

Wayne County's best and brightest



GRADUATES – These nine seniors were chosen by their respective schools for the cover of the Wayne County News' graduate addition. The students are Kadi Conn (Tolsia), Kerrie Lahoda (Tolsia), Jordan Ratcliff (Spring Valley), Hannah Ray (Spring Valley), Zach Ramey (Spring Valley), John Newman (Tolsia), Nicholas Lawhon (Wayne), Tucker Watts (Wayne) and Savannah Perry (Wayne). WCN photo by Diane Pottorff

WAYNE – Graduation is here and in this edition of the Wayne County News is the annual publication of senior pictures from the three high schools.

The cover features nine seniors who are examples of those students who achieved their goals in their high school careers. Administrators from Spring Valley, Tolsia and Wayne chose three students to represent their school and the following are the biographies of those graduates.

SPRING VALLEY

Zach Ramey – I attended Spring Valley High School for four years and was active in my school activities. I was in the National Honors Society, Booth Scholars, Mu Alpha Theta and the Pulsar Search Collaboratory. I was on the school Math Field Day team for three years, the county Math Field Day team for two years and the regional Math Field Day team for one year. I was a member of WSAZ's Best in the Class. When it comes to athletics, I was on the basketball team for four years and the soccer team for one. My senior year, I was named captain of the varsity basketball team and received MSAC Academic All-Conference honors. My future plans are to attend West Virginia University and become a lawyer.

Jordan Ratcliffe – Throughout my high school career, I have set a goal to become as well-rounded as possible. I have achieved this through many hours spent volunteering at the Huntington Veterans' Administration Medical Center and Three Rivers Medical Center in Louisa, Ky., along with participation in numerous school clubs and activities. Those include HOSA, basketball, Earth Club, Chemistry Club, Astronomy Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Rotary Interact Club, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Booth Scholars, Young Republicans and SOAR. I also pushed myself in the classroom, taking the hardest classes

possible to create a sturdy foundation for college.

All this hard work has paid off. I was one of three students from our school selected to participate in WSAZ's "Best of the Class" and received several merit-based scholarships. Perhaps the greatest honor of all, though, is having been chosen to be a member of the inaugural class of Marshall University's Accelerated BS/MD program.

My future plans include attending Marshall University to pursue a degree in biology then moving on to the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine with an open mind to decide what I will do throughout my medical career.

I am so thankful for all of the incredible opportunities I've been given. I would not be where I am today without God, my family and my friends.

Hannah Ray – Being raised by a father with a love of the outdoors and a mother with a passion for healthcare, I've learned to enjoy the best of both worlds which has led to my diverse lifestyle. Throughout high school, I have stayed involved in a variety of school clubs. I am a member of Booth Scholars, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. I am in BETA, SOAR, Pulsar Astronomy, Earth and Chemistry clubs along with HOSA, Interact, Mu Alpha Theta and Young Republicans. I am part of the leadership team in TGIM Bible Club and remain active in my church. I am a member of the varsity tennis team, marching band and participate in multiple other band functions. I enjoy hiking, fishing, farming and gardening. Through all of these activities, I balance honors, college and AP course while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. This year I have been rewarded for my academic dedication, being selected for WSAZ' Best of the Class and the inaugural class of Marshall University's Accelerated B.S./M.D. program.

In the fall, I plan to attend Marshall University, majoring in biological sci-

ence and then continuing to medical school. Following my four years of medical school, I plan to practice medicine close to home, focusing on providing healthcare to the underserved, rural areas in our region.

Throughout my life, I have been immensely blessed and give all glory to God. "And whatsoever y do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. Colossians 3:17."

TOLSIA

Kerrie Lahoda – For four years, Kerrie Lahoda has been a member of the Beta Club, RAZE, SADD and Art Club. Her academics included taking Marshall University English 201 and 101, AP physics, AP biology and AP government. She has been on the basketball team for four years, a cheerleader for three years and a volleyball player for three years and carried a 4.0 GPA during her high school career and was in the National Honors Society for two years. She enjoys being a Special Olympics hugger and has been a member of the student leadership team.

Kadi Conn – Kadi Conn was a member of the Beta Club, National Honors Society for two years, participated in RAZE and SADD and Art Club for four years. She took English 101 and 201, AP biology AP physics and AP government while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She enjoys being a Special Olympics hugger, being a part of the student leadership team and a member of student council. She was a cheerleader for four years and a softball player for one year.

John Newman – John Newman was a member of the Beta Club, Bible Club, National Honor Society and SADD. He took English 101 and 201, AP biology and AP government. John enjoys being a Special Olympics hugger, a member

of the student leadership team, member of student council, Ambassador for Justice. He is a Governor's Honor Academy graduate. He is proud to be a member of the Tolsia High School JROTC as a member of the Best of the Best Raider team, former battalion commander and color guard commander. He enjoyed being a member of the marching band and was part of the all-county and all-area band and continues to be a church camp volunteer at Twelvepole Valley Association. In his spare time, he is a drummer for Mountain Station.

