



# 2024

## *Annual Report*

Small Business of the Year  
Mid-Size Business of the Year  
Large Business of the Year  
Nonprofit of the Year  
Veteran-Owned Business of the Year  
New Business of the Year  
Milan Puskar Entrepreneur of the Year  
Earl L. Core Award  
Chairman's Award







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## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

**THE MORGANTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL DINNER** is an occasion to celebrate what is great about Morgantown and Monongalia County, as well as the people and the businesses that make it exceptional. This is my second time chairing the annual dinner, but who we are now, not only as an organization, but as a community, is much different than my last time at the helm in 2013.

This year — 2024 — marks the start of the Morgantown Area Partnership's second five years in existence. Formed by a group of business and community leaders in 2018 and 2019, we worked to build what was the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce into something even more, and in that time, we've combined with the Monongalia County Development Authority (MCDA), the Morgantown Area Economic

Partnership, the Campus Neighborhoods Revitalization Corporation — known by many as Sunnyside Up — and, just over 15 months ago, with Main Street Morgantown. For more than a century, the Chamber has sought to be the voice of our business community, but in the last five years, we've strived to be a strong and diverse voice of our community as a whole.

That voice is one that encourages progress over stagnation, unity over division, non-partisan action over politically motivated acts. In its short amount of time, the Partnership has gotten our community to pull on the same side of the proverbial rope, to start working together as a unit. As a result, we have seen Morgantown and Monongalia County become a

hotbed in our state for economic development. News has been announced about a handful of our successes, but even more percolates under the surface: some large-scale jobs creators, some quality-of-life projects that can act as a beacon, drawing people to and keeping people in our boarders, and more. This is thanks to the core of our existing community working each day to make the place we a call home a better place to live, work, shop and play.

We've accomplished this by uniting the organizations I mentioned above to bring them together, creating economies of scale and putting a top-notch professional staff behind them. Our president and CEO Russ Rogerson is supported by his vice presidents Erik Carlson and Amy Loomis, Business Manager Tanya Skeens,

Membership & Public Affairs Manager Jacob Coots, Membership Salesman Charlie Sims, Graduate Assistant Matt Porter and Marketing and Communications Coordinator Brooke Bolyard. That team welcomed 101 new members to the Partnership in 2023, cut 21 ribbons on new or celebrating businesses. That brought our total to 524 total members, including 19 investor partners that help drive the mission of the Partnership and provide important financial support to achieve the stated goals the initial board of the Partnership and its associated organizations put into place in 2019 and reaffirmed with all ratifying a second term starting in 2024.

Some of the initiatives we stand for are:

- Transform the Morgan-

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## IN THE STATE

We're excited that several programs across WVU Medicine have been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*, including **J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital and WVU Medicine Children's** have been named the top hospitals in the state for adults and children.



To learn more, visit [WVUMedicine.org/Rankings](https://www.wvumedicine.org/Rankings)



EARL L. CORE AWARD

# Rita Tanner was committed to community

BY JIM BISSETT

JBissett@DominionPost.com

It was a blustery Saturday in late December more than 20 years ago when Rita Tanner and the other board members of the former Centra Bank gathered at Glenmark Centre for the groundbreaking.

The local chain was opening another branch office, and like the others, this one was also going to be staffed by bankers and staffers who either grew up in Morgantown or formed strong, lasting ties across the city and region — even if they weren't technically "from" here.

Homegrown investment, as it were.

"They all live here," Rita Tanner said then. "That's important for a community



Rita Tanner

bank like this."

Those words, "important" and "community," were synonymous with the businesswoman and booster who died in February and is posthumously receiving the Morgantown Area Partnership's highest award for service

this evening.

That's the Earl L. Core Award for community outreach — with "outreach," being another word that best suits the recipient, her son Seth Tanner said.

His mother had a full portfolio of community service, he said.

He and his four siblings, Seth said, knew about some of her work in her adopted hometown.

Still, there were causes to which their mom was aligned that he didn't know — because she never talked about it, Seth said.

"She just went out and did it. And she encouraged us to do the same. She would always say, 'Whatever you're doing, you can do more.'"

### Of country roads and commitment

It was her heart that brought her to the hills of north-central West Virginia.

Rita was born in Chicago and grew up in the Windy City.

She stayed local and was on her way to graduating in three years from Northwestern when an encounter on a spring break in Miami Beach changed everything.

That's where she met the man she would marry, Stephen Tanner, of Morgantown.

After the wedding, and after she formally traded in the flat expanses of the Midwest for the ancient, compact mountains of Appalachia, she dug in like she always did.

SEE TANNER, C-35



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## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

# Neal, Rhodes, Gustafson deserving honorees

BY LINDSEY FLEMING

DPNews@DominionPost.com

This year, Morgantown Area Partnership (MAP) will present three recipients with the Chairman's Award during the organization's Annual Dinner from 5-8:30 p.m. today at the Morgantown Event Center at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place.

Unlike other awards, explains board member Sarah Woodrum, who is also WVU School of Public Health senior associate dean and assistant professor, the Chairman's Award is only given when "we really feel like somebody deserves recognition."

It's meant for those who've worked hard to serve their community in ways that do not fit neatly into the other

award categories. And Woodrum can't think of three more deserving honorees than the late Dr. William Neal, Dr. Larry Rhodes and Dr. Robert "Gus" Gustafson.

"When you work backwards, so much had to be done over 40 years, before 2022, when the state-of-the-art children's hospital opened its doors in Morgantown," she said, referring to WVU Medicine Children's, a standalone nine-story facility that is home to West Virginia's largest group of pediatric primary care physicians and specialists. "These three really are pioneers."

In a rural area like their home state, the West Virginia natives understood the importance of bringing health care to residents — whether that

was establishing a system of outreach heart clinics to accommodate the surgical capability of Gustafson, a pediatric heart surgeon, or Neal and Rhodes traveling to all 55 counties providing outreach pediatric cardiology care.

Through community engagement, time spent connecting with local health care providers and by offering an array of educational opportunities, the trio also built relationships throughout the state that proved crucial in terms of funding and support for the new children's hospital.

Neal, a Huntington native who graduated from the WVU School of Medicine in 1966, returned in 1974 to become a faculty member, after com-

pleting military service and residency and fellowship training.

"When he came, he said he couldn't take this job unless there was a NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) developed," said Dr. Martha Mullett, a retired WVU pediatrics professor and clinician. So, she said, her late husband started one.

"It was on-the-job training," said Mullett, who became the NICU director in 1978, a position she held until 1998. "You just did it. Somebody began and taught the others. ... We would accept patients with all of these problems and go and get them."

