Experts to help families decipher college aid form
By Devin White

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Lots of prospective college students and their parents find the worst part of trying to get financial aid is the form they have to fill out.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a bit intimidating for a lot of people, said Jessica Kennedy, with the state Higher Education Policy Commission.

The idea behind "College Goal Sunday" this weekend is to help college-bound students and parents with perhaps the most daunting aspect of applying for financial aid.

At 18 locations across the state on Sunday, financial aid experts will help students and families complete the FAFSA. More than 250 volunteers with college and university financial aid offices and college access groups like West Virginia Gear Up and TriO will be on hand to help.

In Charleston, those experts will be at Capital High School from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The FAFSA is important not only for receiving federal loans and grants, but also state grants, Kennedy said. "We want to make it a goal to get as many students completing that form as possible," she said.

Pre-registration online at the College Foundation of West Virginia is encouraged but not required to attend the workshops, Kennedy said.

Also, the workshops are open to anyone who plans to attend college next fall, she said. That includes soon-to-graduate high school seniors, returning college students, or adult students interested in returning to school to earn a degree or certificate.

Students and families should bring a driver's license, Social Security numbers for both the student and the parents, 2010 tax records (or 2009 records if 2010 forms are unavailable), 2010 untaxed income records, and information about investments and bank account balances, according to a news release.

The information will be submitted through the federal government's secure FAFSA network, and financial and other information will be kept private.

Those who plan to attend school and participate in the Sunday workshops will be entered in a drawing to win one of 18 Apple iPads. Many sites will also offer free income tax preparation services through a partnership with the West Virginia Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Most of the 18 workshops will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., unless otherwise noted. In addition to Capital High, the locations are:

Concord University in Athens; Erma Byrd Higher Education Center in Beckley; Bluefield State College; Fairmont State Gordon Caperton Center in Clarksburg; 1 to 5 p.m.; Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, 1 to 5 p.m.; Glenville State College, 2 to 4 p.m.; Lincoln County High School in Hamlin; Mountwest Community & Technical College in Huntington; Potomac State College of WVU in Keyser; New River Community & Technical College in Lewisburg; Southern WV Community and Technical College in Logan; West Virginia University in Morgantown; Marshall University Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant; Ripley High School in Ripley; Shepherd University in Shepherdstown; Braxton County High School in Sutton; and West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling.
Shepherd University hosts engineering program for high-schoolers

3:54 PM EST, February 14, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Shepherd University will host the Johns Hopkins University Engineering Innovation (EI) program this summer. The program, designed for high school juniors and seniors, is a five-days-a-week, monthlong course in engineering offered Tuesday, July 5, through Friday, July 29.

Students who pass the course will receive three college credit hours from Johns Hopkins University.

The application fee for the program is $55 and tuition is $2,000. Need-based scholarships are available. Applications are available online at engineering-innovation.jhu.edu.
SU Foundation accepts antique clock

The Shepherd University Foundation announces the receipt of an Ashton of Bredbury grandfather clock, c. 1780, donated by the Oates family, Max Jr., T.K. II, and Mary Elizabeth, in memory of their parents, Dr. Max O. and Evelyn S. Oates. The clock will be housed in the Shepherd Room in McMurran Hall.

As longtime Shepherd benefactors, the Oates family members wanted to continue their support of the university with a different kind of gift. Standing at eight feet tall with a brass moon dial and sweep second hand, the clock’s mahogany case displays fine workmanship within its delicate inlays. Its mechanism is quite unique, says Lloyd Furches of New Freedom, Pennsylvania, an expert in antique clock repairs.

“The clock uses a bum-bum bary is the English town from which they hailed. The Shepherd Room was renovated in 1989 under the direction of Shepherdstown interior designer Keith Knost. McMurran Hall was originally completed in 1865. McMurran Hall is the oldest building on Shepherd’s campus, making it a fitting home for the antique clock.

“We feel fortunate that Shepherd University is part of our region and we are always interested in ways we can show our support,” said Liz Oates of her family’s gift. “The donation of this clock also provides a lasting legacy to our parents.”

To learn more about in-kind giving through the Shepherd University Foundation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443-5000, 304-876-5397, mlingenf@shepherd.edu, or visit www.shepherd.edu/indtnweb.
CATF celebrates the 2011 repertory

The Board of Trustees of the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University, will celebrate the 2011 five-play repertory with a Season Teaser on Saturday, February 26 with a 7 p.m. reception and 8 p.m. performance at the Studio Theater in Sara Cree Hall, 310 North King Street in Shepherdstown.

“The 2011 season of the Contemporary American Theater Festival packs a punch,” said producing director Ed Herendeen. “I cannot wait to share these incredible five new American plays with our audience. The ‘Season Teaser’ is our official kick-off for the 21st season and the perfect opportunity to get a taste of what summer will bring.”

The ‘Season Teaser’ will feature excerpts from each of the 2011 plays — “From Prague” by Kyle Bradstreet; “Race” by David Mamet; “Ages of the Moon” by Sam Shepard; “We Are Here” by Tracy Thorne; and “The Insurgents” by Lucy Thurber. Performers will include surprise guests from the Shepherdstown community; students from Shepherd University; and CATF actors Michael Goodwin, John Lescault and Anderson Matthews.

