

Classically Speaking

Classical music in West Virginia and Beyond

WV Classical Calendar - December

Permanent link

By **Mona Seghatoleslami**

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December 1, 2010

DECEMBER 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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There are a lot of great concerts around the state before the end of the year. Check them out, and let me know if I'm missing anything here.

Dec. 1: Marshall University Orchestra

Dec. 1: Met Opera HD Encore: Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* (Barboursville, Ashland, KY; Pittsburgh, PA; Germantown, MD, and others)

Dec. 2: Marshall University Wind Symphony

Dec. 2: Chamber Music Recital (Fairmont State University)

Dec. 2: WVU World Music Showcase

Dec. 3-4: Madrigal Dinners (Glenville State College)

Dec. 4: Ohio Valley Symphony Christmas Show

Dec. 4: WomanSong Chorale: Songs of the Angels

Dec. 4-5: Marshall University Choral Union

★ Dec. 4-5: Holiday Gala Concert (Shepherd University Friends of Music)

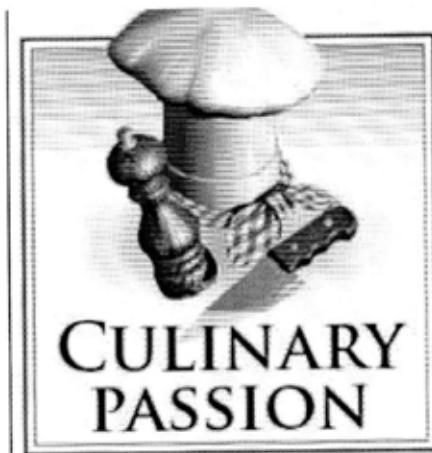


Dates: December 2, 2010

Publication: The Herald-Mail

Senior showcase

Student Cassandra Lopez will display her photography-based art in a show titled, "Saudade." Exhibit continues through Wednesday, Dec. 15. Shepherd University's Frank Center Gallery, off W.Va. 45, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Call 571-274-9223.



Culinary passion (Credit: Graphic by Chad Trovinger /)

Veggie quiche includes Dunbarton blue cheese

By SCOTT C. ANDERSON / Special to The Herald-Mail

Dunbarton blue vegetable quiche

Two 10-inch pie crusts, pre-made
1 pint button mushrooms, washed and sliced
1/2 pound spinach cooked, drained and chopped
4 green onions, cleaned and chopped
10 ounces Dunbarton Blue cheese, grated
6 eggs, beaten
1 pint heavy cream
2 pints milk (2 percent or whole)
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg, freshly ground
1 medium zucchini, thinly sliced in circles

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In pie shells, spread sliced mushrooms, spinach and onions evenly. Sprinkle cheese on top of the mushrooms.

In a separate bowl, beat together the eggs, cream, milk and seasonings. Pour into pie shells, then place sliced zucchini in a circle, overlapping each slice around inside edge of pie shell and press into liquid mixture.

Place in oven on the bottom rack. Bake until the custard filling is set, about 25 to 30 minutes.

Remove from oven, slice and serve. Can be served hot or cold.

Cook's note: You can make your own pie shells or use a smaller shell if desired. This recipe uses premade shells to save time in the preparation and cooking process.

- Courtesy of Scott C. Anderson, associate food service director and chef with Shepherd University dining services in Shepherdstown, W.Va., and Chef Ambassador to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Retention And Grad Numbers Troubling

December 4, 2010 - By J.W. JOHNSON JR.

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Although more West Virginia high school students are applying and being accepted to the state's colleges and universities than ever, retention and graduation rates continue to slide.

During a meeting Friday of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission at West Liberty University, representatives from faculty and student bodies from around the state expressed their concern with declining graduation rates, which some estimated to be less than 50 percent for all students who enroll in a two or four year college or university.

"We have seen great enrollment growth, and we commend you for making that happen," said David Hendrickson, chairman of the commission. He added, however, the probability of those students graduating is less than desirable.

