Shepherd University to host tour of Venice

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - Shepherd University's Department of Contemporary Art and Theater is hosting a week-long tour of Venice next summer.

The trip will include a gondola ride, as well as visits to the Venice Glass-blowing factory, Doges' Palace, St. Marks Basilica, Naval History Museum and the Arsenal (the location of the Venice Biennale), and a day trip to the Sforzesco Castle and Museum in Milan.

The tour, which is headed by Rhonda Smith, chair of the department, is an eight-day, six-night trip. Participants will depart from Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, June 7, and return Tuesday, June 14.

Cost of the trip is $3,265 per person and includes round trip airfare and other amenities.

To enroll in the tour, visit www.eflours.com and search for tour number 549886. For information, contact Rhonda Smith at rsmith@shepherd.edu.
Double Chocolate J’s for double the fun

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

This recipe came about when my three kids decided to assist me in the kitchen. Each one picked an ingredient that they wanted to add and I incorporated the rest. I choose dark chocolate baking powder and whole-wheat flour instead of all-purpose flour, and the chocolate chips, peanut butter and brown sugar were chosen by my sous chefs.

The recipe is easy to prepare and worked real well with all three sous chefs assisting me in mixing, baking and most importantly taste testing.

This is a kid-tested and family approved recipe.

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

Double Chocolate J’s

1 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
2 tablespoons special dark cocoa powder
1 cup light brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons natural vanilla
3 large eggs
3 cups whole wheat flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups Ghirardelli double-chocolate chips
1/2 cups granulated sugar for coating

Preheat oven to 350 degrees (for a convection oven 325 degrees).

Cream butter in mixer on high until light and fluffy, then add in peanut butter and continue mixing. Add in cocoa powder and turn mixer up to high and whip mixture for 2 minutes.

Add in sugars and continue blending until mixture lightens in color, is light and airy and almost doubles in size.

Crack eggs into a separate bowl and gradually add to mixture on low speed.

In separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt, mix well. Gradually add to butter mixture 1/2 cup at a time under low speed. When fully incorporated blend on medium for 1 to 2 minutes.

At low setting add in chocolate chips and blend for an additional minute.
Scoop out 1/2 ounce balls of dough, roll in palm and then into sugar to evenly coat.

Place onto ungreased cookie sheets evenly spaced and place into oven for 10 to 12 minutes.

**Cook's note:** 10 minutes will give you a chewier cookie, while 12 minutes will give you a firmer cookie.
Two Shepherd students receive Community Pride scholarships

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - Berkeley Community Pride Inc. awarded its annual scholarships through the Shepherd University Foundation to Michael Whitaker of Shepherdstown and Steven Schoepe of Rockville, Md.

The organization awards $500 each spring to students in the Eastern Panhandle who major in environmental studies, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and participate in community and/or campus service.

Berkeley Community Pride Inc. was started more than six years ago to reduce litter, encourage communitywide recycling and educate area youth on the importance of responsible use of resources. Maria Lorensen, board member for Berkeley Community Pride, said one of the major focuses of the organization is education.

The Berkeley Community Pride Scholarship was established in May 2009. Organizers said they hope to provide more scholarships in the future.

Several students in Shepherd's environmental studies program competed for the award, which included writing an essay about their choice of community service.

Whitaker wrote about his work with Recyclemania, a competition between schools to measure their recycling. The event ultimately led to Shepherd establishing a permanent recycling program.

"Michael and Steven are both fine examples of what Berkeley Community Pride seeks when we make this award," Lorensen said. "They are well-versed in what it takes to be good stewards of the earth and Berkeley Community Pride is happy to recognize their work."

Schoepe, who loves the outdoors and enjoys math and science, feels the environmental-studies program is a perfect fit for him. Whitaker also shares a love of nature and feels his decision to major in environmental studies is being reinforced by his desire to maintain a healthy planet for his 2-year-old son to enjoy.

For more information about the scholarship or establishing a scholarship through the Shepherd University Foundation, contact Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443-5000; call 304-876-5397; send e-mail to mlgentf@shepherd.edu; or go to www.shepherd.edu/fridtnweb on the Web.
FLASHBACK
TODAY IN PANHANDLE HISTORY

Today is Monday, November 1, the 305 day of 2010. There are 60 days left in the year.

