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## **Shepherd University to get \$1.15 million for renovations**

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Shepherd University will get a \$1.15 million share of a \$160 million bond program that West Virginia is floating for renovations and repairs at the state Capitol Complex, parks and higher-education campuses across the state.

Alan Purdue, general counsel at Shepherd, said Friday the university's share will be spent on four older buildings on campus, mostly for replacement windows to improve energy efficiency, plus electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades.

All are deferred maintenance projects the college had planned but could not implement until money was available, Purdue said.

Shepherd will put in money to bring the total project cost to \$1.3 million.

The four buildings include Snyder Hall on North King Street, which was built in 1942 and serves as a science building; Stutzman-Slonaker Hall, across the street where science and math are taught; Ikenberry Hall, the university's main administration building; and White Hall, on the corner of High and Princess streets, which already is undergoing major upgrades of its heating, air conditioning and electrical systems. That work is not included in the bond.

Purdue said work on Ikenberry Hall might begin during the winter break because the work would interrupt classes. Construction on the other three buildings will wait until next summer when classes are out, he said.



## Shepherd theater festival gets mention in Congressional Record

By **RICHARD F. BELISLE**  
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SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Twenty years of producing the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University has netted a mention of congratulations in the Congressional Record.

Ed Herendeen and Lisa Younis accept a framed copy Monday of remarks in the Congressional Record made recently by U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller. Rockefeller praised the 20-year existence of the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University. Herendeen is founder and producing director of CATF and Younis is president of the board of trustees. (Credit: By Kevin G. Gilbert/Staff Photographer / )

U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., cited the festival Monday for its two decades of success in a ceremony at the university.

According to the senator's office, the Congressional Record will note, in part that: "This renowned festival, in partnership with Shepherd University, is an extraordinary event that runs for several weeks each summer, bringing thousands of people to our beautiful state and highlighting Shepherdstown's arts community."

Rockefeller's pronouncement said, "the theater festival continues to produce and develop new American theater that not only examines current events and reflects on national trends but also serves as a haven for contemporary playwrights ... the festival

confronts bold and controversial issues to prod the audience and explain new ideas."

The festival "is an incredible outlet for artists and for those of us who simply love the arts ..."

In 2009, according to festival officials at the time, more than 11,500 patrons bought tickets to the plays. More than 600 filled out surveys saying where they spent money while in the area. Included was \$2.1 million on lodging, food, other events, activities, transportation and shopping. In addition, the festival spent \$1.1 million on stage materials, supplies and salaries of the actors and 90 employees who worked during the month-long show season.

According to the press release, the average patron spent \$132 on top of the price of tickets.

Ed Herendeen of Shepherdstown is the festival's founder and producing director.

## Sen. Rockefeller visits theater festival

By MICHAEL THEIS  
OGDEN NEWSPAPERS

SHEPHERDSTOWN — In a small ceremony Monday, Sen. Jay Rockefeller presented Ed Herendeen and the board of the Contemporary American Theater Festival with a framed copy of a speech delivered by Rockefeller on the floor of the Senate in support of the popular summer theater festival. In an improvised speech, West Virginia's newest senior senator praised the CATF for fostering healthy controversy and debate through the arts and for helping to expand West Virginia's reputation as a community welcoming to artists.

"I can say this safely: I don't know that even you know, coming from southern West Virginia as I do, how much this means for West Virginia," said Rockefeller, who also highlighted the Clay Center for Arts and Sciences in Charleston as another example of investment in the arts. "People are understanding that arts draw people, and they draw the best kind, really high IQ people, really wonderful people ... people seeking

intimacy with an exciting 'I have no idea what's going to happen next' experience."

Rockefeller's speech, delivered at the Center for Contemporary Art on West Campus Drive on Shepherd University, started a bit later than scheduled. Rockefeller was delayed in Martinsburg attending a roundtable on housing foreclosure prevention. There, Rockefeller met with homeowners, housing counselors, real estate professionals and representatives from the Department of House and Urban Development and the Federal Trade Commission.