Though a number of reasons were discussed as to why that number is so low, a lack of preparedness seemed to be the consensus explanation.

"We are accepting more and more students who have lower ACT or SAT scores," said Betty Dennison, who spoke on behalf of the West Virginia Advisory Council of Faculty. Students who have lower entrance exam scores tend to need to take remedial, or developmental, courses during their first semesters, she said.

"We have freshmen failing developmental courses because they are unable to do college level work," Dennison said, adding an increase in international students who also need developmental courses has made it harder for students to graduate in four years.

Dennison asked the commission to consider adding programs and special services to assist students who may be having a hard time adapting to college life and course work. She said some professors are not equipped to handle the job.

Dennison cited [Shepherd University](#) as an example, where "stretch courses" are offered to students who need additional work. The courses last the entire year and slow down the process to allow students to better understand the material. ★

The commission also heard from John Lawson of the State Advisory Council of Students, who offered that students at his school, Concord University, have formed support groups to allow students to seek help.

"A lot of students are scared to meet with professors or advisors," he said, adding having students help one another has been successful thus far.

Hendrickson advised Lawson to look into implementing the program at other schools and report his findings at a commission meeting in May.



Dates: December 6, 2010
Publication: The Clarke Daily News



Students at Lord Fairfax Community College now have more options for a smooth transition to a Bachelor's Degree because of recently signed agreements between the College and two Virginia universities. First, graduates of LFCC's nursing program who have earned the Registered Nurse license and meets required criteria could complete a Bachelors of Science in Nursing with James Madison University in three semesters going full-time and in five semesters going part-time. Second, students with a 2.0 GPA and at least a C average in all transfer classes will be by Virginia International University (VIU) in Fairfax, VA at junior standing. VIU offers degree programs in computer science and business management fields.

"These two new agreements provide even more options for our students," stated Brenda Byard, Associate Dean of Business and Technologies for LFCC's Middletown Campus. "It is important that current and potential students are aware how their work at LFCC can transfer for a more advanced degree, should they desire it."

* LFCC currently had articulation agreements with 47 colleges and universities in Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. These agreements assist students with ease of transition between LFCC and four-year institutions such as Shenandoah University, Shepherd University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Art Institute of Washington, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University, Bluefield College, and Christopher Newport University.

WV begins work on setting up health insurance exchange

By Emily Corio



[Download MP3](#)

December 6, 2010 · West Virginia officials are researching how to set up the state's exchange program. The Office is holding public forums across the state this month and next to get input on what its exchange should look like and how it should operate.

The deadline for an exchange to be in place is July 1, 2014.

Jeremiah Samples is an insurance project manager with the West Virginia Offices of Insurance Commissioner. He led the department's first forum last week in Fairmont.

"The goal of the exchange is to ensure that the maximum number of folks can afford the coverage so if we have this big bulky exchange that has all these administrative costs then that's going to drive up premiums and that means less people can afford the coverage," said Samples.

In an exchange, insurance companies have to follow certain rules in order to offer health plans to consumers. In theory, an exchange creates a regulated, competitive marketplace that will reduce consumers' costs, but whether this actually happens depends a lot on what kind of exchange the state creates, including what rules insurers have to follow in order to participate in the exchange, how consumers would shop for plans, and who could use the exchange.

"We want to be sure to simplify this as much as we can for the employers and certainly, going back to the agent issue, if they feel comfortable with an agent that they currently use, then why shouldn't they be able to continue to use that agent? We need to be mindful of that," said Samples.

The state may create two exchanges: one for small businesses and one for individuals. This idea appeals to Perry Bryant with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, but he disagrees with the state's idea to include insurance company representatives on the board that will oversee the exchange.

"I think you should limit it to people with specific expertise, actuaries, accountants, those kinds of people, state agencies and consumers and that would give you the balance," said Bryant. "The insurance industry and others, because hopefully you'll be operated through open meetings you would have that kind of transparency, they could impact and influence but not vote on something that they have a vested financial interest. I think that's really inappropriate."