WAYNE

Tucker Watts – Tucker Watts is the son of Amy and Joe Watts of Wayne, West Virginia. Tucker will be graduating from Wayne High School as a completer of the Health Science Education cluster, in Therapeutic services. He has participated in football and was included in the winnings of two state championships. He was also announced 1st team all-conference in football for his junior and senior years. Tucker also participated in basketball. He played these sports all four years of high school while also maintaining a 3.0. Tucker will attend Marshall University in the fall of 2015 to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy.

Savannah Perry – Savannah Perry is the daughter of Scott and Missy Perry of Wayne. Savannah is a senior at Wayne High School who excels in the classroom and the athletic field. She is the Senior Class President and National Honor Society President. Savannah has been a 4-year starter for the Lady Pioneers Softball team and a 4-year starter for the Lady Pioneers Volleyball team. She has done all this while maintaining a 3.96 GPA at Wayne High School, and a 4.0 GPA at Marshall University with 13 hours completed during her Junior and Senior year. Savannah will attend Marshall University in the fall of 2015 and major in Accounting.

Nicholas Lawson – Nicholas Lawson of Lavalette, Son of Julie Lawson of Lavalette and Jack Lawson of Clarksburg, has attended Wayne High School for the past four years. Nicholas has been a member of J.R.O.T.C. during his high school career and has held the positions of Supply and Logistics Officer, Executive Officer, and Battalion Commander. While in J.R.O.T.C., Nicholas has been awarded over 40 awards. Some of these awards include Distinguished Cadet, Superior Cadet, the Soar Award, and Award for Academic Excellence. Nicholas was also chosen as West Virginia's top J.R.O.T.C. cadet in 2015. Outside of high school, Nicholas trained in Tae Kwon Do at Barbourville Tae Kwon Do Center for six years.

For three years, he volunteered as an instructor for his martial art school, teaching students of all ages and ability levels. In November 2015, Nicholas retired at 1st degree black belt; however, he was eligible to test for his 2nd degree black belt. While training in Tae Kwon Do, he also trained at CrossFit Thunder to improve his strength and stamina.

Nicholas also takes community service very seriously. Over his high school career, he has volunteered at Jan-care, American Red Cross blood drives, Adopt-a-highway litter clean ups, service learning projects with J.R.O.T.C., and many more. Over the past four years of volunteering, Nicholas has acquired over 700 community service hours. Over Nicholas' high school career, he has maintained a 3.875 GPA and has been awarded the Promise and Presidential Scholarships for college. Nicholas plans to attend Marshall University to pursue a career in the medical field.

Although he has not finalized his decision, he knows that he wants to become a surgeon specializing in neurology, cardiology, or pediatrics, or an anesthesiologist.

Four students to participate in new MU program

By DIANE POTTORFF
Staff Writer

HUNTINGTON – Four Wayne County students will be on the fast track to becoming a medical doctor through a new program at Marshall University.

Spring Valley High School's Jacob Kilgore, Jordan Ratcliffe, Hannah Ray and Tolsia's Kadi Conn have been accepted into the Marshall University and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine inaugural class for the newly created accelerated B.S./M.D. program, which allows students to complete the requirements for both degrees in seven years.

The four are a part of 13 students in West Virginia selected for the program. Three students are from Cabell County, two from Jackson County, and one each from Kanawha, Wood, Putnam and Nicholas counties.

Ray said she wants to get into the medical field because her mother is a doctor.

"I have been interested in medicine since the fourth grade," she said. "All the doctors I know appear to be nice and they inspired me to become a doctor."

Though still unsure if she wants to specialize, Ray is thinking about pediatrics.

Keeping her options open,

Ratcliffe would like to stay close to home to practice medicine.

"My grandmother was diagnosed with cancer and we spent a lot of time with her in the hospital," Ratcliffe said. "I became interested in what the doctors were doing to help my grandmother."

She said she has done volunteer work in a hospital and knew it was what she wanted to do with her future.

Kilgore has always enjoyed his biology and chemistry classes at Spring Valley, but the reason why he wants to become a doctor is that he does not want to see people suffer.

His goal is to be an emergency room doctor.

Conn likes to help people as well and has been a volunteer at Three Rivers Medical Center.

Her interest lies in dermatology and it is her goal to open a practice in the Fort Gay area.

The program is open to highly motivated West Virginia high school students who achieve a minimum ACT composite score of 30 (or equivalent SAT), an ACT math score of 27 (or equivalent SAT) as well as a cumulative GPA of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale. Other admission criteria include three letters of recommendation and an on-campus interview.

Students will begin in August

as Marshall freshmen and will be guided throughout their undergraduate years by both an undergraduate advisor and a School of Medicine mentor to help ensure success in the accelerated program.

Continuing requirements for the program include selecting biology as a major, maintaining a minimum overall GPA of 3.5, successfully completing at least 26 credit hours during each academic year, and participating in enrichment programs during the three years of the undergraduate portion of the program.

Students who successfully complete the program requirements will matriculate directly into medical school. They are not required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

Additionally, the students will receive a tuition waiver for the medical school portion of the program.



FUTURE DOCTORS – Spring Valley High School seniors Hannah Ray, Jordan Ratcliff and Jacob Kilgore were selected to be part of the new bachelor of science/medical doctor accelerated program at Marshall University. Tolsia's Kadi Conn, shown in top photo far left, was also selected. WCN photos by Diane Pottorff



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