diversity, inclusion and respect flourish which drives sustainable, improved business results. He also started a record label, Positive Message Music, that produces positive music for young people.

He spoke of *"Disrupting Hopelessness To Achieve Our God Given Purpose."*

*"In our nation right now, it feels like we are in the midst of ideological Civil War,"* Ellis said. *"It comes with a cloud where even if you love people you will feel the weight of that cloud."*

However, there was nothing to prevent those assembled from fulfilling their *"God Given Purpose."*

Ellis spoke of his own experiences in having God putting him where he was needed to do certain things and impact certain people. At times, it was very difficult and there were times he was not sure he could do it as the challenges were great as many people feel times of hopelessness. Many people have an addiction to negativity.

*"Embracing your God given purpose ensures success,"* he said. *"We are brighter, we are smarter, we are more powerful together than we are in isolation."*

Ellis spoke about how Martin Luther King Jr. had many instances where his experiences could have given into hopelessness, the violence against him throughout his work in the Civil Rights movement.

*“How many of you would do keep doing what God has called you to do after your home has been bombed with your family in it,”* he said of King, adding King received many death threats and was injured many times yet he held on to his purpose.

*“His faith was not flawless, it was his strength and his guiding light,”* Ellis added. *“It was the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not yet seen.”*

People need to recapture hope and have faith that their purpose was bigger than one man.

*“Dr. King recognized that his faith in God was more powerful than his fear of those who opposed him,”* Ellis said. *“He said, ‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.’*

*“He said that darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. He realized his God given purpose was to bring light.”*

Ellis talked about the last speech King gave before he was killed in Memphis, referred to as the *“Mountaintop Speech,”* where King talked about how the burden he carried seemed hard, but he believed that God had chosen him and that compelled him forward, moving beyond the fear of failure and the fear of death.

*“How many of you want to get to the place in your life where you are no longer fearing failure or death, yet you see something so powerful from which you are maybe willing to give your life to.”*

Pastor Ian Reid of Parkersburg Lutheran Church talked about how many churches get into the routine of people worshipping with the same people every week.

*“It is special events like Martin Luther King Day that we can all come together and be able to worship together,”* he said. *“It is a blessing that although we worship in different spaces ... we are worshipping God together and that is what Heaven will be about.”*

It is the words of Martin Luther King Jr. that have given many people hope, Reid said.

*“It is a blessing to worship God together and get a glimpse of our future when we have a lot of folks together,”* he said.

Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce said he has read and listened to King’s speeches and he has found two things that continues to resonate throughout, the ideas of love and forgiveness which are the prime examples of Christianity.

*“The best way to remember Dr. King are those two things, especially today in a society where so much of what we deal with seems to conflate a difference of opinion with hatred and not love,” Joyce said. “I would ask young folks and the people in our society to remember that with love and forgiveness you can disagree, you can work towards your goals or whatever position you take, but it is always important to show love and forgiveness, and as important, show respect for everybody.”*

West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer said people might forget the words of some people, but those people will never forget how certain people made them feel.

*“It seems that Dr. King was unique among us in that we won’t forget what he said and what he did,” Gilmer said. “We will remember he is the one who made us feel profound hope and deep shame as a nation and as a world all at the same time in a moment in history when both hope and shame were things we should have felt.”*

He said the work continues on today in *“climbing to the mountaintop”* he wanted everyone to get to for the sake of everyone’s children.

*“We have not gotten there yet,” Gilmer said. “We are going work with you every day to get the rest of the way to that mountaintop.”*

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### **New study ranks West Virginia one of the least educated states [video]**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 21, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/New-study-ranks-West-Virginia-one-of-the-least-educated-states-567174461.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP)-** A new study released by the personal finance website wallethub.com shows West Virginia as one of the least educated states in the United States. The study cross-examines several aspects of education, including the percentage of people with associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, where West Virginia ranked 50th.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer says there’s likely a correlation between the type of economy West Virginia has and why the amount of two and four year degrees are so low.

He says states that rely heavily on natural resources or agriculture and lack a large urban center often lag behind in degree attainment, much like West Virginia.

Gilmer says there are some high paying entry level jobs available in West Virginia for those with high school educations, but he says even a one-year certificate can do a lot for a career.

“And so what we’re trying to do, is convince the people of West Virginia that even if you graduate from high school job ready and you can go into a high paying job in the oil and gas industry or something of that nature, what that’s really preparing you for is an entry level job. And then you need to think what’s going to happen when you want to be a supervisor,” said Gilmer.

Gilmer is part of a group of higher education officials working to get 60% of West Virginians a college education by 2030 called West Virginia’s Climb.

“So many of the jobs that are coming into the economy now are jobs that you have to have a higher education for,” said Gilmer.

Despite the Wallet Hub study, Gilmer says WVUP’s spring enrollment is up 9% from last spring.

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### **Student teacher in Wirt County**

Wirt County Journal

Jan. 21, 2020



**ified Network**  
*West Virginia*

Student teachers from WVU-P this semester include Brittany LaMar, Shawni Hill (who will be working in Wirt County), Hannah Hamon, Hanna Argabrite, Hannah Harvey, Alexis Saunders, Laura Taylor, Paige Burner and Camie Martinez.

Pencils are being traded for dry erase markers, college textbooks are being replaced with math workbooks and presentations now include leading group reading sessions.



The WVU-Parkersburg spring 2020 student teacher candidates are making the final transition from student to professional by sharing the classroom with experienced teachers in five counties, including Wirt, Pleasants, Jackson Roane and Wood.

WVU-P's education division will place Shawni Hill as a student teacher in the Wirt County Schools.

"I am excited to apply the teaching theories and strategies we learned to the classroom and improve my own methods as I get a real feel of what it is like to be a teaching professional and create positive relationships with the students," said Hill.

Hill is a Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship recipient. Established in November 2017, the scholarship is made available to self-identified minority students enrolled at WVU Parkersburg with the intent of completing a baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

"Receiving the Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship has been wonderful because it offers the extra monetary support that makes schooling a possibility," said Hill.

"Being a mother of three and having a husband who works to provide for the family, the scholarship allows me to pursue my education while also making sure the needs of my family are met."

In the elementary education program, students gain hands-on experience as early as their freshman year observing and practicing teaching skills in real school settings.

That includes learning key decision-making skills, creating effective lesson plans, developing and assessing one-on-one and group instruction, integrating new technologies into the classroom and more.

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## Student Teacher from WVU-P To Work in Pleasants County

The St. Marys Oracle

Jan. 21, 2020



Student teachers from WVU-P this semester include Brittany LaMar, Shawni Hill, Hannah Hamon, Hanna Argabrite, Hannah Harvey, Alexis Saunders, Laura Taylor (who will be working in Pleasants County), Paige Burner and Camie Martinez

Pencils are being traded for dry erase markers, college textbooks are being replaced with math workbooks and presentations now include leading group reading sessions.

The WVU-Parkersburg spring 2020 student teacher candidates are making the final transition from student to professional by sharing the classroom with experienced teachers in five counties, including Pleasants, Jackson Roane, Wirt and Wood.

WVU-P's education division will place Laura Taylor as a student teacher in the Pleasants County Schools.

In the elementary education program, students gain hands-on experience as early as their freshman year observing and practicing teaching skills in real school settings.

That includes learning key decision-making skills, creating effective lesson plans, developing and assessing one-on-one and group instruction, integrating new technologies into the classroom and more.

"Starting today, our WVU Parkersburg students will leave our classrooms for elementary classrooms as they aspire to be teachers," said Dr. David Lancaster of St. Marys, education division chairman.

"At the end of their clinical placement, they will be a certified teacher; they will also be my colleague and considered to be a hero in many of their students' eyes. I am so proud of these wonderful individuals."

**WVU Parkersburg announces spring 2020 student teacher candidates**

Jackson Newspapers

Jan. 21, 2020

<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/news/20200121/wvu-parkersburg-announces-spring-2020-student-teacher-candidates>

Pencils are being traded for dry erase markers, college textbooks are being replaced with math workbooks, and presentations now include leading group reading sessions. The WVU Parkersburg spring 2020 student teacher candidates are making the final transition from student to professional by sharing the classroom with experienced teachers in five West Virginia counties, including Jackson, Pleasants, Roane, Wirt, and Wood.

The West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Education Division presents the following student teacher candidates:

- Hanna Argabrite (Wood County Schools)
- Paige Burner (Wood County Schools)
- Hannah Hamon (Jackson County Schools)
- Hannah Harvey (Wood County Schools)
- Shawni Hill (Wirt County Schools)
- Brittany LaMar (Wood County Schools)
- Camie Martinez (Wood County Schools)
- Alexis Saunders (Roane County Schools)
- Laura Taylor (Pleasants County Schools)

"I am excited to apply the teaching theories and strategies we learned to the classroom and improve my own methods as I get a real feel of what it is like to be a teaching professional and create positive relationships with the students," candidate Shawni Hill said.

Hill is a Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship recipient. Established in Nov. 2017, the scholarship is made available to self-identified minority students enrolled at WVU Parkersburg with the intent of completing a baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

“Receiving the Joseph Badgley Minority Scholarship has been wonderful because it offers the extra monetary support that makes schooling a possibility,” Hill said. “Being a mother of three and having a husband that works to provide for the family, the scholarship allows me to pursue my education while also making sure the needs of my family are met.”

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“Starting today, our WVU Parkersburg students will leave our classrooms for elementary classrooms as they aspire to be teachers,” WVU Parkersburg Education Division chairperson Dr. David Lancaster said. “At the end of their clinical placement, they will be a certified teacher; they will also be my colleague and considered to be a hero in many of their students’ eyes. I am so proud of these wonderful individuals.”

Visit [wvup.edu/education](http://wvup.edu/education) to learn more about WVU Parkersburg’s accredited programs.

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### **MLK Day event held at WVU-Parkersburg [video]**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 21, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/MLK-Day-event-held-at-WVU-Parkersburg-567176181.html>



**WOOD COUNTY, W.Va.-(WTAP)** Martin Luther King's most famous speech was about more than "I Have a Dream". That's what a history professor at West Virginia University at Parkersburg told a lunchtime audience Tuesday.

The college, which was closed Monday for the holiday, held its Martin Luther King event Tuesday.

Professor Robert Anderson said much of the August, 1963 address was Dr. King encouraging a non-violent path to African-American equality.

"Change has to come, it's expected to come, it's coming very slowly, but we can't do it violently," Dr. Anderson said, explaining the point of Dr. King's address.

"We have not climbed all the way to the mountain that Dr. King hoped that all our little children will play on one day," noted WVU-P President Chris Gilmer, "but we are making that climb."

Dr. Anderson noted the address came months after violence during the civil rights march in Birmingham, Alabama.

He added that, even after a landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Americans largely thought the civil rights issue was confined to the south. He added that President John F. Kennedy had not acted more strongly on the issue until the summer of 1963, fearing a political backlash from southern states.

Anderson's address was also sponsored by college's OPEN task force.

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### **Parkersburg marks 200th birthday today**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 21, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/parkersburg-marks-200th-birthday-today/>

**PARKERSBURG** — Today marks the 200th anniversary of Parkersburg's incorporation as a city, originally in the state of Virginia.

The city was incorporated on Jan. 22, 1820, *"including the shores and banks, between the front street of the said town, and the Ohio and Little Kanawha rivers."*



A celebration of Parkersburg's Bicentennial will take place June 18-21, 2020, with various events planned throughout the city, according to a press release from the City of Parkersburg.

The Bicentennial Committee includes Mayor Tom Joyce, City Clerk Connie Shaffer, Public Works Director Everett Shears, Public Information Officer Erin Augenstein, along with Ginny Bowden, McClinton Chevrolet; Bob Enoch, historian; Liz Ford, The Arc; Barbara Full, the Actors Guild of Parkersburg; Senta Goudy, WVU-P; Jack Horton, V96.9 Radio; Larry James, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church; Jeff Little, local historian; Jeff Olson, Parkersburg YMCA; Downtown PKB Director Wendy Shriver, Jessica Strickler of Downtown PKB; and Jane Kincheloe of Kincheloe Motors.

Community members wishing to contribute to the historical, fine arts and social events planned are asked to message the City of Parkersburg Facebook page or email [pkb200@parkersburgwv.gov](mailto:pkb200@parkersburgwv.gov)

The Bicentennial Committee worked with Kate Baker to design the official logo for Parkersburg's 200th anniversary celebration.

