SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University's Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players will present Sophocles' "Antigone," an ancient Greek tragedy that explores conflicting loyalties to family, country, the gods and self. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 3 p.m. Sunday in Reynolds Hall.
Humanities Council meeting to be held at SU

POSTED: July 15, 2011

CHARLESTON - The West Virginia Humanities Council Board of Directors will hold its summer board meeting at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University on Friday, July 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Founded in 1974, the West Virginia Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. In 2010, the Humanities Council awarded 75 grants in 20 West Virginia counties and offered 201 programs in 41 counties.

In Jefferson County, Humanities Council funds support the Contemporary American Theater Festival, the Historic Shepherdstown Museum, the American Conservation Film Festival, Shepherd University’s writer-in-residence program and the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society. Additionally, the council supported a City of Charles Town exhibit featuring works related to abolitionist John Brown by 19th-century artist David Hunter Strother (Porte Crayon).

The council’s recently established Sesquicentennial Speakers Bureau includes Mark Snell, director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University.

The Humanities Council is governed by its board of directors, whose 24 members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. Board members Raymond W. Smock, director of Shepherd University’s Robert C. Byrd Center, and Tia McMillan of Martinsburg will attend the summer meeting, which is open to the public.

The Humanities Council board of directors meets three times a year at locations across the state. For more information, visit the Humanities Council’s website at www.wvhumanities.org or call 304-346-8500.
‘The Insurgents’ fans flames

July 16, 2011
By Angela Cummings - Special to The Journal, journal-news.net

Editor’s note: Reviews of this season’s five plays at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown will be published throughout the week. This is the third in the series.

SHEPHERDSTOWN - History is full of zealots - take John Brown for example. To many, Brown was a deeply religious man, a martyr who died for a just cause; to others he’s an anarchist, and if he were living today, they think he would be considered a domestic terrorist.

Lucy Thurber’s drama, “The Insurgents,” opening with its world premiere at this year’s Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, sheds a sympathetic light on some of history’s most notoriously contended figures - Brown, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman and Timothy McVeigh.

The stage is set in a minimalist arrangement using only a kitchen table, sink and refrigerator on a circular stage set adjacent to the rectangular stage in the Frank Center Theater at Shepherd University. Curious as to why the director, Lear DeBessonet, chose this venue opposed to the black-box style Studio Theater in Sara Cree Hall, the audience soon realizes the creative use of space when the four historical figures from the past are shown as illuminated headshot portraits.

The play opens with its main character, Sally (Casse Beck), sitting at the kitchen table reading books about Brown, Turner, Tubman and McVeigh. Her brother, Jimmy (Cary Donatison, who also plays the role of Timothy McVeigh), joins her in the kitchen, where they engage in small talk. Soon their father (John Ottavino, who also portrays John Brown) comes rushing into the kitchen with a hand wrapped in bloody gauze. He says he injured his hand in a roofing accident at the construction site where he works. The three discuss life and life’s challenges, as Brown, Turner, Tubman and McVeigh fade in and out of their conversations inserting their own personal views about the world as they see it.

While Sally argues these figures’ personal points of view with her father and brother, Sally herself is embroiled in an internal battle, arguing the points of whether their heinous acts were justifiable.

The one negative aspect of “The Insurgents” is that the plot is vague at best. It is clear that Sally feels cheated by fate, confused and angry, but a lot of the story is spent with either her or the historical figures of her imagination on wild political and socioeconomic tangents. Much of the play is fragmented and compartmentalized - making it a little hard to follow.

While some plays use flashbacks and “off-stage” conversations to help audience members piece the story together, that is not the case with “The Insurgents.” Here, audience members might be left hoping that there will be some moment where the playwright’s point of view will be illuminated, but there is no such moment.
The good news is that the play does have a very intense climax, point where Brown, Turner, Tubman and McVeigh whip Sally's psyche into a frenzy of emotional turmoil - leaving her father and brother begging her to tell them what's going on, but leaving the ending ambiguous.

The performances of Stacey Sargeant as Harriet Tubman, and Daniel Morgan Shelley as Nat Turner are raw and gritty, drawing the audience in to a very believable performance and delivering very moving monologues.

For those who enjoy thought-provoking plays leaving much room for individual interpretation, "The Insurgents" is passionate and compelling with a surprise ending.

"The Insurgents" lasts one hour and 40 minutes, with no intermission. It includes explicit language and characters smoking cigarettes on stage.

Tickets and more details about CATF plays are available by visiting catf.org or calling 800-599-CATF (2283).
Shepherdstown, WV July 15, 2011 — David Mamet’s Race may be the most controversial entry in this year’s Contemporary American Theater Festival—a venue that’s never shied away from controversy, particularly when it comes in from left field. But that’s where Race is different. It’s an equal-opportunity destruction-derby of ideas that comes at you from the right side of the aisle. Similar to last year’s stunning, haunting, and thoughtful White People by playwright J. T. Rogers, Mr. Mamet’s Race casts serious doubts on the ultimate wisdom of continuing this nation’s long-running affirmative action sweepstakes.

Adding an entirely unexpected frisson to CATF’s mounting of the play this summer: the astonishingly coincidental juxtaposition of the current twisty-turny Dominique Strauss-Kahn/IMF scandal that almost exactly mirrors Mamet’s plot.

Score one for good timing. Many performances of Race are already sold out.

Long a nationally recognized playwright, Mr. Mamet started his theater
career out in the American outback, attending the radical, semi-communal Goddard College in Vermont, a state where his first play was produced. He eventually found his way to fame and success in the Big Apple with a significant pit stop in Chicago, where he founded the St. Nicholas Theatre Company.

His first notable hits were *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Duck Variations*, and his first Broadway production, *American Buffalo*, which copped New York Drama Critics Circle Award. His Pulitzer Prize-winning Glengarry Glen Ross (1983–1984) firmly cemented his reputation as one of America’s finest living playwrights—and one of its most controversial. The language of his characters—rough even by contemporary standards—the fast pace of his dialogue, the often elliptical actions and reasoning of his plots, and the dizzying whirl of ideas created a recognizable theatrical experience identified by some wits as “Mamet speak.”

Since roughly 1988, an artistic career in the United States (and Europe for that matter) practically demanded that the artist become a virtual card-carrying member of the establishment Left, and Mr. Mamet was no exception. But, intellectually rigorous by nature, he’d begun years ago to question the certain certainties of an increasingly elitiststyle of socialism that had, over the years, begun to coalesce into a kind of secular religion, underpinned by a mystical belief in long failed theories that had not even remotely withstood the test of time.

Arguably, his eventual rightward shift was first marked by the appearance of his play, *Oleanna*, in 1992. *Oleanna* explored, in the typically hard-hitting Mamet style, the reality—or unreality—of sexual harassment in the workplace, portrayed in the play as occurring in the hallowed setting of academia.

More recently, Mr. Mamet completed his 180-degree political turn toward the libertarian right in his new book, *The Secret Knowledge: On the Dismantling of American Culture*, a full-bore attack on the unquestioning, knee-jerk Marxism that’s become the way you punch your ticket in today’s literary and entertainment worlds. (We’ll be posting a review of the book in this column shortly.)

Which brings us to the present, and to CATF’s new production of *Race*, which opened last weekend on the campus of Shepherd University, the festival’s home in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

With his evolving political conversion running in background, Mr. Mamet’s *Race*, premiered in New York in 2002 to a predictably mixed critical reception—even though it ultimately recouped its investment and made a profit during a highly successful 267-performance run on Broadway. Leath to attack Mr. Mamet directly—at least not yet—the New York Times initially chose to damn the play with faint praise.

