'Whatever difference we have on the outside, we're the same on the inside'

Amy Roloff, star of 'Little People, Big World' speaks at Shepherd University

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Amy Roloff, a 4-foot-2-inch dynamo, TV star and soccer mom, stood on a low stage and spoke at eye level to 300 people Wednesday morning at Shepherd University.

"It's different growing up with a disability," she said. "I've seen more jean brand names than faces."

Roloff, best known for her family-based reality TV show, "Little People, Big World," was invited to speak in conjunction with National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day. The lecture was sponsored by Shepherd University Intramurals, Intramurals Coordinator Keith A. Worell Jr. said.
"It's typical of what I've faced all my life," said Roloff, who walked the mile from the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center to campus.

In social settings, average-size people can see and talk to each other, Roloff said.

"It's hard for little people and people in wheelchairs to join in their conversation," she said.

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.


"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.
Play festival preview
Season Teaser features excerpts from the 2011 Contemporary American Theater Festival plays: "From Prague," "Race," "Ages of the Moon," "We Are Here" and "The Insurgents." Reception, 7 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m. performance. Studio Theater, Sara Cree Hall, 310 N. King St., Shepherdstown, W.Va. $45. Call 304-876-3304, e-mail info@catf.org or go to www.catf.org.
CHARLESTON, W. Va. — This past week HB925—the prohibiting texting while operating a motor vehicle bill—passed the House and was sent to the Senate. This bill makes it illegal to text while driving, but it makes it a secondary offense, not a primary offense. That means that violators would only be cited if they were pulled over for another offense, such as running a stop light or speeding. At present, 30 states and Washington, D.C., have banned texting while driving. Twenty-six of those states enforce it as a primary offense. Violators would be fined $100 for a first offense, $200 for a second offense, and $400 for subsequent offenses. The bill passed the House on a vote of 92 to 5. Those voting against the bill felt that the bill just wasn’t strong enough.

Marcellus Shale was once again the topic of discussion this week—this time as a public hearing. Among the 54 people who came to voice their opinions on the subject were a few gas industry representatives citing the potential for job creation and economic benefits for West Virginia. However, the majority—more than 40—of those who came to speak were here to share their experiences dealing with the hardships they have had to endure since the drilling began on or near their land. In some cases land that had been in the family for generations. Some spoke of beautiful fish filled streams that no longer held fish or clear water. One woman even carried a glass jar full of murky tap water from her home. Property damage included removal of trees and the building of roads which dissected fields—making them unfit for planting or making hay. Damage has also occurred to our public roads leading to these sites.

More important than property damage and water pollution were the concerns given by two mothers. The first carried a picture of her son and stated that he has been sick ever since the drilling started. The second mother told of her three-year-old son waking her in the middle of the night because their house smelled bad. It was full of gas fumes.

When individuals who own property submitted samples for testing, they came back with a common ingredient—arsenic.

Two bills relating to Marcellus Shale are currently in the system. HB308—The Hydraulic Fracturing and Horizontal Drilling Gas Act is 88 pages long. HB3042—Relating to the regulation of oil and gas wells is 195 pages long. A subcommittee will be working on these bills and then they will go to the full Committee on the Judiciary. I have obtained multiple copies of both of these bills and have placed them at the Hampshire County Library for anyone wishing to view them. As these bills are advanced and amended and as abstracts are compiled and printed, I will make them available to you at the library.

Thursday morning began with a breakfast honoring Career and Technical Education. Among the students speaking was Shauna Shaffer. Shauna is a student at Hampshire High School and the President of West Virginia DECA. DECA is an association of marketing students. According to Miss Shaffer, the state DECA reached all of their goals this year and increased their membership. Accompanying her to Charleston was her mother, Net Shaffer.

Also in attendance for the breakfast were Scott Staley, Director of Career Technical Education for Mineral County, J. D. Corbin, Career Technical Coordinator for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind; and Isaac Lewis, Hampshire High School Veterinary Science Teacher.

Thursday was also Higher Education Day at the Capitol. President Jerry O’Dell from Potomac State College was here representing his school. He along with other college presidents from around the state were honored in the chamber of the House of Delegates with a citation. Libby Nichols, Alumni Division Assistant; Patty Lee, Program Assistant; and Drew Burdaker, Student Government President were also here with a display showcasing the good things happening at their school.

Shepherd University was represented by Jillian Kesner, daughter of Don Kesner. Miss Kesner is a staff writer and content provider for the Office of External Affairs at the University. She also had a colorful display of the educational opportunities and activities at Shepherd.

Eastern Community College was represented by two Hampshire County residents—Bri Hiett and Harth Clem. They are both wind energy technology students and are looking forward to working with wind turbines. According to both young men, one of the qualifications for the job is not being afraid of heights.