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### **Microsoft Pledges Additional \$250 Million to Address Seattle Homelessness (Grants Roundup)**

The Chronicle of Philanthropy

Jan. 22, 2020

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/Microsoft-Pledges-Additional/247886>

Here are notable new grant awards compiled by the *Chronicle*:

#### *Microsoft*

\$250 million to [address affordable housing and homelessness](#) in the Seattle area. This adds to a \$500 million fund the software company established last year to make loans and grants to organizations near its headquarters, including \$50 million to the Evergreen Impact Housing Fund, a public-private partnership to develop affordable housing.

*Lilly Endowment*

\$54.7 million to [13 Indianapolis youth organizations](#) to develop financial-sustainability plans for the long term. Among the grants are \$7.5 million each to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana and the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana.

*LEGO Foundation*

\$24 million to [five partnerships](#) to offer professional development for primary-school teachers in Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Vietnam and promote the use of play in learning. The program's international partners are the Aga Khan Foundation, BRAC, Right to Play, Unicef, and VVOB; they will each receive grants worth \$4 million over four years. In addition, RTI International will receive \$4 million over five years to evaluate the outcomes of the program.

*Arnold Ventures*

\$4.2 million to the [Community and Technical College System of West Virginia](#) for a pilot program to support students who are seeking associate degrees at West Virginia University Parkersburg and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.

*Carnegie Corporation*

\$4 million to [Neo Philanthropy](#) for the Four Freedoms Fund, which aims to help immigrants become active participants in civic affairs at the state level.

*PepsiCo*

\$2.5 million to the [International Youth Foundation](#) to offer a new digital life-skills training course designed to help young women succeed in the workplace.

*Kohl's*

\$2 million to the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) for a campaign to help families learn how to cook low-cost and nutritious meals at home.

*Ascend Fund*

New American Leaders and Vote Run Lead will each receive \$1.5 million over three years to help get more women elected to office.

Read more about the [Ascend Fund](#) in a *Chronicle* article.

#### *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*

\$1 million to the [New Orleans Museum of Art](#) to plan and hire staff for a new conservation program to protect artworks, particularly outdoor sculpture and photography.

#### *New Grant Opportunity*

The [Morgridge Family Foundation](#) is accepting applications for the new [Morgridge Acceleration Program Fellowship](#), which will connect promising leaders with mentoring nonprofit groups. Six fellows will be selected, given a \$5,000 professional-development stipend, and paired with a mentor at one of six charities nationwide: Brink Literacy Project, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Global Conservation Corps, Impact100, MIT Solve, and the TGR Foundation, created by professional golfer Tiger Woods. Applications are due February 14.

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### **Parkersburg prepping for 2030 plan**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/parkersburg-prepping-for-2030-plan/>

Citizens asked to participate online, in person

PARKERSBURG — As city officials prepare to update Parkersburg’s comprehensive plan for the next decade, they’re seeking input from residents.

Required by state law to be updated every 10 years, the comprehensive plan outlines goals for the city and ways to achieve them in the areas of land use, economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, community resources and historic and cultural resources.

*“It’s a policy guide for development in the community,”* Parkersburg Development Director Rickie Yeager said.

Members of the community are being asked to share their thoughts on the city’s advantages, opportunities and challenges both in person and online.

*“A lot of the information we want to get back from the people is ... where would they want to see the community in 20 years,”* Yeager said.

Details of the plan will include recommendations on how to get there, he said.

The effort officially kicks off this week with an open house from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Parkersburg Art Center, 725 Market St.

City officials will provide an update on the planning process and seek ideas and feedback through discussion and activities with those in attendance. The event is open to the public and will include light refreshments, as well as a designated child watch area with activities for kids.

City Planner Mike Rosso said officials will also be meeting this week with the student councils at Parkersburg and Parkersburg South high schools and setting up at West Virginia University at Parkersburg and the main Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library branch on Emerson Avenue to distribute and gather information.

In addition to opportunities like these, people can join in online by taking an initial survey at [pkb2030.org](http://pkb2030.org).

*“That’ll be a good resource for people to both participate and get information on the process,”* said Rosso, noting more surveys and updates will be posted there in the coming year.

*“There’ll be opportunity for the public to comment and review (the plan) as we go through the process,”* Yeager said.

Yeager said he hopes a draft will be available by late summer. A second public event is expected in the fall to gather feedback.

The plan isn’t just a document printed to meet a requirement then placed on the shelf for 10 years. The land use recommendations are consulted by Rosso and the Municipal Planning Commission when requests are made to rezone properties, for example.

The comprehensive plan for 2020 included recommendations that have come to fruition since its adoption in 2011. Among the most visible, Yeager said, is the establishment of Downtown PKB, which promotes economic development and community growth as part of the Main Street program. Other examples include updating the city’s website and emphasizing improvements to the city’s gateways,

something for which Parkersburg City Council has allocated funding in the current budget.

The existing plan can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/37qhnBK>

The city is being assisted in the project by consultants McBride Dale Clarion of Cincinnati and a steering committee consisting of Councilmen Dave McCrady and John Reed, Municipal Planning Commission Vice President Eric Gumm, Downtown PKB Executive Director Wendy Shriver, Wood County Economic Development Executive Director Lindsey Piersol, Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley President and CEO Jill Parsons, United Way of the Mid-Ohio Valley Executive Director Stacy DeCicco, Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau President and CEO Mark Lewis, Marian Clowes with the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, Senta Goudy with WVU-P, Chuck Hughes with Jan Dils Attorneys at Law, Luke Peters with the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council and Linda Wigal with Highmark West Virginia.

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### **Parkersburg expo educates those looking to join beekeeper hive**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Jan. 26, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/01/parkersburg-expo-educates-those-looking-to-join-beekeeper-hive/>

PARKERSBURG — Sixteen years of “pollunating” the Mid-Ohio Valley with knowledge of bees paid off Saturday, with the 17th annual Honey Bee Expo seeing a record number of almost 500 people.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s campus was buzzing with beekeepers new and old sharing stories and tips for good hive productions as well as vendors selling bee equipment and products.

*“Agriculture is important and people take that for granted,”* said Kent Leonhardt, commissioner of Agriculture for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Leonhardt thanked those in attendance for their creation and selling of products such as honey locally.

*“When people buy their food locally, everyone benefits. You get to know your farmers, the environment benefits and so does the local economy,”* said Leonhardt.



Speaking at the expo was Dr. James Tew, a beekeeping specialist. Tew has taught classes, provided extension services, and conducted applied research on honey bees and honey bee behavior. Additionally, he continues to contribute monthly articles for Bee Culture Magazine and other publications he has authored: Beekeeping Principles, Backyard Beekeeping, Bee, Wisdom for Beekeepers, and The Beekeeper's Problem Solver.

Tew focused his speech on healthy colonies, discussing healthy behaviors, production and smells, as well as unhealthy behaviors, production levels and smells.

*"A healthy hive is just for the moment, so many factors come and go, it is just the way of life,"* he said.

Tew also talked about some of the struggles bees face, especially in the winter months.

*"You can find some weird hives, or badly placed ones (such as under the hood of a parked old car) when the bees can't find proper cavities to make a hive,"* said Tew.

After Tew's presentation, attendees broke off into different classes. Attendees were able to pick four from a list of 28 classes.

Some classes provided included: Beginning Beekeeping; making bees wax and honey lotion; mites and treatment techniques; second year beekeeping; biology of the bee; flowers to attract pollinators; and swarms and swarm management.

The expo offered a three-part class on Beginning Beekeeping, taught by Shanda King, the owner and operator of Simply Bee, a local honey production company that also specializes in education and awareness. King is also president of Mountaineer Beekeepers and the founder of Women Beekeepers of West Virginia.

King said she wanted to tell prospective beekeepers what to expect and how to prepare for their bees. It's not a hobby someone can start on the spur of the moment and getting the bees to make it through the winter is the first goal. Honey production is, at best, a bonus that first year, but it is possible.

King talked about woodenware and what it is used for, where to put the hive and how to be safe while beekeeping.

*"It is so important to get in the hive and observe,"* said King, *"You need to let yourself be a beginner, because that is how you grow,"* she said.

King said there is not just one way to do beekeeping, but a beginner must decide a plan and be consistent.

*"Everything that happens good or bad is a learning experience. It is important to not give up, but learn from it,"* she said.

Her husband, Justin King, gave the advice to beekeepers to always ask questions, especially with other bee keepers in the area.

*"No two beekeepers do things the same way, everyone needs to make adjustments that work with their environment,"* said Justin King.

For those locally looking to know more about beekeeping, The Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers meet the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at the Wood County Technical Center. The Mountaineer Beekeepers Club meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Harrisville Public Library.

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### **Local professor discusses impeachment trial**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 27, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Local-professor-discusses-impeachment-trial-567335721.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.-(WTAP)** With the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump continuing, a local college professor is skeptical of the proceedings.

Professor Robert Anderson, of WVU-Parkersburg, says it's unlikely the president will be removed from office, unless a substantial number of Republican U.S. Senators vote for removal.

He doubts the impeachment and removal process for a current president has not been historically used in the way it was set in the U.S. Constitution.

"When you look back at the two previous impeachments, a lot of that was politically motivated as well. And I don't really think the founders intended impeachment to be grounds for political gain."

Dr. Anderson says, while the votes of West Virginia's two senators, Republican Shelley Moore Capito and Democrat Joe Manchin, may cancel each other out, Manchin, considered a moderate, has an opportunity to be a clear voice in the process.

Manchin said Friday he takes seriously his role as an impartial juror in the trial.

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### **Mass Transit levy to come before Wood County voters in May [video]**

WTAP-TV

Jan. 28, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/Mass-Transit-levy-to-come-before-Wood-County-voters-in-May-567366401.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.-(WTAP)** The Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority is seeking renewal of a mass transit levy for the cities of Parkersburg and Vienna.

Vienna City Council earlier in January approved placing the levy renewal on the May primary ballot. Parkersburg City Council Tuesday night was expected to do the same.

In recent years, the transit authority has expanded its service from both cities to locations such as Simonton Windows and WVU-Parkersburg.

"We're looking at the prospect in the future for another pilot project through the state to expand beyond our fixed route into other communities such as Mineral Wells, Lubeck and Williamstown. and those areas," says General Manager Michael Kesterson.

The levy raises nearly \$2.9 million for bus services in both cities.

A "yes" vote by 60% of those casting ballots in both Parkersburg and Vienna is required for passage.

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**Martin Elementary students visit Ag Department farm lab**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 4, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/martin-elementary-students-visit-ag-department-farm-lab/>

PARKERSBURG — Students at Martin Elementary School received hands-on lessons Monday in science and renewable resources while visiting the Mobile Agriculture Science Lab.

The program through the West Virginia Farm Bureau brings the mobile Ag Lab to schools throughout the state, providing self-contained lessons for students of all elementary grade levels.

*“This covers everyone’s grade-level standards,”* said teacher Sherry Morris.

Monday’s project was using corn and vegetable oil to produce plastic and how scientists are developing ways to use renewable resources. Another planned project will be turning soybeans into crayons, Morris said.

*“The students seem to be loving it,”* Morris said. *“They’re really excited.”*

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*“The students seem to be loving it,”* Morris said. *“They’re really excited.”*

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**What is a caucus? [video]**

WTAP-TV

Feb. 3, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/What-is-a-caucus-567533221.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W. Va. (WTAP)** - It's been talked about for months. Presidential hopefuls have been campaigning in the corn belt state of Iowa, off and on, since last summer.

And the first vote of the presidential election year took place there Monday.

But the Iowa caucus is far different than most of the other presidential votes.

For one thing, unlike a primary or an election, it's not a secret ballot, and doesn't involve just a series of individual votes.

Voters meet together across the state to come to a consensus on candidate.

And as West Virginia University at Parkersburg professor Dr. Robert Anderson told us, they have a specific number of votes for a candidate that has to be reached.

"At least 15% of the caucus has to support one candidate," Anderson explained, "or otherwise, their candidate doesn't receive any of the delegates."

Several states hold caucuses during the presidential primary season. But because Iowa is the first to do so, it gets the attention of the candidates, the public, and, of course, the news media.

