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THE DOMINION

Post



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Morgantown, West Virginia

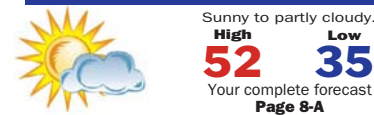
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SUNDAY

Nov. 1, 2009

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny to partly cloudy.
High **52** Low **35**
Your complete forecast **Page 8-A**

TO FIND OUT about school closings or delays, go to dominionpost.com.

Sleep in today



Don't forget to set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. today. AP

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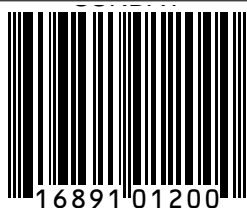
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Family to celebrate before son's deployment.

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Band members remember 1963 parade

THIS IS part of an ongoing series of stories and photos following the Morgantown High School Band as it prepares to participate in the 2009 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

BY AMANDA DEPROSPERO
The Dominion Post

Many things have changed since 1963 in terms of everyday life: Technology, family values, societal beliefs.

But the old standby saying, "the more things change, the more they stay the same," may actually have some truth to it. At least for the Morgantown High School Band.

Through the years, not much has changed in terms of traditions for Morgantown High's Red & Blue Marching Band. The Mohiganettes and majorettes wear the same outfits. The pep song is still played regularly. Even marching traditions remain the same, passed down from band director to band director.

Forty-six years ago this month, the Morgantown High School Band made its way to New York City to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In a few weeks, a new crop of Morgantown High band members will make that same trip to leave their own mark on the Big Apple.

As the band members look forward to representing their school, community and even state on a national level, *The Dominion Post* is looking back at that group in 1963 as they practiced for and experienced what proved to become an unforgettable moment in their lives. Here are some of their stories.

'I remember getting to see the Rockettes'

As the Morgantown High Band's head majorette in 1963, Beverly Martin Farina's



Head majorette Beverly Martin, in full headdress, leads the band during a half-time show.

Submitted Photo



Inside

- Twins share their experience.
- Chaperones an important part of the trip.
- Band director doesn't like the limelight.
- By the numbers. **Pages 6-A, 3-B**

job was multifaceted. She not only led the band down the street, but she was also instrumental in the behind-the-scenes events leading up to the parade.

Farina's father, Richard Martin, served as the band's trip chairman and played an integral part in getting the students to New York City, she said.

Farina was in on discussions between Band Director Robert Hill and NBC Producer Ed Pierce. Several photos of her, Hill, Pierce and Richard Martin at band practices ran in the newspapers — the *Morgantown Post* and the *Dominion News* — before the trip.

Once the band was actually in New York, Farina said she doesn't really remember the parade

being difficult, even though it was 5 miles long.

"I don't know if any of us were in shape for a 5-mile march, but we were so excited," she said. She said Betty White was the commentator, and Troy Donahue and Michael Landon were some of the celebrities on board for the parade that year. In fact, Donahue was highly sought after by some of the MHS teenage girls.

"I think a lot of girls knew Troy Donahue was staying in our hotel," Farina said, smiling as she discussed how some of them were always hanging out in the lobby trying to catch a glimpse of him.

The band stayed at the Statler Hilton, which was located at 7th Avenue and 33rd Street, fac

SEE **MACY'S**, 6-A

Health plan to initially cover 6M Americans

DOCTOR prescribes house calls as cost-saver in health reform. **BOEHNER:** GOP has right answers on federal health care coverage. **Page 6-B.**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — What's all the fuss about?

After all the noise over Democrats' push for a government insurance plan to compete with private carriers, coverage numbers are finally in: Two percent.

That's the estimated share of Americans younger than 65 who'd sign up for the public option plan under the health care bill that Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is steering toward House approval.

The underwhelming statistic is raising questions about whether the government plan will be the iron-fisted competitor that private insurers warn will shut them down or a niche operator that becomes a haven for patients with health insurance horror stories.

Some experts are wondering if lawmakers have wasted too much time arguing about the public plan, giving short shrift to basics such as ensuring that new



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks about health care during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

coverage will be affordable.

"The public option is a significant issue, but its place in the debate is completely out of proportion to its actual importance to consumers," said Drew Altman, president of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

The Democratic health care bills would extend coverage to the uninsured by providing government help with premiums and prohibiting insurers from excluding people in poor health or charging them more. But to

keep from piling more on the federal deficit, most of the uninsured will have to wait until 2013 for help. Even then, many will have to pay a significant share of their own health care costs.