Mullett recalls traveling with Neal to pick up their

SEE DESERVING, C-33



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## NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

# Shack serves community in various ways

BY ALISE CHAFFINS

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The Shack Neighborhood House has been in operation since 1928, serving the Morgantown community for nearly a century.

This year, the organization was selected as the Non-Profit of the Year by the Morgantown Area Partnership.

Shack Neighborhood House's mission is to provide an inclusive, safe and fun environment for learning and recreation. This is achieved largely through its before and after school care program, as well as its extensive summer camp program.

"We were surprised about the award. We weren't expecting it," said the Shack's executive director, Jessica

Varner. "We've just been working on our before and after school program and trying to get ready for summer camp. We're very grateful for it and the publicity that comes with it, so everyone can know that we're here for the community."

And The Shack serves the community in a variety of ways.

The before/after school program is at three locations in Monongalia County, serving about 240 kids.

The summer camp will run from June 10 to Aug. 16 and include kids from ages 5-12. For kids who are 13 and older, they can become junior volunteers working in the community.

SEE SHACK, C-34



Katie Leach (left), The Shack program director, Chloe Hatfield, Shack staffer, and Executive Director Jessica Varner stand outside The Shack Neighborhood House, which is being honored as Non-Profit of the Year by Morgantown Area Partnership.

Ron Rittenhouse/  
The Dominion Post

**"WE WERE SURPRISED ABOUT THE AWARD. WE WEREN'T EXPECTING IT."**

Jessica Varner  
The Shack's executive director



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## Congratulations to the 2024 Annual Winners

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Enrout Properties LLC

*Mid-Size Business of the Year*  
Triple S Harley-Davidson

*Large Business of the Year*  
Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

*New Business of the Year*  
Hope Gas

*Veteran-Owned Business of the Year*  
Tanner's Alley Leather Design Studio

*Non-Profit of the Year*  
The Shack Neighborhood House

*Milan Puskar Entrepreneur of the Year*  
Nikki Bowman Mills  
Michael Mills

*Earl L. Core Award*  
Rita Tanner

*Chairman's Award*  
*Champion for Children's Health*  
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Robert Gustafson, MD  
Larry A. Rhodes, MD

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## VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

# Tanner's Alley honored for decades of service

BY TIFFANY MORGAN

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Tanner's Alley has been the leather goods and repair shop for Morgantown for nearly five decades.

Charlie McEwuen said he started his leather business originally as a hobby during his time in the military.

After the war, McEwuen had a decision to make: go back to college to finish his degree or pursue his handiwork with leather full time.

A leather business at age 22 sounded more "glamorous" to McEwuen, and he took the leap of faith.

Tanner's Alley was established and was first nestled along Walnut Street — "a narrow place ... an alley" — giving his business its name.

Tanner's second location was on Spruce Street.

Fast-forward 48 years later and Tanner's Alley is still a major part of downtown Morgantown's rich history and the shops on High Street. And McEwuen's business will be recognized this year as the Veteran-Owned Business of the Year at the Morgantown Area Partnership's Annual Dinner tonight.

McEwuen said that throughout his time as a small-business owner, the most important thing about keeping a business alive is being able to adapt to the environment around you.

"Being in the military did help me learn to adjust to a rapidly changing situation quickly," McEwuen said.

SEE VETERAN, C-34



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Tanner's Alley founder and owner Charlie McEwuen stands outside his High Street leather shop. McEwuen and his shop will be recognized for their time in the community this evening at the Morgantown Area Partnership's annual dinner. The business has been in the downtown Morgantown area for nearly 50 years.

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## MILAN PUSKAR ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

# Nikki and Michael Mills sprucing up Granville

**BY ALISE CHAFFINS**

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Did you know that Granville has a main street?

Nikki and Michael Mills want to make sure that everyone is aware of this, which is why, in 2020, they purchased 10 warehouses to create New South Square.

That square now includes New South Media's headquarters, The Silo in the Square, This and That Bakery and The F.A.R.M.

It is also why they are receiving the Milan Puskar Entrepreneur of the Year award at this year's Morgantown Area Partnership's Annual Dinner.

"To be given this award, named for such an icon who not only built an incredible

company, but also contributed in a plethora of ways to building this community through his generosity, is an amazing honor," Nikki Mills told The Dominion Post. "Michael and I are both entrepreneurs, and to be selected as the first husband and wife team to receive the Milan Puskar Entrepreneur of the Year award for not just our work in our individual businesses, but also our work together in Granville, means so much to us."

Michael went on to add, "When most people think of Granville, they think of the University Town Centre. But Granville is so much more. It has a main street, flat land — which is hard to find in our

**SEE GRANVILLE, C-32**



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Nikki and Michael Mills purchased 10 warehouses to create New South Square in downtown Granville.



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## SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

# Family business is bettering community

**BY CAVAN TARLEY**

CTarley@DominionPost.com

After reaching major accomplishments this year, Enrout Properties is being awarded Small Business of the Year by the Morgantown Area Partnership.

Enrout Properties was founded by brothers Glenn and Kevin Adrian in January 2006.

Even though the company has occasionally done work on residential properties, Enrout Properties primarily focuses on the development and expansion of the Morgantown Industrial Park, which was purchased by Enrout in October 2006.

“Being recognized now by the Morgantown Area Partnership is very special for

myself and my brother, who co-founded the park,” said Glenn.

“It’s validation for us that we’ve done what we’ve set out to do and leave a community better off than we started out with,” added Kevin.

To Glenn Adrian, 2023 was a milestone year for Enrout because of the work on the complete expansion of the Morgantown Industrial Park.

They achieved this expansion with the help of major institutions in Morgantown, such as the Morgantown Area Partnership and the Monongalia County Commission.

This expansion allowed more businesses to open at the Industrial Park. For example, Mountaintop Beverage was

**SEE FAMILY, C-32**



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Patrick (left), Glenn, Kevin and Ryan Adrian pose for a photo in front of the new Mecca 911 Center at Morgantown Industrial Park.