40 YEARS AGO — 1970
SUNDAY - paper was not produced.

25 YEARS AGO — 1985
Anti-pornography supporters packed the Berkeley County Commission courtroom to show their support for a proposed ordinance banning the sale and distribution of pornography material and literature Countywide.

10 YEARS AGO — 2000
Plans for the first actual construction involving the proposed linear park that would run along Tuscarora Creek will be among the agenda items for tonight's Martinsburg Planning Commission meeting.

5 YEARS AGO — 2005
Painting and wallpaper removal, $8,508; new carpet, $21,570.30; a newly decorated Martinsburg City Hall? Priceless, or at least worth the price.

1 YEAR AGO — 2009
West Virginia University School of Medicine has formed an innovative program with Shepherd University that allows high school students, who are interested in health-profession careers, to get on the "fast track" to medical school.

To submit photographs to The Journal's Flashback features, contact Matt Burdette at mburdette@journal-news.net.
Red Cross blood drives scheduled

MARTINSBURG — The American Red Cross has announced its next blood drives. To be eligible to donate, donors must be 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in reasonably good health. Donors can give every 56 days. All blood types are needed — but especially O-negative, A-negative and B-negative types.

• Friday, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Living Room;
  • Nov. 8, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Lions Center, Ranson;
  • Nov. 9, from 2 to 7 p.m. at Rocky Knoll School;
  • Nov. 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center;
  • Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shepherd University Student Center;
  • Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harvest Community Church;
  • Nov. 15, from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus.
Business briefs: S.C. chamber has new executive director

The South Charleston Chamber of Commerce has a new executive director.

Kelly Pruett, director of the LaBelle Theatre for the past year, is the chamber's new executive director. Oct. 25 was her first day on her new job.

Pruett, 41, is a 1987 graduate of Spencer High School and a 2006 graduate of West Virginia State University. She is currently completing a master's degree in humanities at Marshall University.

Pruett has lived in South Charleston for 12 years. She currently serves on the South Charleston Museum Board and is an incoming member of the Lions Club Board of Directors. She is a member of the South Charleston Christian Church.

She succeeds Joyce Dahiri, who has joined the staff of the Ramada Plaza Hotel in South Charleston. Dahiri, who had been working for the state Division of Tourism, started working part-time for the South Charleston Chamber in June 2007 as an administrative assistant. She started work Monday as the Ramada Plaza Hotel's convention sales manager.

Frost Brown Todd moves to Laidley Tower

The Charleston office of the law firm Frost Brown Todd has moved from the Chase Tower to Laidley Tower.

The new address, effective Monday: Laidley Tower, Suite 400, 500 Lee St. E., Charleston, WV 25301-3500.

Frost Brown Todd said that since opening its Charleston office in 2007, the practice has grown to six full-time attorneys supported by two paralegals. The new location will allow for additional attorneys to join the Charleston group, the firm said.

Frost Brown Todd is headquartered in Louisville, Ky. The firm has nearly 450 attorneys and nine offices in five states.

Business plan contest field narrowed

The statewide student competition for the best plan to open a business in West Virginia has been narrowed to 20 semifinalist teams from five schools: Fairmont State University, Potomac State College at West Virginia University, Shepherd University, the University of Charleston and West Virginia University.

The competition will be in Lifestyle & Innovation and a new category, Hospitality & Tourism. One winning team from each category will be awarded a $10,000 prize in the spring.

Two teams from the University of Charleston made the semifinals. Both are competing in the Lifestyle & Innovation category. Brynn Crotey, Qiting Yang and Chelsea Kinzinger are on one of the teams. Chris Price, Donald Weller and Jonathan White are on the other team.

The West Virginia University Entrepreneurship Center hosts the competition, which began four years ago. More information is posted online at www.be.wvu.edu/bpc.
Visitors upset by dining experience after race

By Michael Peters
Falling Waters:

The recent Freedom's Run Race in Shepherdstown was a great event for this area — well-organized with a very friendly atmosphere overall.

We attended, not as runners, but spectators, watching the runners depart from Shepherdstown crossing the river into Maryland on a cloudless day and returning to the West Virginia and the finish lap at the Ram Stadium of Shepherd University.

Shortly after, we walked over to the nearby Bavarian Inn, where a beer garden was set up outdoors for runners' family and friends.