On Friday, February 18, Hampshire County was well represented by pages from three schools. Springfield Elementary students—Isaiah LaBonte, Katelyn Cox, Austin Canaday, Brittany Nelson, Kayla Smith, and Hayden Stevens; John J. Corbin students—Phillip Nestor and Lilly Backley; and Romney Middle School student Abigail Nestor did an outstanding job on a busy day in the House. Escorting our students to the Capitol were Vonley, Mary Kay, Carstina, and Emeralda Canaday; Sami, Matthew, Alex, and Caleb Nelson; Ames and Ashley Smith; Ralph and Penny Backley; Clarissa LaBonte; Sherri Cox; Jennifer Deurr; Cathy Moore; and Cindy and Dave Nestor.

Congratulations to Jordan Dawson on his great accomplishment of becoming an Eagle Scout this week.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the Capitol in Charleston by phone: 304-349-3157, or e-mail: ruth.rowan@whouse.gov
State missed out on much of post-war prosperity, new book says
By Paul J. Nyden

Many West Virginians missed the generation of national prosperity after World War II and faced new economic, social and environmental problems.

As the coal industry mechanized, tens of thousands of West Virginians lost good-paying jobs and benefits. Many left the state. Others remained, but faced economic difficulties, even while the Mountain State provided coal and other resources spurring national prosperity.

But during the 1960s, John F. Kennedy’s “New Frontier” and Lyndon B. Johnson’s “War on Poverty” programs helped spark the growth of grassroots movements that began to challenge major economic interests, seeking to improve life in the mountains.

These are the themes of “An Appalachian Reawakening: West Virginia and the Perils of the N ew Machine Age, 1945-1972” by Jerry Bruce Thomas, a professor emeritus of history at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown.

Between 1950 and 1953 alone, coal employment dropped by 23 percent, while other employment dropped by 17 percent.

“West Virginia’s woes derived from dependence on a resource-based economy highly sensitive to the whims of the national and global markets, the overweening power of out-of-state economic interests and their local agents,” Thomas writes.

During the 1950s, agricultural employment also fell in West Virginia, from 120,000 to 75,000, contributing “nightly to the poverty of the region.” Thousands of people working for glass factories, textile plants and railroads also lost their jobs.

Problems facing African-Americans are explored in one of the book’s most engaging chapters. After World War II, the areas with the most blacks were the Eastern Panhandle, where many were descendants of slaves, and the southern counties, to which thousands of blacks migrated from the Deep South to work in the mines, in places like McDowell County.

But with the technological advances made during the 1950s, African-American miners were the first to lose their jobs.

The number of black miners in West Virginia fell from 22,089 in 1930 to 14,473 in 1950 and 1,685 in 1970. They dropped from 23 percent of all coal miners to just four percent 40 years later.

In 1954, after the historic Brown v. Board of Education ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court found school segregation unconstitutional, West Virginia Gov. William C. Marland was one of the very first political leaders in the South to back integrated schools.

But ending segregation was not immediate. In 1963, McDowell County still had 28 all-black public schools. The last all-black high school in West Virginia, in Bluefield, closed in 1969.

Ironically, school integration also had one very negative impact. When West Virginia schools were finally integrated, hundreds of black principals, teachers and coaches lost their jobs.

Laws discriminating against women also changed. In 1956, women were finally allowed to sit on juries. West Virginia was the only state that still had all-male juries.

Thomas explores the impacts of innovative federal social programs during the 1960s. McDowell, Logan and Mingo counties were the very first counties in the whole nation to get food stamps.

But by late 1965, the increasing costs of the escalating Vietnam War began siphoning money away from social programs.
Reforms never did much to change the "real problems" facing the state, Thomas argues, including: absentee ownership of coal and other natural resources, a tax structure manipulated to help wealthy out-of-state investors, few environmental controls on coal and timbering, as well as poor health and hospital care for the poor.

Places such as Mingo County lost population - 16 percent in the 1950s and another 18 percent in the 1960s. In 1960, 46 percent of all Mingo County residents were living below federal poverty levels.

Groups such as the Appalachian Volunteers and VISTA workers worked to bring more equality to the state, and sometimes, helped create new community action groups.

At the time, many political leaders, including the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd, were not supportive of many of these efforts. Byrd specifically criticized federal anti-poverty programs, Thomas writes.

Thomas also tells the stories of movements promoting greater mine safety, giving miners Black Lung benefits and controlling strip mining, particularly after the Farmington mine explosion killed 78 miners in November 1968.

"In the turbulent setting after Farmington, one of the most effective grassroots labor movements in the history of the state and of the country emerged in the coalfields," Thomas writes.

An Appalachian Reawakening tells the stories of Miners for Democracy and the Black Lung Association, which fought the majority of West Virginia's medical professionals who denied that Black Lung existed.

The dramatic 1969 Black Lung strike, which closed down 95 percent of the state's mines, convinced legislators to pass new legislation and forced a reluctant Gov. Arch Moore to sign it. It was "biggest political strike in the nation's history," according to Thomas.

National rank-and-file efforts within the United Mine Workers replaced the union's corrupt and undemocratic leaders in a 1972 election ordered by the federal government, in the wake of the death of UMW reformer Jock Yablonski, planned by then UMW President Tony Boyle, who ended up in prison.