"One of the reasons why we did approach it from having a balance on the board, when we were looking at Massachusetts and talking to some folks up there, there was a lot of concern that there weren't people that were actually involved in the industry or involved in insurance. They only recently added a producer, and I know the producer community was upset for a number of years that a producer wasn't represented," Samples said.

The public can weigh in on this and other issues by **submitting written comments to the Offices of Insurance Commissioner** or by attending one of its forums around the state this month and next:

Wheeling, Dec. 7 at Wilson Lodge at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center

Beckley, Dec. 14 at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center, Conference Room A

★ Shepherdstown, Jan. 6 at Shepherd University, Storer Ballroom

Charleston, Jan. 20 at Capitol Complex, Building 7, Capitol Room



Dates: December 8, 2010

Publication: Sourcews

Shepherd Historic Preservation students complete service learning projects

08.12.10 - 05:27 | Shepherd University

[Send to a friend](#)

...) Shepherdstown, WV--Shepherd University students from Dr. Keith Alexander's Introduction to Historic Preservation class presented their service learning projects to the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Shepherdstown on Sunday, December 5. The church members received a detailed map with the locations of gravestones, as well as a database with the gravestone inscriptions. Congregation members listened as students Carrie Drewry, Fredric Martin, and Matthew Caldwell described the process of gravestone cleaning, mapping, and transcription. Caldwell told the congregation that the mapping component appealed to his meticulous nature. Martin noted that the project had given him a new appreciation for the work that goes into historic preservation projects. For Drewry, uncovering lost stories ...

Shepherd Grad Finds Beauty Niche in Charles Town

Posted Thursday, December 9, 2010 ; 06:00 AM | [View Comments](#) | [Post Comment](#)

Updated Wednesday, December 8, 2010; 05:31 PM

Missy Grove says her salon fulfills a lifetime dream.

By Misty Higgins

CHARLES TOWN -- For Charles Town entrepreneur Missy Grove, Studio M Salon & Spa is all about offering the best of the best.

Grove's new salon on Washington Street brings together her Studio M Salon with another business, The Beauty Center, which had been in the downtown building that Grove acquired.

Grove, who graduated with a degree in fashion merchandising from Shepherd University and spent years traveling and working in that field, opened her salon in 2007. Her new location is the culmination of a lifetime dream, she said.

"My parents made me go to college but hair was the one thing I always knew I would end up doing," she said.

Grove began working in the hair industry after graduating from beauty school in Martinsburg in 2001, and she now finds herself settled into life as a wife, business owner and mother of two small children. Balance is the key, she said.

"People will say, 'Aren't you stressed or overwhelmed?'" Grove said. "But I'm very laid back, and I'm just a positive person. I have a really good clientele, and I've already branded myself. I have an amazing staff and an extensive managerial background.

"I'm a good motivator."

Part of the reason that things run so smoothly is that Grove leads by example.

"I hire people to do things like accounting because I really love to do hair. I fold towels, and I sweep up my own hair. It's really not like work," she said.

Studio M Salon & Spa offers full hair salon services, face and body waxing, facials, manicures, pedicures and massages. Spray tanning soon will be available as well.

The salon offers custom private parties and caters to groups that include wedding parties, birthdays or girls' nights out.

Grove employs 11 staff members and operates her business Tuesday through Saturday with additional hours available on Sunday and Monday by appointment. She also plans to host speakers on topics such as "Six Weeks to Finding Your Savvy Self" and wardrobe consulting.

Studio M does have a higher price point in terms of products and services, but Grove said customers get more for their money.

"I have a high standard as far as talent goes," she said. "I made it a priority to make sure everyone is putting out the money they are paid. I've been fortunate to have great talent."