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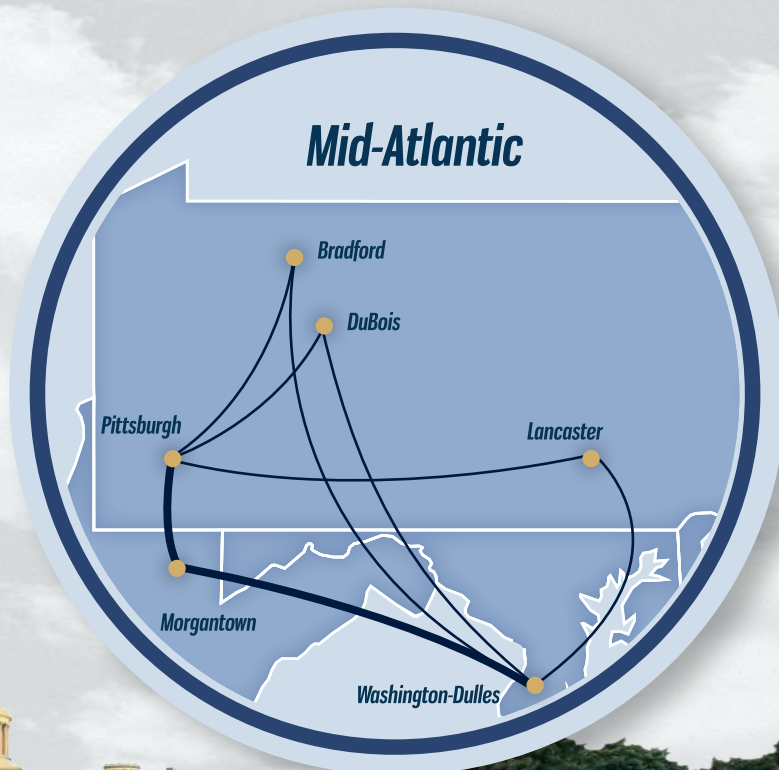
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## MID-SIZED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

# Triple S family continues giving back

**BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER**

Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Triple S Harley Davidson has served West Virginia for over 20 years.

As the company is honored as Mid-Sized Business of the Year by the Morgantown Area Partnership, the family-owned dealership is embarking on its next chapter under the guidance of the next generation.

Located at 7300 Willie G Ave. and offering a wide selection of new and used motorcycles, ranging from touring to trikes, sport and adventure models, Triple S is more than just a dealership.

Its Harley-Davidson Riding Academy provides training for riders of all levels, while store inventory includes

parts, accessories and high-quality clothing popular even among non-riders.

Owned by dealer principals Cliff Sutherland and his son, Andrew Sutherland, Triple S is proud of its customer service and longtime involvement in the community. Over the years, the regional destination has helped raise more than \$2 million for charities, supporting local organizations and those dedicated to veterans, first responders and children.

In 2024 alone, Triple S will host 76 events, including charitable fundraisers and biking meet-ups.

Cliff's passion for motorcycles blossomed after he purchased the dealership,



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Triple S Harley Davidson has served the community for 20 years.


SEE GIVING, C-32


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LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

# Recognition is an honor to area law firm

**BY CAVAN TARLEY**

CTarley@DominionPost.com

Step toe & Johnson’s Morgantown office is being recognized as Large Business of the Year by the Morgantown Area Partnership.

Brooke Kamicker, managing member at Step toe & Johnson’s Morgantown office, considers the award to be a huge honor for the company.

“There’s clearly a lot of businesses in Morgantown to choose from and it’s an honor to be selected for this award,” said Kamicker.

Step toe & Johnson is a law firm that provides legal advice to a wide variety of clients across many locations.

According to Kamicker, the Morgantown office of Step toe & Johnson has four major

departments: business, energy, litigation and labor and employment. Each department provides representation to different organizations and individuals. For example, the litigation department works with the hospitals in West Virginia regularly, while the energy department deals with the providers in the area.

During 2023, the Morgantown office was heavily involved with the business developments happening in the community.

“We have done a lot of transactions with businesses throughout 2023,” said Kamicker. “We touch just about everything. If it’s being developed, we have some kind of hand in it.”

SEE LAW, C-32



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Employees of Step toe & Johnson pose outside the WestRidge offices recently. The law firm is a national company that provides legal advice to a wide variety of clients across many locations.



Neighborhood House

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**Shack Programs:**

[the-shack.org](http://the-shack.org)

- Before/After School - K-5 at 3 locations: Eastwood, Ridgedale & Mylan Park
- Festival of Fun Summer Program - June 10 - August 16
- Junior Volunteer - 13-17 Building lasting relationships through community service
- Drop-in recreation - Zumba, Thai Chi, indoor soccer, family fun events
- Public Skating - Dates will be listed on our Facebook page

The Shack Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency located in the historic Scott’s Run community just outside of Morgantown, WV. We pride ourselves in being responsive to the needs of the community. The Shack, in partnership with Monongalia County Starting Points, provides an inclusive, safe, and fun environment for education and recreation.



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  - Playgroup at The Shack - M/W during calendar school year from 10 to 11:30 (ages 0-3 drop in)
  - In-Home Visits - Expecting Mothers to children age 5
  - Respite Care
  - Arnettesville Food Pantry
  - Baby Pantry
  - Adventurous Girls - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls

**Jessica Varner** - Executive Director: [director@the-shack.org](mailto:director@the-shack.org)

**Katie Leach** - Program Director: [volunteer@the-shack.org](mailto:volunteer@the-shack.org)

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NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

# Hope Gas strengthens century-old WV roots

**BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER**  
Keichelberger@DominionPost.com

Hope Gas has served the state since the early 1900s. In September 2023, West Virginia-based Hope Utilities acquired the legacy from Dominion Energy and quickly launched the rebirth of Hope Gas.

The process began with the help of the Morgantown Area Partnership, said Hope Gas president and CEO Morgan O'Brien.

"One of the first people at the table when we talked about coming to West Virginia was the Morgantown Area Partnership," said O'Brien. "They offered us assistance connecting with people looking for jobs."

Now, the Partnership will

award Hope Gas with New Business of the Year.

It may appear strange for a 125-year-old company to receive an award for new businesses, joked O'Brien, but Hope Gas has been busy achieving a metamorphosis worthy of such a title. The company's goals are simple — employing, serving and investing in the Mountain State.

"Our roots are deep and old in West Virginia, and we're working hard at making those roots stronger," said O'Brien.

Eighteen months ago, Hope Gas aimed to hire 100 new employees in its first year of operations. Today, that number is around 240 and growing.

**SEE HOPE, C-34**



Submitted photo

Hope Gas is not a new business, but it's launched a rebirth in the former Mylan Pharmaceuticals building on Chestnut Ridge Road.