In a more recent review of a just concluded run of the play in Hartford, Connecticut, the New York Times writer took a harder line, accusing the play of being full of holes and badly plotted. *Race* does indeed have a problem or two, but we beg to differ with the NYT’s conclusion, given that paper’s well-earned reputation for dinging to far-left dogma.

*Race*, in some respects, is Mr. Mamet’s latest take on the he-said-she-said sexual harassment theme that lies at the heart of *Oleanna*. But *Race* builds on this theme, adding extra spice mixing in racial guilt and presuppositions with the alleged sexism as two lawyers, one white (Jack, played
by Kurt Zischke), one black (Henry, played by Giuseppe Jones), attempt to defend a well-heeled white exec (Charles, played by Anderson Matthews) against rape charges lodged against him by a black woman who may or may not have consented.

Making things even more complicated is the suspicious conduct of the law partner's latest hire, newly-minted young black attorney Susan (Crystal A. Dickinson). Coming on initially as a bit of an ingénue, it's increasingly clear that Susan is carrying around some troubling secrets, too. Secrets with a potential to destroy the partners' defense of Charles, even before it gets off the ground.

Rachel is a real intellectual donnybrook, sat in the elegant conference room of an expansive boutique New York law firm. But the play's viciously explicit language and emotional explosiveness—longtime Mamet trademarks—seem shockingly out of place unless you consider the high-stakes legal poker games that are the stock and trade of high-power lawyers.

While rough and tumble, however—the f-word predominates, but even the dreaded n-word is not off-limits here—the language is loaded with innuendo, which serves to reveal deeper truths. What the New York critics may be missing—intentionally or out of the mental oblivion that results from their unicameral mindset—is that beneath the guise of surface vulgarity lies a parallel narrative that's pure Washingtonspeak, not New Yorkese.

Anyone who's worked in or around government in this area for any length of time is well aware of how carefully one must express certain ideas and of how, in the workplace, one must make each decision—most particularly in employee relations—with the utmost in caution, particularly in matters of race. The upshot of how the Civil Rights Act of 1965 was actually implemented was, in fact, the ironic re-creation of the Jim Crow effect via affirmative action.

Granted, contemporary race relations are in general far more cordial than they once were, at least on the surface. But deep down, a great many blacks remain deeply, perhaps permanently suspicious that whites still mean to do them harm. Just not out in the open.

Whites, on the other hand, resent what they view as the special treatment accorded blacks, and are deeply, perhaps permanently suspicious that highly-credentialed, well-paid black professionals are actually intellectually inferior, having had their career skids greased by means of racial quotas and lowered achievement and admission standards.

Horribly unfair? Yes. But that's life in the big city today. A critical social issue continues to lie there in plain sight. Yet it remains insoluble since no one—particularly white males—wants to discuss the matter, as frankness and honesty with regard to this issue is almost inevitably a career ender.

This intolerable social paradox is what lies at the core of Mr. Mamet's play, and it's a dilemma that's been avoided like a third rail for decades. But how can you solve a seemingly intractable problem and create a sense of closure if you're simply not allowed to discuss it, save at the risk of great personal and mental harm? That is what Mr. Mamet is asking, and attending this play somehow gives the audience permission to have this discussion at last.

Sure, the play is sometimes a little difficult to follow. But the very intentional fuzziness and obscurity of the dialogue is actually an accurate take on how people try to express their opinions in a controversial area while retaining plausible deniability for what they've just said. Just how does one discuss what one simply cannot discuss?
New York critics cannot understand what’s going on in Mr. Mamet’s twisted but deviously clever dialogue because they are, in fact, simply blind to the other side of the issue. They don’t see the agony inherent in trying to express something that’s not allowed to be expressed because they themselves are hard-wired to express only what political correctness allows them to express and nothing more.

CATF’s cast, under the stunningly precise and intellectually well-informed direction of Ed Herendeen, give this production of Race as a good a go as it’s ever going to get.

Kurt Zschieke is simply magnificent as the crisp, nasty realistic but too-cunning-by-half senior attorney Jack. The leader of his firm, he’s been instrumental in bringing it to the highest pinnacle of professional success. But even his legal and investigative skills end up failing him when it comes to the more subtle area of Human Resources. He simply can’t see what he can’t see.

As his top colleague and chief dueling associate, Henry, the energetic Guesseppe Jones is a towering presence, a veritable life-force on stage. Ripping a page or two from the playbook of Johnnie Cochran, he plays an effective devil’s advocate to Jack from the very start. His subtle wisdom and legal street smarts, while initially concealed by his open contempt for white society prove far more prescient and finely-tuned than those of his ostensibly more refined founding partner.

As Charles, Anderson Matthews doesn’t get a lot of stage time, but he makes the most of it as indeed he must. For Charles is a key character who must remain something of an enigma. Mr. Matthews Charles has all the trappings and arrogance of the self-made multi-millionaire he happens to be. But his continually morphing sense of innocence and betrayal has his team of defense attorneys constantly wondering whether taking his case will make them a fortune—or consign their firm to legal oblivion.

And then there’s the enigmatic Susan, a genuinely complex role performed with astounding poise and subtlety by Crystal A. Dickinson. It’s simply one of great performance, not ostentatious at all but packing a quietly powerful wallop.

Ms. Dickinson’s Susan initially comes across as a highly-intelligent, tastefully aggressive legal lightweight, ready, willing, and able to engage with her cutting and demanding mentor, Jack. Surprisingly, however, she seems to get along less well with her fellow African-American, Henry who is highly adversarial every time she makes an apparent beginner’s error.

We eventually learn that Susan, far from being a dewy-eyed legal innocent is sharp, devious, and fully capable of gaming her employer. But Henry remains a problem she cannot solve—nearly tumbling the play’s racial dilemma on its head, then back again at show’s surprise blackout conclusion.

Negatives in this production. None, really, save a tongue-lashing for the props manager who forgot to get a dusty stain off the elbow of Mr. Zschieke’s otherwise impeccably tailored and expensive-looking suit jacket. No self-respecting megabucks New York attorney would stand for that in real life.

Race is not a perfect play. Sometimes the dialogue moves a bit too fast for comprehension. The machine-gunned use of the f-word, while sadly realistic in all walks of life these days, occasionally draws a bit too much attention than it warrants. And the play’s conclusion, while eminently plausible, is quite abrupt, although it does get the apropos-meaning discussion off and running.

Nonetheless, Mr. Mamet knew what he wanted to do and he did it, transforming Race into that rarest of birds in contemporary theater: an actual, produced play that generates controversy from the right side of the aisle on what’s in many respects America’s most controversial—and least productively discussed—contemporary issue. In the end, the more productions this difficult play receives across the country, the more likely a much-needed, and rational discussions of the issue
Stars: *** ½ (Three and one-half stars.)

For CATF tickets, information, directions, and suggestions for nearby accommodations (if you want to pack in all five plays in three or four days) call 1-800-999 CATF (2283) or visit CATF's website, www.catf.org. Tickets to Race are going fast. So if you have an interest, get in touch with the festival soon.