Missy Grove, owner of Studio M Salon & Spa in Charles Town, strives to offer the best.
Photo Credit: MISTY HIGGINS / For The State Journal



Dates: December 9, 2010

Publication: The Herald-Mail

Senior showcase

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Historical preservation class presents projects

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd University students from Keith Alexander's introduction to historic preservation class presented their service learning projects to the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Shepherdstown on Dec. 5. The church members received a detailed map with the locations of gravestones, as well as a database with the gravestone inscriptions.

Congregation members listened as students Carrie Drewry, Fredric Martin and Matthew Caldwell described the process of gravestone cleaning, mapping and transcription. Caldwell told the congregation that the mapping component appealed to his meticulous nature. Martin noted that the project had given him a new appreciation for the work that goes into historic preser-

"The work that they did will benefit researchers well into the future. Every semester, the students outdo themselves, and I'm very proud of them."

*Dr. Keith Alexander,
Shepherd University professor*

vation projects. For Drewry, uncovering lost stories revealed in the grave inscriptions resembled detective work. She related how she had uncovered the story of Alice Sophia Lambright, who died in Shepherdstown in 1859, just three months short of her 16th birthday. Cleaning the stone, which Drewry called "a buried treasure," revealed a beautiful carving of a woman kneeling at a graveside beneath a weeping willow tree.

Alexander explains that this is his sixth semester using service learning as part of his historic preservation class. "Service learning has allowed me to give my students unforgettable hands-on experiences doing a historic preservation project while helping the community," he said. "The work that they did will benefit researchers well into the future. Every semester, the students outdo themselves, and I'm very proud of them."

Holly Frye, director of the Office of Student Community Services and Service Learning, agrees. "If you stop to really get to know a Shepherd student, you will be amazed," she said. "They are incredibly committed and passionate about service to others."

Next semester, Alexander will teach two courses employing service learning. His introduction to historic preservation class will partner with the Christ Reformed Church on East German Street to document, clean and map graves. His course in oral history will partner with the Historic Shepherdstown Commission to document the experiences of residents who grew up in Shepherdstown.

For more information, contact Alexander at 304-876-5668 or kalexand@shepherd.edu.

Region premiere of 'Little Women the Musical'

Frederick folks behind the scenes

Originally published December 09, 2010

By Lauren LaRocca

As a young girl in a family of six children, Terri Magers read "Little Women" over and over again, loving its romance, history and stories.

"We didn't necessarily all get along like the March sisters ... so they were sort of like an ideal family," Magers said, "their closeness and camaraderie and adventures."

The timeless novel written by Louisa May Alcott and published in 1868 has been transferred to the silver screen and the stage, most recently as "Little Women the Musical," which premiered on Broadway in 2005, and has brought new life to the timeless story.

The Apollo Civic Theatre in Martinsburg, W.Va., will present the musical beginning tomorrow, Dec. 10, directed by Magers and featuring cast and crew from Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Wanting to do justice to the story and characters she's known and loved since childhood, Magers, active in theater for nearly 30 years, jumped on the opportunity when she heard Apollo Theatre was considering doing "Little Women," though she's never directed a play (she has, however, acted, stage managed and assistant directed).

"I know these characters. I know these stories. I felt passionate about this one," she said.

With ties to Frederick through her employment, and formerly as her residence, Magers sought help from DC Cathro, longtime active in the Frederick theater scene as an actor and director, as well as current artistic director of Fredericktowne Players. She has worked with him in productions such as the recent "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead" by NoDoG Theatre Company.

Her sister, Tami McDonald, has directed plays, too, and "trained me very well," Magers said. "He (Cathro) and my sister made me realize it's not that bad."

A week before auditions, Magers went, with both her daughter and stage manager Meaghan Barry, to Concord, Mass., to visit the home of Alcott, now a museum called the Orchard House.

"We sucked up all the Louisa May Alcott we could get," Magers said.

She also researched Alcott and her family band friends because everybody in "Little Women" is based on somebody from her life. Learning more about these people gave a new depth to each character. (As a side note, Magers also learned, while there, that Alcott created the Concord Dramatic Society, which is now the Concord Players, one of the first community theaters in the country which is still in existence. The sisters performed plays Alcott had written.)