Upon entering the restaurant to use the restrooms, to our surprise we were directed outside to the stinky portable toilets that had been placed on the grounds.

Did the management of the establishment think the runners and family members using the restrooms would smell bad and upset the regular clientele? Or were they worried about their water bill going up?

In contrast, the nearby Shepherd Wellness Center not only opened its restrooms to runners, families and supporters, but also offered its shower facilities to runners. That surely generated a huge water bill, but a lot of goodwill.

They also had an inexpensive food selection at the Wellness Cafe that many runners availed themselves to.

Ironically, Shepherd Wellness Center, not even a sponsor of this race, offered much more than the Bavarian Inn, a featured sponsor.
Beyond Justice: An Interview with Joshua Graham

October 28, 2010

Joshua Graham grew up in Brooklyn, NY, where he lived for the better part of 30 years. He holds a Bachelor and Master’s Degree and went on to earn his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. During his time in Maryland, he taught as a professor at Shepherd College (WV), Western Maryland College, and Columbia Union College (MD).

Today he lives with his beautiful wife and children in San Diego. Several of Graham’s short fiction works have been published by Pocket Books and Dawn Treader Press under different pen names.

Beyond Justice is now available in Trade Paperback through Amazon.com as well as Barnes and Noble. It’s available at the Kindle store for $2.99 for a limited time, and can be purchased for other ebook readers at Smashwords, and is now available for the iPad and iPhone at the Apple iBooks store.

A member of the Oregon Writers Network, Graham is a graduate of the Master Classes and professional writing workshops held by Dean W. Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch. Dean and Kris and the entire OWN, have been a major influence in his journey to become a published writer. You can visit his website at www.joshua-graham.com, connect with him on facebook at www.facebook.com/j0shuagraham or twitter at www.twitter.com/j0shuagraham.

Thank you for this interview, Joshua. Can you tell us briefly what your latest book, BEYOND JUSTICE, is all about?

Great to be here, thanks! BEYOND JUSTICE is a legal suspense/thriller in which a reputable attorney is wrongfully convicted for the brutal murders of his wife and daughter, then sentenced to death. It’s a story of redemption, forgiveness, and the power of grace.

Can you tell us who or what was the inspiration behind your book?

It started with hearing a story about Dennis Rader, the BTK serial killer. This man had his family, friends and entire church fooled into thinking he was a normal, decent man. Later when his pastor had to confront him in prison, he was faced with the question: Are there limits on forgiveness. It made me wonder if there are limits on God’s forgiveness. So I decided to write BEYOND JUSTICE as a way to explore this hypothetical.

Is this your first published book and if so, can you tell us your experiences in finding a publisher for it?

Yes, this is my debut. Finding a publisher takes a lot of persistence and thick skin. If you can’t handle rejection, if you can’t be innovative, you probably won’t make it past the first few rejections. If you ask some of the great bestselling writers, they will tell you an alarming number of rejections they got before they got published. You have to be in it for the long haul, but while you are sending your manuscripts out, keep writing more books!

Do you have an agent?

Currently, I haven’t hired one just yet, but the time may yet come that I do. There are always possibilities.
Can you tell us how long it took you to write your book and also how long it took from the time DAWN TREADER PRESS sent the contract and the time it was released?

My first draft of BEYOND JUSTICE took about six months to complete, but after revisions about a year had passed. Dawn Treader Press had a pretty quick turnaround (within a year.)

Do you have any words of inspiration from other writers who would like to be wearing your shoes?

To borrow a quote from that hilarious movie GALAXY QUEST, "Never give up, never surrender." The writing career is a marathon, not a sprint. Believe in your work and remember, you alone are responsible for your career, not an agent, not a publisher. You are.

I understand that you’ve been on a virtual book tour with Pump Up Your Book Promotion. Can you tell us all why you chose a virtual book tour to promote your book online?

Dorothy Thompson is a virtual angel! I’ve met some such a hard-working and capable professional. Virtual Book Tours reach a lot more people and in this day and age, they are a lot more economical because you don’t have airfare and hotel expenses. There’s nothing like a good old-fashioned book signing or live interview on television (which I am all in favor of,) but when you look at the ROI (return on investment) it’s a no brainer that every writer should do a virtual book tour. And Dorothy Thompson is a wonderful person to work with. Since my tour, BEYOND JUSTICE has hit two Amazon Bestseller lists, topping two of John Grisham’s books.