**IT MAY APPEAR STRANGE FOR A 125-YEAR-OLD COMPANY TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FOR NEW BUSINESSES, BUT HOPE GAS HAS BEEN BUSY ACHIEVING A METAMORPHOSIS WORTHY OF SUCH A TITLE.**

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Morgantown 26505; 304-296-9812

## Service League of Morgan- town Inc.

313 Chestnut St., Morgantown  
26505

## 17th Judicial Circuit PDC

265 Spruce St., Suite 300, Mor-  
gantown 26505; 304-974-1400

## SeyberTech

41 Bailey Drive, Fairmont 26554;  
304-435-9945

## Sheetz

428 Benoni Ave., Fairmont 26554;  
724-880-6534

## Sheetz #254

900 Chestnut Ridge Road, Mor-  
gantown 26505; 304-598-8601

## Sheetz #275

1 Chaplin Hill Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-599-2890

## Sheetz #349

1901 Earl Core Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-296-0798

## Sheetz #486

3522 Monongahela Blvd., Star  
City 26505; 304-599-3100

## Sheetz #556

2151 University Ave., Suite 220,  
Morgantown 26505

## Sheetz #575

1012 University Ave., Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-291-9549

## Sheetz #604

21 Austurias Lane, Morgantown  
26508; 304-284-8311

## Sheila's Home

1058 Suncrest Towne Centre  
Drive, Morgantown 26505

## Shine Consulting

1291 Landing Way, Shinnston  
26431; 304-685-8375

## Sierra Pacific Mortgage

1704B Mileground Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-598-0000

## Skin Mood Aesthetics

1066 Suncrest Towne Centre  
Drive, #14, Morgantown 26505;  
304-504-3144

## Sodexo at WVU

356 Evansdale Drive, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-276-5159

## Sola Salon Suites

1066 Suncrest Towne Centre  
Drive, Morgantown 26505;  
304-215-2952

## Southern Airways Express

100 Hart Field Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-306-2453

## Southwestern Energy

1300 Fort Pierpont Drive, Suite  
200, Morgantown 26508; 304-884-1610

## Spark! Imagination & Science Center

P.O. Box 104, Morgantown 26507-  
0104; 304-292-4646

## Sparkle Wash of North Central WV

141 Gilboa Road, Fairmont 26554;  
304-367-0818

## Spay Neuter Incentive

## Program of West Virginia

1470 Earl L. Core Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 904-386-5937

## Spencer & Kuehn

716 Venture Drive, Morgantown  
26508; 304-296-9669

## Spilman, Thomas & Battle

304-291-7920

## SpringHill Suites

1910 Hunters Way, Morgantown  
26505; 304-225-5200

## Starport

926 Lindberg Ave., Homestead  
15120-2922; 412-867-7092

## State on Campus

331 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown  
26505; 304-291-4250

## SteppingStones

400 Mylan Park Lane, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-983-7837

## Steptoe & Johnson

1000 Swiss Pine Way, Suite 200,  
Morgantown 26501; 304-598-8000

## Stewart Design

50 Desert Eagle Drive, Morgan-  
town 26508; 855-735-6467

## Stone Tower Brews

3345 University Ave., Suite 1,  
Morgantown 26505; 681-404-4717

## Stonecutters

dba Preferred Surfaces  
120 Corporate Drive, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-983-7730

## StoryMaker

1440 Center Hill Ave.,  
Star City 26505

## Suburban Studios

304-291-2535

## Sugar Bar Sweets + Coffee

304-322-4980

## Summit Community Bank

176 Courtyard St., Morgantown  
26501; 304-581-6500

## Suncrest Towne Centre

1298 Suncrest Towne Centre  
Drive, Morgantown; 304-599-2323

## Suncrest

## United Methodist Church

479 Van Voorhis Drive, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-599-6306

## Sunnyside Up

(Campus Neighborhoods  
Revitalization Corporation)

