Multicultural Leadership Team to volunteer on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JANUARY 12, 2010

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — The Multicultural Leadership Team at Shepherd University will participate Monday in A Day On Not a Day Off: Day of Service to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

More than 25 students and two staff members will volunteer around the area on what would normally be a day off for them.

The group will work at Ranson (W.Va.) Elementary and North Jefferson Elementary schools, disinfecting classrooms, computer labs and the cafeteria. That evening, they will volunteer at Trinity United Methodist Church’s soup kitchen in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Christana Johnson, director of multicultural student affairs and disability support services, said that volunteering on Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a way for the whole group to volunteer as a team at the beginning of the new semester.

“It’s a great way to get reconnected with one another,” Johnson said.

On Tuesday, a Martin Luther King Jr. panel discussion will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.

Guest speaker Dorothy Davis will recount her memories of the 1963 March on Washington. The facilitator will be Tom Segar.

For more information about these events, contact Johnson at 304-876-5453 or send e-mail to cjohns12@shepherd.edu.

Reception for Shepherd faculty art display set for Feb. 8

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - The Scarborough Society of Shepherd University will host a reception on Monday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in recognition of the Shepherd faculty art display in the reading room of the Scarborough Library.

The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public.

The exhibit runs Feb. 1 to 26 and is part of the Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series at Shepherd.

The exhibit features a variety of media, including photography, painting, sculpture, and collage.
Prep Orchestra and Children’s Chorus Concert to be held

The new Shepherd Children’s Chorus will present a concert along with the Shepherd Preparatory Orchestra in the Frank Arts Center Theater on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:30 p.m.

The Shepherd University Department of Music Preparatory Division is pleased to present the second season of the Shepherd Children’s Chorus under the direction of Dr. David Gonzol, Assistant Professor and Director of Music Education at Shepherd. The Shepherd Children’s Chorus membership is comprised of male and female vocalists in grades 3-8, and meets Wednesday evenings throughout the school year at the Frank Arts Center on the Shepherd University campus.

Dr. David Gonzol holds degrees from Messiah College and Temple University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland at College Park and earned Mastery Certificates in the Kodály and Orff Schulwerk approaches from the University of St. Thomas. He taught music in public schools in Pennsylvania and Idaho, and at colleges and universities there, as well as in Maryland and Minnesota.

In addition to presenting at state and national conferences, he has given numerous workshops to educators and has been a visiting educator at area schools and libraries. Among his writings, his research on Otto Ortmann is published in the Philosophy of Music Education Review. He is a tenor and recorder player, and for three years he directed the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church in Pocatello, Idaho. Church and university choirs have performed many of his compositions, which include the 20 Rounds at St. Thomas, as well as a centennial anthem for the First Presbyterian Church, Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed? This year, Schott is publishing a collection of his Orff arrangements, Round the Corner and Away We Go! Dr. Gonzol is a member of MENC, the Organization of American Kodály Educators, the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, the American Recorder Society, and Phi Kappa Phi.

The Shepherd Preparatory Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Mark McCoy, is celebrating its eleventh season at Shepherd University. Heralded as one of the best youth orchestras in the region, the group is comprised of middle and high school wind and string students from Washington County, Maryland and Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia. The orchestra meets Wednesday evenings for rehearsals and presents two concerts during the school year. Enrollment is open and based on an audition process. Shepherd University Music Faculty string coaches for the orchestra are Heather Austin Stone and Petr Skopek for violin, Kathy Shrader for viola, and Stephen Czarkowski for cello. Wind, percussion, and string players from Shepherd University also participate in the orchestra.

General admission to the Shepherd Preparatory Orchestra and Children’s Chorus concert is $5, free for Shepherd students and Friends of Music MAC Cardholders. For more information call 304-876-5555 or visit www.shepherd.edu/musicweb.
FLASHBACK
TODAY IN PANHANDLE HISTORY

Today is Thursday, January 14, the 14th day of 2010. There are 351 days left in the year.

40 YEARS AGO — 1970
Two major goals of the present administration of Shepherdstown — the acquisition of the water company and the building of a sewerage system — appear within the realm of reality, the Shepherdstown Council was told.

