

May 27, 2025

## 2025 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin players competed for top honors on Saturday, May 24, during the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History's 48th annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 25, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer, flat-pick guitar musicians and liars vied for awards.

The winners were:

### Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under)

- 1st place – Liam Farley, Chapmanville
- 2nd place – Vernon Casseday, Elkins
- 3rd place – Jo Butterworth, Hurricane

### Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under)

- 1st place – Edwin McCoy, Greenville
- 2nd place – Emily Miller, Elkins
- 3rd place – DJ Kessinger, Charles Town
- 4th place – Joe Burdock, Hinton
- 5th place – Brian Conaway, Fairmont

### Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over)

- 1st place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 2nd place – Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 3rd place – Joe Herrmann, Paw Paw
- 4th place – Jenny Allinder, Point Pleasant
- 5th place – Linwood Clark, Walker

### Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place – Ezekiel Green, Beckley
- 2nd place – Silas Powell, West Union
- 3rd place – Tristan Dennis, Morgantown
- 4th place – DJ Kessinger, Charles Town
- 5th place – Chase Arbogast, Weston

### Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place – Brandon Green, Beckley
- 2nd place – Carter Eddy, Parkersburg
- 3rd place – Emmett Carper, West Union
- 4th place – Joshua Jimmerson, Charleston
- 5th place – Silas Powell, West Union

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

- 1st place – Hunter Walker, Beckley
- 2nd place – David O'Dell, Glendale
- 3rd place – Janie Miles, Pliny
- 4th place – Tish Westman, Beckley
- 5th Place - Helena Lee, Cross Lanes

Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)

- 1st place – Hunter Walker, Beckley
- 2nd place – Edwin McCoy, Greenville
- 3rd place – David O'Dell, Glendale
- 4th place – Pete Kosky, Charleston
- 5th place – Chad Ashworth, St Albans

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

- 1st place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 2nd place – Paul Gartner, Yawkey
- 3rd place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans

Flat-pick Guitar (all ages)

- 1st place – Jakob Thomas, South Charleston
- 2nd place – Brandon Green, Beckley
- 3rd place – Sawyer Chapman, Charleston
- 4th place – Josh Thomas, Clendenin
- 5th place – Isaac Butcher, Ripley

Youth Flatpick Guitar (age 15 and under)

- 1st Place - Ezekiel Green, Beckley
- 2nd Place - Carson Shock, Eleanor

Liars (all ages)

- Biggest Liar (1st place and Goldenseal magazine's Golden Shovel award) – Megan Gall, Charleston
- Bigger Liar (2nd place) – Kally Hall, Hurricane
- Big Liar (3rd place) – John Mullins, Dunbar

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a free celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Culture Center and State Capitol Complex grounds host this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend. The unique blending of ethnic and cultural heritage combines an atmosphere as comfortable as a family reunion with the excitement of a state fair. The statewide folk festival, named for the proposed 14th colony, pays tribute to the state's heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.