The latest look at the public option comes from the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan economic analysts for lawmakers.

It found that the scaled back government plan in the House bill wouldn't overtake private health insurance. To the contrary, it might

help the insurers a little.

The budget office estimated that about 6 million people would sign up for the public option in 2019, when the House bill is fully phased in. That represents about 2 percent of a total of 282 million Americans under age 65. (Older people are covered through Medicare.)

The overwhelming majority of the population would remain in private health insurance plans sponsored by employers. Others, mainly low-income people, would be covered through an expanded Medicaid program.

To be fair, most people would not have access to the new public plan. Under the House bill, it would be offered through new insurance exchanges open only to those who buy coverage on their own or work for small companies. Yet even within that pool of 30 million people, only 1-in-5 would take the public option.

Who's likely to sign up? The budget office said "a less healthy pool of enrollees" would probably be attracted to the public option, drawn by the prospect of looser rules on access to specialists and medical services.

Michael wants new trial, lawyers

State high court to decide on case

BY BRANDY BRUBAKER
The Dominion Post

The state Supreme Court of Appeals will decide this month whether convicted killer Michelle Michael might deserve a new trial because she alleges her attorneys failed her during her first trial.

Michael, 37, petitioned the state's highest court this summer to set aside her convictions of first-degree murder and arson, release her from Lakin Correctional Center, and appoint a new attorney to handle her case.

They'll review her filing Nov. 12, Supreme Court Spokeswoman Jennifer Bundy said.

In September, the court denied Michael's formal petition for appeal, filed after her July 2007 trial, during which a jury convicted her of the November 2005 murder of her husband.

Prosecutors said she tried to cover up the murder by setting fire to their Killarney Drive home.

Michael no longer has an attorney and filed her writ for habeas corpus herself from prison.

Michael's petition centers on allegations of incompetence by her trial attorneys Tom Dyer and Jim Zimarowski, errors in judgment by the trial judge, and the admission of a juror who questioned his own impartiality.

In the filing, Michael said that her lawyers' performance was "so deficient that counsel was not functioning as guaranteed by the constitution."

Michael said her attorneys failed to perform a proper inves-

SEE **MICHAEL**, 2-A

Man listens for ring, finds his phone in dump

Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — A determined Colorado man found his missing cell phone at a trash dump after dialing the number and listening for the ring.

Billy Boyd said he dropped the phone Tuesday while raking his yard outside Aspen and unknowingly scooped it into a bag of leaves.

He said he didn't realize his mistake until after he left the leaves at a city recycling center.

Boyd said he could hear the phone ringing but couldn't reach it because of the grate across the recycling bin. By the time he reached city officials, the bin had been emptied onto a massive leaf pile at the dump.

After a half-hour of dialing, listening and sifting at the dump, Boyd found his phone.

Landfill manager Chris Hoofnagle said it's the first time he can remember anyone finding a lost item at the dump.

MACY'S

FROM PAGE 1-A

ing Pennsylvania Station.

Also while in New York, Farina said Byron Phillips, a local New York Life Insurance agent and father of band member Linda Kay Phillips, arranged a trip for the band to go to the New York Life building for a special luncheon and a trip to the top of the building.

Farina's favorite memory overall though was a visit to Radio City Music Hall. "I remember getting to see the Rockettes, and that was the highlight of my trip," she said.

'I don't remember ever being tired'

A junior drummer at the time, John Muffly remembers the rigorous band practices held in the main parking lot at the Morgantown Municipal Airport before the New York City parade. Everyone seemed to be gearing up for the several mile parade, he said.

Once they got there, Muffly said he was surprised by how easy the parade actually turned out to be.

"It's a pretty slow parade because of all those floats, so you got to stop a lot," he said. "It wasn't as bad as what we thought. I don't remember ever being tired. We were just too excited."

His advice to the 2009 MHS Band?

"Just enjoy it. It's just a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You won't even think about how far you march. You'll just enjoy the surroundings," he said. "Everybody's with you, supporting you."

'I marched in that parade'

Every year when Ann Machesney Simon sits down to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, she can't help but be reminded of the day she and her fellow Morgantown High School Band members marched there.

"My children probably tired many years ago of my reminding them every Thanksgiving morning that 'I marched in that parade!'" she said in an e-mail.

While Simon has many fond memories of the band's venture to the Big Apple — she was a senior majorette at the time — her favorite happened when the majorettes and Mohiganettes were waiting inside Macy's practicing their kickline and preparing for the performance.