Helpful hint for those who'd rather daytrip a play or two: Shepherdstown is an easy, roughly one to one-and-one-half hour drive from DC and MD via I-70 (DC and Maryland). Virginians have it a little tougher during Metro Silver Line and Beltway construction, so leave extra time, maybe two to two-and-one-half hours via Dulles Toll Road/Greenway, Rte. 7 bypass, and VA-WV 9 thru Kearneysville. Probably less than an hour from Leesburg in Loudoun County. Obtain directions at the CATF website cited above.
Paris trip slated for March 2012

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd University Department of English and Modern Languages will sponsor Literary Paris, a trip to Paris from March 10-17, 2012.

Professors Rachel Ritterbusch and Mark Cantrell will lead the trip. The trip is being offered to complement the course Parisian Modernism, but trip participants don't have to enroll in the course.

Literary Paris will include an introduction of Paris on a Seine River cruise, a visit to the Pompidou Center, a walking tour of the Writers of Montparnasse, the Marais Quarter, La Place des Vosges, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Montmartre area, the Arc de Triomphe, a stroll through Jardin des Tuileries, Louvre Museum, Versailles, Cimetiere Pere Lachaise, l'Opera National de Paris and the Eiffel Tower.

In order to join the tour, a $500 nonrefundable deposit is due by Sept. 2. The full cost of the trip will depend on how many people pay in full by Nov. 2.

The tour fee includes round trip airfare, airport taxes/fuel surcharges, accommodation in three to four star hotel, continental breakfast and dinners, a Casterbridge Tour manager/guide to accompany the group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure, several prebooked admissions, the expertise and perspective of local guides, transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring (except in Paris, where public transport is used), and all taxes.

For more information about the tour, visit casterbridgetours.com/index.php/itineraries/privatetour/shepherd-university-112975.
Shepherd University dean's list Spring 2011

July 17, 2011
journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Residents from Jefferson and Berkeley counties have been named to the dean's list at Shepherd University.

Jefferson County


Kearneysville residents include Joscelyn Noelle Beahm, Brad Nathaniel Coleman, Stephanie Nod Crum, Jeremy Scott Dunn, Brittanie Michelle Epkes, Kelsey Lynn Fry, Emily Denise Jenkins, Rachel Louise Johnson, Christopher Andrew Kornsman, Cassandra Gaonella Myers, Jessica Louise Ring, Michael Vincent Smith, Brenda Vences, Julio E. Ferrers, and Christa Marie Kneck.


Other Jefferson County residents include Kan Leann Edge, Hailtown: Amy Sanford Heflebower, and Joshua Foster Meadows, Rippon; Joseph Adam Snyder, Shenandoah Junction; and Mallory Eve Alexander, Jessica Kristin Dodson, Krystle Dawn Lowrance, and Olivia Lauren Godshalk, Rippon.
Berkeley County

CATF play reveals passage of time

July 17, 2011
By Maggie Wolff Peterson - Special to The Journal, journal-news.net

Editor's note: Reviews of this season's five plays at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown will be published throughout the week. This is the fourth in the series.

SHEPHERDSTOWN - What is the nature of an eclipse? Is it simply the moon becoming dark when occluded from the sun by the Earth? To characterize a lunar eclipse like that is to make darkness its definition. The moon becomes the thing that is unseen. But we know, even when absent of reflected light, the Man in the Moon is still up there.

Sam Shepard's play, "Ages of the Moon," now in production at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, is as much about what isn't there as what is. What we get onstage is simple: a couple of Adirondack chairs, a table, a front porch, a lazy ceiling fan and a bottle of bourbon. Inhabiting this space are two men, old friends, in a states reminiscence, recalling events that they may or may not have experienced together and may altogether be the myths of old men's minds.

Ames, whose house it is, has appealed to Byron in a moment of isolation, after being cast from his home when his woman found another woman's phone number scribbled on the margin of his fishing map. Shepard samples foibles several times in the piece, as when Ames recalls meeting Roger Miller, the singer/songwriter who described himself as a "man of means by no means," in the evergreen musical paean to solitude that begins, "Trailers for sale or rent."

An earlier, New York production prompted comparison of this play to a Samuel Beckett piece, in which nothing much happens, very extravagantly. Vladimir and Estragon, the hapless saps of "Waiting for Godot," employ vaudeville maneuvers, pointless activities and argument to pass the time in the hallmark exercise in existentialism that Beckett conceived for the stage.

In Shepard's play there is argument - lots of it. Friends Byron and Ames picker over word use, distrust each other's storytelling and eventually push comes to shove. More than once, Ames charges Byron to "get off my porch," only to recant, pour another tumbler of bourbon and resume the conversation. At its liveliest, the action includes a shotgun, retrieved from offstage, that produces two resounding blasts to tumble the ceiling fan to the floor.

But anybody familiar with the combination of testosterone and ethanol knows that sometimes a guy will employ a shotgun for a silly reason. Other than that, there just isn't much else to fill what is essentially a flat dramatic arc that deposits us at the conclusion close to where we joined it at the start.

There is a third player in this piece: the moon. The play takes place on the night of a lunar eclipse, which Ames finds especially significant. The rarity with which the entire moon is wiped out of the sky leads him to want to stay up all night and see it. Old friend Byron waits up with him.
Lighting designer D.M. Wood sneaks the moon on us, as the pale ghost that a rising moon can be, a whisper of light on stage feet that slowly solidifies into a lunar object. In measures too small to detect, the moon is enlarged and brightened to the point that you swear it may start speaking. The craters and shadows that lead people to make a visage of the moon's surface become an overseer to the action, until time and the motion of the heavens begin to erode it.

And perhaps that is really all this play is about: the inevitable erosion of all of us. Our memories trick us, our bodies fail us. Maybe all we can hope for is a friend whose quarrelsome ness matches our own, and a full bottle of something to ease the passage of time.
Theater Festival Brings Crowds to Shepherdstown

The annual Contemporary American Theater Festival is bringing thousands of visitors this month to the Eastern Panhandle city.

By CHRISTINE MILLER FORD

For The State Journal.

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Some welcome news hit the state's Eastern Panhandle amid the lingering recession.

Stone Soup Bistro, the Press Room, Yellow Brick Bank and other high-end restaurants in Shepherdstown found themselves packed and in some cases forced to turn away patrons when the Contemporary American Theater Festival kicked off earlier this month. And by the time the theater festival housed at Shepherd University concludes July 31, thousands of local theater lovers and visitors will spend time in Shepherdstown. Restaurants and bars see an uptick in business, as do hotels, shops and other destinations in and around the community.

Already, tickets have sold out for more than a dozen performances of the festival’s five 2011 plays, a rotating selection by Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Kyle Bradstreet, Tracy Thorne and Lucy Thurber.

Thurber’s “The Insurgents” was commissioned by CATF and focuses on tensions arising from the disappearing middle class. In the play, a struggling college dropout is haunted by discussions with Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Timothy McVeigh and John Brown.

At the festival’s opening night performance of “The Insurgents,” CATF founder Ed Herendeen thanked the capacity crowd for putting Shepherdstown on the map as a home for nation’s best new theater in the years since the festival’s launch in 1991.
Local couple donates land to Shepherd

JULY 18, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd University Foundation is pleased to announce the major gift of a 25-acre lot, donated by Dianna and Dr. Peter Abbrecht. Located just outside Moorefield in a gated community developed by Hunter LLC, the lot has been designated for unrestricted use by the nursing department.