The first presidential primary, New Hampshire, takes place later this month.

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**Kuhl, Hess seek District 2 Parkersburg City Council seat**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 4, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/editors-note-this-is-the-third-of-five-stories-previewing-the-parkersburg-city-council-primary-elections-that-will-appear-throughout-the-week-by-evan-bevins-staff-reporter-parkersburg/>

**PARKERSBURG** — A 2019 Parkersburg South graduate is challenging the incumbent in the Republican primary for the District 2 Parkersburg City Council seat.

Michael Hess, a 19-year-old restaurant carryout server pursuing a legal studies degree at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, will face off against Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl, who last fall said she did not plan to seek a second term.



*“When I had decided that I was not going to run, I received a lot of phone calls from the constituents in District 2,”* said Kuhl, 63, a housewife who said council is her primary focus.

After requests to reconsider or endorse someone, Kuhl decided to run after all, turning in her paperwork on the last day of the filing period.

*“I love being on City Council,”* she said. *“We have been through so much, and we have done so much just in the past three years.”*

Hess has attended a number of council meetings over the years and was appointed chairman of the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council. He said he wants to “work with our community to bring innovative solutions to our city’s problems, so businesses can grow, families can thrive and youth can evolve into the leaders of tomorrow.

*“If elected, my priorities will (be) focused on limiting municipal government, lowering taxes and fees, increasing local economic development, re-imagining our neighborhoods and public spaces and strengthening our public safety services,”* Hess said.

David Joy also filed to run for the seat as a Republican, but said Friday he was withdrawing from the race.

No Democrats filed to run in District 2.

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## **Fair queen earns semi-finalist spot in state pageant**

Wirt County Journal

Feb. 4, 2020



Kaitlynn Thompson, 2019 Wirt County Fair Queen

Kaitlyn Thompson, the 2019 Wirt County Fair Queen, was selected in the top 16 semi-finalists for the West Virginia Association of Fairs and Festivals Jan. 9-11 in Charleston.

Katelyn was one of 90 young women who competed in the pageant.

She did an outstanding job representing the Wirt County Fair as evidenced by her selection as a semifinalist from a field of accomplished candidates.

The phases of competition included a 30-second event promotion, personal interview, evening gown and on-stage interview for the top 16 semi-finalists.

The contestants were evaluated on poise, communication skills, personality and natural beauty.

An additional spot (top 16) was added from the results of online voting for the People's Choice, a partnership between the association and Pageant Planet.

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### **8 earn degrees from WVU-P**

Wirt County Journal

Feb. 4, 2020

Eight local students received certificates, associate or bachelor's degrees at West Virginia University at Parkersburg during commencement Dec. 14. This semester, the college graduated 231 students from seven states.

Academic honors were awarded to graduates who attained 3.5-3.749 averages, cum laude; 3.75-3.99, magna cum laude; and 4.0, summa cum laude.

Local graduates were:

Elizabeth: Laura Alt, AAS, BOG; Christian Cline, CAS, AS, Business Administration; Deborah Darling, CAS, Legal Studies, Magna Cum Laude; Kaitlyn Frazier, AS, Business Administration, Cum Laude; Sami Knically, RBA; Tori Powell, AAS, Computer and Information Technology; and Darrin Roberts, BAS, Business Administration.

Palestine: Haley McCoy, AAS, BAS, Business Administration, Cum Laude.

Reedy: Anna Errickson, AAS, Nursing.

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**30 earn honors at WVU-P**

Wirt County Journal

Feb. 4, 2020

Thirty local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the fall semester.

Named to the president's list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Elizabeth: Ericka Chevront, Deborah Darling, Jeremy Kelbaugh, Seth Kerby, Thomas Mullenix II, Shannon Stanley and Kaitlyn Thompson.

Palestine: Haley McCoy and Brooklyn Smith.

Leroy: Aarin Cale and Hannah Hamon.

Named to the dean's list for earning 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Creston: Jonathan Siegrist, Hannah Stephens and Matthew White.

Elizabeth: Curtis Browning, Christian Cline, Haylee Exline, Hunter Hickman, Michaela Johnson, Shawn Jones, Timothy Kemp, Daniel McCloy, Lynsey Munday, Cianna Murray, Mika Parsons and Catreena Shears.

Palestine: Shawni Hill.

Leroy: Morgan Cale, Moriah Cale and Isaiah Price.

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**55 Earn Honors At WVU-P**

The St. Marys Oracle

Feb. 5, 2020

Fifty-five local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the fall semester.

Named to the president's list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Belmont: Alexis Carder and Rachel Gumm.

St. Marys: Summer Bayless, Anthony Bowie, Dylan Fitzsimmons, Brody Grimes, Ryan McCoy, Jadon Satterfield, Tina Smith and Kelsie Thein.

Waverly: Lakyn Ankrom, James Kelley and Whitney Kiger.

Named to the dean's list for earning 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were: Belmont: Michelle Neff and William Stanton.

St. Marys: Devon Amos, Shelby-Jo Anderson, Peyton Auxier, Hannah Barker, Jenna Barnhart, Jeffrey Bennett, Robert Bills II, Richard Burkhammer, Kelly Chandler, Aidan Cospers, Gabrielle Cunningham, Bralynn Davis, Isabella Davis, Jacob Elder, Lara Fetty, Jaden Hatcher, Adriana Matson, Bethany McFarland, Miranda Myers, Kyra Parker, Abigail Peckens, Logan Rice, William Steele, Laura Taylor, Juan Timmons, Mallory Webb, Austin Weikart, Aaron Wince and Kylie Wright.

Friendly: Isabella Hileman, Thomas Hill, Jaden Schofield, Jacob Sharp and Sydney Smith.

Waverly: Meredith Davis, Hannah Hudson, Jacob Huggins, Hannah Mollohan, Shannon O'Dell and Taylor Jo Smith.

Newport: Lindsey Cross and Mariah Mason.

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### **13 Earn Degrees From WVU-P**

The St. Marys Oracle

Feb. 5, 2020

Thirteen local students received certificates, associate or bachelor's degrees at West Virginia University at Parkersburg during commencement Dec. 14. This semester, the college graduated 231 students from seven states.

Academic honors were awarded to graduates who attained 3.5-3.749 averages, cum laude; 3.75-3.99, magna cum laude; and 4.0, summa cum laude.

Local graduates were:

St. Marys: Brandon Baxter, CAS, Electricity and Instrumentation, Cum Laude; Brody Grimes, AAS, Criminal Justice, Cum Laude; Ryleigh Scovill, AAS, Business Administration; Tina Smith, RBA; Kelsie Thein, BAS, Criminal Justice, Cum Laude;

Noah Vanzile, CAS, Chemical and Polymer Operator Technology; and Aaron Wince, CAS, AAS, Criminal Justice

Waverly: Andrew Bayer, BS, Business Administration; Maria George, AAS, BOG; Dylan Gray, CAS, Chemical and Polymer Operator Technology; Sarah Hart, BS, Business Administration; James Kelley, BAS, Business Administration, Cum Laude and Jessica Stollings, BAS, Criminal Justice.

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### **WVU-P to present The Legacy Show**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 7, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/wvu-p-to-present-the-legacy-show/>

PARKERSBURG — The Legacy Show, presented by violinist Dr. Tami Lee Hughes, will be 6 p.m. Feb. 17 in the college theater at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

WVU Parkersburg is providing a multimedia educational experience that will allow the community an opportunity to explore the brilliance of African-American composers, performers and influential players through live music, spoken word and cultural imagery, the university said.

The Legacy Show will highlight the Antebellum Period, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Era and Modern Times. Hughes also will dedicate a part of the show to African-American women with a tribute to iconic female music artists. She will read poems and narratives written by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou to introduce each musical piece during the show.

*“It is enough that Dr. Tami Lee Hughes is a violin virtuoso of the highest order, but she is also a music historian who uses her talent to keep classical music by African-American composers alive and actively performed,”* said Chris Gilmer, WVU Parkersburg president. *“The Legacy Show is a multimedia event combining a lesson in American history with some of the finest violin music you are likely to hear anywhere. I know firsthand what I say because I have had the privilege of hearing her perform twice, and we are honored she included WVU Parkersburg on her very busy performance schedule.”*

Hughes, a well-known performer, has recorded on projects with Grammy Award-winning Donnie McClurkin, Fred Hammond, Aretha Franklin and live with Smokey



Robinson. She has toured the United States, Europe and Central America with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Her solo album *“Legacy: Violin Music of African-American Composers”* was called one of the top 10 albums of 2011 by audiences and critics.

Kurt Klettner, executive director of WVU Parkersburg Student Support Services, has been working with Hughes in preparation for her visit to the institution. *“Dr. Tami Lee Hughes is an absolute delight to work with,”* said Klettner. *“In addition to being a talented musician and educator, she presents with a kind and gentle spirit.”*

Financed by the Diversity for Equity Grant provided by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the Legacy Show is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Kurt Klettner at [kurt.klettner@wvup.edu](mailto:kurt.klettner@wvup.edu) or 304-424-8388.

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### **Snow shuts down schools throughout Mid-Ohio Valley**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 8, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/snow-shuts-down-schools-throughout-mid-ohio-valley/>

PARKERSBURG — A winter storm Friday morning closed schools throughout West Virginia and the Mid-Ohio Valley and led to numerous car wrecks throughout the area.

Rain overnight turned into snow with several inches of accumulation expected.

All but a handful of county school systems in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia were closed Friday due to road conditions and weather concerns. All Washington County school systems, including Belpre City Schools and Marietta City Schools, were closed Friday.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg was closed Friday, and Washington State Community College called for a two-hour delay.

The Washington County Sheriff’s Office called a Level 1 Snow Emergency Friday, warning of icy roads and blowing snow. The county has three snow emergency levels.

Throughout the morning, crews responded to numerous wrecks and disabled vehicles along Interstate 77 and throughout the area. First responders cleared a wreck and reopened a section of Interstate 77 shortly after 8:15 a.m. and five minutes later received a report of another car on its side on the interstate.

Wood County 911 Center Director Rick Woodyard said no serious injuries were reported.

*“We had a few cars on the side and some in ditches and whatnot,”* he said.

The National Weather Service in Charleston extended a Winter Weather Advisory to 1 p.m. Friday, warning of continued snow and slick road conditions. Approximately 3 to 4 inches of snow were reported in the area.

Temperatures are expected to improve this weekend, with highs in the lower 30s to upper 40s. Rain is expected to return to the area Monday with highs in the upper 40s.

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Temperatures are expected to improve this weekend, with highs in the lower 30s to upper 40s. Rain is expected to return to the area Monday with highs in the upper 40s.

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### **30 earn honors at WVU-P**

The St. Marys Oracle  
Feb. 12, 2020

Thirty local students earned academic honors at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for the fall semester.

Named to the president's list for perfect 4.0 averages while earning 12 or more hours of college credit were:

Elizabeth: Ericka Chevront, Deborah Darling, Jeremy Kelbaugh, Seth Kerby, Thomas Mullenix II, Shannon Stanley and Kaitlyn Thompson.

Palestine: Haley McCoy and Brooklyn Smith.

Leroy: Aarin Cale and Hannah Hamon.

Named to the dean's list for earning 3.5 averages while earning six or more hours of college credit were:

Creston: Jonathan Siegrist, Hannah Stephens and Matthew White.

Elizabeth: Curtis Browning, Christian Cline, Haylee Exline, Hunter Hickman, Michaela Johnson, Shawn Jones, Timothy Kemp, Daniel McCloy, Lynsey Munday, Cianna Murray, Mika Parsons and Catreena Shears.

Palestine: Shawni Hill.

Leroy: Morgan Cale, Moriah Cale and Isaiah Price.

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### **WVU-P to host The Legacy Show**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 13, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/wvu-p-to-host-the-legacy-show/>

PARKERSBURG — The Legacy Show, a multimedia presentation about African-American composers, performers and influential players, will be presented by violinist Tami Lee Hughes, 6 p.m. Monday in the college theater at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. The presentation, financed by the Diversity for Equity Grant provided by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, is free and open to the public.

The Legacy Show will highlight the Antebellum Period, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Era and modern times.

Hughes will dedicate a part of the show to African-American women with a tribute to iconic female music artists. She will read poems and narratives written by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou to introduce each musical piece during the show.

