



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
NOVEMBER 2025 - Volume 32, Issue 11

WVOT Hosts Digital Government Summit

The West Virginia Office of Technology hosted a successful Digital Government Summit in October at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

The Summit, held last month for the eighth consecutive year, is an event that brings together public sector leaders and technology professionals to explore innovative solutions to solve government problems. Key themes this year included cybersecurity, digital transformation, AI implementation, data governance, and fostering collaboration across multiple stakeholders. Attendees gained knowledge from expert discussions, peer networking, and insights into the future of government technology.

“The Summit gets bigger and better every year and is a great opportunity for us to come together as one team, share ideas, and explore innovative solutions that will shape the future of digital government in our state,” said Chief Information Officer Heather Abbott. “We share knowledge, collaborate, and come up with ideas to improve constituent services while increasing efficiencies within state government.”

The keynote topic was “The Art of Espionage: Understanding the Fundamentals of Spycraft.”

Speaker Shawnee Delaney, a former Defense Intelligence Agency case officer (spy), unveiled her methods for identifying and recruiting individuals across various industries, revealing tactics from casual conversations at airport lounges to sophisticated surveillance operations. This insightful presentation took a deep dive into the clandestine world of espionage and its implications for different organizations. The talk illuminated how today’s adversaries, including hackers, nation-states, and organized crime rings, employ espionage techniques reminiscent of those used by spies. Attendees learned how to equip themselves with the knowledge to detect and defend against espionage, whether facing a human operative or a cyber threat.



Shawnee Delaney, CEO of Vaillance Group and former Defense Intelligence Agency case officer, is revolutionizing cybersecurity with a human-centered approach.

SNEAK PEEK

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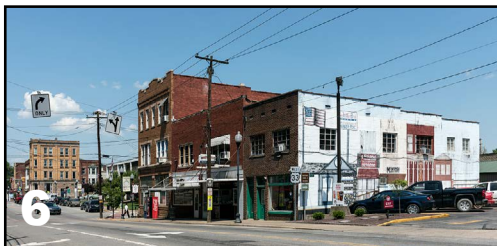
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Six West Virginia Sites Added to National Register of Historic Places

The West Virginia Department of Tourism has announced that six sites across the state have been added to the National Register of Historic Places, highlighting the Mountain State's rich history and cultural heritage.

Each site was approved for submission to the National Park Service by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission.

New listings include:

1. Jacob Folk House

Jefferson County

Built in 1860, the main portion of the house is a brick, L-shaped dwelling showcasing mid-19th-century construction. Located one mile west of Shepherdstown, the property sits on rolling farmland and includes additional historic buildings along Rocky Marsh Run.

2. Carter G. Woodson School

Kanawha County

Operated as an African American school from 1912 to 1940 in St. Albans before serving as the meeting hall for American Legion Post 73.

3. Pennsylvania Sinclair Cornerstone

Marshall County, Wetzel County

This obelisk, placed in 1883 along the border of Marshall and Wetzel Counties, marks Pennsylvania's southwest corner abutting West Virginia. It was part of a project to resurvey and permanently delineate the Mason-Dixon Line between 1883 and 1885 by surveyor Cephas Sinclair.

4. Largent Bridge

Morgan County

Constructed in 1916 and widened in 1935, this bridge spans the scenic Cacapon River and was listed for its connection to historic engineering techniques and transportation in the county.

5. Great Cacapon Bridge

Morgan County

Built in 1937, this bridge also crosses the Cacapon River and was recognized for its historic engineering significance and role in transportation.

6. Spencer Commercial Historic District

Roane County

Covering several blocks of downtown Spencer, this district includes the Roane County Courthouse and numerous historic commercial buildings that reflect the city's development and architecture.



2025 PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOV
3

Wheeling

The Highlands Event Center
546 Cabela Drive
Triadelphia, WV 26059

NOV
6

Beckley

Beckley-Raleigh Convention Center
200 Armory Drive
Beckley, WV 25801

NOV
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Martinsburg

Holiday Inn Martinsburg
301 Foxcroft Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25401

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Charleston

Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard E, Bldg. 9
Charleston, WV 25302

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Morgantown

Mountainlair Student Union - Gold Ballroom
1550 University Avenue
Morgantown WV 26506

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Virtual Town Hall

LINK: meet.google.com/nhs-ekrf-auu

PHONE: 1 415-855-1270

PIN: 449 094 813#

The PEIA Finance Board wants your input!

Proposals for Plan Year 2027 (benefits from 7/1/26-6/30/27 and 1/1/27-12/31/28 for Medicare members) are being finalized now. You'll find the proposed changes at [peia.wv.gov](https://www.peia.wv.gov) no later than Nov. 4, 2025. Just click on the picture of the gavel or scroll to the News Center.