In addition to practicing internal and pulmonary medicine at University of Michigan Hospital, Dr. Abbrecht's extensive career includes work with the Uniformed Services and the Department of Defense. He also worked as a professor of internal medicine and physiology at the University of Michigan, where he served as the chair of its bioengineering program. In his retirement, Dr. Abbrecht acts as an investigative consultant with the Office of Research and Integrity, funded by National Institute of Health with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Investigating allegations of research misconduct with a focus on clinical trial cases, he is considered a leading expert in investigating research fraud.

Charming by the community of Shepherdstown, Dr. Abbrecht and his wife chose to make their gift to Shepherd University out of a desire to remain involved in an academic environment.

"After we moved back east from Ann Arbor, I was feeling a little homesick," he said. "When my wife and I discovered Shepherdstown, we saw it as a mini-Ann Arbor and recognized the important role Shepherd plays in the community."

Having worked with collegiate nursing programs for 40 years, Dr. Abbrecht knew he wanted to designate their gift to Shepherd's nursing department.

"I have a great respect for nurses," he said. "As a young resident, they often helped me out a great deal."

The Abbrechts recently visited Shepherd's campus, where they received a personal tour of the state-of-the-art nursing facility, Erma Ora Byrd Hall, by Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of Shepherd's Department of Nursing. Dr. Abbrecht and Mailey were previously acquainted, having served together on a congressionally mandated task force to establish the nursing program at Uniformed Services University in Baltimore.

More information about the Shepherd University Foundation is available by contacting Monica Lingenfelter at 301-876-5397 or mlingenf@shepherd.edu, or by visiting www.shepherd.edu/ndtibweb.

- From staff reports
Mamet play, ‘Race,’ addresses sensitive subject matter

July 19, 2011
By Matt Armstrong, Journal Staff Writer, journal-news.net

Editor's note: This is the fifth and final review in a series about this season's Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown.

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Perhaps the most sensitive subject in American conversation is examined by acclaimed playwright David Mamet in his 2009 play “Race,” which is featured at this year's Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown.

Mamet, who won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play “Glengarry Glen Ross,” tells the story of a law firm - comprised of two black lawyers and a white lawyer - tasked with defending a wealthy white man accused of raping a black hotel worker.

"It is a play about lies,” Mamet told the New York Times in 2009 before “Race” debuted on Broadway. "All drama is about lies. When the lie is exposed, the play is over. Race, like sex, is a subject on which it is near impossible to tell the truth."

In addition to trying to devise a defense strategy for Charles (Anderson Matthews), the three lawyers, Jack (Kurt Zischke), Henry (Guillaume Gauvreau) and Susan (Crystal A. Dickinson), must deal with racial tension and a lack of trust during the play's 90-minute runtime.

Mamet's script doesn't hesitate to touch on sensitive racial issues, and because of that, "Race" is an incredibly honest work of art that respectfully deals with this subject matter.

While Mamet's words have their own power, they would lay inert without the proper thespians to power them forward. Luckily, Zischke, Jones and Dickinson excel as the three lawyers.

Matthews, although his stage time is limited, turns in a commendable performance as someone the audience may judge as guilty before knowing all the facts.

Zischke, who performed admirably in "White People" - a CATF production from last year's festival dealing with many of the same issues as "Race," is superb as the lawyer in charge. His client's guilt or innocence doesn't matter nearly as much as finding a way to win the case and save the law firm from a potentially embarrassing loss.

Jones and Dickinson both shine in their respective roles. Jones' character, an experienced, well-educated black lawyer, is none-too-happy over a mistake that makes the firm take the case. The mistake was made by Dickinson's character, an inexperienced lawyer who believes the firm's client to be guilty.

A fascinating aspect of "Race" is how the three lawyers deal with their own mistrust of each other while trying to mount a defense for their client. The production plays out much the same as a courtroom drama, sans the courtroom.

Though it premiered in 2009, “Race” has been given topical weight
because of the recent incident in New York involving Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a prominent French politician and former chief of the International Monetary Fund who was accused of sexual assault.

Since "Race" contains strong language and some sexual content, the play is not recommended for children. Showtimes for the play, and other productions at the CATF, can be found online at www.catf.org.
Humanities Council board meeting July 22

The West Virginia Humanities Council Board of Directors will hold its summer board meeting at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University on Friday, July 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Founded in 1974, the West Virginia Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. In 2010, the Humanities Council awarded 75 grants in 20 West Virginia counties and offered 201 programs in 41 counties.

In Jefferson County, Humanities Council funds support the Contemporary American Theater Festival, the Historic Shepherdstown Museum, the American Conservation Film Festival, Shepherd University’s writer-in-residence program, and the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society. Additionally, the Council supported a City of Charles Town exhibit featuring works related to abolitionist John Brown by 19th-century artist David Hunter Strother (aka Porte Crayon). Berkeley County has hosted numerous historical characters from the Council’s Chautauqua-style History Alive program including opera star Jenny Lind, Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman, and Confederate spy Belle Boyd, while Chief Cornstalk and Robert E. Lee have visited Jefferson County.

Abolitionist Martin Delany, who was born at Charles Town, is also on the roster of History Alive characters. The Council’s recently established Sesquicentennial Speakers Bureau includes Mark Snell, director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University.

The Humanities Council is governed by its board of directors, whose 24 members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. Board members Raymond W. Smock, director of Shepherd University’s Robert C. Byrd Center, and Tia McMillan of Martinsburg will attend the summer meeting, which is open to the public. The Humanities Council board of directors meets three times a year at locations across the state. For more information, visit the Humanities Council’s website at www.wvhumanities.org or call 304-346-8500.
SU to present research on Confederate

The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University will present a talk entitled “Living on the Edge: Death, Confederate Widowhood, and the 2nd Virginia Infantry” by Angelia Elder, the Center’s 2011 George M. Nethken Graduate Fellow, on Thursday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Erma Ora Byrd Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public.
Williams graduates cum laude from Shepherd

Hannah Hall Williams of Inwood, WV graduated cum laude from Shepherd University on May 14, 2011. An English major and Art minor, she was awarded Best English Major of 2010-11 and selected for the Who’s Who among universities and colleges.

Hannah served as one of the four literary editors of “Sans Merci,” volume 35, which is funded by the Student Government Association of Shepherd. Four of her poems and one photograph were selected and published in this student organized publication. The previous year she won the Best Poetry prize for “We were Anchors,” which was dedicated in loving memory of James D. Steptoe, well-known Martinsburg attorney and family friend, who died in August, 2009.

She presented an academic paper at the 19th Annual Literature Symposium for under-graduate students held at Wheeling Jesuit University in February 2011. She also served as the 2010-2011 Public Relations Chair to Shepherd’s Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society.

She was a writing tutor in the Academic Support Center and also served as the chief copy editor of “The Picket,” Shepherd University’s newspaper, during the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Hannah is the daughter of Russell and Wendy Williams of Inwood, WV and grandchild of Elizabeth H. Williams of Annapolis, MD and the late Robert D. Williams and grandchild of Jean H. Doyle of Martinsburg, WV and the late Donald W. Kilmer.

Hannah plans to attend graduate school to study English Literature and her goal is to become a Professor of English.
SU accepts major gift for nursing program

The Shepherd University Foundation is pleased to announce the major gift of a 25 acre lot, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Peter Abbrecht. Located just outside Moorefield, in a gated community developed by Hunter LLC, the lot has been designated for unrestricted use by the nursing department.