But ultimately, Thomas concludes, many efforts at progress failed, especially efforts to control strip mining.

"Money and the imperatives of the new machine age trumped ideals, the environment and concerns of small property owners and residents of strip-mine areas."

The coal industry also continued to pass huge costs to the public, including costs to clean up polluted streams, and mine drainage, landslides and scenic degradation - costs which have risen with the recent explosion of mountaintop removal mining.

Thomas devotes a chapter to the tragic flood in Buffalo Hollow in Logan County in February 1972, which killed 125 people and left 4,000 of 5,000 local residents homeless. Government regulatory agencies routinely ignored evidence suggesting such tragedies could take place.

An Appalachian Reawakening also challenges myths like the widespread claim that strip mining promotes the development of new industries and building projects by creating flat land.

Only three percent of West Virginia's surface-mined land has ever been used for anything else, Thomas points out.

Between 1985 and 2001, mountaintop removal mining polluted or buried 1,200 miles of streams and cut down seven percent of all Central Appalachian forests.

An Appalachian Reawakening is the twelfth volume in the "West Virginia and Appalachia," series from West Virginia University Press.

The series also includes "An Appalachian New Deal: West Virginia in the Great Depression," also written by Thomas.

Reach Paul J. Nyden at pjny...@wvnewslet.com or 304-348-5164.
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Thirty-nine Washington County residents have been named to the dean’s list at Shepherd University.

- Williamsport — Javier Frank Mercado, Braden A. Myers and Rachel Marie VanMerte.
- Smithsburg — Tiffany Nicole Root, Ashley Nicole Fogle, Cody Lowe Waldron and Kasie Marie Beaver.
- Keedysville — Jerica Allene Hewett, Aubrey Alyssa Rainbow, Nikolas Aaron Stitely and Megan Leigh Burtner.
- Hancock — Laura Nicole Baker, Kelsea Bryn Pittman and Thomas James Willoughby.
- Boonsboro — Travis Scott Hahn, Holly Kathryn Lushbaugh, Whitney Tyler Sheppard and Samantha Anne Young.
- Clear Spring — Asya Marie Brown and Elliott Chase Reid.
March 1, 2011

Shepherd geologist is W.Va. Professor of the Year
By Davin White

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Edward Snyder, a geology professor at Shepherd University, has received the Professor of the Year Award from the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia.

Officials with the foundation honored Snyder, along with four other finalists, during a banquet Tuesday evening at the state Culture Center.

Snyder, a member of Shepherd's faculty since 1986, has led efforts to develop the environmental studies major at Shepherd and expand the university's Institute for Environmental Studies, according to a Faculty Merit Foundation news release.

He has served on the Shepherd University Honors Program committee since its inception in 1991. He has helped to develop and maintain the honors program and also has directed honors students in their individual research.

Robert Rapp, a history and political science professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College, and a contributing columnist for The Charleston Gazette, was the runner-up.

The three other finalists were Albert Budelew, a biology professor at Bethany College; Maria Carmen Ridel, a modern languages professor at Marshall University; and John Taylor, an education professor at Glenville State College.

Snyder received a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Illinois and master's and bachelor's degrees in geology from Eastern Washington University. He also received a bachelor's degree in biology from Eastern Washington.

Snyder serves as chairman of the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board, and frequently travels to Charleston on issues associated with statewide water quality.

Since 1991, Snyder also has taught at Shepherd's Washington Gateway Academy, a weeklong pre-college program that's intended to encourage seventh-graders to think about and plan for college.

Each year, the Faculty Merit Foundation honors an outstanding faculty member at a West Virginia college or university. The award winner receives a $10,000 cash prize. Smaller awards are given to four other finalists.

United Bank provides financial support for the Professor of the Year Award. The Faculty Merit Foundation is affiliated with the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Reach Davin White at davinwh...@wvgazette.com or 304-349-1254.
Jim Lehrer announced as Commencement speaker

PBS NewsHour anchor Jim Lehrer will receive an honorary degree at Shepherd University's 138th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14. The resolution was approved during an executive session of the Shepherd University Board of Governors at its February 24 meeting. Lehrer will also deliver the commencement address.

Lehrer started his journalism career as a newspaper reporter and editor, eventually joining PBS as a public affairs coordinator. In 1975, the "Robert MacNeil Report" premiered with Lehrer serving as the Washington correspondent. The show eventually became "The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour" and continued until 1996 when it became "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," after MacNeil's departure from the program.

Lehrer has served as the moderator of 11 nationally televised presidential debates during the last six presidential elections. The author of 20 novels, two memoirs, and three plays, Lehrer has won two Emmy awards and was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame along with MacNeil.

Presentation to focus on congressional investigations

The Shepherd University Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series will sponsor a program featuring Dr. Ray Smuck and Dr. David Holloway of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies on Tuesday, March 1 at 6 p.m. in the Scarborough Library reading room.