5:30 p.m. Hearing Registration

Everyone attending the meeting must sign in and indicate if they wish to speak.

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing

The proposals will be presented and audience comments will be recognized by the board.

**Mountainlair Parking Garage (top floor) is free of charge for event parking.*

DOP Accepting Applications for 2026 Cohort Program

The Division of Personnel's Organization and Human Resource Development (OHRD) section is pleased to announce that applications for the 2026 Cohort Program are now open. The deadline is November 30, 2025.

The Cohort program is an accelerated one-year training program for supervisors and managers who need to complete the classes required under DOP Policy-18. Participants will move through the program together as a cohort over one calendar year, promoting collaboration, continuity, and shared learning.

The program allows participants to complete all required DOP-P18 classes in a simple, year-long program. Classes are designed to provide the essential tools and knowledge needed to successfully navigate the responsibilities of supervising in state government, as well as offer opportunities to network with supervisors and managers in other state agencies. Participants will also have access to individualized coaching and support from OHRD Training and Development staff.

Interested individuals should visit <https://personnel.wv.gov/ohrd/learning/cohort/Pages/default.aspx> to learn more about the program and find the application.

Mandatory Training for High Level Officials Now Online

An updated recording of the State Officials' Purchasing Procedures and Purchasing Card Training will be available via CourseMill in the coming weeks.

Presented by the Purchasing Division and the State Auditor's Office, this training provides information on purchasing procedures and purchasing card processes. This training is mandatory for high-level officials and must be completed each fiscal year as indicated in W. Va. Code § 5A-3-60.

To view the recording, visit www.onlinelearning.wv.gov and search for "PUR400EFY26" in the Course ID field. For questions related to this training, please email Purchasing.Training@wv.gov or contact Courtney Johnson at 304-558-4213.

Who must take this training?

- Executive department
- Cabinet secretaries
- Commissioners
- Deputy commissioners
- Assistant commissioners
- Directors
- Deputy directors
- Assistant directors
- Department heads
- Deputy department heads
- Assistant department heads

Honoring Department of Administration Veterans

The Department of Administration is pleased to recognize many of the veterans who served our country and now serve the citizens of West Virginia through our department. Thank you all for your sacrifices and for your service.

Marsha Aubrey, PDS
14 years
U.S. Army

Jerry McKee, WVOT
1997-2007
U.S. Navy

Robert Sheff, CPRB
1979-1988
U.S. Navy

Travis Windon, WVOT
9 years
WV Army National Guard

Philip Beckett, WVOT
1998-1992; Desert Storm
U.S. Army

Patrick O'Neill, GSD
8 years
U.S. Air Force

Franklin Stone, GSD
10 years
U.S. Air Force

Steve Wolfe, CPRB
1982-1992; Desert Storm
U.S. Air Force

Kerri Gaston, Real Estate
1997-2008
U.S. Army

Robert Richmond, WVOT
1985-1989
U.S. Air Force

Josh Tinnel, WVOT
1996-2000
U.S. Marines

Shannon Workman, WVOT
1998-2002
U.S. Air Force

David Dyer, BRIM
10 years
U.S. Army

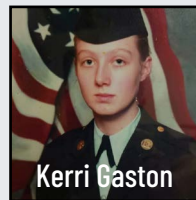
Jeremiah Jones, CPRB
2010-present
U.S. Air Force



Marsha Aubrey



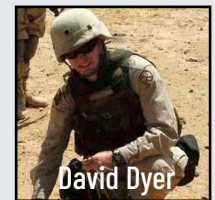
Patrick O'Neill



Kerri Gaston



Jerry McKee



David Dyer

Trick-or-Treaters Visit the Purchasing Division and Capitol



During their annual costume parade, trick-or-treaters from the West Virginia Early Learning Academy stopped by the Purchasing Division on their way to the Capitol, where staff members greeted the children with treats and colorful costumes.