In addition to practicing internal and pulmonary medicine at University of Michigan Hospital, Dr. Abbrecht’s extensive career includes work with the Uniformed Services, Department of Defense, and as a professor of internal medicine and physiology at the University of Michigan, where he served as the chair of their bio-engineering program. In his retirement, Dr. Abbrecht acts as an investigative consultant with the Office of Research and Integrity, funded by National Institute of Health with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Investigating allegations of research misconduct with a focus on clinical trial cases, Dr. Abbrecht is considered a leading expert in investigating research fraud.

Charmed by the community of Shepherdstown, Dr. Abbrecht and his wife, Dianna, chose to make their gift to Shepherd University out of a desire to remain involved in an academic environment.

“After we moved back east from Ann Arbor, I was feeling a little homesick,” he said. “When my wife and I discovered Shepherdstown, we saw it as a mini-Ann Arbor and recognized the important role Shepherd plays in the community.”

Having worked with collegiate nursing programs for 40 years, Dr. Abbrecht knew he wanted to designate their gift to Shepherd’s nursing department. “I have a great respect for nurses,” he said. “As a young resident, they often helped me out a great deal.”

The Abbrechts recently visited Shepherd’s campus, where they received a personal tour of the state-of-the-art nursing facility, Erma Ora Byrd Hall, by Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of Shepherd’s Department of Nursing. Dr. Abbrecht and Dr. Mailey were previously acquainted, having served together on a congressionally mandated task force to establish the nursing program at Uniformed Services University in Baltimore, Maryland.

To learn more about making a gift through the Shepherd University Foundation, 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.
Three earn dean’s list status at Shepherd

July 19, 2011
The Inter-Mountain

Randolph County residents Colin Thomas Henning and Morgan Atalé Johnson of Elkins and Cora Lee Fry of Bevery have been named to the dean's list at Shepherd University.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must maintain a 3.4 grade point average for the semester and carry at least 15 hours of course work or be in a professional teaching block.
Monuments mark Confederate historic sites in Jefferson County

By RICHARD F. BELISLE
richardb@herald-mail.com

11:05 PM EDT, July 19, 2011

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va.

Motorists driving by might assume they are some kind of highway department markers.

Those small numbered white obelisks emblazoned with Confederate flags mark spots, or near spots, where incidents, skirmishes or significant battles took place in Jefferson County during the Civil War.

In 1910, the local United Confederate Veterans, Jefferson County Camp No. 123, forerunner of today's 50-member local Sons of Confederate Veterans, installed 25 monuments in the county to mark the upcoming 50th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in 1911.


It was published in 1911 by the United Confederate Veterans to serve as a guide to their monuments. The book lists monuments by number, their location and details of what occurred at the sites during the war.

James C. Holland of Shepherdstown, W.Va., emeritus professor of history at Shepherd University, wrote the introduction and updated the fifth edition of Chew's book in 2004.

Chew, describing the county's military units, said there were "ten companies of infantry, cavalry and artillery raised in Jefferson County, Virginia. A large majority of the people in Jefferson County were in sympathy with the movement to separate from the Union, and the flower of her men took up arms in defense of the Southern cause."

Rusty Morgan, 68, of Rippon, W.Va., farmer, former Jefferson County commissioner and member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, led an effort in 2002 and 2003 to replace 11 of the original monuments that had fallen into disrepair or had disappeared.
Among those helping on the project were fellow sons members William Senseney, a former county sheriff and now a Jefferson County magistrate, and Don Amoroso of Shepherdstown.

All three are direct descendants of Confederate veterans.

Morgan's great-grandfather, William A. Morgan, an officer in Jefferson County's Hamtrameck Guards, fought through the war. Morgan's Grove Park in Shepherdstown is named for him.

Amoroso, 75, said his great-grandfather, Cleon Moore, fought with "Bott's Greys," a Jefferson County battalion.

Senseney, 62, said his great-grandfather fought with a Virginia outfit from Manassas.

Morgan, who studied art in college in Mexico, led the replacement effort by asking Ranson, W.Va., welder Harvey Briggs to make and donate a two-section steel mold that Morgan designed.

"The original monuments were hollow and had a base and an obelisk," Morgan said. "They were light enough for one man to carry. The ones we made are solid concrete, one piece, and weigh about 400 pounds."

It requires a front-end loader to move them around.

"We wouldn't want some Shepherd University students to pick one up and take it their dorm for a party," Senseney said.

Morgan designed the Confederate flag with its St. Andrews Cross and stars that appear on the monuments. The stars were fired by local potter Pam Parziale.

The Confederacy had 11 states, but its flag has 13 stars.

Dennis Frye, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park historian, said that the South included the border states of Kentucky and Missouri as part of its Confederacy even though the two states never officially seceded.

Over the years, some of the monuments had to be moved from their original sites because of highway and other construction projects or because new property owners wanted them moved.

"A woman in Middleway didn't want the one in her yard, but one in Duffields wouldn't let us take hers away," Senseney said. "People were stopping to thank us, saying what we were doing was wonderful. One woman begged us to put a monument in her yard."

One of the original monuments is in the Jefferson County Museum in the basement of the Charles Town Library and another is in the museum in the Entler Hotel in Shepherdstown, Morgan said.

Amoroso said some original monuments were replaced in the 1980s by an earlier group of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The location of the monuments and history of each site can be found by the map and narrative in Chew's book.

Not surprising for a Confederate author, the book favors the Southern side as shown in a passage detailing the exploits of the Jefferson Guards. It tells of the capture of John Brown's party in Harpers Ferry in
October 1859 "by Colonel Robert E. Lee (afterwards the immortal General Robert E. Lee of the Army of Northern Virginia)...."

An example of Chew's narrative appears in his description of the action at Marker No. 6. It sits in the fork of the road two miles south of Shepherdstown where W.Va. 230 (Halltown Road) separates from Flowing Springs Road, which leads to Charles Town.

According to the account, on Oct. 16, 1862, cavalry units under Gen. Stuart were driven back to the fork by Yankees where the Confederates "made a determined stand."

Losses on both sides were considerable, Chew wrote.

"Our badly wounded were taken to the Uvilla churches and neighboring farms and cared for."

Holland's update — including his introduction, acknowledgement and sources, roster of the original United Confederate Veterans, name and place index plus his inclusion of Abram Joseph Ryan's poem, "The Conquered Banner" — bring the total number of pages to 58 plus the folded map inside the back cover.

The book is available for $15 at the Four Seasons Bookstore in Shepherdstown and other area bookstores.

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Ongoing onstage for the weekend of July 21

3:54 PM EDT, July 20, 2011

Contemporary American Theater Festival

Lectures, discussions, stage readings, music and art exhibitions, plus plays. Continues through Sunday, July 31. Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Single tickets for the 2011 repertory are $52; four-show and five-show ticket packages available and range from $100 to $225. For a schedule, call 800-999-2283 or go to www.catf.org.
Shepherd U. to hold public meeting on W.Va. 480 pedestrian underpass

7:24 AM EDT, July 20, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Shepherd University will sponsor an open meeting for the community to hear a presentation about the pedestrian underpass planned for W.Va. 480 on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. in Reynolds Hall.

Engineering designers for Alpha Associates will present the project design and anticipated timeline. University personnel will be available to answer questions about the project.

The pedestrian underpass is slated to be constructed at the intersection of W.Va. 480 and West Campus Drive.
Damascus residents named to Shepherd University dean's list by Susan Singer-Bart

Staff Writer

Ryan Douglas Urso and Andrew Dominick Faiola, both of Damascus, were named to the spring semester dean's list at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va.
SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University recently announced the publication of "Congress Investigates: A Critical and Documentary History," published by Facts On File Inc., an Infobase Learning Company, as part of their Library of American History series.