Much of Rockefeller's speech at Shepherd University touched upon the American mortgage crisis and its impacts in the three counties of the Eastern Panhandle.

"West Virginia is full of so many problems, so many people struggling to survive," Rockefeller said during the speech.

Rockefeller also talked about the values of artistic philanthropy. He spoke of how his father, John D. Rockefeller III, poured hours of work into his efforts to support the arts. In his wake, John D. Rocke-



Journal photo by Michael Theis

Sen. Jay Rockefeller addresses a small audience of members of the board of the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown Monday to congratulate them for 20 years of producing new theater in West Virginia.

feller left a legacy that includes operas and symphony halls.

"My father, who built the Lincoln Center, was absolutely tone deaf?" Rockefeller said. "I think he liked plays, too."

Rockefeller also told tales of how his father's investments in the arts created thousands of jobs and drew commercial activity to locations where conventional wisdom said would fail.

"I remember when I was governor, state parks had the same effect. If you had a beautiful state park, people would come from Canada and Europe, and keep coming back and back," Rockefeller said.

## CATF playwright wins prestigious award

Shepherdstown — Contemporary American Theater Festival playwright, Michele Lowe was recently awarded The Francesca Primus Prize for "Inana". The play is part of the five show repertory of new plays featured during the Festival at Shepherd University.

This announcement was made by Christopher Rawson, president of the American Theatre Critics Association (ATC), which administers the prize through the generosity of the Francesca Ronnie Primus Foundation. The Frances-

ca Primus Prize, considered one of the highest honors for a woman in theatre, is an annual \$10,000 award honoring outstanding contributions to the American theater by an emerging female theater artist who has not yet achieved national prominence.

Lowe is an accomplished playwright with a storied background in theater. A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, she is now a member of The Dramatists Guild and ASCAP. Read more information on Lowe and her accolades at [catf2.org/index.php/playwrights/michele-low](http://catf2.org/index.php/playwrights/michele-low).

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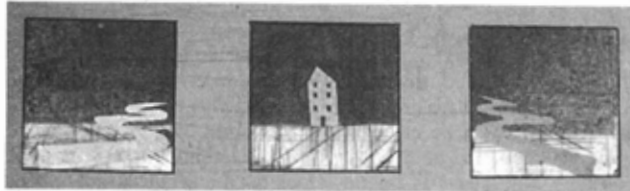
Ed Herendeen, founder and producing director of CATF reflected, "I'm thrilled Michele gave us the opportunity to give life to this second production and we look forward to a long collaboration with this wonderful playwright. Congratulations to Michele — she deserves this great honor."

"We hope everyone will come to Shepherdstown, West Virginia through August 1 to see this amazing piece of work. We are an easy 90 minutes from Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Md.,"

Herendeen noted.

The Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University prides itself on producing and developing new American theater. Since 1991, CATF has produced 85 new plays, including 32 world premieres. Five plays, five playwrights, five unique theatrical experiences at the Contemporary American Theater Festival. For more information, please visit [www.catf.org](http://www.catf.org) or call 304-876-3473 or 800-999-CATF (2283) or follow CATF on facebook or on twitter at [www.twitter.com/thinktheater](http://www.twitter.com/thinktheater).

## Shepherd professor exhibits one-person show



Detail from *May your journey be lined with pairs of helping hands to guide you home*. Monotype, collage, hand printed by the artist

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Rhonda Smith, professor of art, chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater and coordinator of the B.F.A. Non-Toxic Printmaking program at Shepherd University, will exhibit "Travel with a Talisman: A Journey Works by Rhonda J. Smith" July 16 to August 28 at the Shenandoah Arts Council Gallery in Winchester, Virginia. A closing reception, sponsored in part by Sonoma Coffee in Winchester, will be Saturday, August 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. The

reception is free and open to the public.