What’s next for you?

I’m always writing the next book (though book tours slow me down only slightly.) Keep an eye out for my next book DARKROOM, and several short fiction works and collections. In my other pen names, I am completing a Young Adult Fantasy book which my son asked me to write. I’m really looking forward to seeing that in print.

Thank you for this interview, Joshua. Can you tell us how we can find out more about you and your new book?

I’ve gotten so many great fan email and look forward to more. I hope everyone will connect with me on facebook and twitter:
Shepherd to host Passport Day

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Study Abroad Office, the Martinsburg Post Office and TLC Photography will host Passport Day from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at Shepherd’s Scarborough Library, Room 256. The event is open to the campus and community.

New and renewal passport book and passport card applications will be available. Passport photos will be taken on site for $10 plus tax. Passport requirements and costs are available online at www.travel.state.gov. Non-West Virginia residents must present a second photo ID. Shepherd students, faculty and staff may use their Rambler card as the second ID.

More information is available by contacting Beth Heflin Cauvel, study abroad project coordinator, at ecauvel@shepherd.edu.

Shepherd to host drumming festival

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Department of Music will present a percussion and drumming festival from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday in the Frank Center Theater. The event is free and open to the public, with instructional clinics geared toward percussionists and drummers of all ages, including professionals, students and enthusiasts.

The event, sponsored by Shepherd’s Department of Music with the support of Cooperman Percussion, will feature Ronnie Shaw’s Approach to Drum Set, and a clinic on developing a vocabulary for improvisation with world tambourine techniques with N. Scott Robinson, as well as a performance by the Shepherd Percussion Ensemble, and a reception and chat session with the clinicians.

More information about the percussion and drumming festival is available by contacting Michelle Humphreys at 410-960-2771 or michelle@percussionpro.com.
Hunters Safety Education

Shepherd University Intramurals and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will hold a hunters safety education class, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, in the Storer Ballroom, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Free. Must attend both days to complete class. Students ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. To register, go to www.wvdnr.gov/enforce/Huntered/classes.asp.
Berkeley Community Pride Inc. has awarded its annual scholarships through the Shepherd University Foundation to Michael Whitaker of Shepherdstown and Steven Schoepf of Rockville, Md. The organization awards $500 each spring to students in the Eastern Panhandle who major in environmental studies, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, and participate in community and/or campus service.

Maria Lorenzen, board member for Berkeley Community Pride, said that one of the major thrusts of the organization is education. The Berkeley Community Pride Scholarship was established in May 2009. Organizers said they hope to provide more scholarships in the future.
Salinda Magdalene, a self-proclaimed 'non-traditional' student at Shepherd University studying conflict reasoning, walks past Trinity Episcopal Church's fence along South Church Street in a sailing jacket on a rainy Thursday afternoon in Shepherdstown. Rain is expected to continue throughout the area today.
Post office, Shepherd University host Passport Day

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — The Martinsburg Post Office, Shepherd University Study Abroad Office and TLC Photography will host Passport Day from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at Shepherd's Scarborough Library, Room 256.

The event is open to the campus and community.

New and renewal passport book and passport card applications will be available. For passport requirements and costs see www.travel.state.gov. Residents from outside West Virginia must present a second photo ID.
Supervisor Carr to retire in December
Originally published November 10, 2010

By Bill Cauley
News-Post Staff

After 40 years as an educator, including the last 18 as Frederick County's supervisor of athletics and extracurricular activities, Lynn Carr is calling it a career.

He's retiring in December, his career goals met.

"This was the one job that I really coveted," Carr said. "As I looked into my professional future, through my teaching, coaching and administrative careers, it was something I was looking ahead to."

Carr has been mulling retirement for about two years. He decided in August to leave at the end of the year.

He began his career in 1971 as an assistant football coach at Shepherd University. Carr later was a teacher and assistant football coach at South Carroll.

He was head football coach for four years at Bel Air High School, from 1977 to 1980.

Carr came to Frederick County in 1981, when he was hired to coach football at Thomas Johnson High School. His three-year record at TJ was 23-9, which included an undefeated, state Class 3A (then Class A) championship season in 1982.

Carr landed his first administrative job in 1984, when he was named assistant principal at Frederick High School. Three years later, he became principal at Lineage High School.