This landmark, two-volume work, complete with illustrations and documents (1,200 pages) traces the story of the most significant congressional investigations in American history, beginning with the first in 1792 up to the Hurricane Katrina Inquiry in 2005-06.

Executive editor of Facts On File Dr. Andrew Gyory, who oversaw production said, "This unique reference is intended to be an indispensable tool for all those, beginners and experts alike, who are students of the history of Congress."

This is the first in a series of Congressional Research Projects that will be conducted by the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.

Its publication coincides with the first anniversary of the death of Sen. Robert C. Byrd, whose vision for the Byrd Center was that it would provide a forum for the study of Congress, the U.S. Constitution and the meaning of representative democracy.

Members of Sen. Byrd's family and the governing board of the Byrd Center, the Congressional Education Foundation, attended a dinner at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown on June 24, where they were presented with copies of the volumes.

According to Ray Smock, "It is amazing how congressional investigations have influenced American history and culture in profound ways."

"Congress Investigates" was co-edited by Ray Smock, director of the Byrd Center, and David Hostetter, director of programs and research at the Center, along with Roger Bruns, the former director of publications for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The power of Congress to investigate has a long history of great successes and equally great failures. Some investigations led to major new legislation or to political reforms, while others were little more than venues for partisanship, self-aggrandizement, or propaganda. But all are significant chapters in American political and constitutional history. Bruns notes that, "The story of these investigations shapes our understanding of American history through the work of Congress."

The 29 investigations in these volumes include among others the John Brown raid inquiry in 1859, those conducted on the Civil War and Reconstruction, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, the Pecora Committee on the Stock Market Crash in 1933, the Truman Committee on War Mobilization, the Pearl Harbor investigation, the Army-McCarthy Hearings in 1954, the Watergate Committee, which forced President Nixon's resignation, the Iran-
Contra hearings in 1987, the Whitewater investigation and the impeachment of President Clinton, the longest and most expensive investigation of a U.S. president in history, and the 9/11 Commission, which delved into the details of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that left thousands dead. "Congress Investigates links the hearings that are in living memory with the precedents set by investigations of the past," Hostettler said.

The Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies is a private, nonpartisan, and nonprofit educational organization on the campus of Shepherd University in Shepherdstown.

The mission of the Center is to promote a better understanding of the U. S. Congress, the U. S. Constitution, and the meaning of representative democracy. To fulfill its mission the Center conducts public programs, seminars, lectures, and does research on the history of Congress. The center is also the repository of the Papers and Congressional Records of Sen. Robert C. Byrd and other political collections related to the U. S. Congress.
Meeting slated to discuss Shepherd underpass

5:52 PM EDT, July 20, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Shepherd University will sponsor an open meeting for the community to hear a presentation about the pedestrian underpass planned for W.Va. 480 on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. in Reynolds Hall.

Engineering designers for Alpha Associates will present the project design and anticipated timeline. University personnel will be available to answer questions about the project.

The pedestrian underpass is slated to be constructed at the intersection of W.Va. 480 and West Campus Drive.
Summit participants discuss how to promote literary arts

Promoters, public school officials, writers and others seek to make Hagerstown a center for medium

By DAVE McMILLION
davem@herald-mail.com

4:30 PM EDT, July 21, 2011

For a stretch of Maryland from Bethesda to Frostburg, there is no center to celebrate the literary arts, according to Scot Slaby, the new lead literary arts teacher at The Barbara Ingram School for the Arts.

Slaby said he sees no reason why such a center can't open in Hagerstown.

"The sky's the limit," Slaby said Wednesday night as literary art promoters, public school officials, writers and others gathered at the school on Potomac Street in downtown Hagerstown to explore how to develop the literary arts in the area.

Plans are for literary arts to be part of the curriculum this fall at the Ingram school, where Slaby will teach poetry and fiction.

Slaby and others talked about how to expand the literary arts across the region, such as through a festival.

One of the people participating in a panel discussion at the summit was Hope Maxwell-Snyder, a novelist and poet from Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Maxwell-Snyder told the approximately 50 people in attendance how she started a poetry festival in her backyard.

Now the Sotto Voce Poetry Festival is a large event, and Shepherd University has helped with it, she said.

Maxwell-Snyder said she would like to see the Hagerstown community become involved in the event.

Those attending the summit heard how entities such as the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts have worked to promote literary arts, and how Frederick, Md., has promoted the art form.
Amy Hunt, an educator at the museum, said part of the museum's mission is to include events focusing on literary arts, and it has hosted events such as author readings.

In Frederick, Md., organizers have offered Frederick Reads, a collaborative effort among public libraries and local organizations to foster a love of reading within the community.

Elizabeth Cromwell, committee chairwoman for the event, said organizers were concerned about a low book-reading rate among some adults.

After the summit was opened to questions from the audience, a woman asked if Slaby plans to teach script writing at the school. He said that was a possibility.
CATF continuing 2011 performances

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The 2011 Contemporary American Theater Festival will be held July 31 throughout Shepherdstown. Plays include "From Prague," "Race," "Ages of the Moon," "We Are Here" and "The Insurgents." Tickets range from $30 to CATCards for all five shows at $25.

For more information or tickets, call 304-876-3473 or visit www.catf.org.
CATF 'Talk Theater' events continue

POSTED: July 21, 2011

The Contemporary American Theater Festival offers various opportunities for patrons to attend. Advertisement discussions about the plays, issues raised in them and other contemporary American play readings.

Saturday, July 23

At 4:30 p.m. on the Frank Center Stage, CATF presents the Humanities Lectures FIGHT! (How Do They Do That?) This will be a stage combat demonstration with Aaron Anderson, CATF fight director of Ages of the Moon. The event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, July 24

CATF presents Breakfast with Ed at 10 a.m. at Mellow Moods in downtown Shepherdstown. Call 1-800-999-2283 or visit catf.corecommerce.com/Breakfast-with-Ed/ to reserve a spot. Tickets are $25.

For more information about upcoming Talk Theater events, visit www.catf.org.
West Virginia's fiscal progress continues

Delegate John Doyle / The Doyle Report

POSTED: July 22, 2011

Two weeks ago Fitch Ratings increased its rating of West Virginia's general obligation (GO) bonds from "AA" to "AA+".

This follows similar increases in the last two years from the other two major bond raters. Moody's Investor Service increased its rating for West Virginia GO bonds in 2010, following Standard and Poor Rating Services 2009 increase. In addition, Moody's increased its rating of some of our revenue bonds to its highest rating, AAA, in 2009.

GO bonds pledge the "full faith and credit" of the state. There is no direct funding source for the debt service on such bonds. The legislature simply has an obligation to make sure the debt is paid on schedule.

A revenue bond by contrast has a dedicated funding source for the debt service. There are only two ways the debt service on such a bond would not be paid on schedule. The dedicated revenue source might prove insufficient and the legislature would refuse to make up the difference, or the legislature could change the law before the full debt was paid.

The bond that will soon be issued to pay for the better sewage treatment systems mandated by the Chesapeake Bay standards is an example of a revenue bond. Money from the Excess Lottery Fund is dedicated to service this bond.

Fitch gave several reasons for its upgrade of West Virginia's GO bonds. They include West Virginia's long-standing efforts to address financial challenges, its use of surpluses to build up reserves and reduce pension liabilities and the state's emergence from the recession in a strong financial position.