This series by Smith is a reflection of the power of materials as instruments to convey feelings and connections between people. Smith says of her work, "Each print, each collage is a talisman, a prayer and a wish to share with the viewer."

The Shenandoah Arts Council Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 540-667-5166 or [www.shenarts.org](http://www.shenarts.org). The gallery is free and open to the public.

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— *From staff reports*

## WVU's White Hall Leads List of College Building Projects

By MIKE RUBEN

mruben@statejournal.com

Funding of an extensive renovation of the building that houses West Virginia University's physics program was approved during the July 15 meeting of the state Economic Development Authority.

The EDA approved using \$100 million for 17 capital improvement projects at the state's public colleges and universities, including \$23 million for White Hall on the WVU campus in Morgantown. Revenue for the projects will be generated from Lottery Revenue Bonds.

WVU's Board of Governors had approved a \$30.3 million project at White Hall in September. Plans called for renovating offices, research and teaching labs and a rooftop planetarium. The six-story building was constructed in 1942 and was previously known as the Mineral Industries Building.

Lottery revenue generates approximately \$170 million per year for the state, according to bond counsel Brian C. Helmick of

the Charleston firm of Spilman, Thomas & Battle PLLC.

"It's been very stable at that amount over the last several years," he said.

Other major projects include \$18.7 million to renovate four buildings on Fairmont State University's campus, \$17.6 million to renovate and repair Smith Hall and other academic buildings at Marshall University and \$15 million for a renovation and addition to Fleming Hall at West Virginia State University.

The EDA also approved \$30 million for West Virginia State Parks and \$30 million for projects at the State Capitol Complex. Other lottery allocations include \$18 million to the School Building Authority and \$5 million for the state's community and technical colleges in addition to the funds approved for the WVEDA Lottery Revenue Bonds.

Below is a breakdown of how the money will be used:

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECTS

■ West Virginia University

— White Hall renovation (\$23 million), College of Pharmacy renovation/expansion (\$1.5 million); Health Sciences Center electrical upgrade (\$2 million);

■ Marshall University — Academic building renovations (\$13 million); Smith Hall repairs (\$4.6 million);

■ West Virginia State University — Fleming Hall renovation and addition (\$15 million);

■ Bluefield State College — Mahood Hall renovation (\$5 million), Science and Dickason Hall lab upgrades (\$1 million);

■ West Liberty University — Shall Hall renovation (\$2.75 million);

■ Concord University — Fine Arts building and library renovation (\$6 million);

■ Fairmont State University — Turley Center renovations (\$6 million); Wallman Hall renovations (\$5.2 million); Mucick Library elevator (\$2 million); Hardway Hall renovations (\$5.5 million);

■ Shepherd University — White, Snyder, Stutzman-Slonaker and Ikenberry Hall

renovations (\$1.15 million);

■ West Virginia University Institute of Technology — Old Main renovations (\$3 million); and

■ West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine — HVAC replacements (\$3.5 million).

### STATE PARK PROJECTS

■ Blackwater Falls State Park — sled run improvement (\$1.4 million);

■ Bluestone State Park — pool renovation (\$800,000), marina channel dredging (\$250,000) and water line replacement (\$300,000);

■ Cacapon Resort State Park — system-wide dam compliance (\$4.8 million);

■ Canaan Valley State Park — rehabilitation (\$20.8 million);

■ Hawks Nest State Park and Twin Falls Resort State Park — lodge and recreation building structural stabilization (\$750,000); and

■ Pipestem Resort State Park — recreation building (\$600,000) and lodge roofing (\$600,000).



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**Publication:** The Shepherdstown Chronicle

Through  
AUGUST 1

**Shepherd's Historic Preservation Program  
to host walking tours**

The Historic Preservation Program at Shepherd University is partnering with local agencies to provide historic living history walking tours around Shepherdstown starting July 7 and ending August 1.

The tours, which are free and open to the public, will be given Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tours will begin Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, located at the Entler Hotel at 129 E. German St.