*“It is enough that Dr. Tami Lee Hughes is a violin virtuoso of the highest order, but she is also a music historian who uses her talent to keep classical music by African-American composers alive and actively performed,”* said Chris Gilmer, WVU-P president. *“The Legacy Show is a multimedia event combining a lesson in American history with some of the finest violin music you are likely to hear anywhere. I know firsthand what I say because I have had the privilege of hearing her perform twice, and we are honored she included WVU Parkersburg on her very busy performance schedule.”*

Hughes, a well-known performer, has recorded on projects with Grammy Award-winning Donnie McClurkin, Fred Hammond, Aretha Franklin and live with Smokey Robinson. She has toured the United States, Europe and Central America with the National Symphony Orchestra. Her solo album, *“Legacy: Violin Music of African-American Composers,”* was called one of the top 10 albums of 2011 by audiences and critics alike.

This event is hosted by WVUP’s Opening Pathways to Equity Now Project.

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### **WVU-P student accepted into Disney College Program**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/wvu-p-student-accepted-into-disney-college-program/>



Rachael Flanagan, a student majoring in elementary education at WVU Parkersburg, has been accepted in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort. (Photo Provided)

PARKERSBURG — A student majoring in elementary education at WVU Parkersburg has been accepted in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort.

Rachael Flanagan is set to move to Florida for the duration of the spring 2020 semester. As an elementary education student in her junior year, Flanagan knows working with children is her path and plans to graduate from WVU Parkersburg in 2021 with a baccalaureate degree.

Growing up in a Disney-loving family, Flanagan has a special place in her heart for the company. Her family frequently visits Disney World and Flanagan has been to the theme park more than 20 times since the age of 2.

As annual pass holders, the Flanagan family even enjoys spending holidays there each year.

*“We don’t have a large family, so Disney is just where we go for our holidays,” said Flanagan. “My sister was married there, so it has always been part of our family and a part of who we are.”*

When applying to the Disney College Program, Flanagan’s filled initial application requested her education information, job experience and the Disney roles in which she was interested. When her application was accepted, she took a web-based interview requiring a full-pass to be considered a valid candidate.

Upon passing, she was interviewed over the phone by a Disney representative and learned she was accepted to the program.

*“I was so excited to find out I had been accepted, so happy, I started crying in class,” said Flanagan. “I called my mom and said, ‘I’m going to Disney World, I’m really going to Disney World.’”*

Flanagan will be a lifeguard at a Walt Disney World Resort location decided upon her arrival. As a recreation cast member, she will not only ensure the safety of guests, but make sure their vacation is an enjoyable one.

Flanagan is a certified lifeguard, however, she will complete an additional swim test to become an official Disney lifeguard. Flanagan must swim freestyle or breaststroke for 200 yards, retrieve a 10-pound brick from the deepest section of the pool and tread water with her hands out for 2 minutes.



Flanagan will have a five-day workweek and receive a week-long vacation, which she will use to visit her family at home. On her days off, she will be able to study and focus on her classwork.

Students in the Disney College Program may also receive academic credit for participating in Disney educational courses like Resume Writing and Leadership 101 through the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service.

David Lancaster, WVU Parkersburg Division of Education charman, made sure Flanagan knew the entire division is supportive of her decision and the Disney College Program is a valuable opportunity for her to gain hands-on learning experience, meet people from across the world and take part in personal and career development.

As a beneficial addition to her resume, Flanagan said the Disney College Program will open doors for her as well as present the opportunity to learn in the process.

*"I think it is really about the experience, getting to branch out, be myself and grow as a person," Flanagan said. "Working with children, learning how to better communicate and having the Disney mentality will benefit me when I am in the classroom."*

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### **Celebrity Chef Cooking School set for Feb. 29**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 16, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/celebrity-chef-cooking-school-set-for-feb-29/>

PARKERSBURG — Local chefs are bringing their culinary expertise to a fundraiser this month to support the West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg.

The Celebrity Chef Cooking School fundraiser will be held 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church Parish Center at 609 Market St.

The West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg is presenting the cooking event.

A silent auction, appetizers and wine will be followed by a five-course dinner prepared by local celebrity chefs.

Providing food will be Outback Steak House with Chef Mitch Linville, blue cheese pecan chopped salad and pumpernickel bread; Texas Road House-Christopher Carlson (managing partner), 8-ounce sauteed herb crusted boneless chicken breast; Boathouse BBQ-Steve Peters, a corn and black bean salsa served warm; Autumn Moore, of the former Paradise Grille, sponsored by Community Bank-Randy Snider, jalapeno spinach, homemade herb bread; and 5-Star Catering-Chef Yancy Roush, bananas foster with ice cream.

The celebrity chefs will demonstrate how to make their dishes and will be sharing recipes at the dinner.

The wine tasting and appetizers will be provided from 6:30-7 p.m. Appetizers provided by Red Lobster-Melinda Wilson (sales and catering manager) will be shrimp cocktail, stuffed mushrooms with crabmeat and grilled lobster tail.

Red and white wine will be provided by Stephanie Epling, owner of Der Dog Haus. A wine tasting will be provided by Chestnut Ridge Winery, owned by Teresa Holcomb.

Dinner and demonstrations begin at 7 p.m. Kiki Angelos will demonstrate saganaki, a cheese flambe, that is a popular appetizer in Greek cuisine.

The evening is being described as a fun event for a great cause.

The cost is \$60 per person. All proceeds will go to the nonprofit West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg, which was created to assist the West Virginia Symphony-Parkersburg Board of Directors in providing classical music for the community and students of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Angelos, vice president of the West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg and chairwoman of the celebrity cooking school, has presented cooking schools with doctors and lawyers as the cooks but this year it was decided to have chefs and owners of restaurants provide the five-course dinner.

The local chefs are donating their time and ingredients for the dinner.

The fundraiser is sponsored by West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The local symphony league would like for those interesting in attending to respond by Saturday.

For tickets or more information call Sally at 304-295-9850.

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## **Celebrity Chef Cooking School planned**

The Marietta Times

Feb. 17, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/02/celebrity-chef-cooking-school-planned/>

PARKERSBURG — Local chefs are bringing their culinary expertise to a fundraiser this month to support the West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg. The Celebrity Chef Cooking School fundraiser will be held 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church Parish Center at 609 Market St. The West Virginia Symphony League-Parkersburg is presenting the cooking event.

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For tickets or more information call Sally at 304-295-9850.

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### **WVU-P student going to Disney program**

The Marietta Times

Feb. 17, 2020

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/news/local-news/2020/02/wvu-p-student-going-to-disney-program/>

Parkersburg, W.Va. – WVU Parkersburg’s own, Rachael Flanagan, has recently been accepted to the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort. Flanagan is set to move to Florida for the duration of the spring 2020 semester. As an elementary education student in her junior year, Flanagan has always known working with children is her path and plans to graduate from WVU Parkersburg in 2021 with a baccalaureate degree.

Growing up in a Disney-loving family, Flanagan has always had a special place in her heart for the company. Her family frequently visits Disney World – Flanagan has been to the theme park more than 20 times since the age of two. As annual pass holders, the Flanagan family even enjoys spending holidays there each year.

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When applying to the Disney College Program, Flanagan filled out an initial application requesting her education information, job experience and the Disney roles she was interested in. Once her application was accepted, she took a web-based interview requiring a full-pass to be considered a valid candidate. Upon passing, she spoke to a Disney representative during a phone-based interview, to later find out she was accepted to the program.

*"I was so excited to find out I had been accepted, so happy, I started crying in class," said Flanagan. "I called my mom and said, 'I'm going to Disney World, I'm really going to Disney World.'"*

Flanagan will serve as a lifeguard at a Walt Disney World Resort location decided upon her arrival. As a recreation cast member, she will not only ensure the safety of every guest but make sure their vacation experience is an enjoyable one. Flanagan is already a certified lifeguard; however, she will complete an additional swim test to become an official Disney lifeguard. During the lifeguard swim test, Flanagan must swim 200 yards freestyle or breaststroke, retrieve a 10-pound brick from the deepest section of the pool and tread water with her hands out for two minutes.

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Dr. David Lancaster, WVU Parkersburg Division of Education chairperson, made sure Flanagan knew the entire division is supportive of her pathway decision and the Disney College Program is a valuable opportunity for her to gain hands-on learning experience, meet people from across the world and take part in personal and career development.

As a beneficial addition to her resume, Flanagan feels the Disney College Program will open doors for her as well as present the opportunity to learn in the process.

*"I think it is really about the experience, getting to branch out, be myself and grow as a person," Flanagan said. "Working with children, learning how to better communicate and having the Disney mentality will benefit me when I am in the classroom."*



**WVU-Parkersburg hosts world renowned violinist**

WTAP-TV

Feb. 17, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-Parkersburg-hosts-world-renowned-violinist-567958071.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va** - Tami Lee Hughes came to WVUP to perform her Legacy Show, a performance that combines violin, piano, spoken word, and imagery.

Hughes highlights African-American musicians and activists and accompanies it with her critically acclaimed music.

She has played in Carnegie hall, recorded as a studio violinist for Aretha Franklin, and performed with gospel legend Kirk Franklin.

"This program is actually a reflection of my entire childhood and it was something I wanted to create because I'd never seen anything like it. So, I thought there was a hole, definitely in classical music and African-American composers, and connecting that to African-American history, so I wanted to fill it," Hughes says.

The show was a part of WVUP's OPEN initiative (Opening Pathways to Equity Now) that promotes long term development of a culture based on equity and inclusion.

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**WVU-P to present program about African-American service members**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 18, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/wvu-p-to-present-program-about-african-american-service-members/>

**PARKERSBURG** — West Virginia University at Parkersburg will present a program about African-American service members in honor of Black History Month at 12:15 p.m. Monday in the college theater.

Sponsored by the student Veterans Corps, a short presentation on the contributions of African-American service members will be followed by a showing of the 1995 movie *"The Tuskegee Airmen."*

The presentation will be given by Kurt Klettner, armed forces veteran and WVU Parkersburg Student Support Services executive director. Klettner served in the United States Air Force from 1973 until 1980.

Achieving the rank of staff sergeant with all of his assignments associated with Strategic Air Command, he earned his bachelor's and graduate degrees on active duty at Loring Air Force Base in Maine. His assignments included training in Ground Radio Communication Repair and later, after the completion of his master's degree, he was a drug and alcohol counselor stationed in March, AFB, California.

The movie also will be shown at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. It stars Laurence Fishburne and Cuba Gooding Jr. and tells the story of the first African-American combat pilots in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II. Charles McGee, 100, the last surviving Tuskegee Airman and a retired brigadier general, was recently honored at the 2020 State of the Union Address.

*"The only way our nation will forget our national heroes is if we stop telling their stories," said Darren Shearlock, WVU Parkersburg veterans advocate. "The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Veterans Corps is not willing to let that happen. We are honored to host an event remembering the valiant actions of the Tuskegee Airmen. I am definitely looking forward to the presentation and hope many community members take the opportunity to join us for an entertaining and informative afternoon."*

The presentation and movie showings are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Shearlock at [darren.shearlock@wvup.edu](mailto:darren.shearlock@wvup.edu) or 304-424-8337.

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### **Reverse Job Fair set for June 26**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 19, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/reverse-job-fair-set-for-june-26/>

PARKERSBURG — The second Mid-Ohio Valley Region Reverse Job Fair will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 26 in the multi-purpose room at West Virginia University-Parkersburg .

The job fair will be presented by the Mid-Ohio Valley Workforce Development Board and the Workforce West Virginia Human Resource Development Foundation, Mountain State Education Services Cooperative, Career Connections, CRI Inc., WVU-Parkersburg and the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Registered participants will have the opportunity to present potential employers their skills, education, work experience and personal attributes. Prior to the fair, Workforce West Virginia will hold a workshop on preparing for an on-site interview or presentation with a potential employer.

To participate, job seekers must register for the Reverse Job Fair to have the option to register for the workshop at [wdbmov.org](http://wdbmov.org). Click on Reverse Job Fair to register.

The Workforce Development Board also will hold an employer forum from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 23 at 709 Market St., Parkersburg.

The forum will provide information about employer benefits, including subsidized-wage programs, bonding and tax credits.

For employers to participate, go to [wdbmov.org](http://wdbmov.org), click on Reverse Job Fair and register as an employer.