Tickets for the ‘Season Teaser’ reception and performance are $45. They are available by calling 304-876-3304 or online at www.catf.org/boxoffice.

The 21st season of the Festival will be held July 8-31. Complete season information, including plays, scheduling and ticketing, is available at www.catf.org.

Students participate in Artists Exhibition

Ten Shepherd University students in the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater will highlight their work in the “Emerging Artists” group exhibition curated by Professor Sonya Evanisko, coordinator of the painting and drawing program at Shepherd. The students will present during the opening reception on Friday, February 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Centre on the corner of King and Maple Streets in downtown Martinsburg. The exhibition will continue through Saturday, February 26.

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

The students to exhibit include Jason Carr, Shepherdstown; Lauren Hart, Purcellville, Virginia; Joshua Hawkins, Harpers Ferry; Nathan Loda, Vienna, Virginia; Sarah Loy, Rippon; Casie Mand, Westminster, Maryland; Jessica Oberdick, Wheeling; Ben Schonberger, Leesburg, Virginia; Erin Stamp, Waldorf and Renzo Velez, Martinsburg.

The students will each show a consistent, contemporary series of work using media as diverse as painting, drawing, installation, photography, and mixed media. The majority of the work is concept oriented, in which artists have messages to communicate whether it be social, political, environmental, or personal.

For more information, contact the Arts Centre at 304-263-0224.
SU presenting award-winning Voces 8 in concert

The Friends of Music will present Voces 8, the international award-winning ensemble, on February 25 as the first FOM concert of the new year. The concert will be held in the Frank Arts Center Theater at Shepherd University with an 8 p.m. curtain.

Voces 8 is being sponsored by Dr. Scott Beard and Alan Gibson and is the first of five remaining performances of the FOM 2010-2011 concert season:
- Jazz Festival Concert with John Fedchock on Saturday, March 5 at 8 p.m.
- Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, Saturday, March 13 at 8 p.m.
- Faculty Showcase, Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m.
- Masterworks Chorale, Haydn’s Creation, Sunday, May 1 at 7 p.m.

Friends of Music is now offering a three-concert mini-subscription for the final five concerts of the 2010-2011. A mini-subscription holder receives three concert tickets at a dramatically reduced price.

For concert, ticket and mini-subscription information, contact Joanna Moomaw at 304-876-5785 or e-mail friends@sufom.org. To purchase tickets on-line, please visit www.sufom.org.
Dr. Adam Parks, assistant professor of biology at Shepherd University, helped secure a grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Division of Science and Research and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. The real-time polymerase chain reaction instrument that was purchased with the grant will be used in the school's microbiology course. The instrument is used to assess water quality and detect bacteria.

Shepherd receives grant

Funding will help students in the university's microbiology course

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University has received a $17,099 instrumentation grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Division of Science and Research and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

The grant was secured by Dr. Adam Parks, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Carol Platz, assistant professor of biology; and Dr. David Wing, associate professor of biology.

The real-time polymerase chain reaction instrument that was purchased with the grant will be used in the school's microbiology course. The instrument is used to assess water quality and detect bacteria, and it can amplify and detect DNA.

Parks said that thanks to the instrument, Shepherd faculty will be able to teach students in a way that is more sensitive and faster than conventional methods.

"Contemporary biologists and clinicians increasingly rely on tools that allow them to analyze DNA as a way of understanding biological systems, diagnosing illnesses and detecting microorganisms," he said.

Parks said that the equipment will greatly increase research abilities of students.

See SHEPHERD B2

Shepherd FROM PAGE B1

"This tool will prepare them for high-tech jobs post-graduation and provide the experiences they need to prepare them for graduate school," Parks added.

More information about Shepherd University and its programs is available at...
Shepherd grad recognized as Grammy nominee

BY TIFFANY ARNOLD
tiffany@herald-mail.com
6:18 PM EST, February 16, 2011

Shepherd University alumna Carolyn Malachi went from being an unemployed event production coordinator to a Grammy-nominated songstress.

Malachi’s single "Orion" was nominated in the Best Urban/Alternative Performance category and was up against Janelle Monea, Bilal, Eric Roberson and Cee Lo Green — who won the award.

"My profile has definitely been raised," said Malachi, 26, of Mitchelleville, Md., who chatted with The Herald-Mail about life after the Grammys. "I went to the Clive Davis party. On the red carpet, I talked to VH1, 'Entertainment Tonight,' Jimmy Kimmel, George Lopez, TV Guide — every major network except for MTV and E! I talked with CBS, as well. It's just an incredible amount of exposure you get."

Malachi, a Washington, D.C., native, earned a business degree and a mass communications minor from Shepherd University in 2006. She credits her experience at Shepherd with sparking her creativity and giving her the confidence to perform.

She's built up buzz on the indie music scene. Music critics seem to appreciate her ability to cross-pollinate genres and have said her music is similar to avant-garde soul singers like Erykah Badu but with the earthiness of Jill Scott.