## 'Big Brother Charleston' strikes again

### The Doyle Report



By Delegate John Doyle

A couple of weeks ago the West Virginia Development Office overruled Jefferson County local zoning and approved a "brownfield" development application near the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Since that decision all the members of the Jefferson County delegation to the Legislature have met with officials from the West Virginia Department of Commerce, in which the Development Office is housed, to protest the decision. I shall attempt, in this column, to explain how and why the decision came to be.

A "brownfield" is an area that was once industrial, has been somewhat polluted as a result and has since been abandoned. In 2008, the Legislature passed Senate Bill #88, which created "brownfield economic development districts." I supported that bill, because I believe that development is better if done on brownfields as opposed to land that

has never been developed. Brownfield development is a form of what is generically known as "smart growth."

Included in that bill was a provision exempting brownfield development districts from Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code. Chapter 8A is the state planning law, and it includes all the provisions for county zoning ordinances. My reading of that provision was that an application for a brownfield development district would, once approved, be exempt from local zoning. I did not read that provision to say that an application for such a district would be exempt from local zoning. 20-20 hindsight, I should have asked that particular question when the bill came before me in the House of Delegates Finance Committee. But the attorney that worked the bill told me recently that had I asked that question the answer would have reaffirmed my reading of the provision.

The bill also included a proviso that a application for a brownfield development project could be approved by the Development Office if the applicant could "demonstrate that the applicant has attempted to work in good faith with local officials in regard to land-use issues." To me, a planning or

zoning board deciding, after full consideration, that a particular request for a zoning change would not be in the long term best interest of the locality should not be interpreted as refusing "to work in good faith." In 2009, The Legislature passed rules implementing the brownfield economic development district law. Those rules were included in what is informally called the "omnibus rules bill." Rules for many different agencies are "bundled" by the Legislative Rulemaking Review Committee and sent to the floor of the House for adoption.

The rule implementing the brownfield bill included a stipulation that refusal by local zoning authorities to grant a zoning change constitutes working in bad faith by local officials. I was not aware that provision was in the rule when the House passed it, nor was any other member of Jefferson County's delegation. None of us is on the Rulemaking Review Committee, but I'm not sure it would have made a difference if one of us were. The House Chair of Rulemaking Review (it's a joint committee with the Senate), Delegate Bonnie Brown of Kanawha County, is a strong environmentalist and an advocate of good land-use laws. She does not

recall that provision being discussed, nor do lobbyists for the West Virginia Environmental Council.

Folks with the Environmental Council tell me they would have strongly opposed that provision had they known it was there. And the lead sponsor of Senate Bill #88 in 2008, Senator Mike Oliverio of Monongalia County, also told me he had no idea his bill might permit the Development Office to override local zoning. Senator Oliverio, by the way, is the Democratic Nominee for the US Congress in the first congressional district, having defeated Congressman Alan Mollohan in the May primary.

Secretary of Commerce Kelly Goes told us when we met with her that she does not like the idea of one of her agencies being in the position of overriding local zoning. She wants to work with us to fix the law when the Legislature goes into regular session in January. I'm happy about that, and I'm confident we'll fix the law so this doesn't happen again. This sort of thing must not happen again.

A county that has adopted countywide zoning (only three of West Virginia's 55 counties, including Jefferson, have done so) has made a  
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### Doyle

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decision to plan for its future as well as it possibly can. Charleston shouldn't tell such a county that it (Charleston) knows best. Whether or not the immediate problem can be resolved successfully is another matter. Part of the Battle of Harpers Ferry took place on the land in question. I personally believe the highest

and best use of that property is as part of an expanded Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. I will do whatever I can to advance that end.

— Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

## Briefly Shepherdstown

### Rockefeller: CATF's impacts impressive

By Michael Theis  
*Chronicle staff*

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See *CATF* ————— page 10

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Michael Theis/Chronicle

U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller addresses a group of CATF staff, supporters and community leaders Monday at Shepherd University's Center for Contemporary Art on West Campus Drive.

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