For more information, call the American Job Center at St. Joseph Landing at 304 420-4531.

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### **WVU-P sees increased enrollment**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 19, 2020



Parkersburg - West Virginia University at Parkersburg is growing and solidifying its place as an integral part of the community.

After seven years of enrollment decline, WVU-P posted an 18 percent head count and four percent FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) increase between the fall of 2018 and the fall of 2019, WVU-P President Chris Gilmer said.

The university doubled its early college enrollment in one year, doubled its workforce training hours from 46,000 to 96,000 in one year and secured two-thirds of the WVU Parkersburg Proud \$3 million, three-year goal in one year, he said.

“In a national climate where enrollment is on the decline, we were up last semester four percent in full-time students and 18 percent in head count students,” Gilmer said. “We are very proud of that.”

So far, for the Spring 2020 semester, they are up 2.5 percent in Full-Time Equivalent and nine percent head count enrollment.

Gilmer said that is being accomplished “the old-fashioned way” through a marketing campaign with billboards all over the area and more advertising than the university has done before as well as reaching out to local school districts.

“Really what we are doing is rebuilding the most important thing we do, our relationships with all of the local school districts in our service are,” he said.

“We are going out to them and bringing them into us. We are sharing information with the districts so they feel good about recommending their students to us.

“We think the old-fashioned method of one person going out to greet one person is the way we have done it is what is working best.”

One of the college’s biggest successes over the last year was the Early College Program where high school students are able to take college level courses and earn college credit.

“We have doubled the size of it in a one-year period from 500 students to around 1,000 students,” Gilmer said. “We discount that program significantly.

The college doesn't really make any money towards its bottom line off of that program."

The goal is if the college does well with those students, they will be more likely to enroll as full-time students after they graduate from high school. Reaching out to these students is also part of the universities mission in serving the area and providing educational opportunities.

Gilmer outlined a number of accomplishments of the school, including a couple of national rankings the school achieved.

WVU-P has been recognized as one of the top-ranked institution in the nation for its Associate of Applied Science in Child Development degree program by Intelligent.com.

The college ranked No. 1 Among 31 other competing institutions across the nation. More than 360 programs were evaluated by the student-focused publication. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment. The ranking was calculated through a scoring system, which includes student engagement, a potential return on investment and leading third-party evaluations.

"It is unusual for a small rural university become ranked No. 1 in the nation," Gilmer said.

Military Times "Best for Vets" survey ranked WVU-P No. 8 on its annual "Best for Vets: Career & Technical Colleges" list. The survey evaluated many factors that help make colleges and universities a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. The ranking is based upon an institution's culture, student support, academic policies, academic outcomes/quality and financial aid.

The University consistently ranks among the top career and technical schools for veterans by Military Times, both national and in West Virginia overall.

"Military Times is the Gold Standard that ranks military organizations in programs" Gilmer said. "We are very proud to be given this ranking."

This year, the university has a budget of over \$21.8 million and has cash reserves of over \$13.8 million. The percentage of the annual budget that is tuition driven is 40 percent.

Gilmer said academic programs and student programs are moving in good directions with good results from the independent accreditation visits last year for the school's business, nursing and education programs.

"We received high marks on all three of the major national disciplinary accreditation that we have," Gilmer said.

WVU-P was one of two schools chosen nationally by the Arnold Foundation to receive grants.

"It Will be the largest in the history of the college, \$1.7 million, which we will use to replicate the City University of New York's proven student retention model with the most vulnerable students coming into work at the associate level," Gilmer said. "We will provide all kinds of extra support for them that we didn't have the resources to provide to them before. We are very excited about that.

"That is a big honor for the college."

In the coming year, there are a number of projects the university will be involved in.

The college is preparing to have a presence in downtown Parkersburg again with the establishment of a location at 414 Market St., near Fifth Street, to house to the new West Virginia Center for Civic Life, the Mid-Ohio Valley Arts Collaborative in the community coordinator for a new project that will be announced at a later date..

"We are responding to many requests and suggestions from the community that they would like to see a physical presence of the university there," Gilmer said. "It will be a gathering place for clubs in civic organizations and non-profit organizations in the community that need meeting space.

"We will be making meeting space available to them at no cost."

The Mid-Ohio Valley Arts Collaborative Will be bringing different local arts groups together as well as put them in contact with the students who can help them with



marketing and business plan development, branding, website development or anything they would need assistance with.

“We are going to provide that expertise, whatever they request from us that we have to give,” Gilmer said.

This coming year the University will commission a feasibility study for campus housing. Community colleges in West Virginia have not had campus – based housing and it has been a challenge to recruit students from outside their primary service area.

With WVU-P’s status of offering a number of bachelor degrees, I’ve been housing on campus would allow them to recruit students from other community colleges in the state who are interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree. The university has been working with Washington State Community College to provide a pathway to affordable bachelor’s degrees for their associate graduates. In return, WVU-P helps Washington State promote some of the workforce development and technical programs they have that WVU-P doesn’t.

“We have the least expensive bachelor degree in West Virginia by far,” Gilmer said. “This is a secret that has been too well kept for far too long.

“If we could bring housing to campus, we believe we can recruit students into many programs from across the state and surrounding states as well.”

Gilmer said the potential would be there to possibly recruit students from outside the United States.

“We are not breaking ground yet, but we are giving it very serious consideration,” he said.

Plans are also in place to bring back to university’s 20-acre farm back into production after nothing has been done with the property for years.

They are entering in a partnership with Mr. Bee Potato Chips to supply some of the potatoes the company uses to make chips to meet a desire to use more West Virginian and growing potatoes. We have a group of 25 farmers, agricultural leaders and business people coming together to bring the farm back into production. They are also looking to do a farm to table garden there with the Blennerhassett Hotel purchasing what they produce.

The university will be completing the next strategic plan for the university.

“We feel we can do that based on the work we have done over the last couple of years from a position of strength,” Gilmer said. “Our cash reserves are good and our enrollment has been stabilized.”

Gilmer’s goals for the university include never being completely done with their students, providing resources in more after they graduate.

“We are always a resource involved in your life in some way,” he said. “That Means placing you in a good and meaningful job as near as we can to the time you graduate and keep you actively engaged as an alumni.

“We are setting goals for ourselves that we think are achievable, but goals that push us as a community. I didn’t want to see us become complacent.”

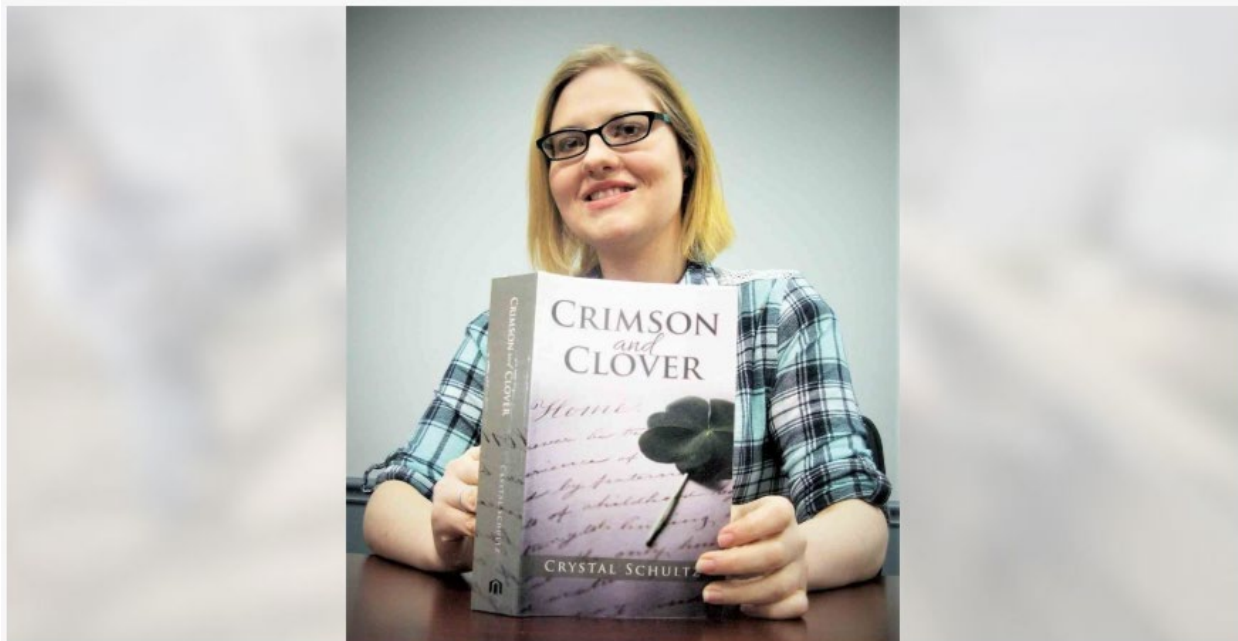
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### **Rockport woman writes vampire romance**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 20, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/rockport-woman-writes-vampire-romance/>



Crystal Schultz of Rockport and her book “Crimson and Clover.” (Photo by Jess Mancini)

PARKERSBURG — A Rockport woman’s dream is to become a full-time author.

But Crystal Schultz has a Plan B, too.

Schultz, 29, has written *“Crimson and Clover,”* which she calls a vampire romance novel set in Parkersburg around 2010. It’s about the youthful-looking 75-year-old vampire Cordelia Slade, who leaves an abusive relationship and returns to Parkersburg.

*“She wanted to escape and get away,”* Schultz said.

Cordelia becomes involved with Paul McCloud, with whom she had a history, and they fall in love, Schultz said.

*“It’s a vampire romance,”* she said.

The book, written in diary form, took about six years to write and is dedicated to her niece, Athena, who is 6, Schultz said.

*“I am a big fan of Anne Rice,”* Schultz said.

A prolific writer, Rice wrote *“Interview with the Vampire,” “The Vampire Lestat”* and *“The Queen of the Damned,”* among others.

*“I love Anne Rice,”* said Schultz, who said she loves reading and old movies, particularly *“Laura,”* from 1944, starring Dana Andrews, Gene Tierney, Clifton Webb, Vincent Price and Judith Anderson.

Her other favorite authors include Alexander Dumas (*“The Three Musketeers”*) and Jane Austen (*“Sense and Sensibility”* and *“Pride and Prejudice”*).

Schultz is a 2009 graduate of Parkersburg South High School and earned a regents degree in psychology from West Virginia University at Parkersburg. She also has an associate in applied science from the school.

Her passion and imagination for writing goes back to when she was a little girl playing with her sister, Amanda, and their Barbie dolls and making up stories. Her talents were especially encouraged by an English teacher at Parkersburg South, Wendy Williams, when she was in the 11th grade, Schultz said.

Schultz likened her to Miss Honey in the movie *“Matilda,”* the teacher who encourages Matilda.

*"And we both liked 'MacGyver,'" she said.*

*"Crimson and Clover"* is nearly 600 pages long. Schultz self-published the book through AuthorHouse and it is available at amazon.com, kobo.com, Wal-Mart and Barnes and Noble online and at AuthorHouse.

The paper version is \$28.99 while the e-book is \$3.99, although Schultz said she is working on a 99 cent ebook promotion.

The book was first released in 2019, then held because of editing issues and recently was re-published.

She also is planning a sequel, *"Ruby Rain,"* to be written from Paul's perspective.

Schultz presently works at Tudor's Biscuit World, but her aspiration and dream is to become an author. She attended the New York Pitch Festival where two producers took an interest in her book and she was admitted to the Writers Guild of America.

Plan B is to return to school and learn to be a service dog trainer.

*"I want to make writing my career," she said.*

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### **Driver of vehicle killed after collision with Wood County school bus**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 20, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/driver-of-vehicle-killed-after-collision-with-wood-county-school-bus/>

One high school student taken to hospital

PARKERSBURG — A man died Wednesday afternoon following a head-on collision with a Wood County Schools bus on Staunton Turnpike outside of Parkersburg.

It is not clear what caused the collision, which remains under investigation by the Wood County Crash Team, Wood County Sheriff Steve Stephens said.

The crash was reported around 4 p.m. The bus was carrying 22 students and traveling south on Staunton Turnpike, also known as West Virginia 47, while an SUV was headed north, Stephens said. They collided about half a mile north of West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The driver of the SUV was David Shutts, West Virginia University at Parkersburg's admissions counselor, said WVU-P President Chris Gilmer. Shutts was pronounced dead at the scene.