304-291-9150

## SureStay Plus

## by Best Western

15 Lawless Road, Morgantown  
26505; 304-292-0055

## Suttle & Stalnaker PLLC

453 Suncrest Towne Centre  
Drive, Suite 201, Morgantown 26505;  
304-554-3371

## Sync Me Up LLC

304-612-6981

## Taters

994 Willey St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-212-5731

## Tee-It-Up Inc.

304-594-2939

## Terminix

304-943-9854

## Terra Cafe

360 Frontier St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-554-2233

## Terri Reed Cutright

## & Associates

1399 Stewartstown Road, Suite  
220, Morgantown 26505; 304-276-8046

## TGG Brand Marketing +

## Design Inc.

4206 University Commons Drive,  
Morgantown 26505-0206; 304-485-8990

## The Coffee Tree Roasters

725 Fairmont Road, Morgantown  
26501; 304-241-1596

## THE CPR GALS

Morgantown 26508; 626-497-4117

## The Cupcakerie

1399 Stewartstown Road, Suite  
150, Morgantown 26505; 304-212-5464

## The District

1000 District Drive, Morgantown  
26505; 304-599-8200

## The Dominion Post

1251 Earl L. Core Road Morgan-  
town WV 26505, Morgantown 26505;  
304-292-6301

## The EADS Group

1126 8th Ave., Altoona 16602;  
304-212-5927

## The EdVenture Group

1253 Canyon Road, Suite 7, Mor-  
gantown 26508; 304-296-9021

## The Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority

P.O. Box 2738, Fairmont 26555-  
2738; 304-363-0860

## The Health Plan of Upper Ohio Valley Inc.

800-624-6961

## The Joint Chiropractic

358 Suncrest Towne Centre, Mor-  
gantown 26505; 304-282-9114

## The Laundry

441 Brockway Ave., Morgantown  
26501; 304-216-9209

## The Linsly School

60 Knox Lane, Wheeling 26003;  
304-233-1436

## The Miley Legal Group

250 Scott Ave., Suite 100, Mor-  
gantown 26508; 304-241-7100

## The Pines Country Club

3062 Point Marion Rd., Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-296-3462

## The Rodeheaver Group

3214 Earl L. Core Road, Suite 200,  
Morgantown 26508; 304-777-4272

## The Shack Neighborhood House Inc.

1825 Earl Core Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-599-5466

## The Tea Shoppe

709 Beechurst Ave., Suite 23,  
Morgantown 26505; 304-413-0890

## The Thrasher Group Inc.

PO Box 940, Bridgeport 26330;  
800-273-6541

## The United Federal Credit Union

3 Sunset Beach Road, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-598-5010

## The Village at Heritage Point

1 Heritage Point, Morgantown  
26505; 304-285-5575

## The Wine Bar at Vintner Valley

510 Burroughs St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-241-1687

## The WOW! Factory

3453 University Ave., Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-599-2969

## Therapy Services

6000 Hampton Center, Suite B,  
Morgantown 26505; 304-599-9250

## Titan Roofing

27 Majestic View Drive, King-  
wood 26537; 304-826-6897

## T-Mobile

1060 Suncrest Town Centre  
Drive, Morgantown 26505;  
304-319-6023

## Top Notch Helping Hands

304-435-8122

**SEE MEMBERSHIP, C-31**



# MEMBERSHIP

FROM PAGE C-30

- Town of Granville**  
P.O. Box 119, 1245 Main St.,  
Granville 26534; 304-599-5080
- Travis Cadalzo, Realtor**  
649 Villa Place, Morgantown  
26505; 304-288-1923
- Tri County Plumbing  
& Contracting LLC**  
304-241-1034
- Triad Engineering Inc.**  
1097 Chaplin Road, Morgantown  
26501-2296
- Trilogy Innovations Inc.**  
4311 Brettwood Lane, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-816-0293
- Triple H Enterprises**  
48 Donley St., Suite 702, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-873-3260
- Triple S Motorcycle Co.**  
7300 Willie G Ave., Morgantown  
26501; 304-284-8244
- Tri-State Roofing  
& Sheet Metal Co.**  
P.O. Box 4255, Morgantown 26504-  
4255; 304-328-5244
- Tri-State SHRM**  
(Society for Human  
Resources Management)  
304-598-4075
- Truist**  
100 South Fourth St., Clarksburg  
26301; 304-626-1703
- Ultimate Roofing WV**  
2300 Smithtown Road, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-241-1978
- United Bank**  
990 Elmer Prince Drive, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-598-2000
- United Way of Monongalia &  
Preston Counties Inc.**  
278-C Spruce St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-296-7525
- Univ. Ave-HW-HF, LLC**  
61 State Route 2044, Bentleyville  
15314; 724-201-6600
- University Motors Ltd.**  
60 Don Knotts Blvd, Morgantown  
26508; 304-296-4401
- University of Pittsburgh  
Center for Executive Education**  
412-648-4969
- Upper Monongahela River  
Association Inc.**  
P.O. Box 519, Granville 26534-0519;  
304-599-7585
- US Cellular**  
1047 Target Way, Morgantown  
26501; 304-598-0232
- USI Insurance**  
48 Donley St., Suite 703, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-598-5678
- Vector Security Inc.**  
100 Allegheny Drive, #200, War-  
rendale 15086; 724-779-8800
- VetConnection**  
522 Ashebrooke Square, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-288-0874
- Village Caregiving**  
3437 University Ave., Suite 2,  
Morgantown 26505; 304-241-4980
- Vision Homes Inc.**  
1128 Grafton Road, Morgantown  
26508; 304-296-0024
- Visit Mountaineer Country  
CVB**  
341 Chaplin Road, Morgantown  
26501; 304-292-5081
- V-Systems**  
101 Fairview Ave., Pittsburgh  
15238; 412-826-9200
- Walmart**  
75 Retail Circle, Morgantown  
26508; 304-292-4786
- Walmart**  
304-292-4786
- Wassick Novelty Co. LLC**  
P.O. Box 1588, Morgantown 26505;  
304-292-3791
- Waterfront Family Pharmacy**  
215 Don Knotts Blvd., Suite 120,  
Morgantown 26501; 304-225-7979
- WBOY-TV**  
904 West Pike St., Clarksburg  
26301; 304-623-3311
- WesBanco**  
1350 Earl Core Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-905-7234
- West Side  
Telecommunications/  
Communications PLUS**  
1449 Fairmont Road, Morgan-  
town 26501; 304-983-2211
- West TV**  
1 Turtle Creek Drive, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-777-2445
- West Virginia Apartment  
Association**  
6275 Country Club Drive, Hunt-  
ington 25705; 304-417-3704
- West Virginia Black Bears**  
2040 Gyorko Drive, Granville  
26534; 304-293-7910
- West Virginia Botanic Garden**  
714 Venture Drive, PMB #121,  
Morgantown 26508; 304-322-2093
- West Virginia Executive  
Magazine**  
P.O. Box 6277, Charleston 25362;  
304-941-0600
- West Virginia Junior College**  
148 Willey St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-296-8282
- West Virginia Public Theatre**  
P.O. Box 6082, Morgantown 26506;  
304-381-2382
- West Virginia  
Sober Living**  
304-413-4300
- West Virginia University**  
P.O. Box 6201, Morgantown 26506-  
6201; 304-293-2545
- WestRidge**  
310 Lawless Road, Morgantown  
26501; 304-594-8085
- Wheeling Linen Services**  
P.O. Box 270, Wheeling 26003
- White Diamond Realty**  
1399 Stewartstown Road, Suite  
150, Morgantown 26505; 304-241-7500
- WINMAR**  
16 Dartmouth St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-288-1703
- Workscope**  
1900 Lowe St., Pittsburgh 15220;  
304-554-9879
- WV Caring**  
3433 University Ave., Suite 1,  
Morgantown 26505; 304-864-0884
- WVRC Media**  
1251 Earl Core Road, Morgan-  
town 26505; 304-296-0029
- WVU Administration, Finance  
& Human Resources**  
104 Stewart Hall, P.O. Box 6205,  
Morgantown 26506-6205; 304-293-2545
- WVU Alumni Association**  
P.O. Box 4269, Morgantown 26504-  
4269; 304-293-4731
- WVU Athletic Department**  
PO Box 0877, Morgantown 26506-  
0877; 304-293-2101
- WVU Brad and Alys Smith  
Outdoor Economic Development  
Collaborative**  
Morgantown 26505
- WVU Cancer Institute**  
1 Medical Center Drive, Morgan-  
town 26506; 304-598-4500
- WVU Career Services Center**  
133 Mountainlair Building, P.O.  
Box 6008, Morgantown 26506-6008;  
304-293-2221
- WVU Center for Community  
Engagement**  
P.O. Box 6412, Morgantown 26506;  
304-293-8761
- WVU College of Creative Arts**  
P.O. Box 6111, Morgantown 26506-  
6111; 304-293-4841
- WVU College of Education and  
Human Resources**  
P.O. Box 6122, Morgantown 26506-  
6122; 304-293-5704
- WVU College of Law**  
Law Center Drive, Morgantown  
26506; 304-293-5301
- WVU Corporate Relations**  
P.O. Box 6201, Morgantown 26506-  
6201; 304-293-9416
- WVU Credit Union**  
448 Harding Ave., Morgantown  
26505; 304-293-5737
- WVU Davis College of Agricul-  
ture, Natural Resources  
and Design**  
333 Evansdale Drive, Morgan-  
town 26506; 304-293-2395
- WVU Division of Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion**  
P.O. Box 6202, Morgantown 26506;  
304-293-7470
- WVU Eberly College  
of Arts & Sciences**  
P.O. Box 6287, Morgantown 26506-  
6286; 304-293-4625
- WVU Foundation**  
One Waterfront Place, 7th Floor,  
Morgantown 26501; 304-284-4000
- WVU Innovation Corp.**  
265 Spruce St., Suite 100, Mor-  
gantown 26505
- WVU John Chambers College  
of Business and Economics**  
1601 University Ave., Morgan-  
town 26506; 304-293-4494
- WVU Medicine**  
J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital/WVU  
Medicine Children's  
P.O. Box 9083, 1240 Suncrest  
Towne Centre, Morgantown 26506;  
304-598-4000
- WVU National Research  
Center for Coal and Energy**  
P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown 26506-  
6064; 304-293-2887
- WVU Research Corp.**  
219 Walnut St., Morgantown  
26505; 304-293-4806
- WVU School of Medicine**  
1 Medical Center Drive, P.O. Box  
9100, Morgantown 26506-9600;  
304-598-4214
- WVU School of Music**  
1436 Evansdale Drive, P.O. Box  
6111, Morgantown 26505; 304-293-5511
- WVU School of Public Health**  
P.O. Box 9190, Morgantown 26505;  
304-581-1858
- WVU Statler College  
of Engineering  
& Mineral Resources**  
1374 Evansdale Drive, Morgan-  
town 26501-6070; 304-293-4157
- Your Community Foundation  
of North Central West Virginia**  
201 High St., 3rd Floor, P.O. Box  
409, Morgantown 26507; 304-296-3433
- Zen Leaf**  
205 Venture Drive,  
Morgantown 26508
- Ziebart of Morgantown**  
500 Fort Pierpont Drive, Morgan-  
town 26508; 304-322-4361



