

# Allie Newman makes up for lost time

Southern Garrett High senior just earned Garrett College degree

**From Staff Reports**

MCHENRY — Allie Newman was a bored underachiever.

Or at least she felt that way.

It was the height of COVID — businesses were locked down, schools were closed, and online learning was still clunky at best. Newman was a freshman at Southern Garrett High School and she — like so many people — was feeling a bit lost.

“My freshman year [2020-21] was full lockdown,” recalled Newman, who took honors classes as a middle-school student. “It was really bad. I had no motivation to get anything done. And the first semester of my 10th-grade year wasn’t much better.”

And then, according to Newman, “...something switched in my brain. I saw how bad I’d been doing. I wanted to actually push myself to get something done, and I wanted to join extra-curricular activities.”



Submitted photo

**Allie Newman, a Southern Garrett High School senior, graduated Saturday from Garrett College.**

She’s been making up for lost time ever since.

Newman, just 17, graduated Saturday morning from Garrett College with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies. She’s been accepted at West Virginia University, with a plan to complete her bachelor’s degree and law degree

by the time she’s 22.

“I started taking classes through Dual Enrollment the first semester of my junior year,” said Newman. “I thought the benefit was a lot better than taking more AP classes, so I asked Ms. Wass, ‘How hard would it be for me to get my degree by the time I finish

high school?’”

Melissa Wass is Garrett College’s director of admissions and recruitment, who also oversees the College’s High School Dual Enrollment program.

“Scheduling was definitely difficult at times, especially when working around Allie’s high school schedule, extra-curriculars, and work outside of the classroom,” said Wass. “But she was extremely passionate about the thought of earning her associate’s degree at the same time as her high school diploma.”

“I wouldn’t have been able to do any of it without her [Wass’s] help,” said Newman. “I talk to her every Thursday. She’s even been a big help to me in transferring to WVU.”

While Newman has been a full-time college student, she’s also still fully engaged with her high school life. A brief summary of her extra-curricular activities includes:

- Southern Garrett High girls’ tennis team captain and #1 singles player

- Class of 2024 vice president, four consecutive years

- SGHS Student Council secretary

- Treasurer, GCPS county-wide student councils

- GaCo #1629 robotics scouting team captain

- President, SGHS Women’s Society

- Member, Future Business Leaders of America

“I don’t really ever have free time. I’m just so driven,” said Newman, who also has two jobs, 440 service hours, and interned last summer with the Office of the State’s Attorney.

Newman said her parents — Benjamin Newman and Amy Myers — and little brother Gabriel have been supportive of her activities. However, Newman said having a daughter graduate from Garrett College at 17 didn’t become real to her parents until quite recently.

“They didn’t believe me when I said I was finishing up,” said Newman, who is a first-generation college student. “Then, two weeks ago, I got a letter from Garrett College about graduation.”

Newman said her favorite classes at Garrett College were anthropology and ceramics. That was largely due to the instructors, Dr. Ryan Harrod and Lucy Miller, respectively.

“All the photos he showed us [from archaeological digs] were actually his pictures of his travels,” Newman said of Dr. Harrod. “That made the sub-

ject more real for me.”

“Allie was always actively engaged and made valuable contributions to the class,” said Harrod. “Based on the interactions we had during the class, I feel strongly that Allie will make an excellent lawyer in the not-so-distant future.”

Miller’s class, meanwhile, was educational and relaxing.

“It was so therapeutic,” said Newman. “I could cool down in that class as I was coming in straight from biology, and she was a really great teacher.”

Wass said Garrett College and Garrett County Public Schools have been working collaboratively to create pathways to streamline the process for students to complete an associate’s degree the same year they graduate from high school. That option is one of the goals of The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, the educational reform legislation currently being implemented across the state.

“A student needs to have internal motivation and be fully invested in the program,” Wass said of the keys to successfully earning a high school diploma and a college degree in the same year.

# Frazee accepted into Liberty University Honors program



Submitted photo

**Garrett County resident Hannah Fraze was accepted to Liberty University’s Honor Program.**

**From Staff Reports**

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Garrett County native Hannah Fraze has been accepted into the Liberty University Honors Program.

Fraze received the award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA and scoring a 1460 on the SAT. A 1460 puts Fraze in the 99th percentile of all students taking the SAT.

Fraze is a sophomore in the Nursing BSN program with a minor in Digital Performance Media. She has been on the Dean’s List at Liberty each semester.

Students in the Honors Program are required to take numerous advanced honors classes throughout their college career, while

continuing to maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

Their degree is awarded once they have successfully completed both their coursework and an honors research thesis.