Upon graduation, Malachi hit Baltimore's spoken-word circuit, where she put out her first two projects, "Revenge of the Smart Chicks" and "Revenge of the Smart Chicks II." In 2009, she lost her job as an event production specialist for Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center; her main source of income at the time. But she said it turned out to be a blessing. Her 2010 EP "Lions, Fires & Squares" caught the attention of the Recording Academy. "Orion" was a single off the EP.

"Now we push forward," Malachi said. "We have three primary goals, my team and I. One of those goals is finishing the &quot;Lions, Fires & Squares,&quot; making sure we exceed the standards set by the EP. Also, we'll be focusing on touring and publishing."

What was the inspiration for "Orion"?
I started writing it as a result of having communication with a friend. I felt like I was underwater trying to communicate with someone out of space. All I needed was for that person to meet me halfway. I created these two characters: a mermaid and an astronaut and wrote from that vein of wanting to be in outer space, and I can't because it's out of my element. Knowing that that other person can meet me where I need them to meet me. They just have to let go of some things.

**Was this a romantic interest?**

It was a bunch of different things. I was glad I was going through that part. I wasn't being heard by a few folks, but that angst produced this beautiful song.

**So being at the Grammys, on the red carpet — how do you prepare for that?**

You hire a great publicist. Someone who can train you and teach you. I was incredibly nervous. My publicist and I had to chant before we got out the car — just take deep breaths and say something low and slow so that when I hit the carpet I was "on." All of the things I've been working toward for a long time, I really feel like those projects are going to be successful now.

Seeing the performances at the Clive party, seeing the performances at the Grammy awards, I now have seen with my own eyes and know what I want my live show to look like now. Going to the Grammys, having a Grammy nomination and being exposed to elements of media, it raises your profile, but it also raises your expectations. And that's the way I'm looking at it now. My expectations are different.

**Can you elaborate on that?**

Take the live show for an example. I'm really interested in putting on a live show that's succinct, that reaches people, that has energy from beginning to end, that's cathartic in a way that I like my shows to be cathartic. Now I know what goes into making a great show. R. Kelly, Mary J. Blige, Mumford & Sons, Cee Lo, Dionne Warwick — these are people who know what they're doing.

Even if they do one song, you remember that one song. Now that I had a complete experience and know what one looks like and feels like, I want to deliver the same thing.

**How do you want people to remember you?**

I want them to remember and feel like I'm a breath of fresh air. Even when I'm 102 years old.
College enrollment up, more needs done

By Taylor Kuykendall
Register-Herald Reporter

BECKLEY — Though statewide higher education enrollment has increased, Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor Brian Noland said more work needs to be done to meet the goals of the commission.

In a presentation to the House Finance Committee, Noland requested $14.95 million for “strategic investments in systemwide higher education initiatives aimed at supporting and enhancing the public policy agenda.” The funding priorities included $6 million for student financial aid, $5 million for deferred maintenance, $250,000 for Perinatal Partnership, $425,000 in regional board contract funding and $3.5 million for the West Virginia Education, Research and Technology Park at the former Dow Tech Park.

Educational attainment and economic vitality of the state are both concerns of the commission, Noland told lawmakers during a committee meeting last week.

Overall enrollment at two- and four-year institutions has increased by 12.3 percent since 2005.

“Not only do we have more students enrolled, we have more students taking on a full-time load,” Noland told legislators.

Full-time student enrollment increased by about 12.5 percent across all institutions from 2005 to 2010. Concord University, Fairmont State University and the WVU Institute of Technology were the only schools to experience a decrease in enrollment over the past five years. Bluefield State College, Glenville State College, Potomac State College, West Liberty University and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine all experienced full-time enrollment growth of more than 15 percent since 2005.

Other numbers, such as graduation rates, are more dismal. Only slightly more than 48 percent of West Virginia’s college students graduated in six years for the cohort year ending in 2010.

Noland said the commission is seeking ways to boost the graduation rate.

“Why? Because it’s the right thing to do and we have to do it,” Noland said.

Noland explained to lawmakers that student debt is on the rise across the country and in the Mountain
State. He said some students are hit doubly by not graduating and still being saddled with debt.

"They depart $9,000 in debt with nothing to show for it," Noland said.

West Virginia students, on average, borrow about $4,663 per year for higher education.

"This generation of students in college are the first generation of students who have been asked to mortgage their future to pay for the present," Noland said. "Thirty years ago, students didn't borrow to this extent."

According to the presentation Noland gave to legislators, the Southern Regional Educational Board projects a decrease of 1,778 students from 2008 to 2021. At current rates, that means approximately 960 fewer West Virginia freshman, a number comparable to the combined in-state freshmen classes at West Virginia University and Shepherd University.

In addition to a low graduation rate, not many students from West Virginia high schools are enrolling in college. Only about 59 percent of high school graduates enroll statewide.

Noland provided lawmakers with a map of college-going rates among high schools in various counties of the state. In Raleigh, Wyoming, Mercer, Greenbrier and Nicholas counties, the college-attendance rate was between 49.6 percent and 55.7 percent. In Fayette, Mingo, McDowell and Monroe counties, less than 47.8 percent of high school students attended college.

Summers County was the only southern West Virginia county to fall into one of the upper two ranges, with 57.1 percent to 63.8 percent of high school students attending college. Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, Wayne and Pocahontas counties all had attendance rates ranging from 64.2 percent to 83.1 percent.