## LAW

FROM PAGE C-17

Step toe & Johnson's primary headquarters are in Washington, D.C., with additional offices in prominent U.S. cities, such as Los Angeles and New York City. Unlike smaller law firms, Step toe & Johnson has more resources behind it as a national law firm.

"At the Morgantown office, we have 20-25 attorneys, but

Step toe & Johnson as a whole has 300 attorneys" said Kamicker. "Having the ability to have those resources allows us to represent more people and companies, and we can spread out what we do."

Step toe & Johnson first opened an office in Morgantown at the Hampton Center in 1988. The law firm moved its Morgantown office to the Suncrest Center in 2004 and later moved to the WestRidge

Corporate Park in 2020, where it is currently located near Menard's.

In the next couple years, the biggest goal that Step toe & Johnson's Morgantown office is looking to achieve is to bring in more talent and employees.

"We definitely are always looking for more attorneys and more talent," Kamicker explained. "The more we grow, the easier it is to represent more people and get

**"...IT'S AN HONOR TO BE SELECTED FOR THIS AWARD."**

Brooke Kamicker

more business and serve the larger community."

The Morgantown Area Partnership's Annual Dinner is from 5-8:30 p.m. today at the Morgantown Event Center. Info: [morgantownpartnership.com](http://morgantownpartnership.com)

## GIVING

FROM PAGE C-16

leading him to learn to ride and embrace the culture wholeheartedly.

"I ended up learning to ride and love it so much," said Cliff. "It's the lifestyle, the camaraderie, the beauty of motorcycling."

In 2022, Cliff decided it was time to look to the next gen-

eration and begin passing the baton to his son, Andrew, who shares his father's appreciation for motorcycle riding and continuing the business' legacy.

"One of the beautiful things about biking is the scenery," said Andrew. "[West Virginia] has the wild and wonderful mountains, with the trees and forests and twists and turns. You don't get to experience that in a lot of

different places."

Receiving the Partnership's award for Mid-sized Business of the Year reflects the company's goal to play an impactful role in the community.

"It was a great honor, and we're honored to be in that position and be recognized," said Andrew.

Looking ahead, the dealership is excited for its involvement in the upcoming

MountainFest Motorcycle Rally after the event saw a five-year hiatus. Further details will be posted on the company's and event's social media platforms.

The Morgantown Area Partnership's Annual Dinner is from 5-8:30 p.m. today at the Morgantown Event Center at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place. Info: [morgantownpartnership.com](http://morgantownpartnership.com)

## FAMILY

FROM PAGE C-14

able to open its doors at the Industrial Park in November 2023, thanks to the expansion work from Enrout. That company already has plans to expand itself within MIP.

Enrout was formed as a response to issues regarding industrial property in Morgantown.

"One of the things we rec-

ognized was that there was a severe lack of industrial property in and around the region," Glenn said. "I think the vision that we had for the need of landing a place for industrial customers has proven to be an accurate one."

Glenn and Kevin split their duties at Enrout in various ways.

"The distinguishing factor is that Glenn is more involved with the front-office stuff with

financial and contractual items, and I'm more in the back end with site development, infrastructure and marketing of the properties," Kevin explained.

To both Glenn and Kevin Adrian, the future of Enrout looks bright.

"What I see for Enrout over the next 10 years is the addition of more manufacturing and distribution facilities, the creation of high-quality jobs,

both blue and white collar," said Kevin. "For us, it's the continuation of bringing new industry into Monongalia County, but also the expansion of existing companies that are within the county currently."

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## GRANVILLE

FROM PAGE C-12

county — and we are conveniently located just one mile from I-79, with easy access from Westover, Morgantown and Star City. With all the development happening at West Ridge and Mylan Park, we felt that it was a good location. We hope we can spark further investment into this community."

Nikki's company, New South Media, includes publications like "WV Living," "Morgantown," "Wonderful

West Virginia," and "WV Weddings" magazines, which highlight stories from across the state.

Michael's company, Mills Group, is an architectural firm that provides architecture and planning but also works in historic preservation across West Virginia. The Mills Group has worked locally with Clear Mountain Bank, Glenmark Holdings, Enrout and the City of Morgantown, to name a few.

Their work in Granville highlights their love for the community.

Their most recent endeavor, The F.A.R.M — which stands for Food, Art, Recreation and Market — is a restaurant and a retail shop that sells everything from grab-n-go foods, gifts and clothing to local food products, books and antiques.

"We hope that we can serve as an example that ordinary people can help positively shape the trajectory of a town," Nikki said.

The Morgantown Area Partnership's Annual Dinner is from 5-8:30 p.m. today at the Morgantown Event Center.

**"WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF GRANVILLE, THEY THINK OF THE UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTRE. BUT GRANVILLE IS SO MUCH MORE. WE HOPE WE CAN SPARK FURTHER INVESTMENT INTO THIS COMMUNITY."**

Michael Mills  
Mills Group and  
New South Square



## DESERVING

FROM PAGE C-7

first out-of-town patient in Buckhannon.

“The first transport was in 77. That was in the old hospital,” she said, referring to University Hospital, which shut down in 1988.

At first, Mullett said, they were given a room in isolation, where they could fit beds for three babies. That expanded to five beds, then eight, then eight more.

Eventually — under the leadership of Gordon Gee during his first term as president at WVU and with the support of then-Gov. John Rockefeller IV and the state Legislature, as well as a hefty \$8 million contribution from Hazel Ruby McQuain — a hospital under a new nonprofit corporate structure controlled by the university opened in 1988, along with WVU Children’s Hospital.