Fraze is a resident of Garrett County. She was homeschooled in Abeka Academy until middle school, and then transferred to Homeschool Legal Defense Academy and Liberty University Online Academy for her secondary studies. While in high school, she completed 21 credits of dual enrollment with Liberty University through Liberty University Online Academy.

Fraze is the President of Liberty University’s SGA club, Liberty University Autism Advocates. A

spokesperson stated that in that position, in addition to leading activities and educational experiences for the University’s neurodivergent students, she speaks at events about the experiences of autistic students and ways that students and faculty can be more inclusive.

Fraze said that she would like to work in health care specifically serving the neurodivergent population.

“I have been doing a great deal of research about Autism and participating in Autism research studies at Liberty,” Fraze stated. “I plan to continue this research as I work toward completing my honors thesis.”

Liberty University’s

Nursing program generally doesn’t accommodate a minor field of study, however, she requested to add a minor to better accomplish her goals.

“Digital Performance Media is a mixture of broadcasting and voice development for public speaking on multiple outlets,” said Fraze. “I chose this minor because I have a passion for public speaking, and I feel that it will help me to develop a better voice for advocacy.”

“I appreciate my Garrett County roots. Knowing so many incredible people and being involved in the experiences that the local area has to offer really helped me to grow, both personally and academically.”

# Youghiogheny Glades Chapter NSDAR officers installed



Submitted photo

**Youghiogheny Glades Chapter NSDAR recently gathered for its annual business meeting and installed officers for the 2024-2027 term. Officers installed, from left, were Denise Shay, regent; Mary Beckman, vice regent; Joyce Cotter, registrar; Anna Marie Miller, chaplain; Shelby Carmack, treasurer; and Rosanne Sherwood, historian. The National Society DAR is a lineage society of patriots of the American Revolution and is the largest women’s service organization in the United States. Preserving history, promoting education and patriotism are the leading objects of the society. Anyone interested in membership is invited to contact Denise Shay at dshay3@verizon.net. “If you think you have a patriot in your family tree, we will help with your discovery toward membership,” Shay said.**

# SOFTBALL

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In the fourth inning, Tyiss Jessie added to the lead with an RBI single, Riley Gallagher drove in a run with a double and an error during a knock from Brit-

ton extended Allegany’s lead to 4-0.

Desirae Hilton (single), Gallagher (double), Britton (groundout) and Kylie Hook (sac fly) each had RBIs to account for the four-run sixth.

Northern’s two hits came from Demi Ross and Mady-

sen Gilpin.

The Huskies finish their season with a 12-8 record. It is their best win total since the team went 13-7 during the 2019 campaign — a year where they also fell to top-seeded Allegany in the sectional final (equivalent of the 1A West

Region I final back then).

Allegany, meanwhile, will be playing for the state championship against Boonsboro after dominating CMT-North, 17-0, in the quarterfinal and topping previously unbeaten Mardela, 1-0, in the semifinals.

# KING

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Two years later, I “knew” that I instead wanted to forge my own path and become a public relations major to one day work for some giant company and unironically use phrases like “synergy” and “networking” and “sure, I would love to try pickleball.”

Three years later, I “knew” that I had a degree in something that I had no interest in at the time and I “knew” that my future seemed emptier than the

Buffalo Bills’ Super Bowl trophy case.

The thing is, I don’t really “know” anything. It’s no different from me thinking that I “knew” where Jarreau’s “Mornin’” was going to go, until I didn’t.

I “knew” I was going to be miserable one morning in April 2016 when I was working a food prep shift right out of college just to try to continue paying basic bills, until I didn’t. I got a message from the late Mary McEwen telling me about a sports writer job opening at *The Republican*.

When I left WVU’s mu-

sic education program, I “knew” that me switching majors meant that I had potentially wasted two years of college, until I didn’t. Many of the friends I made there are still my friends today, including Mary’s son, Rob McEwen, who was a percussion major with me in the same class.

Had I not met him while as a music major, then I wouldn’t have accepted a job offer six years later as a journalist and take me on a path that would completely change and better my life.

My first day on the job

## COLLEGE NEWS

### SNHU announces Winter 2024 President’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) recognized the following Garrett County natives on being named to the Winter 2024 President’s List.

- Holly Newman, of Grantsville

- Jordyn Riggelman, of Oakland

- David Platter, of Oakland

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12

credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

The winter terms run from January to May.

### Prudnick named to Mount St. Mary’s University President’s List

EMMITSBURG — Madison Prudnick, of Oakland, is among 156 students who have been named to the President’s List for the Spring 2024 semester at Mount St. Mary’s University, achieving a 4.0 grade point average.

An additional 557 students are on the Dean’s List, for which a grade point average of 3.4 is required.

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