25 YEARS AGO — 1985
Taxpayers pay $30 for each day a prisoner is incarcerated in the Berkeley County Jail.

10 YEARS AGO — 2000
A Panhandle lawmaker presented accusations of alleged police brutality to the House of Delegates in a speech in the chamber — calling on the Legislature to establish a police review board.

5 YEARS AGO — 2005
Construction plans, including a new apartment complex project, a new theater and creative arts building project, and an addition to Ikenberry Hall dominated the Shepherd University Board of Governors meeting.

1 YEAR AGO — 2009
Despite being placed in receivership after its owner apparently failed to make timely debt payments, all indications are that Martinsburg Mall will remain open.

To submit photographs to The Journal's Flashback features, contact Matt Burdette at mburdette@journal-news.net.
Gary is everyone. He asked the college to freeze tuition

by Zach Harold
Daily Mail staff

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—Gov. Joe Manchin made many announcements and recommendations in Wednesday night’s State of the State address, but none as bold as the one he directed at state colleges and universities.

The governor asked that all West Virginia technical and four-year colleges and universities freeze their tuition rates for the coming school year.

He said enrollment at public colleges and universities is "higher than ever" and the number of students studying math, science, technology and engineering continues to rise, but he called the state’s college graduation rates "very disappointing."

"The United States and Germany are the only western democracies in which parents are more likely to have earned a college degree than their children," Manchin said.

The governor says of every 100 West Virginia high school freshmen, only 16 will go to college.

"Our colleges and universities are more prepared than ever to take us to the next level, but our children have to get to college first," he said. "Our greatest challenge is to make sure those who start college will finish."

West Virginia University President Jim Clements said his school would try to heed the governor’s call.

"We’ll do everything we can to see his vision through," he said. "We’re looking at numbers right now. We’re running budget numbers."

Brian Noland, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, said freezing tuition probably wouldn’t affect the state’s colleges and universities immediately.

"We’re in a solid position," he said. "I’m not so much worried about this year as I am looking down the road."

Noland says schools have stayed on good economic footing thanks to federal stimulus money and “careful budgeting” but that may change once federal funding dries up.

"We know the road to come for higher education is going to be much more challenging than the road we’re on now," the chancellor said.

Manchin said over the past three years the community colleges have started 90 new programs and last fall enrollment at those schools jumped more than 16 percent. Enrollment in allied health programs, he said, rose 25 percent over the past three years.

Manchin said adult student enrollment rose about 25 percent, and many of the students were "dislocated workers upgrading their skills."

"We must continue to transform our economy into one that is innovation-driven, technology-based, and piloted by a
highly skilled West Virginia workforce," the governor said.

The governor also said lawmakers need to "continue to evaluate our Promise scholarship program."

Manchin said last year the state made necessary adjustments to the scholarship to keep it viable but now wants PROMISE scholars to "make us a promise that you will do everything possible to stay in West Virginia."

He apparently was referring to a cap that was placed on the scholarship to contain costs. It formerly covered full tuition at state colleges and universities, and the award rose as tuition went up.

Noland says he doesn’t foresee lawmakers making any "major changes" to the state-funded scholarship but says it might be too early to predict.

"We’ll see how this evolves," Noland said.

Still, the chancellor commended the governor for asking college graduates to stay in their home state.

"I hope that more of our Promise students heed the governor's call," Noland said. "I think we all would like to see our best and brightest to make their homes in West Virginia."

Clements says he agrees.

"Anytime you lose a student like that, there's an economic loss to our state," the university president said. "He's saying, 'Hey, we're making an investment in you; do your best to stay here.' "
Back for ‘spring’

Sidewalks were crowded with bundled student pedestrians this week as Shepherd University students and staff returned for the spring semester amidst arctic conditions.

Service honors MLK Jr.

The Multicultural Leadership Team at Shepherd University will be participating in A Day On Not a Day Off: Day of Service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, Jan. 18.

More than 25 students along with two staff members will be volunteering around the area on what would normally be a day off for them.