The musical spans about 2 1/2 hours, plus an intermission, and features 23 songs, including three reprises.

For the most part, the musical stays true to the book.

"They did leave out some memorable scenes from the book," Magers stated, "but I don't feel that they affect the end result."

It's a tear jerker, Magers said, but with a happy ending.

Music director Alison Shafer, choreographer Christine Galante, and Barry are all from Frederick.

Three actors come from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., three others from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., and others come from Front Royal, Va., and Winchester, Va., for a total cast of 11, most of whom are in their late teens and 20s.

"They have made (directing) the easiest experience possible," Magers said.

The play opens up during a Christmastime scene and is often associated with the season. Shows run for two weekends this month.



Courtesy photo by Travis Fouché

From left, Johnna Leary as Amy, Theresa McGuirk as Meg, Brianna Galligan as Jo, Heather Watkins as Marmee and Liz Kinder as Beth in "Little Women the Musical."

What: "Little Women the Musical"

When: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19

Where: Apollo Civic Theatre, 128 E. Martin St., Martinsburg, W.Va.

Tickets: \$15 for adults on Friday and Saturday, \$12 for adults on Sunday; \$7 for students each day

Information: 304-263-6766; act@apollo-theatre.org; www.apollo-theatre.org

Redrawing our congressional districts

This is the fourth and last installment on the redistricting of congressional and state legislative seats which must be undertaken by the legislature this year.

In 1950, West Virginia had 2.2 million people and the good old U-S-of-A had 150 million. West Virginia was considered a medium-size state and had six members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, our state's population has dropped to 1.8 million and the nation has doubled in size to over 300 million people. We now have only three members of the U.S. House.

Twenty years ago, when we dropped from four congresspeople to three, the legislature carved the state up into a northern district, a

The Doyle Report



By Delegate John Doyle

middle one and a southern one. This put the Eastern Panhandle in the same congressional district as Charleston. I was not in the legislature at that time, but I was one of a large number of Eastern Panhandlers who screamed bloody murder at what had been done to us.

Drawing this district, which stretches from the depths of the Ohio River (West Virginia owns the Ohio) to the peaks of the Blue Ridge put us in a district with which I believe we have little in

common. It also meant we would most likely have a congressional representative from Charleston, and he or she would defer to the Capital whenever our interests did not coincide

with its.

I attempted during the last redistricting nine and a half years ago to completely redraw the congressional districts so that the northern two-thirds of the state would have an east-west split, not a north-south one. I believed then (and still do now) that we would have more in common with the Morgantown area and the Northern Panhandle than we do with Charleston. I lost that fight big time, in

part because no other legislators from our area thought the fight was worth the effort.

Now the tables are turned. Some legislators from our area want to make that fight, and I don't think we should. My reasoning? Ten years from now West Virginia will lose another congressional seat (we're coming close to losing it this time, but we are apparently going to keep our three seats by a whisker). Since we'll

have to do a major redrawing of congressional districts in 2011, I think we should leave them pretty much as is this time.

Plus, our area has now gained enough population that we have a legitimate chance of electing someone from one of the eastern three counties to the second district seat, should Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito decide to

See *Districts* — page 10

Districts

from page 5

give it up at some future date. If the districts are kept generally the same, this chance will be augmented by redistricting.

Why? The second district has gained population at the expense of the first and the third. If the districts are kept the same except for necessary tweaking, the second will have to give about 25,000 of its population to the third and about half that to

the first. Because all territory in a district must be contiguous the population given to each of those districts will have to come from somewhere near Charleston.

Some leaders of the West Virginia Democratic Party have suggested privately that they might also like to significantly redraw congressional districts this year, to make it more difficult

for incumbent Congresswoman Capito to be re-elected. Congresswoman Capito has regularly demonstrated in elections that the current second district suits her just fine.