Indeed, our state finished Fiscal Year 2011 three weeks ago with a General Revenue Fund surplus of about 9 percent (over $320 million out of a General Fund budget of $3.74 billion). Since half of that surplus must by law be deposited in the state's rainy day fund, that fund will become even stronger. We already had the fourth or fifth strongest rainy day fund in the country.

Eighteen and a half years ago (January 1993) I was sworn in as a member of the House of Delegates and took my place on the Finance Committee. At that time West Virginia's finances were an absolute mess. Our bonds were little better than junk quality, and entrepreneurs doing business with the state went many months before being paid. Many medical providers and pharmacies refused to honor the public employees health care system (because payments were woefully late).

West Virginia's finances in 1993 looked like California's do now. Three people persuaded a majority of each house of the legislature that we had to make major changes to the way we were doing business.

One was Gov. Gaston Caperton. Another was Bob Kiss, who became chair of the House Finance Committee the same day in 1993 that I became a member. The third was Earl Ray Tomblin, who had shortly before become President of the Senate and had been chair of the Senate Finance Committee before that.
After finishing his second term, Gov. Caperton became president of the College Board, which produces the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) among other things. He recently retired from that. Kiss served four years as House Finance chair and was Speaker of the House for 10 years after that. Tomblin is still President of the Senate and is also now acting governor.

Creation of the state’s rainy day fund was the first in a series of structural reforms to our finances. This was followed by the privatization of our workers’ compensation program, the creation of the excess video lottery fund and several other changes.

But the biggest change was a psychological one. Members of the legislature now have a much greater sense of financial responsibility than they did before 1993. Consider that the tremendous fiscal progress we have made in the last 18 and a half years has come without a single general tax increase.

Some user fees have been increased, including one big one. The gasoline tax is now 5 cents per gallon greater than it was in 1993, although in constant dollars its actually lower now. Unlike general sales taxes, the gasoline tax is not a percentage of the price but rather a fixed number of cents, so it is reduced in value as the economy inflates.

But both income and sales taxes have actually been reduced on both individuals and businesses. And our state is now considered one of the dozen best fiscally managed of the 50.

So why do we not have the highest bond rating, "AAA," for all of our bonds from all three rating services? The answer given by all three is that our economy is not diversified enough.

The coal industry, which provides us a great deal of the revenue with which we have been able to pay our bills on time, ironically causes us to not be considered economically diverse enough to get the ratings our fiscal performance deserves. I wonder, will the projected boom in the natural gas industry be perceived as greater "diversification" or will it be considered just more dependence on energy production?
Program sponsoring historic walking tours

Kelly Cambrel / Chronicle Staff

POSTED: July 22, 2011

History has come alive as the historic preservation program at Shepherd University kicked off its "living history" summer tours last weekend.

Claudia Paycheff, a third year historic preservation student at SU, led the tour around Shepherdstown's historic sites Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

Paycheff assumed the role of Mary Bender, the daughter of C&O Canal boat Captain Bender.

Paycheff, who also led tours last summer, said that each tour incorporates the history of different locations around town as well as the personal anecdotes of the character each tour guide has chosen to portray.

According to Paycheff, Bender was "a real woman who worked on the C&O."

Paycheff researched the figure as a part her historic preservation class in preparation for the tour.

Roughly 45 minutes in length, Paycheff's tour circled Shepherdstown's historic district, beginning and ending at the Ertler Hotel, Shepherdstown's Visitors Center.

Tracing a path up Princess Street and back down German Street, Paycheff outlined the history of the town from its founding through the Civil War, with stops to discuss the significance of the Town Run, the graveyard where many members of the Shepherd family are laid to rest and the Shepherdstown Public Library, which still sits at the center of Shepherdstown's downtown area.
Sundays 3 p.m.
More information:
"Shepherdstown Living History" on Facebook.

According to Keith Alexander, who heads the historic preservation program at SU, the tours were made possible by a contribution from an anonymous donor to the Shepherd Foundation and the historic preservation program last summer.

Alexander explained that the donation was made following the success of the historic preservation program’s cemetery tours at Halloween to be used for additional walking tours.

In its second year, the "living history" tour is timed to coincide with the Contemporary American Theater Festival each summer.

"We have so many people visiting Shepherdstown. It’s a good time to share with them the historic resources we have here," Alexander said.

Heidi Carbaugh, a senior history student, leads a second tour in which she portrays Mary Bedinger, the author of "A Woman’s Recollection of Antietam," the famous first-hand account of Bedinger’s experiences living in Shepherdstown during the Antietam/Sharpsburg Civil War battle.

The tours are free to all members of the public and are given Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., Fridays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. More information about the tours can be found at "Shepherdstown Living History" on Facebook.
Students capture 'unique' town through photos

Photographs taken by Shepherdstown Elementary School students answering the question "What Makes Shepherdstown Unique" will be exhibited at the Entler Hotel on Friday, July 29 from 3 to 6 p.m. The photos were taken during a "photo safari" developed and organized by Keith Alexander, coordinator of Shepherd University's historic preservation program.

The photo safari, held May 26, involved Shepherdstown Elementary School fifth graders taking pictures of Shepherdstown with digital cameras. The cameras were purchased through a grant received by Alexander from the Two Rivers Giving Circle. Alexander worked with three teachers at the elementary school - Amanda Groff, Leslie Boyd and Ashley Snow - to plan and implement the event. Stephanie-Ann Osborn, a recent graduate of Shepherd and one of Alexander's students, also helped with planning.

Teachers gave students a general background on the history of Shepherdstown and its natural resources. Students also received some training in how to use the cameras and advice on how to take a good picture.

Otherwise, they were left on their own to capture their own ideas about what makes their hometown special.

Common themes included the tree in front of the Shepherdstown Public Library, McMurrin Hall, the Rumsey Monument, Town Run and the Little House.

There were also some perspectives on the town that can best be appreciated by viewing the photos themselves.

The photos will be available to view online after the exhibit, which is free and open to the public. The Historic Shepherdstown Commission contributed in-kind support to make the exhibit possible.
Abbrecht donates 25 acres

The Shepherd University Foundation announced the major gift of a 25-acre lot, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Peter Abbrecht. Located just outside Moorefield, in a gated community developed by Hunter LLC, the lot has been designated for unrestricted use by the nursing department.

In addition to practicing internal and pulmonary medicine at University of Michigan Hospital, Dr. Abbrecht’s extensive career includes work with the Uniformed Services, Department of Defense and as a professor of internal medicine and physiology at the University of Michigan, where he served as the chair of their bio-engineering program. In his retirement, Dr. Abbrecht acts as an investigative consultant with the Office of Research and Integrity, funded by National Institute of Health with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Investigating allegations of research misconduct with a focus on clinical trial cases, Dr. Abbrecht is considered a leading expert in investigating research fraud.

Charmed by the community of Shepherdstown, Dr. Abbrecht and his wife, Dianna, chose to make their gift to Shepherd University out of a desire to remain involved in an academic environment.

Having worked with collegiate nursing programs for 40 years, Dr. Abbrecht knew he wanted to designate their gift to Shepherd’s nursing department.

The Abbrechts recently visited Shepherd’s campus, where they received a personal tour of the state-of-the-art nursing facility, Erma Ora Byrd Hall, by Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of Shepherd’s Department of Nursing. Dr. Abbrecht and Dr. Mailey were previously acquainted, having served together on a congressionally mandated task force to establish the nursing program at Uniformed Services University in Baltimore, Md.