Once inside the Capitol building, they passed by the Department of Administration's main office and the Office of Technology, where staff members celebrated the many creative costumes and passed out candy.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Thank you to all Department of Administration employees who participated in this year's Pumpkin Decorating Contest. There were nine entries, and the creativity was off the charts! Senior management staff in the Cabinet Secretary's Office judged each unique entry and made the difficult decision to name the following winners:



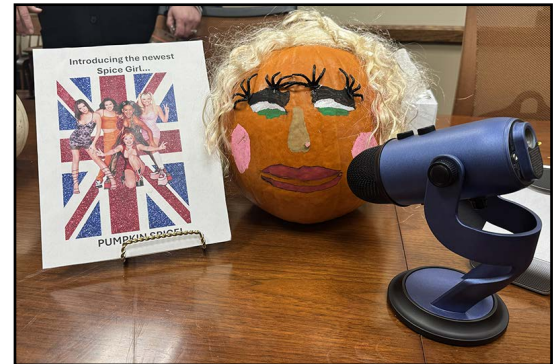
1st Place
Fleet Management Division



2nd Place
Ethics Commission



3rd Place
Purchasing Division



Department entries from left to right:

Skeleton - General Services Division

WVOT logo - Office of Technology

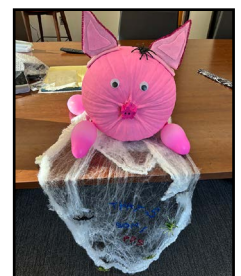
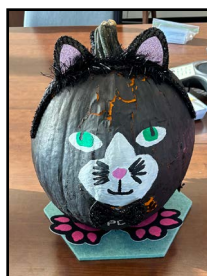
Parking Witch - Real Estate

Pumpkin Spice - Public Defender Services

Dinosaur - Prosecuting Attorneys Institute

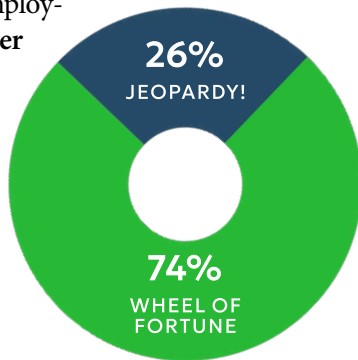
Stained Glass - Personnel

**Additional
Public Defender
Services entries**



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees “Would you rather be on Jeopardy! or Wheel of Fortune? Why?” Below are some of the responses we received from those who selected the winning response, Wheel of Fortune.



- I'm not great at remembering random trivia, but I am *really* nerdy about words and grammar.
- Jeopardy would eat me up and spit me out
- Easier, better odds to solve a puzzle than to remember something from the French Renaissance
- It's better to have people suspect how dumb I am than to prove it
- More prize options

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

WELCOME! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Troy Mynes** (GSD); **Leticia Forrest**, **Samuel Revercomb**, **Cynthia Burch**, and **Darron Parks** (PEIA); **Emily Ogden** (Public Defender Services); **Michelle Chandler** (Purchasing); **Jacob Redman**, **Frank Del Giudice**, and **Leilani Bennett** (Technology).

BEST WISHES ... to **Shawn Coleman** (Aviation); **Stephen Panaro** (BRIM); **James Brisendine** (CPRB); **Joshua Kerns** (GSD); and **Lisa Newell** (PEIA), who recently resigned from our department.

HAPPY RETIREMENT! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **LeAnne Neccuzi** (Finance); **William Lawson** (GSD); **Robin Rose** (PEIA); and **Barbara Fields** (Technology), the very best during their retirements.

OUR CONDOLENCES ... The Department of Administration is saddened to note the loss of **Frank Sinkora** (GSD), who passed away recently.

GOT NEWS? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in NOVEMBER

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of November:

AVIATION Tierra Gable
Sarah Tignor

CPRB Rhonda Bolyard
Elizabeth Crowder
Laura Harvey
Salena Legg

ETHICS Karen Disibbio
Kayla Kessinger

FINANCE Alexandra Brannon
David Crowe
Corey Wade

GEN.SRVS. Evelyn Arnold
Cara Castle
Michael Clendenin
Elizabeth Elswick
Charles Hager
Eric Mackey
Lorne Morris
John Nichols
Cody Taylor
Michael Urban
Chad Velez

PERSONNEL Lela Alderman
Candace Hodges
Layna Valentine-Brown

PUB.DEF. SRVS. Maxwell Koza
Olivia Lee
Ryan McCoy
Emily Ogden
Steven Thompson

PEIA Frances Anderson
Susan Beaty
Billie Landers
Leta Richmond
Robin Rose

PURCHASING Mark Atkins
David Botkins
Mark Fox
Joseph Hager
Shane Hall
Matthew Harper
William Pierce
Franklin Sisson
Angelina Villanueva
Samantha Willis

REAL ESTATE Anthony Signorelli

TECHNOLOGY Gregory Bailey
Laura Belcher
Crystal Cook
Megan Gallagher
Angela Graham
David Lalone
Raymond Mullin
Cody Pringle
Gilbert Richard
Michael Slaughter
Jeremy Tyler
William Ward
Jeffery Whitman
Sarah Wright
Terry Young



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