I believe that the appeal of these state Democratic leaders was upset by last month's election. The first district (the northern one) elected a republican, Former Delegate David

McKinley of Ohio County. And the senior member of West Virginia's delegation, democrat Nick Rahall of the third district (the southern one), won only after a tough fight.

Weakening Capito would entail moving

republican voters out of the second to either the first district or the third and perhaps moving some democrats from either of those into the second. Switching voters between the second and the first districts would merely strength-

en one republican while weakening another. Switching them between the second and the third would only weaken the remaining democrat.

I predict these statewide Democratic Party leaders will re-think their strategy.

Class learns preservation through graveyards

Shepherd University students in Keith Alexander's Introduction to Historic Preservation class completed their service learning projects last week.

They presented their projects to members of St. Peter's Lutheran

Church after the church service on Dec. 5. The church received a detailed map with the locations of gravestones as well as a database with the gravestone inscriptions.

Carrie Drewry, Fredric Martin and Matthew

Caldwell described the process of gravestone cleaning, mapping and transcription.

Alexander explains that this is his sixth semester using service learning as part of his historic preservation class.

"Service learning has allowed me to give my students unforgettable hands-on experiences doing a historic preservation project while helping the community," he said in a recent press release.

Next semester,

Alexander will teach two courses employing Service Learning.

His Introduction to Historic Preservation class will partner with the Christ Reformed Church on East German Street to document, clean

and map graves there. His course in Oral History will partner with the Historic Shepherdstown Commission to document the experiences of residents who grew up in Shepherdstown.



Dates: December 10, 2010

Publication: The Journal

From Shepherdstown:

I recently visited Shepherd University and was shocked to see they have installed parking meters on campus. Parking is limited as it is on the university campus, and to make people pay because there aren't

enough available free spaces due to new buildings, etc., is ridiculous! Maybe Shepherd should consider providing more free parking – something free to come with the yearly increase of tuition.



Dates: December 10, 2010

Publication: The Patriot News

Students picked for District 7 orchestra

Friday, December 10, 2010

Compiled by Susan Simmers

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association announced that the following students have been selected through audition to participate in the PMEA District 7 Orchestra Festival to be held Jan. 28-29 at Central Dauphin High School.

The guest conductor will be Stephen Czarkowski, cello faculty at The Landon School, ~~The Bullis School~~, Montgomery College and Shepherd University.★

Bishop McDevitt -- Henry Eichman, snare drum.

Harrisburg Academy -- Mary Russek, violin I; Rose Levenson, cello; and Zachary Snyder, cello.

Hershey -- Jingwei Li, violin I; Kenneth Huang, violin I; Tammy Lin, violin I; Andrea Lin, violin I; Ben Lengerich, violin II; Karrisa Lin, viola; Madelyn Veith, viola; Irene Tsai, cello; Sarah Marie Bruno, flute; Jennifer Yun, oboe; and Daniel Rigberg, French horn.



Dates: December 11, 2010

Publication: The Herald-Mail

Shepherd U. Foundation

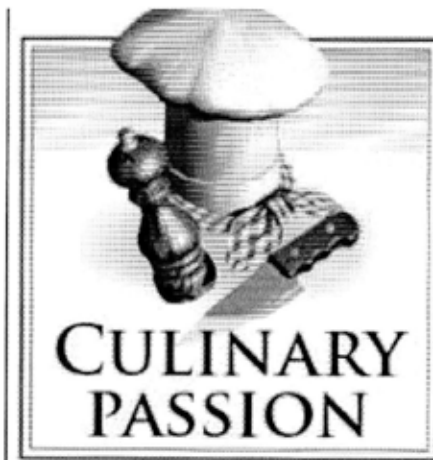
Stephen G. Skinner was elected to the Shepherd University Foundation board of directors at its 2010 annual meeting.

Skinner, a trial lawyer, is a partner in the Charles Town-based Skinner law firm.

Shepherd University, a West Virginia public liberal arts university, is the Eastern Panhandle's regional center for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity.