For context, the HEPC provided a theoretical class of 100 West Virginia ninth graders. Of those students, 72 will graduate high school, 43 will attend college, 28 will still be enrolled by sophomore year and only 17 will graduate in six years.

If the same path is followed nationally, 21 students reach the graduation within six years group. West Virginia numbers are comparable to surrounding states.

Noland said the policy commission will also be trying to tap the resources of more than 100,000 state residents who started but never completed their degree. Many have finished more than half of the course work required for a degree.

"These are students who live in West Virginia, who work in our communities," Noland said. "Our hope is that by bringing them back to finish what they started, we can enhance our state's workforce."

West Virginia ranks fifth nationally in the amount of grant aid per full-time student, a ranking Noland attributes to significant investments in the PROMISE Scholarship program.

The amount of money spent per student at West Virginia institutions is about $11,675. The average
amount spent per student in West Virginia is lower than any other state in the 16-member SREB.

Noland said it would take an additional $150 million in revenue variance to bring the state to the SREB average.

Among the SREB states, only Mississippi has a lower average of tuition and fees.

"In comparison to peer institutions, we are one of the most affordable higher education systems in the nation," Noland said.

Despite affordability, the amount of West Virginia citizens with a bachelor's degree is lower than any other SREB state and is ranked 50th nationally. Just to reach the SREB average, the state would have to import or create 103,002 college graduates.

West Virginia's four-year college faculty salaries also rank last among SREB states. It would take more than $55 million in new revenues to match the SREB average.
University groups to sponsor lecture Feb. 22

In recognition of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day, Shepherd University Intamurals will sponsor a lecture by Amy Roloff on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Atrium. The event is free and open to the public.

Sponsors of the event include the Student Government Association, Multicultural Student Affairs, Residence Life, the Student Center, and the Program Board.

Roloff is best known for her TLC reality show, “Little People, Big World,” that shares the story of her family’s life. Roloff has used her newfound celebrity to inspire positive change in the world for kids and families globally. Her story of overcoming challenges has led to appearances on Oprah, Good Morning America, The Rachel Ray Show, The View and Jay Leno. As well as, interviews with The New York Times, People Magazine and McCall’s.

In 2009, Roloff founded the Amy Roloff Charity Foundation (ARCF), a non-profit that works to advocate, support, and inspire kids including youth at risk, kids with special needs and other challenges. For more information, contact Keith Worrall at kwwor@shepherd.edu or 304-876-3076.

Brownfields reform bill passes house

A bill sponsored by Delegate Tiffany Lawrence and me correcting a serious problem in our brownfield law passed the House of Delegates last week. You may recall a controversy that arose this past summer over a proposed Brownfield Development project here in Jefferson County. A group of developers applied for such a designation for a property known as the Old Standard Quarry. That property is zoned green space, so commercial development (the required purpose of a brownfield development project) could not be done at that location. Or so we thought.

Lo and behold we discovered that a rule had been slipped into state law that requires the West Virginia Development Office to approve a brownfield development project application if it otherwise meets the criteria for a designation, even if that project does not conform to local zoning.

The law creating the Brownfield Development Program was passed three years ago. The bill to do so was sponsored by Senators Mike Oliverio (no longer in the Legislature) and John Unger. I strongly supported it in the House of Delegates. A brownfield is defined in law as an abandoned industrial site that is to some degree polluted. The idea behind the brownfield development program is to encourage developers to clean up polluted sites rather than to convert green space into new development.

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Shepherd announces 2010 academic honorees

Local residents named to university’s dean’s lists

One hundred twenty-three students from the 2010 academic year have been named to the Dean’s List at Shepherd University.

December 2010


Kearneysville residents include Brian Wayne Anderson, Joseph R. Noisie Beihm, Brad Nathaniel Coleman, Morgan Elizabeth Creamer, Stephanie Noel Crum, Jeremy Scott Dann, Brittany Michelle Eickes, Kelsey Lynn Fey, Rachel Louise Johnson, Christopher Andrew Kocjaros, Cassandra Gabriella Fra Myers, Michael Vincent Smith, Brenda Vences, Miranda Rachel Bushan, John Tyler Kessler, and Chistia Marie Krock.

Sunrise Point residents include Lisa Birknerst, Melissa Lorraine Godwin, Emily Nicole Liver, and Tina Marie Stollum.

Ranson residents include Jessica Lynn Ott, Amanda Nicole Stehr, Olivia Lauren Sandstrom, and Michael Christopher Wilkens.

Sherando Junction residents include Jacqueline Holland Binkley, Matthew Drew Myers, Kelly Anne Sullivan, and Joseph Adam Snyder.

One hundred ninety-nine Berkeley County residents have been named to the Dean’s List at Shepherd University.

Martinsburg residents include Deborah Faith Adams, Jonathan Michael Agee, Kaitlyn Beaird, Terry Melvin Barkey Jr., Lillian Viha Hash, Chael Elaine Helmane, Wendy Dawn Hobson, Katherine Janel Heoek, Timothy J. Jones, Andrew Robert Kershner, Marissa Kelly Kulp, Candice Steele Martin, Matthew Davis Martin, Nicholas James Nick.