The group will work at Ranson Elementary and North Jefferson Elementary schools, disinfecting classrooms, computer labs, and the cafeteria. That evening, they will volunteer at Trinity United Methodist Church’s soup kitchen in Martinsburg.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, a Martin Luther King, Jr. panel discussion will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies. Guest speaker Dorothy Davis will recount her memories of the 1963 March on Washington, with facilitator Tom Segar.

— For more information about these events, contact Johnson at (304) 876-5453 or cjohns12@shepherd.edu.
Shepherd students to give back

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Multicultural Leadership Team at Shepherd University will participate in A Day On Not a Day Off: Day of Service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on Monday.

More than 25 students along with two staff members will volunteer around the area on what would normally be a day off for them because of the federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The group will work at Ranson and North Jefferson elementary schools, disinfecting classrooms, computer labs and the cafeteria.

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Shepherd FROM PAGE B1

That evening, participants will volunteer at Trinity United Methodist Church’s soup kitchen in Martinsburg.

Christana Johnson, director of Multicultural Student Affairs and Disability Support Services, said this is a way for the whole group to volunteer as a team at the beginning of the new semester. "It's a great way to get re-connected with one another," Johnson said.

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SHEPHERDSTOWN Partnership: Through a partnership with Frontier Communications, Shepherd University is making its wireless network available in areas covered by the Shepherdstown Frontier Citywide wireless network.

“We are pleased that the Shepherd network is now available throughout the corporation of Shepherdstown,” said Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley. “Our students, faculty and staff will be able to access Shepherd’s wireless network while patronizing downtown businesses and restaurants. Shepherd’s partnership with Frontier benefits our students as well as the local business community.”

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Jeff Groff, assistant professor of physics at Shepherd University, recently was awarded a West Virginia EPSCoR Innovation Grant.

The $72,000 grant will be used for expanding the physics curriculum as well as developing new laboratory exercises and demonstrations in biophysics.

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Shepherd University theater is named to honor roll

Shepherdestival at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, is one of five recipients of the Living the Dream Service Organization Honor Roll.

The annual award is presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission.

Honorees will be recognized Saturday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Luncheon in the Great Hall of the West Virginia Cultural Center.

Honor roll awardees must promote human and civil rights, pursue equality for others and work for social change in under-served communities, relieve suffering and inequalities, promote tolerance and advocate of peace.
Shepherd to host annual concert

BY ERIENNE GREENE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Frank Arts Center Theater will be filled with the sounds of Shepherd University’s Honor Band at 7 p.m. Monday, as the band’s sixth annual concert event takes place.

Those who have never attended the event can expect to enjoy an evening of great music, featuring talented high school students from the four-state region, the concert’s conductor, Mark McCoy, Ph.D., said.

This year, McCoy, chair of Shepherd University Department of Music, will be joined by guest conductor Keith Taylor, who works as the music specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia.

“The Honor Band concert is truly an opportunity to hear some of the region’s best and brightest young musicians,” McCoy said.

Area high school band directors were invited in the fall to recommend their students for the opportunity to represent their school in the local concert experience.

The event will allow students to share their musical experience with other talented and serious musicians their age, and a wide variety of works will be performed.

McCoy said students coming from Virginia, other parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland will arrive in Shepherdstown early Sunday morning.

“They’ll spend two entire days rehearsing and learning all of the music and then they will perform it for an audience,” he said.

McCoy described the selection of music as a “wide variety.” “We’ll have two bands performing and the music to be played will range from traditional American marches to traditional band music to even some contemporary music,” McCoy said.

The final work of the evening will be a piece called “Trail of Tears,” a musical telling of the forced relocation of American Indians from their homelands in the southeastern United States to new territory in present-day Oklahoma.

“It’s a very famous historical event and members of the ensemble will not only be playing their instruments, but

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they'll be doing Indian chants as well, making it overall a very powerful statement,” McCoy said.

The Honor Band was started at the local university six years ago. The intent was to bring together young-adult musicians from various high schools throughout the region and have them perform together for an audience.