"As we danced and performed our high kicks, we noticed a group of young women watching us and giving us approving smiles," she said. "Not until we were ready to go back out in the street to perform were we told that those attractive young women were none other than the world famous Radio City Music Hall Rockettes."

'We just wanted to have fun without getting in trouble'

While taking a group of teenagers to a big city may have been unnerving for parents and chaperones, Cathy Curry Samuel, a junior majorette at the time, said those teenagers in the 1963 band were determined to represent their community well.

"We were good kids. We really were, and we wanted to stay good kids," she said. "We just wanted to have fun without getting in trouble."

It seemed strange to Samuel at the time since she was one of the few band members who had been to New York City before, but band officials told the teens to beware of beggars and pickpockets. They also showed them how to carry their purses so that they would be less accessible to thieves.

"I found it interesting that they had to tell people about that," she said.

Working as a school counselor for 27 years, Samuel said she has seen the way children have changed through the years. But she does have some advice for the new crop of students who will head to New York next month.

"Generally, take the experience in because you will remember it the rest of your life," she said. "I think people are proud of them, and they need to know that. That's a wonderful thing to be able to do."

'I didn't think they could do something like that'

New York City's big buildings, crowded streets, traffic and abundance of restaurants came as a shock to Bill Rader when he went with the band in 1963. A senior clarinet player, Rader said he has several memories of his three days in the big city.

A visit to Rockefeller Center, taking in a Rockettes show and a trip to the top of the Empire State Building were all on his itinerary.

Riding the subway was also a new experience for Rader.

"To me, when you go down, it was like a city under a city," he said about the subway tunnels.

During the actual parade, Rader got a look at an advertisement for Clairol hair spray.

"One thing that caught my eye, there was a break in the parade. On one of the buildings, they had an elec-



The Morgantown High School Band marches down the streets of New York City during the 1963 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Submitted photos



MHS majorettes and Mohiganettes perform on the Monongalia County Courthouse Square to raise money for the band in 1963. G.C. Murphy Co. five and dime, Rogers Pharmacy and Cranes Clothes can be seen in the background.

tronic sign," he said. "I didn't think they could do something like that."

Even tasting the food in the city was an experience.

"One night we had free, and I went to a restaurant down the street from the hotel. And I went in and everything on the menu was in French. I felt a little embarrassed about asking what things were," he said.

So when he found the cheapest thing on the menu, which turned out to be halibut, he quickly ordered it.

"At the time, I didn't know what a halibut was," he said laughing. "That was about the best piece of fish I ever had."

'We had to memorize all those Christmas songs'

Although she said she can't remember a lot about the trip, Vicki DeBiase, a junior Mohiganette at the time, clearly remembers that the band served as honor band for the parade that year, which meant MHS served as the band to introduce Santa Claus and his float.

"We had to memorize all those Christmas songs, put together a majorette/Mohiganette dance, and practice marching and separating our 'ranks' so that Santa could pass through the band while we played [a Christmas song]," she said in an e-mail interview.

"Of course, we thought we were so cool," she said, "and so proud of our Morgantown High Band."

'We were fired up and ready to go'

Charlie Armistead's pride in the 1963 MHS band is still as strong today as it was 46 years ago. A senior bass drummer, he said he and the rest of the band were determined to represent Morgantown and West Virginia in the best way they could. Plus, they were really excited.

"This was a helluva band. We were fired up and ready to go," he said.

He and one other teenager were the two bass drummers in the band, he said, and he enjoyed helping to lead the percussion section and the rest of the band with the loud, booming drum.

"I could knock people five feet back off the curb," he said, chuckling.

When the parade was over, Armistead said he thought the band had done its job well in New York City.

"I think it was a good band. I think

we represented everybody real well, and we returned home safe and sound.

"That band had a lot of pride in itself."

'None of our parents wanted to miss it'

Being on national TV was huge news in 1963, said Carolyn Peluso Atkins, a junior majorette at the time, and the parents didn't want to miss seeing their kids on TV.

"Our parents were so excited that we were going to perform on national television," she said in an e-mail. "I remember my mother saying that she and my dad could hardly wait for us to appear — and then the phone rang, just as we were introduced."

Both of her parents refused to move from their seats to answer the phone, she said.

"That was before the advent of VCRs and DVRs, so if you missed it, you missed it. And, trust me, none of our parents wanted to miss it."

'I couldn't get over how tall all of the buildings were'

Armed with an 8mm movie camera, Diana Weese Livengood was ready to document everything from her trip to New York City. And, even though the rain and fog kept her from getting clear footage, she said she remembers plenty about the trip from her memories alone.