Skinner's involvement with Shepherd is longstanding, as he is a past board president of the Contemporary American Theater Festival and continues to serve on the CATF board of trustees. He is a member of the Shepherd University Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

Skinner is active throughout the state in civil rights advocacy and also serves on the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.



Culinary passion (Credit: Graphic by Chad Trovinger /)

Avocado adds California twist to quesadilla

By SCOTT C. ANDERSON / Special to The Herald-Mail

I've been working with California avocados lately and wanted to create something simple yet delicious.

I came up with this easy to make appetizer or entree by blending a traditional quesadilla and avocado to come up with the "ques-ado."

This is a very basic grilled recipe to accentuate the three main ingredients: turkey, avocado and cheese. The secret is to use ripe avocado but not too ripe and a flavorful smoked cheddar.

You don't want the avocado to mushy but semi-firm so it can be sliced and layered into the tortilla. Also, don't go for the cheapest turkey because it will have a lot of filler, which will take away from the flavor and presentation.

When I go to serve it have some fresh pico de gallo and sour cream on the side.

Scott C. Anderson is associate food service director and chef with Shepherd University dining services in Shepherds-town, W. Va., and Chef Ambassador to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Grilled 'ques-ado'

2-10-inch wheat flour tortillas
6 ounces thinly sliced smoked turkey
1 avocado, ripe, pit removed scooped and thinly sliced
4 ounce grated smoked cheddar cheese
Sour cream, for condiment
Pico de gallo, for condiment

Preheat griddle, skillet or panini grill to 325 degrees.

Place flour tortilla flat onto a seasoned cooking surface (sprayed or wiped with oil) and sprinkle an ounce of cheese on 1/2 of the tortilla.

Add the sliced avocado. (I prefer to use 1/2 of the avocado per tortilla.) Then add on the sliced turkey and finish with the remainder of the cheese. Fold over the empty side onto the filled side and gently press into the mixture.

Grill for about 1 to 2 minutes, or until it nicely golden brown and it's just starting to crisp on the edges. Flip and continue cooking for an additional minute, then remove from the heat, and cut into 4 triangle pieces.

Serve with a fresh fruit salad and side of pico de gallo and sour cream.

— Scott Anderson

Attorney elected to Shepherd foundation's board of directors

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Stephen G. Skinner was elected to the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors at its 2010 annual meeting. Skinner, a trial lawyer, is a partner in the Charles Town-based Skinner Law Firm.

“Shepherd University is integral to the continued development of our region. The future of the region and the university are closely tied. Assuring the strong growth of



SKINNER

Shepherd translates to insuring the strong growth of this community. I'm honored by the opportunity to serve both the university and Jefferson County in this capacity," Skinner said.

Shepherd University, a West Virginia public liberal arts university, is the Eastern Panhandle's regional center for academic, cultural and economic opportunity. Skinner's involvement with Shepherd is long-standing as he is a past board president of the Contemporary American Theater Festival and continues to serve on the CATF Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Shepherd University Capital Campaign Steer-

ing Committee. Skinner is active throughout the state in civil rights advocacy and also serves on the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

The Shepherd University Foundation is a nonprofit organization that advances the mission of Shepherd University by overseeing funds established for support of the university and its students, faculty and programs.

More information about the Foundation is available at www.shepherd.edu/fndtnweb or 304-876-5397.

– From staff reports

Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

Dates: December 15, 2010

Publication: Lebanon Daily News

The following area high-school students have been selected through audition to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 7 Orchestra Festival Jan. 28 and 29 at Central Dauphin High School:

Annville-Cleona - **Mary Kate Lemon**, flute; **Theodore Kreider Umble**, snare drum.

Cedar Crest - **Benjamin Simpkins**, violin II; **Tomas Ramos**, clarinet; **Rachel Yeater**, French horn.