*"I spoke with David's wife Brittany this evening to express my personal sympathy and the deep sorrow of the entire college family. I admired David's commitment and joy as a husband and father to his two children and his commitment to excellent service to our students. We have offered our support to the family and will be taking steps to comfort the many employees and students who loved him and feel his loss profoundly,"* according to Gilmer's statement on the university's website Wednesday.

Traffic was backed up both ways for quite a while, and the scene wasn't cleared until about 7:30 p.m., according to a supervisor with the Wood County 911 Center.

All the children on the bus were high school students, Wood County Schools Superintendent Will Hosaflook said.

*"We did have one student that was transported by ambulance"* to WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center, he said.

The others were taken by another bus to Kanawha Elementary School, where they were checked by school nurses and released to their parents, Hosaflook said.

Staunton Turnpike resident Emily Harvey, 17, said she went outside after hearing the impact.

*"It was pretty loud. Definitely could tell it was a crash,"* she said.

A number of parents came to the scene, Harvey said.

*"I've been talking with some of the parents. They were really worried,"* she said.

Hosaflook said school counselors will be available for any students who need to speak with them today.

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### **WVU Parkersburg mourns the sudden death of staff member**

WV MetroNews

Feb. 20, 2020

<http://wvmetronews.com/2020/02/20/wvu-parkersburg-mourns-the-sudden-death-of-staff-member/>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.** — The campus family at West Virginia University at Parkersburg is in a state of mourning. Faculty, staff, and students learned Wednesday evening of the tragic death of David Shutts, an admissions counselor at the school.

Shutts was driving his SUV on State Route 47 Wednesday when he crossed the center line and collided head-on with a Wood County School Bus. The accident happened about a half mile from the WVU-P campus.

Wood County Sheriff's Deputies say there were 22 high school students on the bus at the time of the accident. One of those students was taken to the hospital to be checked out for injuries. The other students were taken to a nearby school and checked out by a school nurse. Shutts was dead at the scene.

WVU-Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer put out the following statement.

"I spoke with David's wife Brittany this evening to express my personal sympathy and the deep sorrow of the entire college family. I admired David's commitment and joy as a husband and father to his two children and his commitment to excellent service to our students. We have offered our support to the family and will be taking steps to comfort the many employees and students who loved him and feel his loss profoundly."

An investigation continues into the accident and funeral arrangements are being finalized. Speaking with Metronews Gilmer called Shutts a beloved alumnus and employee.

"Our entire university is grieving with the Shutts family. He was a highly esteemed and much loved colleague here at the university, an admissions counselor who did a wonderful job bringing new students and their families into the university and making them feel welcome. Most important however, I would note about David he was a very strong family man. He was a very devoted father of two young children, husband, son and good friend. The loss really couldn't hit the university any harder," said Gilmer.

Flags at the WVU Parkersburg campus have been lowered to half staff in honor of Shutts. Gilmer said a more formal memorial for Shutts by the university will come after the funeral and the family has had time to process their grief.



**WVUP hosting talent competition [video]**

WTAP-TV

Feb. 20, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/568054581.html>



**PARKERSBURG, W.Va. (WTAP)** - The student activities organization at WVU Parkersburg is holding a college talent show.

It consists of a preliminary rounds and then the grand finale.

"There's three rounds. The next round is going to be on Thursday February 27 here at 12:15," said Miranda Reed, one of the judges for WVUP's Got Talent. "Then, at the conclusion of that, the Friday after, being the 28th we are going to have a final round open to the community."

After each round, two contestants move on to the finals.

One contestant is picked by the judges, while the other is picked by the people.

The competition is being held on the cafeteria stage at WVU Parkersburg.

**WVUP receives grant funding for new accelerated degree program [video]**

WTAP-TV

Feb. 24, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVUP-receives-grant-funding-for-new-accelerated-degree-program--568156191.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W. Va. (WTAP)** - West Virginia University at Parkersburg receives funding for ASAP, Accelerated Study in Associate Programs.



The program is modeled after the ASAP program at City University of New York (CUNY). West Virginia's program will provide academic, personal, and financial supports to help students complete degrees in high-demand fields.

Chad Crumbaker is the PROVOST and executive vice president at WVUP and is very excited for the program.

"With a whole team from the college in order to make sure students are successful and they're doing it on time so that they can get out and get in the workforce in as little time and as successfully as possible," said Chad Crumbaker, WVUP, executive vice president.

Crumbaker says, the ASAP program will transform how the university helps students by providing them with a long-term plan for success.

**WVU Parkersburg to hold memorial service for Shutts**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 25, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/02/wvu-parkersburg-to-hold-memorial-service-for-shutts/>

PARKERSBURG — A memorial service will be held 4 p.m today by West Virginia University at Parkersburg for an admissions counselor killed last week in an auto accident.

The campus-based memorial service for David Shutts, 27, will be held in the college theater.

*“With the permission and the blessing of the Shutts family, we will come together as a community of colleagues and friends to support the family and each other as we continue to grieve the untimely loss of one of our own,”* said WVU Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer. *“David was both an alumnus of the institution and a dedicated employee. He was a very good friend to all who knew him here, and we thank his family for allowing us to share in their grief and their healing at this difficult time.”*

Shutts was killed in an accident on Feb.19 with a Wood County school bus on West Virginia 47. The accident is under investigation by the Wood County Crash Team and the cause has not been released.

Shutts is survived by his wife, two children, parents and siblings.

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**WorkForce sets annual Reverse Job Fair**

Wirt County Journal

Feb. 25, 2020

The Mid-Ohio Valley WorkForce Development Board has announced the second annual Mid-Ohio Valley Region Reverse Job Fair. The event is set for Friday, June 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at West Virginia University-Parkersburg in the multi-purpose room. The job fair is an opportunity for job seekers, recent college graduates WorkForce sets annual Reverse Job Fair or an individual to explore potential job opportunities. Registered participants will have the opportunity to present their specific skill sets such as education, work experience and personal attributes to

potential employers. Job seekers are encouraged to attend a workshop at the WorkForce office in Parkersburg to help the prepare for an on-site presentation or interview with potential employees. Job seekers must register for the job fair and can register for a workshop via website [www. wdbmov.orgm./](http://www.wdbmov.orgm/) Click on Reverse Job Fair – register as a job seeker. Questions may be directed to the American job Center office in St. Joseph’s Landing, Parkersburg, at 304.420.4531.

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**David Shutts remembered at WVU-P memorial [video]**

WTAP-TV

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/568207491.html>



David Shutts left an impression on practically everyone who knew him-including the administration at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Memorials to the 27-year old admissions counselor could be found during the past week throughout campus.

"A man that I thought the world of, a man who I had a great deal of respect for," College Vice-President Dr. Steven Smith recalled Tuesday at a memorial service, "and a man I truly love because he was a kind and generous human being."

Smith credited Shutts with a sharp increase in college recruitment during the current academic year. College President Dr. Chris Gilmer believes he did more than that.

"I've not only talked to them, I've had notes from students and parents who said, 'David is the one who recruited me to the university, he's the first person I knew here, and the person I went back to and counted on when I was a student'. So he was the first person to bring students into the door, and he stuck with him throughout the long haul."

And that's why his sudden loss February 19 has been difficult for everyone.

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### **Actors Guild of Parkersburg ready to show 'Sense and Sensibility'**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 27, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/actors-guild-of-parkersburg-ready-to-show-sense-and-sensibility/>

PARKERSBURG — The Actors Guild of Parkersburg's production of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" will open 8 p.m. Friday at the theater at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The venue change is due to the renovation of the Guild Playhouse in Parkersburg.

The play also will be presented 8 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 7, 13 and 14 and 2:30 p.m. March 8 at the college.

*"We have been welcomed by the WVU-P staff and have enjoyed our rehearsal experience in the space,"* said director Greg Merritt. *"There are some differences between the rehearsal and performance space at the Actors Guild versus the college, and some challenges have been faced with this production experience. But every challenge has been met with hard work from the cast and crew,"* Merritt said.

*"There is a sense of joy with this production and we hope that joy can be carried through to future collaborative experiences between the Actors Guild and WVU-P,"* he said.

As part of the Guild's ongoing commitment to Mid-Ohio Valley residents, everyone attending is invited to participate in "Socks and Sensibility" by bringing a donation of new socks to any of the performances.

Tickets are available at [www.actors-guild.com/buy-tickets.html](http://www.actors-guild.com/buy-tickets.html), with adult tickets at \$18 and senior/student tickets at \$16.

The story of *“Sense and Sensibility”* follows the fortunes and misfortunes of the Dashwood sisters — sensible Elinor and hypersensitive Marianne — after their father’s sudden death leaves them financially destitute and socially vulnerable.

While the story is set in late 18th century England, Merritt said the themes hold interest for today’s audience.

*“These themes — including women’s empowerment, gossip, and young love — are explored,”* he said. *“The gentle humor that Jane Austen brings to her writing is evident in the play, and there is so much more as audience members will be treated to broad, slapstick comedy and tender, dramatic moments.”*

In addition to veteran performers and crew members, the production also includes several first-time volunteers. Merritt praised the entire group who has worked on the production.

The cast includes:

- \* Elinor Dashwood — Becca Medendorp
- \* Marianne Dashwood — Abby Farnsworth
- \* Margaret Dashwood — Naomi Potts
- \* Mrs. Dashwood — Lynn Somerville
- \* John Dashwood — Tim Tuten
- \* Edward Ferrars — Josh Pelikan
- \* Fanny Ferrars Dashwood — Becca Buck
- \* Colonel Brandon — Tom Lodato
- \* John Willoughby — Ike Eastwood
- \* Sir John Middleton — Charles Roberts
- \* Mrs. Jennings — Jane Mancini
- \* Lucy Steele — Veronica Fields
- \* Anne Steele — Missy Arnold



\* Gossips — Zack Graham, Willow Peyton, Braden Medendorp, Chloe Arnold, Susan Courtney

\* Miss Grey — Emma Kitchen

Danny Bayer is the assistant director, Zach Offenberger is the stage manager, Pam Piggott is the costumer and Barbara Full is an adviser.

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### **Very Spectacular Arts Festival set for March 17**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Feb. 27, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/02/very-spectacular-arts-festival-set-for-march-17/>

PARKERSBURG — The Very Spectacular Arts Festival for school children with disabilities will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. March 17 at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Sponsored and organized by Artsbridge, the theme of the 21st annual festival will be a “*St. Patrick’s Day Arts Bash!*” and will involve 300-500 students and more than 200 local artists, performers and volunteers to help them receive a full experience the arts.

Students will participate in more than 20 arts activities, including karaoke, creative movement with Vicki Dils, newspaper hats, face painting, music activities and yoga.

New activities this year include a photo booth by TLR Productions, activities with Wood County Society’s ArtBeat Studio and music with David Huggins.

Art class students from Parkersburg High School Art, Parkersburg South High School student council and Parkersburg Catholic High School will assist with the activities throughout the day.

The musical lunch includes dancing and drumming by the Kootaga Indian Dancers, a bagpipe performance by Sara Chichester and a dance performance by the Mid Ohio Valley Ballet Company.

Students from Washington, Wood, Wirt, Ritchie, Jackson, Doddridge, Pleasants and Tyler counties will attend.

Diane McDonald, Amanda Stevens and Sue Ellen Johnson are chairwomen for the event. Stevens, executive director of Artsbridge, acknowledged and thanked the committee for its work and was appreciative of the financial support from the lead donor, the PM Company's Spirit of Giving campaign.

Additional support came from the West Virginia Commission of the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, the McDonough Foundation and other donors supporting the mission of Artsbridge, Stevens said.

For more information, contact the Artsbridge office at 304-428-3988, or email McDonald at [diane@artsbridgeonline.org](mailto:diane@artsbridgeonline.org).

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### **Across the State**

The State Journal

March 1, 2020

[https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article\\_481f8d51-02b9-51d8-b416-f715dc30932e.html](https://www.wvnews.com/across-the-state/article_481f8d51-02b9-51d8-b416-f715dc30932e.html)

### **PARKERSBURG**

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg is implementing a new program** to help retain students through completion and job placement.