The children’s hospital took up the sixth floor of Ruby Memorial Hospital (now J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital). Neal, who was then-chair of the WVU Department of Pediatrics and became the hospital’s first medical director, was instrumental in pushing for its hospital-within-a-hospital design. This meant that general pediatrics, obstetrics and the NICU were not spread out on different floors, as originally intended.

“He was really good at organization and leadership,” Mullett said. “That was just him. He wanted to do something for the state and felt he could offer something to the state.”

“Everything I do, a tremendous amount of it, can be traced back to him,” Rhodes said of Neal. “He was my teacher, my mentor, my chairman and my friend.”

And, he added, Neal led by example. He sought ways beyond his usual duties as an administrator, faculty member and doctor to help health outcomes for children across



Photos courtesy of WVU Medicine

Dr. Robert “Gus” Gustafson checks on an infant patient at WVU Children’s.

the state.

For instance, he founded the Coronary Artery Risk Detection in Appalachian Communities (CARDIAC) Project in 1998, which lasted close to 20 years. The school-based risk factor surveillance, intervention and research initiative was designed as a means of reversing the state’s disparity in cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

Dr. Lee Pyles, a WVU professor and pediatric cardiologist who trained under Neal and took over the project, agrees with Rhodes’ sentiments.

“Larry and I have said to people that we’re pediatric cardiologists because of the impact of Dr. Neal. ... The big thing is that Bill was such a people person,” Pyles said. “He should have been governor. He had this way of connecting. All of the families loved him because he was kind and straightforward and honest. People very quickly knew they could entrust their children to him.”

It’s a legacy that Rhodes and Gustafson have carried on in their own rights.

Rhodes, who has served as

a professor of pediatrics in the WVU School of Medicine since 2005 and is the founding director of the university’s Institute for Community and Rural Health, thrives on truly getting to know the fellow West Virginians he serves.

“This is where I belong,” he said, sharing that one of his favorite parts of his job is driving his truck to clinics or camps and stopping in mom-and-pop diners and cafes, overhearing customers make a case for round vs. square hay bales or arguing why you shouldn’t pay extra for a brand-name tractor. “I live for it.”

Raised in Kanawha County and graduating school with Kathy Mattea, Rhodes said the southern part of the state holds a special place in his heart, which is why he helped establish a summer camp there, Tomorrow is Mine, along with brothers Dr. John Brick and Dr. Jim Brick.

The free, weeklong residential camp for children ages 10-12 from Boone, Fayette, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming counties was created for kids who may not otherwise be able to attend a



Dr. William Neal



Dr. Larry Rhodes

summer camp. It is held on the WVU Beckley Campus.

“The reason I do that camp, I believe that everything that puts us on the top of every bad list or the bottom of every good one can be traced back to a sense of fatalism,” he said. “I truly want these kids to know that they have a tomorrow.”

Rhodes has personally recruited well-known West Virginians, like sculptor and artist Jamie Lester, an Oceana native, to share their skills and experiences.

“What it is, is showing the kids a parade of winners from where they’re from,” he said. “My definition of a winner is someone who can take care of themselves and their families, and raise up their communities.”

Rhodes said this year will be the first he steps back from another camp he’s been involved with for 26 years — Camp Mountain Heart.

He, Gustafson and Neal were all original sponsors of the free weeklong camp for children and teens, ages 8-17, with congenital and acquired heart disease. Under close medical supervision, the kids

SEE DESERVING, C-34



## HOPE

FROM PAGE C-20

From the beginning, Hope Gas has aimed to consciously use local employees and businesses, all while keeping its services affordable and accessible to its approximately

140,000 customers across 38 counties.

“We want to have a rippling effect of us being in West Virginia,” said O’Brien. “We’re trying to create a good West Virginia model that we hope other companies can follow.”

Hope Gas has a few ongoing

projects, including the construction of a 30-mile pipeline from Wadestown through Morgantown to Osage, expected to generate approximately 600 jobs. The 12-month construction is slated to commence by November.

Recognition as New Busi-

ness of the Year has furthered the company’s commitment to community upliftment.

Just as the Partnership supported the rejuvenation of Hope Gas, the company aims to pay it forward by assisting other new ventures in the state.

## SHACK

FROM PAGE C-8

“It’s a really fun place. We try to work with kids from a young age and bring them up through the programs and hopefully do some employment training with them,” Varner said. “We help kids get their food handlers card. When they’re 16, they can be a lifeguard here. When they’re 18, they can work as a camp counselor.”

The Shack isn’t just for kids. It also offers Zumba and Tai Chi classes available for adults, as well as keeping the space available for rent, allowing an opportunity for families to take advantage of the facility for parties, including

roller skating parties.

There is also indoor soccer and groups that rent the space for basketball.

And, the Shack also hosts public roller skating parties twice a month.

For more information about the Shack and the programs offered there, you can see the website at the-shack.org.

If you would like to support those receiving the Non-Profit of the Year award, the Morgantown Area Partnership’s Annual Dinner is from 5-8:30 p.m. today at the Morgantown Event Center at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place. Info: morgantownpartnership.com

## VETERAN

FROM PAGE C-10

“Things change all the time in business. If you don’t keep up with it, you may be out of business.”

McEwuen said he has always held true to his values by creating quality items and has a quality team to back him up as well.

“I have always been blessed to have wonderful employees, both present and in the past,” McEwuen said. “I’m really fortunate to have really talented people, and the staff I have right now is no exception.”

Main Street Morgantown recently partnered with Morgantown Area Partner-

ship to further recognize a number of small businesses at their annual dinner.

McEwuen has been a member of Main Street Morgantown since its inception, and with the recent partnership, he is optimistic on seeing the partnership broaden the business horizon for downtown.

“The partnership brings a broader scope to [Main Street Morgantown] and more attention to downtown,” McEwuen said.

The Morgantown Area Partnership’s Annual Dinner will be from 5-8:30 p.m. at the Morgantown Event Center at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place. For information, go to morgantownpartnership.com

## DESERVING

FROM PAGE C-33

get a chance to participate in a plethora of activities at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley.

Rhodes said after more than two decades, he knows the camp is in capable hands, and he will now have more time to focus on Tomorrow is Mine, which was established in 2017.

Trusting others to carry on what you’ve helped build is an idea that Dr. Gustafson had to come to terms with when he decided to retire.

The Keyser native spent most of his career as the only pediatric heart surgeon in the state. In 2020, WVU Medicine Children’s announced that Dr. Sertac Çiçek would take over as the chief of pediatric and cardiothoracic surgery from Gustafson, who had held the position since 1984.

“He did it all for close to 40 years,” Rhodes said. “He’s the glue that helped hold this thing together. I was away for a decade, and he stayed. He had every opportunity to leave. He was recruited for some big-time places around the country. We worked a ton together.”

