

# The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

JUNE 2021

## LOCAL ART

Over The Mountain  
Takes A New Path

4 >>>>>>>>>>

## COVID-19

A Shot In The Arm:  
The Legal Issues

7

## COMMUNITY

Rockwool Factory  
Starts Operation

8

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Killing Hills,*  
By Chris Offutt

9

## NATURE

A Tulip Tree  
Close To Home

10

## EXPLORE

11 Handcrafted Ice Cream

12 Events & Activities

14 Food, Drink, & Shopping

16 Movies Under The Stars



*Into the Mystic, by Lisa Ashton.*

FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT [WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM](http://WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM)

# WVU Heart & Vascular Institute

## ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



**Imad Ahmado, MD, FACC**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Interventional Cardiology  
Internal Medicine  
Nuclear Cardiology



**Runa Bhattacharya, MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Internal Medicine



**Payam Fallahi, MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Interventional Cardiology  
Internal Medicine  
Nuclear Cardiology



**Umut Gomceli, MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Echocardiography  
Internal Medicine  
Nuclear Cardiology

To provide our patients the best care possible, we have recently recruited additional board certified cardiologists and interventional cardiologists to our WVU Medicine HVI Team. We also added new office locations in Hagerstown and Shepherdstown.

### Cardiology Clinical Focus:

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Interventional Cardiology
- High Risk Angioplasty
- Stroke Prevention
- Limb Salvage
- Pacemakers
- Peripheral Vascular Disease
- Peripheral Interventions
- Venous Ablations



**Manish Jhavar, MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Interventional Cardiology  
Nuclear Cardiology



**David Plitt, MD, FACC, RPVI**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Echocardiography  
Interventional Cardiology  
Internal Medicine  
Nuclear Cardiology



**Khola Tahir, MD**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Echocardiography  
Internal Medicine



**Ajay Virmani, MD, FACC**  
**BOARD CERTIFIED**  
Cardiovascular Disease  
Interventional Cardiology

### HAGERSTOWN • MARTINSBURG • SHEPHERDSTOWN • WINCHESTER

**HAGERSTOWN**  
13 Western Maryland Parkway,  
Suite 106  
Hagerstown, MD  
304-350-3273

**MARTINSBURG**  
Dorothy McCormack Center  
2000 Foundation Way, Suite 3100  
Martinsburg, WV  
304-350-3273

**SHEPHERDSTOWN**  
60 Maclaine Way  
Shepherdstown, WV  
304-350-3273

**WINCHESTER**  
650 Cedar Creek Grade  
Winchester, VA  
540-535-0000

## EDITORIAL STAFF

### EDITOR IN CHIEF

STEVE PEARSON

### MANAGING EDITOR

CATHERINE PEZZARO

### CONTRIBUTORS

GONZALO BAEZA  
 WENDY BARAKA  
 DANIELLE CORSETTO  
 MARK CUCUZZELLA  
 TRACY DANZEY  
 RICH GOODMAN  
 AMY HIETT  
 DOUG PIFER  
 CHRIS PRICE  
 ADDISON REESE  
 CLAIRE STUART  
 JORDYN TRUAX  
 BRENDA WAUGH

### DESIGN

JORDAN HUDKINS

### CONSULTING EDITOR

MICHAEL CHALMERS

### PUBLISHER

HARRIET PEARSON

### BUSINESS MANAGER

LESLIE DAVISSON

### FOR ADVERTISING

Email: **SALES@**  
 WeAreTheObserver.com

Phone: 304-249-8968

Ad deadline is 15th  
 of each month

### BE AN OBSERVER

Share your photos, story ideas,  
 questions, and comments.

Email: **CONNECT@**  
 WeAreTheObserver.com

### THE OBSERVER ONLINE

Web: WeAreTheObserver.com  
 Facebook: @WVObserver

Copyright © 2021  
 WV Independent Observer LLC  
 131 West German Street  
 PO Box 3088  
 Shepherdstown WV 25443

Published monthly. Printed by  
 FNP Printing, Frederick, MD.

THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 

## WV PERSPECTIVES



The Town Run Garden (above) behind Knutti Hall on the Shepherd University campus is a leafy oasis of native plants adjacent to the stone-lined channel of the Town Run. Into the early 1990s, this space was an unused tennis court paved in broken asphalt and surrounded by a chain link fence. Sonya Evanisko, a professor of art at the University, recruited local landscape architects Karen Motivans and Stuart Wallace to re-envision the space, resulting in the five triangular beds and meandering path that we see today. The Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden Club maintains four of the beds and recently added the painted stones to enhance the learning experience of visitors.

## TO OUR READERS

What a difference a year makes. Last June, Harriet and I had just purchased *The Observer* and were rushing to pull together our first issue. With this, our twelfth issue, we've had time to think, experiment, and change. We hope to keep on this path and welcome your thoughts as we continue to present the stories and voices of our community.

It's been a strange year too. As we sit here in the summer-like heat listening to the thrum of the emerging cicadas, it doesn't seem like a normal May and yet we'll take it because it's so much more normal than last May. There's something in the air – Doug Pifer, our nature columnist, would tell us it's likely tulip tree pollen – but we think it's optimism. The artists are making art, the musicians are making music, the drive-in screen is lit up (page 16) and there's fresh ice cream ready to be served (page 11). At a simple level, it's encouraging to be able to print a calendar (page 12) with actual in-person events again.

The story of the Rockwool factory faded from the headlines over the past year, as the pandemic and politics took center stage, but both the construction and contention has continued behind the scenes. With the imminent start of production at the factory, these conversations will no doubt continue, perhaps for as long as it took to transform the old tennis court into the garden (above, in photo) we wander today.