Main Street Martinsburg, Relay for Life organizers Paint the Town Purple

High-heel race to cap weeklong awareness event to raise money for American Cancer Society

By MATTHEW UMSTEAD

matthewu@herald-mail.com

5:31 PM EST, February 19, 2011

MARTINSBURG, W.Va.

Main Street Martinsburg is teaming up with organizers of Relay for Life to launch a "high heel" kickoff event for the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser this year.

The first Paint the Town Purple weeklong awareness event from April 3 to 9 will be capped off with a purple, high-heel race on Queen Street with Relay for Life participants, officials announced recently.

Martinsburg City Council earlier this month approved Main Street's plan to close the 100 block of North Queen Street for the race between noon and 2 p.m., Main Street Martinsburg executive director Randy Lewis said.

Relay for Life involves teams of people who camp out at a local high school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path as part of awareness and fundraising efforts.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States and communities in 20 other countries now take part each year.

Barb Henry, community manager for American Cancer Society in Berkeley and Jefferson County, said participants last year raised nearly $500,000. Berkeley County's event at Martinsburg High School will begin June 4. Jefferson County's event will begin June 24, and Shepherd University will hold its event April 15.

With the new Main Street partnership, Henry said both organizations should benefit from the joint promotional and fundraising effort.
"We're real excited to be partnering with Main Street Martinsburg on this," Henry said.

Paint the Town Purple in celebration of Relay for Life is expected to involve flowers turning shades of purple for the week, purple window displays, purple balloons and ribbons on parking meters, and landmarks turned purple, according to Main Street officials.

For last year's efforts, Berkeley County school officials were recognized for being one of only three school districts statewide to have 100 percent participation and raised more than $70,000, according to Henry.

Burke Street School was individually recognized for raising the highest amount of money per capita, which Henry said amounted to a little more than $20 per student or staff member.

Last fall, Superintendent Manny P. Arvon received the state Relay for Life Superintendent of the Year Award for championing the event, notching three consecutive years of 100 percent participation by the school district. The school district has received a glass plate for the achievement each year.

"We have a collection going," Arvon said after sharing with school board members this month that Martinsburg High School's baseball team received the outstanding student leadership award for their efforts to raise money through the Strikeout for Cancer event.

The event raised more than $14,000 last year, according to Henry. Trey Arvon was recognized for his involvement with the baseball team's event, Henry said.

In Jefferson County, volunteer Jon Jack was recognized for his communications efforts.
'Little People, Big World's' Amy Roloff: Value yourself, others

By TIFFANY ARNOLD

tiffanya@herald-mail.com

2:43 PM EST, February 20, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Soccer mom, reality show star, charity founder and little people advocate Amy Roloff can add another task to her list — traveling lecturer.

Known as the mom from TLC's reality series, "Little People, Big World," Roloff will give a lecture Tuesday night at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va. The lecture is tied to National Recreation Sports and Fitness Day, founded by the National Recreation Intramurals Sports Association.

"She's a strong woman, plus she embodies everything I'm trying to encourage students and the community to do: Get involved, be healthy, live a healthy lifestyle," said Keith Worrell, intramurals coordinator at Shepherd University.

Worrell has hosted prior events in recognition of National Recreation Sports and Fitness Day, but thought bringing in Roloff would attract a bigger crowd.

Camera crews followed the Roloff family as they worked their pumpkin farm in Oregon, capturing some of the every day challenges little people face. Roloff is a little person and is married to Matt Roloff, who is also a little person. They have four kids — their son, Zach, is a little person, too, but his fraternal twin, Jeremy, is of average height.

The final episode of "Little People" aired Dec. 6, 2010, after a six-season run. Roloff, 49, has been trying to make good on her recent celebrity status ever since. She's been taking on speaking engagements like her Shepherd visit and has become more active with the charitable foundation she formed in 2009.

Rolloff said her message for Shepherd students is simple.

"Regardless of what is going on in your own life the most important thing is how you see yourself," Roloff said. "Before you can have other people believe in what you're doing, you've got to believe it in yourself. And if you value yourself as much as you hope you do, isn't as important to value other people?"

Rolloff has been involved with the Dwarf Athletic Association of America and has helped coach her sons'
soccer teams. Roloff didn't grow up with sports as a child, though she picked up sports later in life.

"What it did for me in my personal development, my physical development, how I looked at myself, my confidence — I think it's important to have that available," Roloff said. Especially for people with disabilities, she said. "They don't necessarily have that opportunity readily available."

She's expected to talk about sports, diversity and overcoming obstacles at Shepherd. She used her son, Zach's experience in sports as an example of challenges little people face in sports and in life.

"He knows he's good, but to go out there each and every time and still have to prove yourself and have those people that you play with trust your abilities, that's tough," she said. "That applies to life. When you're in a job and you're, you have a disability, in subtle ways and more direct ways, I do believe that you are constantly proving to yourself and the people you work with that you know what you're doing, that you have the capabilities."

Rollof said at times, feeling as though there's always have something to prove can be tough. But it's something she says she's learned to move past.

"Being stuck is the worst place to be because it's a lot harder to get out of that self-defeating attitude," Roloff said. "It's a lot harder to get out of what you perceive as negative. That's a much scarier place than moving forward and failing because at least I keep moving forward."