He succeeded Roy Comer as the county's athletic and physical education supervisor in 1992, when Comer retired. Four years ago, Carr became chairman of the state football committee, which had just expanded from an eight-team per classification field to 16 teams.


A rebuilt Lineage High School also opened in August.

Boys and girls lacrosse was also added as a varsity sport about 10 years ago under Carr's watch.

Carr supervised the installation of four artificial turf fields at three county high schools. Oakdale has two. Middletown and Lineage each have one.

As the economy improves, Carr feels more schools may put in artificial surfaces.

"Our experiences with the four turf fields we have now have shown it's working out," he said. "It's given us the opportunity to be able to move games from other schools to these sites when some fields are unplayable."

Carr has no immediate plans for his future in retirement. However, spending time with his wife and family, biking and kayaking, are on the short list.

"I have some work to do around the house, too," he said.

The man shot in the leg last week in Frederick was charged more than four years ago with murder in the shooting death of a man in the city 10 years ago.
Shepherdstown Forum Puts Focus on Hispanic Issues

West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle has the highest concentration of Hispanics in the state.

By Misty Higgins

For The State Journal

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Dick Anson believes one thing the state’s Eastern Panhandle desperately needs is to talk.

Anson recently said the region, which has a large Hispanic population, needs constructive dialogue and engagement by the broader community to avoid extremist views and misperceptions about Hispanics.

Anson, who along with wife, Barbara, runs Ezekiel’s Place Retreat Center in Back Creek Valley, organized an Oct. 30 forum on Hispanic issues. Helping out were 20 other organizations, all committed to working together to promote greater understanding and cultural sensitivity regarding the Hispanic population.

Shepherd University’s Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies hosted the Tri-State Hispanic Forum. The event featured panel discussions on expanding social services and coping strategies on comprehensive immigration reform. West Virginia leaders were joined by counterparts from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

More than 25 percent of the foreign-born residents of West Virginia report Hispanic or Latino origins, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2008 American Community Survey and Census Data on the Foreign Born.

Of the total immigrant population in West Virginia, 23.8 percent entered during the 1990s, and 38.9 percent entered in 2000 or later. In 2008, the foreign-born represented 1.3 percent of West Virginia’s total population, according to the website.

Anson said the Hispanic population continues to grow through the state, and the Eastern Panhandle has had especially high growth. The Eastern Panhandle has the highest concentration of Hispanics in the state.

“Probably every school in the area has a growing population of Hispanic kids. Every family will have contact with Hispanics either directly or indirectly,” Anson said.

The forum also addressed Arizona’s controversial immigration reform initiatives. “Now that the elections are over, it is going to be interesting to see if the states will take up comprehensive immigration reform,” Anson said.

“There are large numbers of Hispanics living in fear, even if they have documentation,” Anson said. “The current environment creates fear, suspicion and maybe some animosity because of ignorance.”

According to Anson, an estimated 12 million undocumented workers are in the United States, and
the vast majority are Hispanic. He said some people have a misconception that Hispanics are taking jobs from U.S. workers or not paying taxes.

"Hispanics, even if undocumented, still pay taxes at the federal and local level," Anson said.

Other issues discussed during the forum included the need for adequate numbers of interpreters in places like hospitals and social service organizations and initiatives to promote cultural sensitivity and diversity in the school system.

"It’s good to be able to share some of the messages that came out of the forum," Anson added. "The forum was very positive. There will be a continued collaborative on an ongoing basis. It’s vital that these services be integrated in the community to break down barriers."
Bennett lacrosse scores a hat trick

One Clipper signs with Division I college, two others sign with D-2 schools

By Earl Holland
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — James M. Bennett girls lacrosse coach Becky Gregory said that Bekah Rodriguez, Taylor Bugas and Maddie O'Leary have not only been beneficial to the team's success, but players to be proud of.

Gregory was beaming with pride Thursday as the senior trio officially announced their choices for collegiate lacrosse. Rodriguez will play at Division I Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., O'Leary is going to Division II Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W. Va., and Bugas heads to Division II Queens University in Charlotte, N.C.

"The senior class that we have now is a great group of girls," Gregory said. "These three are well-rounded athletes."

The three players said their final decisions to sign at their respective colleges were a result of the campuses themselves.