"Our scheduled events included

visiting Radio City Music Hall, a Broadway play, a sightseeing tour and of course the parade itself," she said in an e-mail. "The view from the street and our room was enough for me. I couldn't get over how tall all of the buildings were."

As a sophomore baritone horn player in the parade, Livengood said she has spotty memories of actually marching. But she did remember that several parents walked with the band in case there was an emergency and that someone told her the announcers of the parade had said the Morgantown High School Band was from Morgantown, Pa., instead of West Virginia.

"Upon our departure from New York, it seems we were held up momentarily for one of the students who had not been accounted for. He finally came up to the buses running and couldn't understand why the concern. He stated he was just shopping and wasn't watching the time," she said. "After all these years, I would love to know if anyone else remembers that and what was the name of the student."

'The band was all about cooperative learning'

"Being in the band was my greatest experience at MHS," said Bettijane Christopher Burger, a Mohiganette in 1963, in an e-mail. "It's where I saw my future husband on the very first day of summer band practice my sophomore year. It was always exciting marching down High Street or doing halftime shows."

But one of the most prominent memories is marching in the Macy's Parade, just after the Kennedy assassination.

She said she remembers trying to stay warm by huddling in a phone booth before the parade with her friend and fellow Mohiganette Marilee Rockenstein. She also remembers the hotel.

"We stayed at the Statler Hilton and ordered room service, a milkshake, which was delivered on a doily on a tray. Fancy!" she said.

By the numbers

5: Minutes allotted for the 1963 MHS band's performance in front of Macy's.

150: Approximate number of 1963 MHS band members.

6,500: Approximate cost in dollars for the 1963 band to travel to and perform in New York City.

265: Band members in 2009 band.

200,000: Approximate total cost in dollars for the band to travel to New York City (Paid by students and fundraising efforts).

650: Approximate dollar amount paid per band member.

40,000: Fundraising goal in dollars.

500: Approximate dollar amount paid per band member if goal is met.

12: Bands that performed in the 1963 Macy's parade.

12: Floats in the 1963 Macy's parade.

6: Helium-filled balloons in the 1963 Macy's parade.

"I realize now, as a retired teacher, the band was all about cooperative learning. Music is still a daily part of my life," she said.

Her advice for the 2009 band following in the 1963 band's footsteps? "Have a great time Mohigan band."

'It will be something they will always remember'

For sophomore alto saxophone player, Rita Staley Friend said being away from home on Thanksgiving was an interesting experience, especially because she and the rest of the band members ate at a restaurant that day.

But being part of the band was like a family in itself, she said.

"The band was a very fun group to belong to. We all bonded," she said. "There's a lot of us that are still good friends after all these years. We had a lot of good, clean fun on that trip."

From big city shopping and sightseeing to the actual parade march, Friend said those that went on the trip in 1963 had a special and exclusive experience together. The highlight of the trip, she said, was playing a traditional Christmas song while Santa Claus came through the center of the band.

"It was just a real great experience. I always have a special place for the Macy's parade because of that," she said.

"It was a good time, and I'm sure those kids [the 2009 band members] will have a good time. It will be something they will always remember. They can tell their grandkids about it."

2009 Morgantown High School Band MACY'S FUND!

The fund was created to help send Morgantown High School's Red & Blue Marching Band to New York City to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Adrienne Schmidt
Head Majorette
MHS Band

Eric J. Tomlinson/Photo Illustration

To donate to the 2009 Morgantown High School band's Macy's Fund, mail a check payable to:

Morgantown High School band
P.O. Box 496
Morgantown, WV 26507

Note "Macy's" on the check.

For more information call 304-291-9266

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- Garvins Dairy, Morgantown
- Riverside Park, River Rd., Maidsville
- Morgan Leather Co., 341 Spruce St.
- Marr's Pizza & Sandwich Shop, Campus Drive
- H. & I. Auto Supply, 895 Univ. Ave.
- Cowan Baking Co., 113 Clay Street
- J. Biafora & Sons, 416 High Street
- G. C. Murphy Co., High Street
- Bob Bismore Tire Service, 199 University Ave.
- Metropolitan Theatre, 371 High St.
- Westover Drive-In Theatre, Dupont Road, W.O.
- Massullo's Cleaners, Cor. High & Fayette
- O. B. Fawley Music Co., 122 High St.
- Joffed Motors, 1370 University Ave.
- Maple Leaf Drive-In Theatre, Tyrone Road
- Atlas Letter Service, Spruce Street