If you go ... 

WHAT: Lecture by Amy Roloff, from TLC reality show "Little People, Big World." Hosted by Shepherd University Intramural department, in recognition of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22

WHERE: Storer Ballroom, on third floor of the Shepherd University Student Center, Shepherdstown, W.Va.

The Student Center is on the eastern portion of Shepherd's campus, off King Street, north of High Street.

COST: Free

MORE: For more information, contact intramurals director Keith Worrell at kworrell@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5076.
College receives a clock donation

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd University Foundation announces the receipt of an Ashton of Bredbury grandfather clock, c. 1780, donated by the Oates family, Max Jr., T.K. II, and Mary Elizabeth, in memory of their parents, Dr. Max O. and Evelyn S. Oates. The clock will be housed in the Shepherd Room in McMurrin Hall.

As longtime Shepherd benefactors, the Oates family members wanted to continue their support of the university with a different kind of gift. Standing at 8 feet tall with a brass moon dial and sweep second hand, the clock's mahogany case displays fine workmanship within its delicate inlays.

Its mechanism is quite unique, says Lloyd Purches of New Freedom, Pa., an expert in antique clock repairs.

"The clock uses a bim-bam bell strike which produces a two-bell chime each quarter. On the hour, it strikes the hour using one bell," said Purches. "The master who taught me had never seen that particular design in 30 years of clock work."

Ashton is the family name of the clock's maker and Bredbury is the English town from which they hailed.

The Shepherd Room was renovated in 1989 under the direction of Shepherdstown interior designer Keith Knest. McMurrin Hall was originally completed in 1865. McMurrin Hall is the oldest building on Shepherd's campus, making it a fitting home for the antique clock.

"We feel fortunate that Shepherd University is part of our region and we are always interested in ways we can show our support," said Liz Gates of her family's gift. "The donation of this clock also provides a lasting legacy to our parents."

To learn more about in-kind giving through the Shepherd University Foundation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443-5000, 304-876-5397, mlingen@shepherd.edu, or visit www.shepherd.edu/indweb.
Grammy nominated artist John Fedchock to headline Jazz Festival

The Friends of Music (FOM) are preparing for a festival of jazz and the sounds of world-class jazz artist, John Fedchock. The FOM Jazz Festival Concert with John Fedchock will take place on Saturday, March 5 at 8 p.m., in the Frank Arts Center Theater on the campus of Shepherd University.

John Fedchock emerged on the New York jazz scene thirty years ago and has since established himself as a world-class trombone soloist and band leader. His multifaceted talent has earned him a Grammy nomination for his arrangements and led him to become a premier jazz artist.

Friends of Music is now offering a three-concert mini-subscription for the final four concerts of the 2010-2011 season. A mini-subscription holder receives three concert tickets at a dramatically reduced price.

The FOM spring concerts are:
- Jazz Festival Concert with John Fedchock, March 5 at 8 p.m.
- Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, Saturday, March 13 at 8 p.m.
- Faculty Showcase, Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m.
- Masterworks Chorale, Haydn's Creation, Sunday, May 1 at 7 p.m.

Friends of Music is a non-profit organization that promotes musical excellence by supporting music programs and music education at Shepherd University and by enriching our community through the presentation of outstanding musical performances and opportunities.

For concert ticket and mini-subscription information contact Joanna Moomaw at 304-876-5785 or e-mail friends@sufom.org. To purchase tickets on-line visit www.sufom.org.
26 Shepherd University Department of Music will host its annual Double Reed Day from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 26, at Frank Arts Center on the Shepherd campus. Event is for people who play and people who teach people to play double reed instruments. Free. Registration required. 301 S. King St., Shepherdstown, W. Va. 304-876-5555; Shepherd.edu/musicweb.
Amy Roloff visited the university as part of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day.

By MISTY HIGGINS

For The State Journal

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Standing at a child-like height of 4 feet, 2 inches and decked out in a very grown-up black jacket, heels and silver jewelry, Amy Roloff told the crowd she doesn’t spend much time wishing she were average size.

“All I’ve ever known is being a little person,” she said.

She said her parents instilled in her a mindset that she should always focus on the things she could do rather than the things she could not do due to her achondroplasia dwarfism.

It is that mindset that has made Roloff a sought-after spokeswoman for overcoming adversity and advocating for people with dwarfism and other disabilities. She spoke at Shepherd University’s Student Center Feb. 23 where she spoke to more than 200 in recognition of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day.

Rollof is best known for her TLC reality show, “Little People, Big World”, which shares the story of her family’s life, including husband, Matt, and children, Zachary, Jeremy, Molly and Jacob on the family farm near Portland, Ore.

The show spanned six seasons with 230 episodes averaging 2.5 million viewers worldwide each year. The final episode aired in December of 2010.

Rolloff’s story of overcoming challenges has led to appearances on "Oprah," "Good Morning America," the "Rachel Ray Show," "The View" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," as well as interviews with The New York Times, People Magazine and McCall’s.

In 2009, Roloff founded the Amy Roloff Charity Foundation, a nonprofit that works to advocate, support and inspire kids including youth at risk, kids with special needs and other challenges. She also serves on the board of Little People of America, an organization that advocates for people with dwarfism.