The two colleagues will discuss highlights and lowlights of congressional investigations throughout American history, from the great debate of American troops by Indians in 1792 to the investigation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.

The discussion will also include biographical accounts such as investigations into Wall Street, Watergate, and Whitewater, the impeachment of President Clinton, and many other events in American politics. Smuck and Holloway are co-authors of a two-volume study, Congress Investigates: A Critical and Documentary History, to be published this spring.

The Scarborough Society is a friend of the library organization established in 2002 by the Shepherd University Foundation. Its annual membership fund helps support library acquisitions, technology, and programs. Membership is open to all interested supporters of the Scarborough Library.

For further information about the lecture series or the Scarborough Society, contact the Shepherd University Foundation at 540-876-597.
Kearneysville

Little People

Amy Roloff, best known for her TLC reality show Little People/Big World, was scheduled for Tuesday night at Shepherd University; however, inclement weather cancelled the lecture. She graciously agreed to stay over and spoke to a capacity crowd on Wednesday morning in recognition of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day. Her main focus was using her newfound celebrity to make a positive change for kids with special needs and the impact it has on families. Roloff spoke of her challenges growing up in a normal family in Michigan, throughout her schooling and onto college, marriage and raising four children. Her humorous stories were inspiring. She is active on the board of Little People of America, an organization that advocates for people like her who has dwarfism.

I had the opportunity, along with my daughter-in-law, to attend this lecture, and I came away with a better understanding of the topic she was advocating.

March Birthday’s

Aquamarine/Bloodstone is the birthstone for the month of March with the flower being the Daffodil/Chrysanthemum. Congratulations go to Roger Lang on the 2nd; Nelson Wolf celebrates on the 14th; Terry Walker, Jr. on the 17th; Alverita Stride falls on the 21st along with Daniel (D.L.) Stuck. Tori Walls on the 27th; and rounding out the month is Juanita Anderson Cushman on the 30th. Congratulations goes to Vaughn and Kathy Russell on their 15th wedding anniversary...

Have you ever had someone ask you if you know so-in-so that lives in Kearneysville? Did you know the Kearneysville Post Office delivers mail to Summit Point, Middleway, even up in Berkeley County? The nucleus of our actual Kearneysville community radiates from the stoplight at the intersection of Route Nine and Kearneysville Pike west to the county line; north to the intersection of Van Cleevesville; south to Border Road and east to Bardane. Just because you have a Kearneysville address, you may not live in the community. Folks, I also encourage everyone that sorts their mail to watch and if you receive mail addressed to someone else, have the courtesy to return the mail to the post office or leave in your mailbox. I have spoken to several who did not receive a particular piece of mail that was expected, myself included.

Leaving you with this thought: “A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make learning necessary.” That’s all for this week.
Rockefeller recommends Eastern Panhandle judge for federal bench
By Andrew Clevenger
CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The state's two U.S. senators have recommended an Eastern Panhandle circuit judge for a federal judgeship based in Martinsburg.

Sens. Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin asked President Obama to nominate Gina Marie Groh for the seat on the federal bench left vacant after U.S. District Judge W. Craig Broadwater died in 2006. Legislation in Charleston and Washington has been introduced to name the federal courthouse in Martinsburg after Broadwater.

Groh is one of four judges in the state's 23rd Circuit, which includes Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties.

"Judge Groh is a proven leader in West Virginia's legal community and is dedicated to upholding the principles of justice and fairness, which we expect from all members of our federal judiciary," Rockefeller said in a prepared statement.

He noted that Groh has been a judge for four years, a private attorney for nine years and an assistant prosecutor in Berkeley and Jefferson counties for eight years. She has a bachelor's degree from Shepherd University and a law degree from West Virginia University.

"I was surprised to learn that as far as historians can determine, there has never been a resident of the Eastern Panhandle elevated to a federal judgeship in West Virginia," Rockefeller said. "I am very happy to be the one to change that for the good of the Panhandle, the state and the nation."

Earlier, Rockefeller and the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd had recommended Charleston lawyer Nick Casey for the Martinsburg position, but Casey withdrew his name from consideration late last year after the White House took no action for over a year.

Casey, a former chairman of the state Democratic Party, has since become managing partner at the firm Lewis Glasser Casey & Bollins and was recently elected general chairman of the West Virginia Democratic Legislative Council.

Manchin joined Rockefeller in praising Groh.

"I was extremely proud to appoint Judge Groh to the circuit court when I was governor of West Virginia, and I join Sen. Rockefeller in recommending her for the federal bench," Manchin said. "As a former prosecutor, she's fair-minded, has impeccable standards and will be an excellent addition to the court."

If nominated, Groh must be approved by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and then the full Senate.

Reach Andrew Clevenger at acleven...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-1723.
Shepherd professor is W.Va. Professor of the Year

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. (AP) -- A foundation has named Shepherd University professor Ed Snyder as the West Virginia Professor of the Year.

Shepherd says in a news release that Snyder received the award from the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia on Tuesday at a ceremony in Charleston. The annual award includes a $10,000 cash prize.