Officials at the college recently announced WVU-P was one of two schools chosen nationally by the Arnold Foundation to receive grants for student retention. The college received \$1.7 million, which it will use to replicate the City University of New York's proven student retention model with the school's most vulnerable students.

Chad Crumbaker, provost/executive vice president for academic and student affairs at WVU-P, appeared before the Parkersburg Rotary Club on Monday to discuss the new program, which has been named "Ascend WVU Parkersburg."

Ascend stands for "Accelerating Student Completion; Encouraging New Dreams."

"This is a student success initiative," Crumbaker said. "For us in higher ed, we talk about student success almost every day."

— Parkersburg News and Sentinel

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### **WVU-P takes precautions for coronavirus [video]**

WTAP-TV

March 2, 2020

<https://www.wtap.com/content/news/WVU-P-takes-precautions-for-coronavirus-568412741.html>

**PARKERSBURG, W.Va.- (WTAP)** No cases of the coronavirus have so far been reported in West Virginia or Ohio.

But places where a lot of people are in close quarters are beginning to take precautions.

Among them, West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

The school's president says faculty, staff and students are being updated on the latest on the virus.

People using restroom facilities are being reminded to take precautions, and cleaning supplies are being stockpiled.

"The tools we're using so far are communication with all of our community; keeping the lines of communication open, says WVU-President Dr. Chris Gilmer. "Taking all the precautions CDC is suggesting, that colleges and universities take."

Meanwhile West Virginia Governor Jim Justice says he and state Health and Human Resources Secretary Bill Crouch discussed the outbreak Monday in a conference call with Vice-President Mike Pence and Trump administration officials.

The governor plans a roundtable meeting Wednesday to discuss the state's preparations for the virus.

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## Seniors read to children on Dr. Seuss birthday

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 3, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/03/seniors-read-to-children-on-dr-seuss-birthday/>



Cindy C. reads "Put me in the Zoo" to children in the kids room at West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Early Learning. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

PARKERSBURG — Residents of Cedar Grove Assisted Living ventured to West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Early Learning and read Dr. Seuss books to the children in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday Monday morning.

*"We are doing different "Cat in the Hat" themed things all week,"* said Angie Davis, director of West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Center for Early Learning.

Three residents, Charlotte S., Waneda S. and Cindy C., volunteered to read to the kids.

*"This is my first time reading to the kids,"* said Charlotte S.

Charlotte S. said her group of kids were well behaved and seemed to really enjoy the book she read *"Red Fish Blue Fish."*



Waneda S. reads “Cat the Hat” to children in the toddler two room at West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Center for Early Learning. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)

To go with the theme, Cedar Grove provided snacks such as gummy fish, green cupcakes with polkadots and goodie bags. *“We partner up with local groups to interact with the kids,”* said Davis. *“The kids just love having visitors such as the residents at Cedar Grove.”*

Amy Cole, Cedar Grove’s resident service coordinator, said it is not just enjoyable for the kids, but also for the residents.

*“They really enjoy getting to spend time with the kids,”* said Cole.



Charlotte S. reads “Red Fish Blue Fish” to the kids in the toddler one room at West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s Center for Early Learning. (Photo by Madeline Scarborough)



### **Grandmother urges caution, kindness in child's memory**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel and Marietta Times

March 3, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/03/grandmother-urges-caution-kindness-in-childs-memory/>



Vienna resident Billie Shutts displays a ribbon bearing the message "It can wait," to remind people not to use their phones while driving, during Monday's Parkersburg Rotary Club meeting, next to a photo of her daughter Mindy's family. At left in that picture is Shutts' grandson Tristan Schulz, who was killed when an SUV struck him in his stroller in 2016. (Photo by Evan Bevins)

**PARKERSBURG** — A Vienna woman is working to help bring something good out of the devastating loss of her grandson.

Billie Shutts, executive assistant to West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer, told members of the Parkersburg Rotary Club Monday about Aug. 31, 2016, the day her five-and-a-half-month-old grandson, Tristan Schulz, was hit by an SUV and killed in Lansdowne, Va.

Shutts' daughter, Mindy Schulz, was pushing the boy in a stroller through a crosswalk on a four-lane road near their home. According to published reports, 47-year-old John Miller pleaded no contest in 2017 to reckless driving and guilty to failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk and was sentenced to 12 months in jail. His attorney argued that Miller had not seen the mother and child due to a blind spot in his car or obstructions at the intersection.



A charge of manslaughter was dropped by prosecutors after they said forensic evidence showed he was not using his phone at the time of the crash, but based on a witness' statement, Shutts and her family are convinced that was not the case.

*"There is nothing that comes across your phone that is worth my grandson's or anyone else's life,"* she said during Monday's Rotary meeting at the Blennerhassett Hotel. *"It can wait."*



Vienna resident Billie Shutts, left, receives a hug from Mindy Fluharty after Monday's Parkersburg Rotary Club meeting at the Blennerhassett Hotel. Fluharty was among those in attendance moved by Shutts' story of her grandson's death when he was struck by an SUV in 2016 and her plea for people to put down their phones while driving and do something kind in the boy's memory. (Photo by Evan Bevins)

That three-word statement is written on either end of the light blue ribbons Shutts had passed around the room.

*"I'm going to ask you, put this in your car,"* she said. *"If you have a teenager, take two."*

Shutts talked about the agony her daughter, Mindy, has experienced since Tristan's death. It goes far beyond the concussion, broken ribs, torn ligaments and crush injuries to her leg.

*"It takes every breath she has to get through,"* she said.

On the Facebook page, Tristan's Light, the Shulz family says the kindness shown to them in the wake of their son's death by people in their community and around the

world was overwhelming. In response, they created Tristan's Light to encourage people to perform acts of kindness in the boy's memory on his birthday, March 17.

*"We're asking you to do something kind," Shutts said. "Do a loving deed for somebody. Pay for somebody's coffee behind you in McDonald's. Pay somebody's utility bill. Pay for somebody's meal."*

In addition to the ribbons, she passed out cards that said *"Tristan's Light"* and had the dates her grandson was born and died. She asked people to do kind acts in Tristan's memory and share those cards with the recipients, in hopes that they would pass on the message.

Shutts said her daughter has been an advocate of legislation in Virginia banning the use of handheld phones while driving. That *"hands-free"* bill has passed both houses of the state Legislature and awaits the governor's signature, she said.

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### **Belmont Elementary's LSIC Discusses School Improvements In Annual Report To Board**

The St. Marys Oracle

March 4, 2020

Attendance, data from midyear assessments and school improvements were the focus of the Local School Improvement Council report from Belmont Elementary School.

Eric Croasmun, principal of BES, presented the council's report to the Pleasants County Board of Education members Thursday evening, Feb. 27.

Board members met at 5:30 p.m. to conduct a walk-through of the school. Following the start of the board of education meeting at 6 p.m., Croasmun presented his report.

The cumulative attendance rate for the year is sitting at 92.43 percent.

Croasmun stated the school has faced a lot of issues with illness this year.

He said when students miss a day of school, the teachers reach out using the message application of Class Dojo.

If students miss more than two days of school, Coasmun contacts the parents by telephone.

Croasmun stated any other issues besides illness are reported to Mandy Mote and some social service issues are addressed through Mrs. Nutter.

Croasmun showed the school's ranking since 2015 on the General Summative Assessment tests from the spring.

That shows Belmont's students performed better than 81.97 percent of elementary schools in the state during the 2019 assessments.

This number is up from 2017, where students performed better than 38.1 percent of other elementary schools around the state.

Third and fourth grade assessments at mid-year, show students are continuing to grow in knowledge and skills throughout the year.

"Our job is to make sure students continue with this progress," Croasmun stated.

"It's not about making sure students do well on the test, but that they don't have skills gaps," he finished.

Students in kindergarten and first grade use the Headsprout Reading program.

Croasmun stated students are on track to meet the goals of the program in kindergarten.

He went on to say that 35 of the 28 students in first grade have met the first goal of completing 80 episodes of the program and are working on the next set of episodes.

Lexia is the reading program used in second through fourth grades.

From the beginning of the year, data shows 75 percent of students in second grade are at or above the current grade level.

In third grade 52 percent of students are at or above grade level and in fourth grade 63.5 percent of students are at or above grade level.

Math growth data from the STAR math programs shows growth across the grade levels.

Croasmun stated the teachers and staff use targeted intervention in reading, Title 1 services for reading and math, small group individual lessons for students in specific skills, reteaching and after school tutoring for students.

"I believe collaboration is the key to success," Croasmun said.

Requested work at the school for the upcoming year is cassettes in the hallways in school other than the pre-kindergarten wing, to help with humidity in the building.

Croasmun spoke about the addition of the Needs Closet for students. Items, including personal hygiene and school needs are kept in the closet for students.

The items are also used for meeting the needs after a calamity.

**Dr. David Lancaster, WVU-P division chair, stated the county and school are very welcoming to student teachers and WVU-P.**

**“Mr. Wells is student-centered,” he stated.**

**He went on to say the teacher residency program he has been working on will be implemented this year instead of next.**

**He also spoke about the tutoring services his student teachers offered for students at BES.**

**“The tutoring has been the icing on the cake for us,” Croasmun stated.**

School superintendent Mike Wells thanked Croasmun and his staff for their leadership at Belmont Elementary School.

He said the results of the programs and investment the teachers and staff are putting into the students is paying off.

The next Pleasants County Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, at 6 p.m. in the board meeting room on Maple Street, St. Marys.

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### **WVU Parkersburg Ntiva Service Desk Academy Interns Head to Headquarters**

Clutch MOV

March 2, 2020

<https://clutchmov.com/wvu-parkersburg-ntiva-service-desk-academy-interns-head-to-headquarters/>

West Virginia University at Parkersburg Ntiva Service Desk academy student interns recently laid down their headsets to travel to Ntiva Headquarters in McLean, Va., to work side-by-side with employees from across the country.

Students Anthony Bowie, Justin Cronin, Jadon Satterfield, and Mike Shotwell, attended the “All Hands” meeting with Service Desk Senior Manager Josh Strahler in January to discuss year-end financials and performance, as well as cast vision for the new year and company goals.

“For the interns, its an opportunity for them to see ‘who’ they work with; not only the people but the area and the office,” said Strahler. “It’s also a great equalizer. When they’re together with the rest of the group, they’re seen as equals, peers, and friends.”

In addition to attending the “All Hands” meeting, the students gathered in Tysons, Va., for Ntiva’s annual holiday party. The team was treated to a night of food, prizes and the chance to meet their peers from different offices and areas of the country, including Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.



WVU Parkersburg Ntiva interns pose with the WVCTCS vice-chancellor and WVU Parkersburg president during the 2019 NTiva Showcase. From left to right: WVCTCS Vice-Chancellor Dr. Anthony Hancock, Justin Cronin, Anthony Bowie, WVU Parkersburg President Dr. Chris Gilmer, Jadon Satterfield and Mike Shotwell.

The Ntiva Service Desk Academy opened six months ago in the WVU Parkersburg Caperton Center for Applied Technology, enabling students in the college’s Computer and Information Technology (CIT) Learn and Earn program to work remotely for the D.C.-based tech company while completing their associate degree. Students work in a live, fully-functional, professional IT service desk environment, working with customers on IT requests, technical issues and projects while earning \$16 an hour and working up to 1,200 hours during the internship period.



“The interns have grown leaps and bounds over the last semester,” said Strahler. “I am absolutely blown away by their growth here both professionally and personally. Each one of the interns brings a unique skill set and personality to the table and it has truly been an honor to work alongside them as they begin their careers in the IT industry.”

Looking to the future, Ntiva and WVU Parkersburg would like to expand the service desk academy to accept an additional eight to 12 learn and earn students.

To learn more about WVU Parkersburg’s Computer and Information Technology Learn and Earn program, visit [wwup.edu/learnandearn](http://wwup.edu/learnandearn).

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### **Tiffany Roberts photos on display at WesBanco**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 5, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/03/tiffany-roberts-photos-on-display-at-wesbanco/>

PARKERSBURG — The Tiffany Roberts photo collection may be viewed at WesBanco Bank, 415 Market St., Parkersburg, through the month of March.

The lobby is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Roberts is the owner and photographer of Dapper Dachshund Photography in Marietta.

She has experience in all types of photography and design, but her true passion is photographing newborn babies, children, and maternity portraiture. She takes lifestyle portraits of the babies born at Marietta Memorial Hospital on a biweekly basis.