Hershey - **Jingwei Li**, violin I; **Kenneth Huang**, violin I; **Tammy Lin**, violin I; **Andrea Lin**, violin I; **Ben Lengerich**, violin II; **Karrisa Lin**, viola; **Madelyn Veith**, viola; **Irene Tsai**, cello; **Sarah Marie Bruno**, flute; **Jennifer Yun**, oboe; **Daniel Rigberg**, French horn.

Lebanon - **Jacob Topping**, trombone.



The guest conductor will be **Stephen Czarkowski**, cello faculty at The Landon School, The Bullis School, Montgomery College, and Shepherd University. Host director is **Dalinda Bohr**.



Dates: December 17, 2010

Publication: The Shepherdstown Chronicle

Shepherd to host pitching, hitting clinics

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University softball team will be hosting a pair of softball clinics in January. The clinics will

take place on Jan. 16 and 23 in 2011. The clinic will feature both a pitching and hitting session.

The pitching session will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 8 to 14 and from 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 15 and over. The hitting ses-

sion will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 15 and over and from 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 8 to 14.

Each session will cost \$30 with a \$50 cost for both sessions.

Register online at www.shepherdbook.com.

State's operational finances are solid

Last week I attended the Fall Forum of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In the 48 hours I spent there I encountered dozens of people (legislators, legislative staff persons and representatives of businesses) who marveled that our state is currently showing a \$121 million surplus for a projected \$3.7 billion general revenue fund.

That figure stands as of Dec. 1, which represents five months of the 12-month current fiscal year which ends on June 30, 2011. Should that trend hold, we would end the fiscal year with a surplus of close to \$290 million, which would be about 8 percent.

Most states are showing deficits over this period. A few are showing small surpluses (1 to

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle



2 percent) and a couple have surpluses close to West Virginia's in percentage of general revenue. Only North Dakota shows a surplus higher in percentage of its general fund than our state.

There are two important reasons for this surplus. One is the performance of the coal industry and the other is careful budgeting.

Severance tax collections are running much higher than predicted, as are revenues from the Business and

Occupation Tax paid by that industry. The Business and Occupation ("B&O") Tax is a tax on gross sales. Unlike the consumers' sales tax, which is paid by the purchaser

(but collected by the merchant), the B&O Tax is paid by the business. This tax used to be levied by the state on all businesses, but is now levied only on extractive industries. Cities and towns can still levy such a tax on all businesses located within their borders.

Some presume that gambling revenues are a major reason for our current operational fiscal stability. While gambling revenues have increased

considerably at the Charles Town Races, such revenues have declined at the other three racetrack/casinos in our state. Besides, gambling revenues don't show up in the general fund. All revenue from gambling is deposited in the State Lottery Fund.

The other reason for our state's strong tax collection performance is that we purposely budgeted cautiously. We would rather have a surplus at the end of a fiscal year

than a deficit, so we are very careful. These days, most states are so stressed for revenue that they budget aggressively, hoping against hope that they are right. Many of these states face the prospect of midyear budget reductions.

Over two-thirds of the states have raised taxes in the past year. West Virginia is one of very few states that have actually reduced taxes.

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Plus, our "rainy day" fund is one of the four or five soundest of the 50 states (measured as a percentage of general revenue). This strong rainy day fund is a large part of the reason for the three successive upgrades of West Virginia's bond rating recently. This has in turn resulted in great savings when we issue bonds, leaving more money in the general fund to do the things we need to do.

We are statutorily required to put half of any surplus at the end of the fiscal year into the rainy day fund. The other half can be used for any purpose we wish.

In the past few years most of that remaining surplus has been used to pay down our long-

term, unfunded liabilities. That's appropriate, because on that count we are worse off than most states. We've made great progress in recent years paying down these liabilities, but we must continue to do so for at least a few more years.

Don't expect us to use this money for either public employee salary increases or for any tax reduction that is not already planned for. Surpluses are by definition "one-time," and should not therefore be used for any purpose that would require a permanent change in the budget.

And there is no guarantee that the financial performance we've seen in the first five months of this fiscal year will continue.