Snyder is a professor of environmental studies and chairman of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences. He also is chairman of the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board.

He has been a faculty member at Shepherd since 1986.

The foundation is affiliated with the West Virginia Humanities Council.
Shepherd professor earns honor

Ed Snyder, Shepherd University professor and chair of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences, was named the West Virginia Professor of the Year Tuesday.

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University faculty member Ed Snyder recently received one of West Virginia’s top educational honors: the West Virginia Professor of the Year. Since 1991, honored educators have been selected to represent the state in the national program. Snyder is the second Shepherd professor to have received this honor.

Snyder is an assistant professor of environmental studies and education. The award, which he received in Washington, D.C., has been given to just 71 professors in 38 states. It was presented to Snyder by the National Association of Colleges and Universities.

Snyder has been a member of the faculty since 1991 and has served as a faculty member with the Honors Program since 1994. He has served as an educational liaison to the University Honors Program since 1991 and has also been a member of the Shepherd Honors Program since 1994.

Professor

FROM PAGE B1

cash prize. Smaller monetary rewards were given to the award’s other four finalists.

The Faculty Merit Foundation has recognized those who have been named the Shepherd Professor of the Year in recent years. In addition to the statewide recognition, winners receive $1,000.

Financial support for the award is provided by United Bank.

— From staff reports

Faculty Research Forum set today

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University’s Faculty Research Forum will present “Not Your Grandfather’s Orchestra Concert: How South America is revitalizing today’s classical music scene.”

It will be presented by Mark McCoy of the Department of Music at 7 p.m. today in the Frank Center’s Walker Horton Shipley Recital Hall at Shepherd University.

Orchestral music from South America is finding a place in today’s concert halls alongside the standard European music that has been so common in programs of the last 150 years. By taking a look at South American composers such as Alverez, Marquez and Piazzola, McCoy will describe new inspirations and techniques that continue the rise of South American music in the concert halls.

More information is available at the website www.shepherd.edu/aaweb/trf/.
Judge Groh nominated for federal post

Sens. Rockefeller, Manchin ask that she be appointed to Broadwater’s vacant seat

BY EDWARD MARSHALL  JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

HARPERSFLELD – U.S. Sens. Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin, Jr., announced Wednesday that she’s asked that Groh be nominated to fill the seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Richmond. The seat was last held by Judge John M. Rollins, who resigned in 2006.

Groh would become the first woman to hold a federal judgeship in the state’s history. Manchin was governor of the state. She was re-elected to a full term in 2008.

She currently presides over cases in both Berkeley and Morgan counties.

“I was extremely proud to appoint Judge Groh to the circuit court when I was governor of West Virginia, and I join Senator Rockefeller in recommending her for the federal bench,” Manchin said.

“Groh has a strong commitment to service, has impeccable standards and will be an excellent addition to the court." Prior to becoming a judge, Groh spent nine years as a litigation associate at firms in Martinsburg and Washington, D.C., and later served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Berkeley and Jefferson counties for more than eight years.

Groh earned her Juris Doctor degree from Shepherd University. A resident of Charles Town, Groh is also involved in community-oriented programs, from participating in “Robes to Schools” – a program that helps school children learn about judges and the judicial process – to volunteering with the Meals With Love and Minin in Charles Town.

“Judge Groh is an extremely strong candidate for this position who would carry on Judge Broadwater’s tradition of treating all litigants with respect and deciding cases in a fair manner. I have deep confidence in her ability to fill this position,” Rockefeller said.

He also commented on the possibility that Groh may become the first Eastern Panhandle resident to become a federal judge if her nomination is confirmed.

“I was surprised to learn that as far as historians can determine, there has never been a resident of the Eastern Panhandle elevated to a federal judgeship in West Virginia. I am very happy to be the one to change that for the good of the Panhandle, the state and the nation,” he said.

Rockefeller went on to thank all of the candidates who volunteered to serve in the positon left vacant by Broadwater, including Casey, who is now a managing partner at the law firm of Lewis Glasser & Rollins.

--- The Associated Press contributed to this article.

--- Staff writer Edward Marshall can be reached at 304-263-8931, ext. 182, or emarshall@journal-news.net

From Martinsburg:

I am absolutely appalled that the West Virginia House of Delegates has passed the bill requiring a doctor’s prescription to get cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine. We are going to have to pay for an expensive crossing guard attempt to direct Shepherd University students twice a day. I wonder how much more efficient and cost effective a simple, open-air pedestrian underpass might have proven when that whole intersection was redone a few years ago.
Groh recommended for federal bench

Gina M. Groh, left, of Charles Town, W.Va., has served as a 23rd Judicial Circuit Judge in West Virginia since 2006.

"Judge Groh is an extremely strong candidate for this position who would carry on Judge Broadway's tradition of treating all litigants with respect and deciding cases in a fair manner," Rockefeller said in a news release. "I have deep confidence in her ability to fill this position."