The power of music is that it can take people from different areas and bring them all together,” McCoy said. “It should be a great night.”

McCoy conducts the Shepherd wind ensemble, the Shepherd orchestra and directs the marching band. He is very active as a conductor and guest conductor and has led many county, region, district and all-state groups throughout the United States.

During McCoy’s tenure, the wind ensemble has been in high demand, receiving invitations to perform in Ireland, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and in 2005 the ensemble was selected to perform as part of the concert season at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

In addition, co-conductor Taylor works as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor. He is president-elect of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Association.

He has held executive positions with the International Association of Jazz Educators, is a member of the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Association and works annually with the Virginia Music Educators Association as a coordinator and an administrator for the state convention.

General admission to the Honor Band concert is $5, while Shepherd students and Friends of Music MAC cardholders get in for free. More information is available by calling (304) 876-5555 or visiting www.shepherd.edu/musicweb.

— Staff writer Erienne Greene can be reached at (304) 263-8931, ext. 183 or at egreene@journal-news.net
The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

The State Legislature convened at noon Wednesday.

That evening we listened to Governor Joe Manchin’s “State-of-the State” address. The deadline for this week’s installment was too early for a report on his remarks. We’ll cover them next week.

Many longtime observers of the Legislature believe very little will be accomplished in this years’ session. They cite the state’s fiscal problems and election year politics.

It’s true that we seldom accomplish as much in the average election year as we do in the average non-election year. But that doesn’t mean we can’t make major progress in an election year. I’ve seen a few of those when we accomplished quite a lot.

This year, as last, will be more heavily focused on money than most years. Every year, of course, the most important thing we do is adopt a state budget for the coming fiscal year. But last year we were even more preoccupied with money than most, because we have serious financial problems. The same is true this year.

We don’t have near the financial problems most states have. Our general revenue fund is running a deficit of about three percent for the current fiscal year. It looks like we’ll be somewhere between $100 million and $120 million short of the $3.7 billion budgeted.

However, when we finalized the current budget last spring we purposely left $130 million unappropriated. So we’ll be fine for the current fiscal year—no program will have to be cut. But we will have to cut $100 million to $120 million out of the budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Of the fifty states only North Dakota is running a surplus this year (it and Wyoming were the only two to run surpluses last year). Of the rest only three or four (including West Virginia) have deficits of less than five percent.

We do have a serious problem with our road fund. Last year we took $20 million from the general fund to stabilize the road fund. We had not done that since 1984. I voted for the idea, even though I don’t think it’s a very good thing to do on a regular basis. I don’t want to do it this year, but we may have no choice. We really do need to stabilize our road maintenance over a long period of time.

The general fund is only a small portion of the total budget. I have been telling people that the total state budget is about $11 billion. That is what the House of Delegates Finance Committee was told when we voted on the budget for Fiscal Year 2010 this past spring. Actually, that’s the total of the portion of the budget over which the Legislature has appropriating authority. The Legislature has complete discretion over the General Fund. But it has the responsibility to appropriate many other “special” funds, over some of which it has some discretion. That $11 billion was up to about $13 billion three years ago (the $3.7 billion General Fund was $3.9 billion at that time).

However, there are numerous “unappropriated” funds in the budget. They bring the total to about $18 billion. Further complicating the problem of figuring all this out is that some moneys are counted more than once. The Lottery Fund, for example, periodically transfers money to the General Fund. Those moneys are counted in the Lottery Fund when they are collected and in the General fund when they are transferred. I tried to get an accounting of how many dollars are counted more than once in time for this column, but was unsuccessful. I shall keep at it.

When the country is emerging from a recession in which states have had to cut budgets it’s usually two years before state budgets get back to where they were before the recession started. The just completed recession was so deep and so long (two years) that most economists say it will be another four years until state budgets climb back to where they were two years ago.

So don’t look for any good news from state government on the fiscal front for quite a while.

We had nine people at our town meeting in Boltvar and 23 at the one in Shepherdstown. We talked about this problem and several other topics. We’ll take up those other topics in future columns.