"I really liked the atmosphere of Queens, and I liked where it was located," said Bugas, a midfielder. "And I really liked the coach and the teammates, and I thought it was a perfect fit."

O'Leary, who plays low defender, said that initially she didn't see herself playing in college, but after being heavily recruited by Shepherd coach Tammy Butler, she was swayed.

"She really pushed for me to come and visit," O'Leary said. "She was the only coach that was really persistent with me coming to the campus, and I decided to go there."

Gregory said that what makes the players so special is their dedication to the game, which gives them an advantage over players who take a break at the end of the school year.

"The main thing is that they never put their sticks down," she said. "They play for travel teams, and when the high school season is over, they never stop."

Rodriguez, a defensive midfielder, said her father's enthusiasm for the game was an influence.

"My dad says I'm his last hope," she said wryly. "But, I honestly can't picture the next three years without lacrosse. Without it, I'd pretty much be bored and a coach potato."

eholland@dmg.gannett.com

410-845-4633
Hunters safety education

Shepherd University Intramurals and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will hold a hunters safety education class, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, in the Storer Ballroom, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Free. Must attend both days to complete class. Students ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. To register, go to www.wvdnr.gov/permit/huntered/classes.asp.
Gambrill State Park boasts tree ID trail
Originally published November 11, 2010

By Karen Gardner

As anyone who has ever gone for a hike in the woods knows, it can be tough to identify a tree.

But the Department of Natural Resources' local Forest Service office wants people to be able to distinguish a red maple from a chestnut oak.

The Frederick County Forestry Board, an advisory and educational volunteer body, found the funding to pay for 30 signs that describe trees and a few shrubs — from their bark to their berries.

Rich Salvatore this week installed the signs on Gambrill State Park's Red Maple Trail, a fairly easy 1-mile segment.

Salvatore, a seasonal park ranger at Gambrill, gathered information for the signs with help from Mike Kay, the Frederick County forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Kenneth Miller of the Maryland Conservation Corps designed the signs.

Salvatore, 44, learned to identify trees when he was a Boy Scout.

"One thing I remember is the ranger teaching us about tulip trees, so big and straight with their branches up high," he said during an hour-long hike on a sunny Tuesday morning.

Some barks are easy to tell, he said. "Like a beech tree, the tree that everyone carves their initials in."

On the other end of the texture spectrum is the chestnut oak, which has a rough bark.

The chestnut oak has oval leaves with serrated edges, resembling the old American chestnut tree that was wiped out by blight. These leaves differ from the shape of a typical oak leaf, which has pointed lobes.

The weatherproof plaques show a picture of each tree's bark, leaves and other identifying characteristics. Salvatore and Kay researched and wrote the descriptions.

Salvatore, who started working for DNR earlier this year after spending 10 years as the owner of a barbecue carryout shop on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, is well-suited to the task.

He works with the DNR from May to November and is studying environmental science at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Salvatore grew up in Smithsburg and lives in Williamsport. The one-time Eagle Scout has hiked about 600 miles of the Appalachian Trail, from Tennessee to Pennsylvania. He is the volunteer who oversees maintenance of the Pogo campground along the trail north of Annapolis Rock.

He is comfortable being around trees and trails and talking about them.

"Mushroom hunters look for tulip poplars because morels tend to grow underneath," he said.

The delectable wild mushrooms usually emerge in May.

The first tree to turn color in the fall is the black gum, which has leaves that turn a brilliant red.
Hackberry trees have a cork-like bark that distinguishes them from other trees. The wood of a hackberry is of little use because it splits easily, but hackberries are popular in backyards.

"I hope people will see these and think these are trees they can see in their backyard," he said. Red maples are another tree in Gambrill Park that are also common in suburban and urban settings.

Salvatore pointed out the state tree, the white oak. Another plaque describes the black oak tree, which has large, fat leaves. One describes the red oak, which has deep furrows in the trunk.

The plaques also show photos of the nuts the trees produce -- including black walnuts, butternuts, pignuts, hickories and acorns.

The Red Maple Trail begins just across from the trail head parking lot, which is about halfway up Gambrill Park Road between the Rock Run and the High Knob areas.

It's a wide trail with only one somewhat steep section. Trail guides are available at park headquarters.

"This park has 1,139 acres, all wooded," Salvatore said. "This poor little park needs some exposure." He's hoping the tree identification signs will be one draw.