Rockefeller called Groh a proven leader with a wide-ranging, 25-year legal career that includes four years as a judge, nine years in private law practice and eight years as an assistant county prosecutor in Berkeley and Jefferson counties.

"I am humbled and honored at the same time by Sen. Rockefeller's recommendation," Groh said Wednesday night in a telephone interview. "He was very thorough and very thoughtful in making sure I was a good fit for the federal bench, and he also made sure it was a good fit for me and my family."

Groh, of Charles Town, W.Va., would become the first Eastern Panhandle resident elevated to a federal judgeship, Rockefeller said.

She was appointed to serve as 23rd Judicial Circuit Judge in 2006, then was elected in 2008 to serve a full term.

"I was extremely proud to appoint Judge Groh to the circuit court when I was Governor of West Virginia, and I join Senator Rockefeller in recommending her for the federal bench," Manchin said in the release.

Groh has a law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Shepherd University.

She is admitted to practice before the West Virginia Supreme Court, the Maryland Court of Appeals, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts of West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Groh said she was thankful for the appointment by Manchin and for the Eastern Panhandle voters' confidence in me" that helped her to be considered for the federal judicial position.

She said she would be "elated and very appreciative" if she were to fill the U.S. District Court position.

"I consider it a chance for me to learn and grow," she said.

Rockefeller said Groh has been involved in her community through the Robert to Schools program, which helps schoolchildren learn about judges and the judicial process, and she has volunteered with the Meals with Love Ministry in Charles Town.
W.Va. senators suggest Groh for federal judgeship
By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - U.S. Senators Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin said Wednesday they have asked the White House to consider Berkeley County Circuit Judge Giaa Marie Groh for a federal judgeship.

Rockefeller announced that he'd like to see Groh nominated to fill a U.S. District Court seat for Northern West Virginia that has been vacant since the 2006 death of Judge Craig Broadwater. The late Sen. Robert C. Byrd had nominated Charleston lawyer Nick Casey in October 2009, but he wasn't confirmed in December.

Rockefeller called Groh a proven leader with a wide-ranging, 21-year legal career that includes four years as judge, nine years in private law practice and eight years as an assistant county prosecutor.

Groh could become the first Eastern Panhandle resident elevated to a federal judgeship, Rockefeller said.

She has a law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Shepherd University.

Groh is admitted to practice before the West Virginia Supreme Court, the Maryland Court of Appeals, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts of West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.
Shepherd holds annual CareerFest for students

BY MEGAN FISHER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Employers and aspiring students came together at Shepherd University Wednesday afternoon for the school’s annual CareerFest.

CareerFest is a job and internship fair held solely for Shepherd University students and alumni. Approximately 70 employers offering internships, full- and part-time positions filled the university’s Wellness Center.

Erin Robinson from The Mental Health Center talks with social work student Kelly Penwell about opportunities at the company.

“Victoria Buchbauer, director of career services

Victoria Buchbauer, director of career services, said a wide range of degrees were represented at the fair.

“My goal is to make our students successful,” Buchbauer said. “The great thing about going to a career fair and having visibility with employers is that you’re making a contact. ... It’s about networking and moving forward.” Buchbauer coordinated the

See CAREER B2
event along with co-coordinators Aaron Rock and Barbara Kandalis.

Booths offered opportunities to degrees from business to accounting. Russ Quinn from Ace Info Solutions and Tyrone Allmond from Allmond & Company LLC were looking for new talent.

“Our goal every year is to hire four or five interns,” Quinn said. “We’ll keep them as interns for two or three years and then try to get them full-time positions.”

It was Allmond’s second year participating in the fair. “It’s been terrific,” Allmond said. “I’m looking for a lot of accounting or computer science majors.”

Social work also had a large representation at the fair. “This is a terrific opportunity for our seniors who are anticipating graduating in May, because they get to network,” said Geraldine Crawley-Woods, a professor in the social work department. “Even if the agencies don’t necessarily have an opening for them, they still have that contact.”

Many social work students were looking to fulfill a demanding field work requirement of 600 hours. Junior Wasi Banire ran out of resumes and was leaving to print more.

“I’m trying to get myself out there as much as possible,” Banire said.

Computer information systems student Tim Jones was doing the same.

“I found a good many jobs that are in reference to my study,” Jones said. “I’m not sure that I would have found as many places that are accepting applications if I were looking on my own.”

Career services will hold another event for Shepherd education students. A job fair for teachers will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 17 in the Ram’s Den where 14 schools will be represented.
CATF event previews plays

By Kelly Cambrel
Chronicle Staff

The Contemporary American Theater Festival hosted a "season teaser" Feb. 26 to preview plays for its 21st season. Presented by the CATF Board of Trustees and sponsored by Steptoe and Johnson, the CATF teaser event featured excerpts from the five plays to be produced this summer, as performed by Shepherd University theater students, one faculty member, a handful of community members, as well as professional actors from seasons past.