The love for photography started in high school when she was given a digital camera and a couple of lenses for Christmas. With this camera she practiced on anything in her house to get a cute picture, which were mainly their dogs. This was the beginning that turned into her profession a little over five years ago and the opening her own studio.

In high school Roberts took Interactive Media through the tech program at Morgan High which strengthened her love for photography and introduced her to computer



programs such as Photoshop and InDesign that she uses in her business. At Washington State Community College she took video, art, graphic design, film and digital photography classes. After graduation from Washington State, Roberts attended West Virginia University at Parkersburg graduating with a bachelor's of applied science in business administration with a specialization in marketing and management, which helps her in the business portion of her studio.

*"Most of the portraits I have on exhibit at WesBanco are pieces that were commissioned by clients. When I am hired for a photography session, I go through an extensive consultation so my client knows what to expect for their photoshoot and I learn what they like as far as colors, outfits, props, and poses,"* said Roberts.

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### **Wood County Schools to consider apprenticeships**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 6, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2020/03/wood-county-schools-to-consider-apprenticeships/>

PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools Superintendent Will Hosaflook is proposing creation of an apprenticeship program which would allow students to get first-hand mentoring in hands-on careers.

Hosaflook said a similar idea is being explored in Putnam County Schools, and he believes students in Wood County could benefit from a program which emphasizes getting students into workplace settings to let them explore careers.

The program would be part of the community and technical education, or CTE, programs, but would go beyond the walls of the Wood County Technical Center or Caperton Center, he said.

*"You might have a student who is working on a diesel mechanic program, and we could have opportunities for him to work with one of our mechanics at the bus garage, to learn from one of these people who are doing this every day,"* Hosaflook said.

The school system already has a co-op program which places students in various schools, but Hosaflook said it is mostly geared toward those who would want to work in an office setting. This program, he said, would focus more on technical and trade careers, including industry and health care.

*"It's about hands-on experience," he said. "It can be as big as we want."*

Wood County Board of Education President Rick Olcott said the concept is in line with the school system's need to better serve all of its student, not just those who are college-bound.

*"We need to remind ourselves that 48% of our students do not go on to college, and that 60% of the jobs in our region do not require a college education," Olcott said. "However, they do require a technical skill. That is where career and technical education needs to meet the challenge."*

Olcott said as the needs for employees change, the district's programs should change as well.

*"We develop programs in career and technical education that possess a natural bridge to roles in local industry," he said. "There is tremendous untapped potential across the medical field, construction trades, maintenance support functions, cosmetology, etc. to be developed and energized to provide a natural migration from career and technical education into the work force."*

The idea is still in its initial stages, and Hosaflook said he wants to talk to the Mid-Ohio Valley Chamber of Commerce and area businesses to see what kinds of opportunities might be available. Hosaflook said Wood County Schools also might be able to work with West Virginia University at Parkersburg to provide students college options for career paths which might involve additional training.

Olcott said he hopes to see more details fleshed out in the coming months.

*"The superintendent as well as multiple board members are very aligned in getting the right strategies and leadership energized to make that a reality for WCS and our local community," he said.*

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### **WVU-P's Got Talent names first-ever winner**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 7, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/03/wvu-ps-got-talent-names-first-ever-winner/>



The seven finalists in the first West Virginia University at Parkersburg Got Talent contest were, from left, Olivia Kinder, Austin Grimmert, Ryan Manley, Tyler Barnhart, Brandi Bush, Tim Bales and Eliza Lawrentz. Winning the competition was Bales with his rendition of two original songs. (Photo Provided)

**PARKERSBURG** — A drafting student is the first winner of the West Virginia University at Parkersburg Got Talent competition.

Tim Bales, a student in the Associate of Applied Science in Drafting program, sang original songs and played the guitar as he bested the competition in the grand finale. He wrote *"Tape Deck Apology"* and *"Allies"* about his long-distance best friend and brother, respectively.

*"I've always found that people are my biggest source of inspiration,"* Bales said. *"Powerful and moving stories, rare experiences, thought-provoking conversation – these are the things that make me want to write."*

He sang both songs in the preliminary round of the competition and in the grand finale.

More than 20 students, faculty, staff and alumni auditioned; they sang, wrote songs, solved puzzles and played instruments for entering the inaugural competition.

Seven finalists performed at the Got Talent grand finale. Each finalist had to audition, compete and win one of three preliminary rounds of competition by receiving the judges' or people's choice vote to make it to the finale.

The seven finalists were Bales, Tyler Barnhart, Brandi Bush, Olivia Kinder, Eliza Lawrentz, Austin Grimmatt and Ryan Manley.

David Traugh, of Parkersburg, an Emmy award-winning film and television composer, served as guest judge during the finale. Traugh is best known for his work on the music of *“Wild Things”* and *“King of Queens.”*

*“We are thrilled with the response to this event from our campus community,”* Samantha Suggs, Student Activities coordinator, said. *“It has been wonderful to see so many young and talented people in the spotlight and we cannot wait for next year’s competition.”*

Bales received an overnight stay at the Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg, a \$100 spending card to the hotel restaurant and a free tour with the hotel historian.

*“I am still surprised that I won. I judge my art very harshly; it’s a habit a lot of musicians and artists fall into,”* Bales said. *“I was absolutely ready to cheer for whoever was about to win because I definitely didn’t think I would. I am very flattered and grateful for the support from the community. To be chosen as the first WVUP’s Got Talent winner using my original music is really moving.”*

To watch the WVUP’s Got Talent preliminary rounds of competition and the grand finale, go to [wvup.edu/talent](http://wvup.edu/talent).

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### **Pinewood Derby about building more than cars**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 8, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/community-news/2020/03/pinewood-derby-about-building-more-than-cars/>

PARKERSBURG — Cub Scouts from the Kootaga District — made up of Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Roane, Ritchie, and Calhoun counties in West Virginia and the communities of Belpre, Little Hocking, and Coolville in Ohio — competed Saturday for a chance to advance onto the Buckskin Council Championship race in Charleston.

The Scouts competed in the Pinewood Derby at West Virginia University at Parkersburg by age, and the two fastest derby cars for each age group (kindergarten through fifth grade) raced each other to find the overall first, second and third places that will advance to the Council Championship race April 18.

*"I think its a great opportunity to get the young ones together and have fun,"* said Jim Bennon, Kootaga district chairman.

Jeri Lynn Boudreau, chair of the day camp, said she is trying to create new events such as the Pinewood Derby to give the Scouts a chance to interact with the whole district more often.

*"For me it's getting kids together and building much more than just cars, but stronger friendships between packs,"* said Boudreau.

Boudreau said she sees how much the kids love getting together in large groups and interacting with the other packs.

*"I didn't win, but I love coming to the event. It is just so much fun,"* said Athena Summers, 8, with Pack 43, Ravenswood.

The top three in each division were:

- \* Lion Division: first, Dylan Criss; second, Kasen Mcpherson; third, Ian Bucy.
- \* Tiger Division: first, Carter Duley; second, Thomas Ferebee; third, Aubree Boudreau.
- \* Wolf Division: first, Carter Robinson; second, Maverick Brotherton; third, Ben Grant.
- \* Bear Division: first, Brady Fisher; second, Noah Brooker; third, Chance Boudreau.
- \* Webelo One Division: first, Owen Bucy; second, Izabella Robinson; third, Ethan Lorentez
- \* Division Arrow of Light, also known as Webelo Two: first, Katelyn Richards; second, Owen Skinner; third, Memphis Moore.

The overall reigning champions who will be moving on to the championships were:

- \* First place: Carter Duley, 6, Pack 19, Little Hocking, with a time of 2.3655 seconds.
- \* Second place: Brady Fisher, 9, Pack 419, Kenna, with a time of 2.3697 seconds.
- \* Third place: Noah Brooker, 8, Pack 19, Little Hocking, with a time of 2.3737 seconds.

This was Brooker's first year participating and he said he started building his car in December.

*"It is not just a project to be done quickly if you want good results,"* said Brooker.

This year's event also featured a Mayor's race at noon. The race put local officials Vienna Mayor Randy Rapp, Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce, Parkersburg councilwoman Sharon Kuhl, Chief Mike Pifer with the Vienna Police Department, Vienna City Attorney Russell Skogstad and West Virginia University at Parkersburg President Chris Gilmer up against each other for bragging rights.

*"This is my first time at a Scout racing event, and I am just so amazed with the talent these kids display engineering their own cars,"* said Gilmer.

The Mayor's Race's final results for first, second and third place were:

\* First: Magistrate Joe Kuhl and his wife Sharon Kuhl.

\* Second: Mayor Randy Rapp.

\* Third: Chief Mike Pifer.

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### **With much gratitude and thanks**

Parkersburg News and Sentinel

March 8, 2020

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/opinion/local-columns/2020/03/with-much-gratitude-and-thanks/>

Finally one of my major events came to an end last Saturday evening with the *"Celebrity Chef Cooking School"* fundraiser for the West Virginia Symphony League — Parkersburg.

Local Celebrity Chefs taking part in the event were: Steve Peters, Yancy Roush, Kiki Angelos, Autumn Moore, Chris Carlson and Mitch Linville, with each chef preparing and donating the ingredients of one of their favorite dishes for the 130 people attending the event. Red Lobster's Manager Melinda Wilson provided the appetizers, Teresa Holcomb of Chestnut Ridge Winery provided the wine tasting with Stephanie Epling of Der Dog Haus and Blaine Lyons of the North End Market provided the wine for the evening. Steve Peters of Boathouse BBQ, Chris Carlson of Texas Road House, Mitch Linville along with Peggy Fox of Outback Steak House, Yancy Roush of Five Star Catering and Autumn Moore along with Randy Snider of Community Bank, prepared the evening's meal.



Above with all the chefs, I would like to thank all the volunteers and people from Red Lobster and WVU of Parkersburg, people that served, provided items and took part in the silent auction and a special thanks to Alex Couladis for entertaining us with his beautiful voice and my wonderful committee along with the evening's emcee Christina Myer of the Parkersburg News and Sentinel. A big thank you to Fr. John Rice and St. Francis Xavier Church for his generosity.

Sponsors include: St. Francis Xavier Church, Fr. John Rice, Office Depot, Outback Steakhouse — Peggy Fox, Texas Roadhouse — Chris Carlson, Boathouse BBQ — Steve Peters, Autumn Moore, Community Bank — Randy Snider, Five Star Catering — Chef Yancy Roush, Red Lobster — Melinda Wilson, Auntie Anne's Pretzels — Kiki Angelos, Der Dog Haus — Stephanie Epling, Chestnut Ridge Winery — Teresa Holcomb, North End Market — Blaine Lyons, Piggly Wiggly, Parkersburg News and Sentinel, WTAP-TV, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Chick Fil A, West Virginia Fruit and Berry, Mary Kay — Jessica McKenzie, Mulberry Lane, Dr. C. Richard Gerber DDS, Parkersburg Country Club — Scott Davidson and Adam Chestnut, Salt Cave, Gift Gallery, Sharon Longacre, Mary Ann Osborne, Trish Pritchard, Dr. Chris Gilmer, Sally Beckwith, Kay Hudson, Cathy Freed, Diane Chambers, Geary's Custom Carvings, Mary Kay McKenzie and Anne Beck.

The Cooking School committee members are: Kiki Angelos, Becky Deem, Carol Seely, Gina Cheshire, Comischell Rodriguez, Trish Pritchard, Sally Beckwith, Cathy Freed, Andrea Gerber, Debby Nesselroad, Kathy Coatney, Melinda Johnson, David Creel, Karen Denbigh and Diane Chambers.

Join me at Blennerhassett Hotel Restaurant and Lounge the whole month of March for dinner as I serve my specialty Greek recipes and yes, baklava, plus a whole line of American dishes will be available as well.

Also start thinking about decorating a float for the Easter Parade at 2 p.m. April 4 in downtown Parkersburg. And, of course, spring Easter celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in front of the PHS campus entertainment Easter bunny, Chick-fil-A cow and the annual Elks Lodge 198 with 4000 filled eggs and two bicycles will be given away and Easter baskets to the lucky children that will find a golden egg in each age category.

Please call me tonight and make a pledge, small or large, doesn't make a difference, for the Wood County Society. I'll be on air from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Until next week!