Rollof delivered a humorous and heartfelt presentation to the crowd of mostly students at the Storer Center. She focused her lecture around a quote from Mike Singletary, former NFL player who most recently coached the San Francisco 49ers. The quote, “Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play,” sums up the challenge for little people and lots of other people too, Roloff said.

“All anyone wants is the opportunity to play the game,” she said.

In her presentation, Roloff said playing sports is one of the best things that anyone can do for themselves. Sports enables people to feel like a part of something and to experience the adrenaline of playing and being on a team. The experiences help with self-esteem, confidence, social interaction, she added.

“It pushes us beyond boundaries. And it teaches us about losing and winning. It helps you learn to pick yourself up and play in the game of life.”

Rollof told the audiences of her life experiences. She said her negative attitudes about herself did
Roloff said while growing up she saw everyone as “cookie cutter people,” all made with sugar.

“I was peanut butter with nuts, and I wanted to be on that platter,” she said.

Roloff said she spent her younger years worrying about her image, saying the right things, trying to blend in.

“Can little people blend in? Come on,” she said.

“I could not meet that imaginary standard.

“I could never imagine I’d be here speaking today,” she said.

The size of a child does not indicate the mind of a child, Roloff said. As a child, she wished she were taller.

“Life is easier when you’re big,” she said.

Roloff said she had to overcome a negative attitude and people’s perceptions of her.

“When you’re different and you react in a negative way, then they perceive you to be negative,” she said. “I was amazed at people’s attitudes, what they do, how mean, hateful and hurtful they are because some come in a different package.

“I wanted an opportunity to be in the game of life,” she said.

Her parents, two older sisters and younger brother didn’t pamper her Roloff said.

“They were simple, practical Midwestern people,” she said. “I had to manage on my own.”

Roloff learned to play the clarinet, holding the instrument in an unorthodox position so her arms could reach the keys. She couldn’t play and march in parades at the same time, so she faked it by marching only, she said.

“I had to march double time because of my short legs,” she said.

Roloff learned to play sports and competed in the Dwarf Athletic Association of America events. She also became a soccer coach.

Roloff and her husband, Matt, who also is a little person, have four children, including a set of fraternal twin boys. Zachary is a little person, and Jeremy is average height.

Their family home is a pumpkin farm in Oregon that became the stage for their show on the TLC network that lasted six seasons and ended in December.

Camera crews followed family members during their everyday lives.

“Whatever difference we have on the outside, we’re the same on the inside,” Roloff said. “We raise our families, fight and yell just like any family.”

Dozens of audience members raised hands Wednesday when Roloff asked if they watched the show.

Her interest and participation in sports, competing against those with similar capabilities, taught her to push beyond her own boundaries, she said.

She sees the same qualities in her son, Zachary. Because of his size, “he had to know every position to prove that he was capable of being on the team,” she said.

To play against average-sized players, he had to “play harder, run faster and have more endurance,” she said.
Tax increment financing, levies

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

Two ideas that will increase the ability of local governments to deal with their problems have shown some movement in the House of Delegates in the last couple of weeks. Tax Increment Financing is a concept that first came to West Virginia, but it has been in use for quite some time in most other states. The idea is to use the additional revenue resulting from development of property (and the resulting increase in value) as debt service for bonds that enable the development to occur in.

Meanwhile the Constitutional Revision Committee (I sit on this committee too) has approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would lower the portion of the vote needed to pass a bond or an excess levy from 60 percent to a simple majority. I also strongly support this proposal.

An "excess" levy is a tax increase that "exceeds" the limit on property taxes imposed by the West Virginia Constitution. The voters must approve any such increase at a referendum.

The term "landslide" in politics means an overwhelming election victory. Political scientists and practicing politicians generally agree in defining a "landslide" as a victory by a margin of greater than 10 percent. If my opponent defeats me by a margin of 55 to 44 percent, I have lost in a "landslide." Such a margin is difficult to achieve. Requiring an even greater (20 percent) margin for a vote of the people to raise property taxes to fund parks, police, libraries or some other public endeavor seems therefore wildly unreasonable to me. If the increase in taxes being proposed in a given situation is not worth the benefit gained from the expenditure of the funds I think a majority of the voters will recognize it.

The logic led West Virginia to make this very change 20 years ago to referenda on excess levies and bonds for schools. Since then the excess rate of school bond and excess levy referenda has increased significantly. Meanwhile many proposed levies for public services have lost despite getting a majority of the votes in the referendum. I think city and county governments should be permitted to play by the same rules that govern local school boards.

One of my fellow Eastern Panhandle delegates proposed earlier in the current legislative session that Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties be allowed to leave West Virginia and join Virginia. That idea is nonsensical in part because it is impossible to achieve. We would need the permission of a majority of West Virginians to leave and we aren't going to get it.