According to James McNeal, director of development and marketing for CATF, the season preview
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Shepherd UNIVERSITY

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Snyder named state professor of year

Ed Snyder, chair of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences and professor of environmental studies at Shepherd University, was named the West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia at a ceremony held at the state Culture Center in Charleston on March 1.

Snyder, a member of Shepherd's faculty since 1986, led efforts to develop the environmental studies program at Shepherd in 1994 and expand the program to a major in 1997. He has served on the Shepherd Honors Program committee since its inception in 1991 and has served as a faculty member with the Washington Gateway Academy, Shepherd's weekend pre-college program.

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ceremony was an opportunity to announce this summer’s plays and fundraise for the festival itself.

According to McNeal, a Shepherd graduate, joined the CATF staff last fall. He said that the event met the group's fundraising goal, raising the 70-seat Studio Theater.

He hopes the event will "generate word of mouth" for the upcoming season and get people excited.

The festival will feature "From Prague" by Kyle Buddestoet, which will play at the Center for Contemporary Arts. According to information provided by CATF, "From Prague" is the story of an "exiled empress and disillusioned academic historian in Charles, a restless barely clinging to his faith; and "Amen, the beautiful opportunist whose life has been upended." The group finds themselves in a crumbling church set against the backdrop of Prague.

"Race," by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet, will also play at the Studio Theater, a place that dares to challenge the subject matter of not examining "what is thought — but never said," as two lawyers work to defend a wealthy white executive charged with raping a black woman.

"Asg of the Moons," by Pulitzer Prize-winner Sam Shepard, which will play at the Frank Arts Center, is the story of two old friends marooned over bourbon to reflect on their lives and choices they’ve made. "Fifty years of love, friendship and rivalry are put to the test at the barrel of a shotgun.”

"We are Here," by Tracy Thorne, which will play at Studio Theater, is a story about a modern family coping with the death of a young son. The play incorporates scenes of humor and song, as the family makes peace with their loss.

Finally, "The Inheritance," by Lucy Thurber, which will play at the Frick Center, is a story that combines the stories of revolutionary figures like John Brown and Harriet Tubman with a modern family’s "quest for identity and survival."

Ed Herendeen, CATF founder and producing director, said play have in common, "a real love of language." In his opening remarks at the event Saturday, Herendeen said that the "power of play" has everything to do with the success of CATF.

"We live in the oldest town in West Virginia, doing the newest plays in America," he said. McNeal explained the goal of this season is the same as years past — "to produce and develop new American theater at highest artistic level."

CATF will be held July 8 through 11. Complete season information can be found at www.catf.org.
Students to build homes for nonprofit

By Tricia Folks
Chronicle Editor

Holly Frye, director of student community services and service learning at Shepherd University, will take students to High Point, N.C., later this month for an "alternative spring break" trip in which the group will build homes for the local Habitat for Humanity.

The catch? Students must raise the funding for the trip.

That’s why the group will host a pancake breakfast Saturday, March 5, at the Shepherdstown Men’s Club to help raise its goal of $5,000 to go on this trip.

"They just choose to give up their spring break to volunteer for a week," Frye said.

Besides wanting to work more closely with Shepherd students, it was this requirement of selflessness on the students’ part that made SMC President Mike Austin want to open his organization’s venue to the group for the fundraiser.

"It’s kids taking the time to find something to do something for other people," Austin said about their spring break trip. "I just thought it ought to be something we should be supporting."

Frye, who has taken students on various volunteer alternative spring break trips, said each year the students raise the money to fund their way.

"I have learned that that makes it more worthwhile," she said.

The pancake breakfast will take place from 8 until 11 a.m. and will feature pancakes with various toppings and coffee and juice.

Austin believes there are many nonprofits around the local community, people will come out and support this cause.

"I think we all have a special place in our hearts for young people," he said. "This is a very supportive community."

Anyone who would like to send any donations before the students leave on March 12 can send them to:

Attention: Holly Frye
Shepherd University
P.O. Box 5000
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

"These students are the best of the best in terms of contributing back to their community," Frye said. "They give and they give and they give."

News anchor Jim Lehrer to receive honorary degree

PBS NewsHour anchor Jim Lehrer will receive an honorary degree at Shepherd University’s 139th Commencement ceremony May 14.

The resolution was approved during an executive session of the Shepherd Board of Governors at its Feb. 24 meeting. Lehrer will also deliver the commencement address.

Lehrer started his journalism career as a newspaper reporter and editor, eventually joining PBS as a public affairs coordinator. In 1975, the "Robert MacNeil Report" premiered with Lehrer serving as the Washington correspondent. The show eventually became "The MacNeil/Learher NewsHour" and continued until 1996 when it became "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," after MacNeil’s departure from the program.

Lehrer was honored at commencement by Shepherdstown residents Bob and Tia McMillan, who will receive the President’s Award for their contributions and commitment to Shepherd and the community.