To learn more about making a gift through the Shepherd University Foundation, 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/fncnweb.
Fellow prepares to present research

Rachel Molenda / Special to The Chronicle

POSTED: July 22, 2011

Angela Elder always had a passion for history, beginning at an early age with her mother’s interest in genealogy and extending into her academic career as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia.

It seemed appropriate that Shepherdstown and the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War acted as home base for Elder’s graduate research on widowhood and the Civil War. She was impressed with the amount of resources the center has to offer.

"Basically the Civil War Center has hundreds of books written on the Civil War, which is really helpful. And also the people here - like Tom White, the research specialist - knows not only all of the resources in the center but is also great at giving advice for resources in the area," Elder said.

She said Shepherdstown not only contains a large amount of history, but it is also surrounded by many other historic places.

"Shepherdstown is a great base because you’re so close to the archives in Richmond and the archives in D.C. and all the battlefields," she said.

Elder came to Shepherdstown by way of the Nethken Memorial Fellowship, a research opportunity open to graduate students through the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War. Far from her home in Athens, Ga., Elder found it to be a fairly easy transition.

"It’s been wonderful not only for research purposes, but
the people have been friendly and helpful,” she said. “People, especially Mark Snell, the director of the center, have made me feel at home despite being so far from Georgia.”

Snell spoke highly of Elder, saying she “has become a fixture at the George Tyler Moore Center and she will be sorely missed when she leaves next week.”

For the past month and a half, Elder studied the lives of widows of the Civil War through primary sources like letters and diary entries as well as visits to famous Civil War battlefields that bring history to life.

"I think it's really powerful to be able to hold pieces of paper that were so important for people in history. For example, to hold a telegram to a wife that tells her her husband had died or the letter from a mother to her son on the battlefield,” Elder said.

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and wars still being fought all around the world, Elder explained its relevance to individuals today and their connections to the past through relatable experiences.

"The 150th anniversary of the Civil War is important not just because it was our nation’s bloodiest war but because the things that people went through then, people still experience today,” she said.

History was not all Elder found herself immersed in. She enjoyed the outdoor scenery that this area provides, using the C&O Canal Towpath and other trails for running in her spare time.

"Shepherdstown is in a neat location because the Potomac River is so close. There are so many hiking opportunities in the area. It’s really just a great escape from day-to-day work inside,” she said.

Elder will be presenting “Living on the Edge: Death, Confederate Widowhood, and the Second Virginia Infantry” at 7:30 pm on Thursday, July 28 in the Erma Ora Byrd Hall at Shepherd University.

“i am really excited to talk about my research,” Elder said, “and see what people in the area think and say.”
Nonprofits' exemption revoked

Tricia Fulks / Chronicle Editor

POSTED: July 22, 2011

Editor's Note: This story has been updated since the print version that appeared in the July 22, Advertisement 2011 edition of The Shepherdstown Chronicle.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, approximately 13 nonprofits with Shepherdstown mailing addresses lost their tax exempt statuses between May and October 2010.

Failing to file required annual returns and notices for three consecutive years as laid out in the Pension Protection Act, passed by Congress in 2006, these organizations' tax-exempt statuses were automatically revoked and posted publicly in June.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a few organizations were defunct while some would look into reinstating the status; others felt they could operate without it and one was in the process of reincorporating under another Employment Identification Number, or EIN, entirely.

When Shepherdstown Street Fest originated, it had incorporated itself, according to Vice President Chris Stroech, as a 501(c)4. When the event did not commence during the summer of 2010, Stroech said its corporate and tax exempt statuses "lapsed."

The organization is currently working to reincorporate itself, which Stroech said will allow for retroactivity "back to the day of business" of the new corporation's 501(c) and EIN numbers, meaning donations made this year will be covered. He said he is unaware of any donations made to Street Fest during the lapsed time.

Stroech expects this process to take about six months.

Daniel Vreugdenhil, president of Adopt a Ranger, said while his organization is still operating, he has had limited time to raise funds, ultimately deciding against filing the annual paperwork, which normally comes with a large filing fee.

"For not raising any money, that's a big loss," Vreugdenhil said.

In a release issued by the IRS in early June, it stated that organizations with annual gross receipts of less than $50,000 or less for 2010 can regain their tax-exempt status for a reduced application fee. According to the IRS, original application fees are $400 or $850; nonprofits fitting this criteria can pay $100 to reinstate the
Vreugdenhil's organization is more active on the Internet about raising awareness about world-wide issues in conservation and lack of field staff.

"We have a very active digital presence, (and) we are very active as an advocate," he said.

Vreugdenhil said he hopes to talk with his accountant to go about the proper channels to reinstate the organization's tax exempt status.

Shepherd University's Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity also lost its tax exempt status.

In a statement released by Valerie Owens, executive director of University Communications, she said "Shepherd University is working with the Tau Kappa Epsilon National Office and the local chapter to file the necessary IRS nonprofit paperwork. The loss of nonprofit status will not prevent TKE from remaining a recognized organization on campus."

But other organizations on the list said they simply do not need the status.

Phil Adams, treasurer of the Brothers of Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 42, said while the organization pays the $25 state fee to keep its tax exempt status in West Virginia, the organization holds smaller fundraisers a few times a year. He said members use the status when purchasing food for dinners for fundraisers, so the status is not used much.

Joseph Snyder, former editor of the newsletter for the American Association to Advance the Study of Pictographs and Petroglyphs, said the group is "fundamentally inactive at the moment."

"I really can't tell you what our future prospects are," he said.

He also said he never received notices from the IRS, though the organization's mailing address was changed from the Shepherdstown location.

A national organization formed in 1979, Snyder said legally the group is still in existence and functions primarily as an information-sharing group. He said the group has no plans to reinstate the tax-exempt status.

According to the IRS, the listing of these organizations should have "little, if any, impact on donors who previously made deductible contributions to auto-revoked organizations." But, if the nonprofit does not reinstate the status, they are no longer eligible to receive tax-deductible donations and any income they receive may be taxable.

Calls were made to other organizations on the list the National Institute for Urban Wildlife and the Grief Support Network; however, those numbers were no longer in service. Attempts were also made to contact the St. Agnes knights of Columbus Council; however, emails were not immediately returned regarding the inquiry.

Organizations looking to reinstate their tax-exempt status may visit www.IRS.gov.
SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Board of Governors recently appointed new officers.

Gat Caperton was tapped to serve as chairman. W. Mark Rudolph was named vice chairman, and Marcia Brand was named secretary.

Caperton, of Berkeley Springs, is the president and CEO of Caperton Furnitureworks, a West Virginia manufacturer of handmade, solid wood home furniture that he acquired from its founder in 1996.

He received his MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. In 1990, Caperton received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Davidson College.

Rudolph, of Winchester, Va., is a 1984 graduate of Shepherd and the president and CEO of Yount, Hyde & Barbour CPAs in Winchester. He joined the firm in 1984, became a principal in 1994 and has served as president and CEO since 2005.

Brand, of Martinsburg, has been the deputy administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, since March 2009. She earned a doctorate in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania and master’s and bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Emeritus status was granted to retiring faculty members John Stealey III and J. Michael Jacobs.

Stealey, who is retiring after 42 years of service at Shepherd, received the title Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.

Jacobs, who is retiring after 40 years of service at Shepherd, received the title Professor Emeritus of Physical Education.