However I think we can achieve greater autonomy for the Eastern Panhandle. The only way to get that is by allowing greater authority for local governments. The two proposals discussed above are both important steps in that direction.
CATF to kick off five-play repertory Saturday

The Board of Trustees of the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University will celebrate the 2011 five-play repertory with a season teaser on Saturday, Feb. 26 with a 7 p.m. performance at the Studio Theater in Sansone Hall, 310 N. King St., in Shepherdstown. "The 2011 season of the Contemporary American Theater Festival packs a punch," said CATF Producing Director Ed Fleenor in a press release. "It cannot wait to share these incredible five new Americas plays with our audience. The season teaser is our official kick-off for the 21st season and the perfect opportunity to get a taste of what summer will bring."

The teaser will feature excerpts from each of the 2011 plays "From Prague" by Kyle Braddock, "Rage" by David Mamet, "A Time of the Moon" by Sam Shepard, "We Are Here" by Tracy Thorne and "The Insurgents" by Lucy Thurber. Performances will include surprise guests from the Shepherdstown community; students from Shepherd University; and CATF actors Michael Goodwin ("The Overwhelmed," 2006; "Completist Female Stage Beauty," 1999).


Tickets for the season teaser reception and performance are $40. They are available by calling 304-876-3304 or online at www.catf.org/bwoffice.

Funds from award to recruit, retain arts faculty

The Shepherd University Foundation has created the Thomas W. Miller Endowed Chair for Visual Arts. Funds from the faculty excellence award will be used to recruit, recognize and retain outstanding visual arts faculty. As a 56-year resident of Jefferson County, Miller wants a local entity to benefit from his estate and feels Shepherd is critical to the cultural and economic life of the Eastern Panhandle. A lifelong artist and remixed high school art teacher who also acted as department head for the largest art department in Baltimore City Schools, he hopes it will further develop Shepherd's visual arts program and ensure financial provisions for future generations of Shepherd students.

Now residing in Shambrook Junction, Miller takes advantage of his close proximity to Shepherd's campus by utilizing its various amenities. He has taken more than 40 visual arts credit hours at Shepherd. Miller made his gift through a bequest in his will, joining the more than 100 members of the Joseph P. McMurrin Society who have left Shepherd know they wish to provide for the future of the University with planned gift bequests. For more information about please contact Monica Linkemptt, Shepherd University Foundation, PO. Box 500, Shepherdstown, WV 25443-0000. 304-876-2997, mlink@shepherd.edu or visit www.shepherd.edu/fnd/taxweb.
Department traveling to Japan in March

The Department of Contemporary Art and Theater is traveling to Japan, March 2012. The public is welcome to participate in this 11-day excursion to the Japan. The tour that includes three days in Tokyo, one in Hakone, three in Kyoto, one in Hiroshima and one in Osaka.

Journey to the Land of the Rising Sun with the Shepherd Department of Contemporary Art & Theater to discover the unique cultural and unparalleled landscapes of Japan. Walk through sacred Shinto shrines, watch artisans' fashion traditional crafts and ride the world-class bullet train. A visit to Japan lets you experience 11 centuries of history and cutting-edge modernity, all in the same trip. Emerge with a comprehensive view of how Japan’s culture and vibrant traditions influence the promising future of this ancient land.

The tour will be an Education First Tour (EF Tours). The department has utilized EF Tours for over 20 years. By enrolling now participants will have a year to make monthly payments and have the tour paid off a few months before the actual trip. The department will be offering a course in conjunction with the tour during Spring 2012.

The package price includes round trip air from Washington, D.C., area, hotels, breakfast, lunch and dinner during the stay in Japan, all excursions listed on the itinerary. This is an inclusive package. The price is based on 20 paying participants, the more participants the lower the cost per participant. Prices will go up after February and will continue to rise each month. You are encouraged to enroll early to insure the lowest possible cost to you.

The course taught by Rhonda Smith will familiarize participants with Japanese art forms and the significance of particular sites. Artists, movements and styles will be discussed to help enrich the on-site experience of the tour. While in Japan knowledgeable city guides and a full-time bilingual tour consultant to help us understand the history will accompany the group.

For additional information, contact Rhonda Smith at rsmith@shepherd.edu

Tour Itinerary may be viewed at:

It is also possible to enroll from this site. To enroll you will need a credit card to pay the $95 enrollment fee.

Women’s studies program to host event

On March 22, Friends of the Shepherdstown Library and the Women’s Studies Program at Shepherd University will present the tale of a 1950s housewife who became a dynamic activist for the Equal Rights Amendment.

The program will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Shepherdstown War Memorial Building. Eloise Schettler, a well-known professional storyteller, has been spinning tales for nearly 20 years. This program, “Pushing Boundaries,” is her own story of transformation. A fellow storyteller has said of her that she knows “right where the heart and funnybone reside in us all.”

Tickets are now on sale at the Shepherdstown Public Library. All proceeds from the event will go to support library programs.

Admission price is $15. Students will be admitted free. Seating is limited, so tickets should be purchased in advance, if possible.

For further information, contact Larry Blash at larryblash@hotmail.com or 1-304-876-9224.
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Tickets are now on sale at the Shepherdstown Public Library. All proceeds from the event will go to support library programs. Admission price is $10. Students will be admitted free. Seating is limited, so tickets should be purchased in advance if possible. The War Memorial Building, Shepherd University, is located at the corner of German and King Streets in Shepherdstown.

For further information, contact Larry Blash at larry-blash@frontier.com or 304-876-2924.