Rhodes remembers the earlier days in their careers, when they bonded while monitoring babies after heart surgery.

“Sometimes two of us were there all night, the same night,” he said. “Gus and I are still good friends and became good friends from bed-sitting.”

Gustafson too recalls those early days, when he, Neal and Rhodes were on a mission.

“We wanted to improve the pediatric care in West Virginia and worked hard for many, many years to do that. ... Bill’s

initial effort was to set up outpatient clinics, seven or eight of them, so parents didn’t have to drive so far. And at the same time, [we] were working to try to get all the West Virginia patients that needed surgery to come to Morgantown, rather than to have them go to Cincinnati, or Pittsburgh, or Duke or Columbus.”

For his part, Gustafson worked to build the pediatric heart surgery program that would be part of the foundation for the university’s children’s hospital. During his time in practice, he served more than 15,000 patients and averaged about 175 surgeries a year.

“I was the sole player until the last couple of years,” Gustafson said. “I had a second person join me. Then I retired, and they replaced me. So, now I imagine it’s a little easier to get some time off.”

In 2022, after the opening of

the new children’s hospital, the professor emeritus of Cardiovascular and Thoracic at the WVU School of Medicine was celebrated with an operating room named in his honor.

Neal’s name can also be found on campus, as the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences opened in 2022. Rhodes and his wife, Terry, contributed \$50,000 to support the museum named for their friend, who died Jan. 1, 2021, at 80.

“When Dr. Neal passed away, it made me stop and think, ‘What is my legacy? What are all of our legacies?’” Woodrum said. “These three doctors didn’t need to be the ones on stage. They spent years behind the scenes. ... So many people now want out-comes quickly. They understood you have to do it one child at a time.”

Info: morgantownpartnership.com



## TANNER

FROM PAGE C-6

Her husband's place was going to be her place, too.

Stephen went to work as a certified public accountant. Soon there were those five children that kept her more than busy.

Not that she simply toggled between the kitchen table and PTA meetings.

There were at-large, altruistic, volunteer endeavors, too.

Easter Seals. The Mon County Mental Health Association.

The local League of Women Voters, where she and her sisters in the cause worked toward passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Rita and Stephen were also active members of the Tree of Life synagogue while setting up a number of endowments

(sometimes anonymously), befitting Morgantown's arts and medical communities.

When the five Tanner kids got old enough, she got back in the classroom and finished her degree at WVU.

### 'Attagirl, Mom'

Later, she became a Realtor, regularly selling \$1 million in residential and commercial properties.

Her business savvy got her on the board at Centra Bank even before it was officially formed, a post she shared with other heavy hitters, such as the late Milan "Mike" Puskar, the Morgantown benefactor and pharmaceuticals magnate.

The idea, Centra's founders said at the time, was to have a board comprised of people with the attributes and experience to step in and run the bank in a blink, should the

call arise.

Seth Tanner is quick to point out that he's not the only one to come up in a cool family overseen by a caring, equally cool matriarch.

He just knows that in the house he grew up in, he and his siblings were blessed.

Dinnertime was always a fun, boisterous affair, with the Tanner kids sitting in the same chairs nightly — it just kind of worked out like that — while vying for Mom and Dad's attention, the way siblings do.

Rita Tanner, he said, was just as enthused as engaged when she was unwinding and having fun as she was when she was working with that laser focus of hers.

She wasn't a pushover at badminton in the backyard.

Get her on the tennis court at the city's Racquet Club, Seth said, and she was down-

right fierce, with a serve that could change the Earth's polarity.

Heck, he said, she could even nail the Sunday crossword puzzle in the New York Times — with an ink pen, no less.

His favorite family photograph, he said, wasn't a formal pose.

He remembers it as a slightly faded Polaroid, snapped at the old Stansbury Field House after she earned her diploma from the state's flagship university.

There she was, beaming in her cap and gown, surrounded by all those Tanner kids.

Said snap captured Seth, in motion.

"I'm reaching over my brothers and sisters so I could put my hand on her shoulder and say, 'Attagirl, Mom. You did it.'"

## CHAIR

FROM PAGE C-4

town Area into a nationally recognized center for innovation, research commercialization and entrepreneurship.

- Effectively leverage existing businesses to support job creation and talent development.

- Provide better public services through improved cohesion and collaboration of Morgantown-area governments.

- Advocate for confirmation of optimal land use opportunities and concurrent infrastructure needs in greater Morgantown.

- Further enhance growth and investment in key job and activity centers.

- Create a competitive climate for the development of diverse housing.

- Market the Morgantown area to attract high-value employers and enhance local pride.

- Maximize the access, attraction and impact of visitors to greater Morgantown.

Through our partner organizations, the Partnership

has spent the year between last year's annual dinner and this year's helping map out plans for our community's future. Working together as one staff, Sunnyside Up, Main Street Morgantown and the MCDA have utilized their association with the Partnership to ensure cohesion between their plans. Rather than multiple, disparate plans creating a disjointed flow between neighborhoods in and near the downtown, our organizations have been moving forward with plans that mesh into each other and look to make Morgantown a better and more attractive place for all.

Sunnyside has developed a Neighborhood Master Plan to bring its vision to life. The plan compliments downtown life and showcases the river. It considers gateways, connections, the Mon, the university and commerce. The plan allows for flexible designs to market the opportunity to developers to invest along the riverfront.

In pursuit of its mission to develop and promote pros-

perous downtown and Wharf Districts, Main Street Morgantown led the South Downtown Strategic Master Plan. The plan examines how development opportunities might enhance our historic commercial core though its connections and gateways, arts and entertainment, treasured historic places and access to our world-class trails.

In January, the MCDA finished the entitlement process on nearly 10 acres of land along the Richwood corridor adjacent to downtown, campus and the Woodburn neighborhood. This project encompasses the community-minded focus of our organization. The MCDA's plans for the property were shaped in more than a half-dozen meetings with the Woodburn Association of Neighbors. The MCDA used the city's subdivision process to voluntarily block itself from 15 uses allowed in the B1 district because the neighborhood expressed concern. Those uses include drive-throughs, pawnshops, flea

markets, commercial kennels and golf courses, just to name a handful.

Those meetings also prompted the MCDA to leave a portion of the property out of its rezoning request to act as a bookend to the redevelopment, providing a buffer from the mixed-use area that will be created and the single-family neighborhood atop the hill in Woodburn. In what was the largest rezoning in recent memory, the philosophy of the Partnership to work for the community by being a part of the community earned 6-1 votes at both the planning commission and city council levels.

We are as excited to share our last year of successes with you at the annual dinner as we prepare to see what more successes are to come.

*Craig Walker  
Chairman of the  
Morgantown Area  
Partnership's Board  
and CEO for FCX  
Systems Inc.*





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