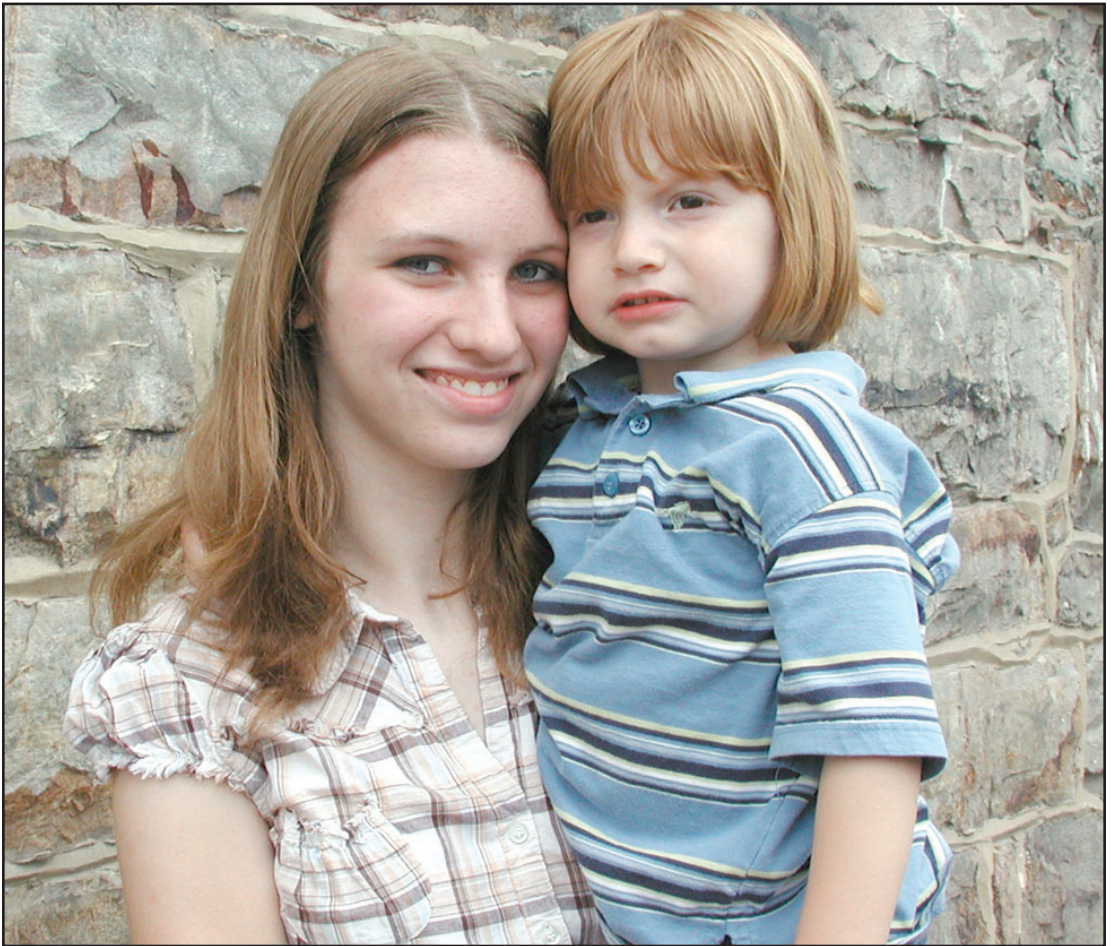


# Local girl studies her way to early college career



**UNGER NATIVE KRISTEN STOREY** will head off to Potomac State College this fall, becoming the youngest freshman in that class. The 16-year-old home schooler holds her younger brother, **Nathan Storey**, whom she's helped raise.

by **Kate Shunney**

Kristen Storey will be one of hundreds of students settling into dorms and buying textbooks at Potomac State College in late August.

What may distinguish the Morgan County native among her freshmen class, however, is her age. At 16, Storey will be the youngest student entering Potomac State this fall, according to Beth Little of the college's enrollment office.

"In a way, it's really cool. It's kind of weird. I wonder if I'll fit in," Storey said.

The home-schooled teen said she's both excited by the start of her college and a little worried, too.

Not only will she be making a transition to a new town, she'll be back in a large classroom – quite a change from her self-directed studies at home.

## **Strong family bond**

Perhaps Kristen Storey's biggest worry, aside from being picked out of the crowd because of her age, is leaving her family.

She is particularly close to her youngest brother Nathan, who is about to turn three. The

two have a strong bond because Kristen Storey took over his care while their mother struggled to recover from postpartum problems. There are four Storey siblings altogether.

Teresa Storey said her eldest daughter has raised the youngest boy, creating a motherly bond with him. It's a bond that will be tested when the 16-year-old ventures to college. That's not the only extra challenge Kristen Storey will face as she hits the college halls.

She also suffers from familiar tremors, which can cause periodic shaking in the muscles. Her main worry about the condition is that it will interfere with her goal of becoming a neurologist. She plans to finish her neurology studies at West Virginia University.

"It can be an issue with some things. I'm a little worried about it if I have to give needles," Storey said.

In addition to her self-directed studies at home, Storey has had experience volunteering around Morgan County. She's worked with the summer reading program Energy Express,

at the Boys & Girls Club and at several vacation Bible schools.

Her former Greenwood teacher and principal, John Rowland, said Kristen Storey has "natural talent and a hard work ethic," both of which have made her a well-rounded student.

"She would wake up at 6 a.m., and at 10 p.m., I would have to tell her to close the books," her mother said.

Kristen admitted that her favorite part of her high school education at home was being able to work at her own pace and spend time with her family while she did it.

Teresa Storey said her daughter distinguished herself with one of the highest GED test scores in the state and high ACT scores that attracted the attention of several colleges. Kristen Storey qualified for a Promise Scholarship and chose Potomac State because of its proximity to home.

"I'll come home most weekends," she predicted.

Kristen Storey is the daughter of Teresa Storey and Michael Day.