



Downtown March
Parkersburg Homecoming Parade rolls down Market
Region, 5A

Half Marathon
St. Albans, Ukraine represented in men's, women's winner's circle
Sports, 1B



More Online

States rethink a long-held practice of setting speed limits based on how fast drivers travel

Fatal explosion at U.S. Steel's plant raises questions about its future, despite heavy investment

Coastal communities restoring marshes, dunes, reefs to protect against rising seas and storm surges

Find these stories at newsandsentinel.com

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

\$1.00 WWW.NEWSANDSENTINEL.COM MONDAY, AUG. 18, 2025

Parkersburg Homecoming wraps up year

By **DOUGLASS HUXLEY**
Staff Reporter

PARKERSBURG — The Parkersburg Homecoming wrapped up Sunday, leaving organizers and attendees with fond memories and a sense of accomplishment.

"The whole weekend was really good," Chuck Lipps, homecoming vice president and entertainment coordinator, said. "Obviously, the weather was a big part of it. Having sunshine, although it was a little hot. I think that might have kept a few people back from coming down, although we did have a very

good crowd in the evening after the sun went down."

Lipps said Friday night's Cleudus T. Judd's event and Saturday's Ohio Valley Opry and Johnny Staats Bluegrass Festival drew large audiences.

The festivities concluded Sunday with gospel music and a performance by the 3M Acoustic Trio. Lipps said a highlight of the weekend was the fireworks display on Saturday night. He said the fireworks began just as the Ohio Valley Opry finished their final song, creating a memorable moment for attendees.



The Anchored Grill was on hand Sunday during the Parkersburg Homecoming at Point Park.

■ SEE **HOMECOMING**, PAGE 10A



A first sergeant with the District of Columbia National Guard watches as activists protest President Donald Trump's federal takeover of policing of the District of Columbia Saturday in Washington.

West Virginia, Ohio governors committing Guard to D.C. policing

By **JESS MANCINI**
Staff Reporter

PARKERSBURG — National Guardsmen from West Virginia and Ohio are headed to Washington, D.C.

But people opposed to the move say it's not for the reasons President Donald Trump claims.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey of West Virginia and Mike DeWine of Ohio announced Saturday they have authorized the deployment on Trump's request. Ohio will send 150 and from 300 to 400 will be from West Virginia, and another 200 will come from South Carolina. The states have Republican governors.

Trump on Aug. 11 said he was taking control of the Washington police department and deploying National Guard following an incident where a Department of Government Efficiency employee was assaulted when he attempted to stop a carjacking by a band of juveniles.

"We have been asked by the secretary of the Army to send 150 military police from the Ohio National Guard to support the District of Columbia National Guard," DeWine said.

"These Ohio National Guard members will carry out presence patrols and serve as added security," he said. "None of these military police members are currently serving as law enforcement officers in the state of Ohio."

Morrisey's press release said the National Guard would "support President Trump's Initiative to make D.C. safe and beautiful."

The troops will be under the command of Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jim Seward.

■ SEE **GUARD**, PAGE 10A



Racers take off for the News and Sentinel Half-Marathon Saturday morning in downtown Parkersburg.



Luke Bettenberger speeds through the final mile of the two-mile race Saturday at the News and Sentinel Half-Marathon.

News and Sentinel races cross the finish line again

By **GWEN SOUR**
Staff Reporter

PARKERSBURG — Hundreds of runners and walkers lined up in downtown Parkersburg on Saturday morning for the annual Parkersburg News and Sentinel Half-Marathon, a tradition that continues to bring together athletes, volunteers and the community.

This year's half-marathon also doubled as the West Virginia Road Runners Club of America 2025 championship race.

Along the route, volunteers in color-coded shirts were stationed to provide assistance — yellow for bicycle patrol, red for medical personnel and blue for general support.

Before the start of the race, announcer Randy Kinsolving reminded participants of the rules, particularly for those entered in the walking division.

- RACE TO THE DETAILS ON PAGE 1B**
- **Falcon soars past competition to break the tape**
 - **Competing in her first ever half marathon, Ukrainian Bushchuk leads pack among women**
 - **Warren distance runners sweep two-mile race**
- "If you're signed up as a walker, you must walk the entire distance of your race, no running or jogging, and a slow jog is not walking," Kinsolving said. "Your honesty and integrity will ensure a fair race for beginners through advanced walkers."
- SEE **RACES**, PAGE 10A

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT

Opponents of Morrisey religious vaccine exemption order want second shot at lawsuit

By **STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS**
Staff Reporter

CHARLESTON — Opponents of Gov. Patrick Morrisey's executive order allowing for religious exemptions to West Virginia's compulsory immunization law for school-age children were dealt a blow last month when their case was dismissed for technical reasons.

But they are filing their second lawsuit. The West Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and Mountain State Justice announced Friday they are filing a new lawsuit over Morrisey's executive order in Kanawha County Circuit Court seeking a temporary restraining order to block enforcement of the executive order.

In July, 8th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Kenneth Ballard granted a motion filed by the West Virginia Department of Health to dismiss a request for a writ of mandamus filed in May by the ACLU-WV and Mountain State Justice. Ballard ruled that the groups did not follow state law, which requires that state agencies and officials be given a 30-day notice before a lawsuit can be filed against them.

ACLU-WV Legal Director Aubrey Sparks said in a statement Friday that it was important to file the second lawsuit to stop Morrisey's executive order as students across the state return to school.

"Time is running out to protect West Virginia's schoolchildren from a dangerous and unconstitutional policy," Sparks said. "While our previous case was dismissed on procedural grounds, the core of this issue is clear: What the state is doing violates the law and the West Virginia Constitution. We're asking the court to act immediately before more children are put at risk."

■ SEE **LAWSUIT**, PAGE 6A

<p>CONTACT US</p> <p>The Parkersburg News and Sentinel P.O. Box 1787 Parkersburg, WV 26102-1787 304-485-1891</p>	<p>MORNING NEWS BRIEFING</p> <p>Frustrated Israelis protest war against Gaza Israeli protesters demanding a deal to free hostages in Gaza attempted to shut down the country Sunday in one of the largest and fiercest protests in 22 months of war.</p> <p>Details, Page 2A</p>	<p>READER</p> <p>Thank you, Wanda Darnold of Parkersburg for being a News and Sentinel subscriber.</p>	<p>INDEX</p> <p>2 SECTIONS 20 PAGES VOLUME 16, ISSUE 192</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Classified</td> <td>6B</td> <td>Living</td> <td>9A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comics</td> <td>8A</td> <td>Lottery</td> <td>10A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deaths</td> <td>2A</td> <td>Puzzles</td> <td>7A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Editorial</td> <td>4A</td> <td>Region</td> <td>5A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Entertainment</td> <td>7A</td> <td>Sports</td> <td>1B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horoscope</td> <td>9A</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Classified	6B	Living	9A	Comics	8A	Lottery	10A	Deaths	2A	Puzzles	7A	Editorial	4A	Region	5A	Entertainment	7A	Sports	1B	Horoscope	9A		
Classified	6B	Living	9A																								
Comics	8A	Lottery	10A																								
Deaths	2A	Puzzles	7A																								
Editorial	4A	Region	5A																								
Entertainment	7A	Sports	1B																								
Horoscope	9A																										