Bob McMillan, who is serving as the chair of Shepherd’s Create the Future fundraising campaign, also served on the Shepherd Board of Governors from 2001 to 2009, one of the original members of the governing board. He completed a two-year stint as board chair in June 2009. Tia McMillan, after many years of service as a founding member of the board of the Contemporary American Theater Festival, now serves as a member of CATF’s honorary board. The McMillans also established the McMillan Family Scholarship for Theater which provides scholarships for Shepherd theater students.

In other business, the board approved an international education outreach program between Shepherd and Middlesex International College in Maypen, Jamaica, to provide the master of arts degree in education and instruction. Twenty-five Jamaican students will take courses in Jamaica and online, with a final semester to take place on Shepherd’s campus. The program is slated to begin in the summer of 2011.

Maria Brand took the oath of office at the beginning of the meeting to become a member of the board. A resident of Martinsburg, Brand is the deputy administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that works to fill in the health care gaps for people who live outside the economic and medical mainstream.
State is prepared on two fiscal questions

West Virginia is often cited for being dead last or close to it on many lists ranking the states. But our state is way ahead of most of the pack on both unemployment compensation insurance and preparing for the new federal health care law.

Over the past three decades two national commissions and several government audits warned states about the decreasing amounts of money they were setting aside to pay unemployment compensation to laid-off workers. Most states ignored the warnings, but West Virginia did not.

As a result, West Virginia is one of only three or four states that have not had to borrow money from the federal government to stabilize their unemployment compensation funds. Many states got in trouble because they

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The other states that

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

have had to borrow

New Jersey has borrowed $1.75 billion. There are extreme examples. Georgia is more like the norm, having borrowed about $600 million. Michigan became in 2006 the first state to borrow from the federal government to bolster its unemployment compensation trust fund.

Two years ago West Virginia raised its unemployment compensation premiums to businesses. We in the Legislature who supported that move were severely criticized at the time. But most other states will now have to do so to repay the federal government what they borrowed, plus interest. Since we won't have to do so, our premiums will stay where they are while those of most other states soar past ours.

A study released in January by the New England Journal of Medicine showed that West Virginia is better prepared than all but seven other states to provide its newly insured citizens with primary (non-hospital) care.

Some opponents of the new federal health care law predict that many newly insured Americans will be unable to find primary care doctors who will take them as patients. The New England Journal of Medicine's study concludes that might happen in some states, perhaps many, but not in West Virginia.

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The other states the study ranked in the "top 10 in terms of readiness for the new health care reform are all far more prosperous than West Virginia. They are

Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Washington and Hawaii. All nine of these states have better-funded health care systems than our state's.

There are two reasons: West Virginia's near the top of this list. We have a very large number of community health centers and we have more primary care doctors, nurse practitioners and other health care professionals per capita than most other states.

West Virginia built its first community health center in 1969 as part of President Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty." Now there is such a center within driving distance of almost every West Virginian. Many other states will have to build such a network from scratch.

Shortly after I was elected in 1992, the Legislature recognized a dire shortage of primary care physicians. In response we required each of our three medical schools (West Virginia University, Marshall University and the West Virginia Osteopathic School) to send every student to at least one primary care rotation in an underserved area. We required the same of pharmacists, nurses, physician assistants and dentists.

The theory was that some of these providers who would not have gone into underserved areas without the requirement would discover they liked the patient care work and were highly motivated. The plan clearly worked extremely well.
Press Release: The Perfect Trifecta of Events Are Scheduled in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia During the March 4 – 6, 2011 Weekend

March 4th, 2011 • Related • Filed Under • by ACN Staff

Charles Town, MD, March 04, 2011 – (PR.com) – The Common Ground International Book Fest 2011, The Eastern Panhandle, WV Birth of Freedom Heritage Tour, and The WV NAACP Higher Education Summit 2011 will be held concurrently during the Friday, March 4th through Sunday, March 6th Weekend. “We are one nation with many great heritages. The self-determination of every American is what we want to celebrate, the spirit of individuals overcoming personal and any perceived group barriers to achieve their fullest human potential,” intimates Dr. Pamela Sanders Ellis, President of Harambee Conference, LLC., an organizer for the event. Everyone throughout West Virginia and elsewhere may attend the Book Fest free of charge through sponsorships by community-based supporters of the events.

The opening dinner reception will be held at the Inn in Charles Town, WV. Featured presenters during the weekend include Professor Angelia Russell from WVU Tech Department of Management, Dr. Sandra Staton-Taiwo, a W.E.B. Du Bois Dissertation Scholar and Dr. Beth G. Raps of Berkeley Springs, WV.

Featured authors include Joan Jai from Durham, NC. Mrs. Jai’s book entitled, It’s in the Book will be performed by West Virginia area students at 1:00 PM on Saturday at the Shepherd University Wellness Center. Other scheduled presenters include Ms. Ilene Evans, Co-Founder of Voices from the Earth, Inc. who will portray Harriet Tubman during a breakfast before the Book Fest, Daryl S. Dudley, an entrepreneur from Washington, D.C., and Authors Tod M. Ewing and Bob O’Connor. For further event information, visit the website, www.harambeeconference.com.