**Steve Pearson**  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

// LOCAL ART

## FRIENDS OLD & NEW, ON A PATH TOGETHER



THE CONVERSATION THAT WOULD LEAD to the creation of Over The Mountain Studio Tour started at a kitchen table, recalls Anne Bowers, an original member. “We were a few artists looking for a way to represent ourselves beyond just going to shows. The Valley Craft Network in Maryland was our inspiration and also our advisor. Bowers uses the words artisan, craftsman and artist when referring to the members of the Tour. She explained that individual pieces by members will have different aspects, some functional, some decorative, some interpretive. “It’s when you look at the work as a body that you can understand the artist.” The group has grown and changed over the past thirty years, but Bowers notes the sense of support and the mission to educate have remained consistent. “Our members are artists who are serious about what they do and love sharing their art with the public. I’ve never been part of a group that has been so good to work with.”

For many of the Tour members, art is their livelihood and the pandemic has been difficult. Bowers said that several members struggled to maintain their creativity. “The art is an outlet to feed your soul, to create things that others can appreciate. When you can’t share what you create, it’s a loss.” She shared her own experience, “at the start, I was creating and creating, but then it became clear it [the pandemic] would continue, I asked myself if I needed to make so much. Without the goal of shows, I asked, why do I want to do this? It really was a time of sadness.”

“The 2020 show was virtual. Some of our members were not at all comfortable with the technology and chose not to participate. Some were very successful at presenting their work online. But it’s not something that we expect to repeat. What we do with the Tour is not just about selling our work or coming and seeing [static displays of art]. It’s about investing in relationships and engaging in conversations as we show our work. We think of the people we see on the tour as our friends. We’ve been apart for a year and are very interested to share again.”

Mentoring and education has been a key aspect of the Tour since the beginning. Bowers is excited that the Tour is partnering with the

Shenandoah Planing Mill to participate in the Summerfest at the Mill event on June 12. She credits Tour member and wood-turning artist Neil Super as being the “catalyst who can see the possibilities” in starting what she hopes will be a new tradition for the Tour. “We started a summer show about ten years ago, but this is the first time we’ve partnered with another group.” The Summerfest event will feature demonstrations by the woodworkers at the mill as well as other hand-crafters and artisans in addition to the Tour members. Bowers remarked, “we live in a time when we are surrounded by things that we don’t know the origin of. It’s eye-opening for many to see things made. It’s a treasure to be able to share both what you do and how you do it.”

BY: Steve Pearson

### FOLLOW THE TOUR

on the web:

[OverTheMountainStudioTour.com](http://OverTheMountainStudioTour.com)

on Facebook:

@OverTheMountainStudioTour

2021 TOUR - NOVEMBER 14-15

### SUMMERFEST AT THE MILL JUNE 12 (SATURDAY)



Many of the Over The Mountain Studio Tour members will be exhibiting and selling art at the Summerfest at the Mill, a family-friendly event with music, craft demonstrations, food, and art, with many activities outside. Art presented by Tour members at the event will include hand hewn wood bowls, basketry, stained glass, all things yarn, mixed media, polymer clay, alcohol inks, wood sculptors, blacksmith items, jewelry, woven fiber artistry, woodcarving, woodturning, and handcrafted wood furniture.

Location: Shenandoah Planing Mill, 471 Cold Storage Rd, Charles Town WV. Hours: 9 am - 6 pm. Admission and parking are free.

### WELCOMING NEW ARTISTS TO THE TOUR

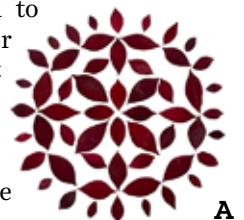
The Observer asked which artists to feature in this article and, in keeping with the spirit of mentoring artists, Bowers immediately suggested the newest members of the Tour. In speaking with these three artists, they all noted that it was the educational aspect of the Tour — the opportunity to learn from other artists — that was the most compelling benefit of joining.

### ROD GLOVER

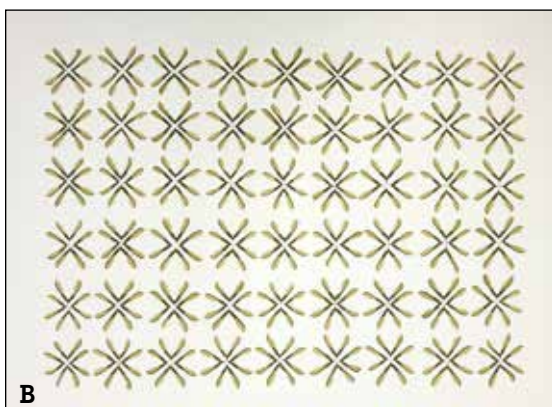


### BOTANICAL COLLAGE & ASSEMBLAGE

Glover expected 2019 to be a change of pace — after twenty years of running a retail shop near DC’s Logan Circle, he sold the business to commit a full-time effort to his art. He studied fiber arts in college and he describes his art form as “collage – applying different elements to a substrate, typically paper or wood.” He also incorporates painting into his work. A gift of a book on botanicals planted the seeds for his current approach to explore form and shape using natural plant elements. What he didn’t expect was the change in 2020. Glover remarked that he found it difficult to be creative during the pandemic. The current spring has been energizing both as the pandemic receded and nature revived. “My materials are ephemeral and I have a window of opportunity to gather them. The Summerfest event gave me a deadline and focus, since I needed to create smaller works for the event. It was a great challenge.” Glover works near Shepherdstown and his work can be found online on his website [BirdAndBevan.com](http://BirdAndBevan.com).



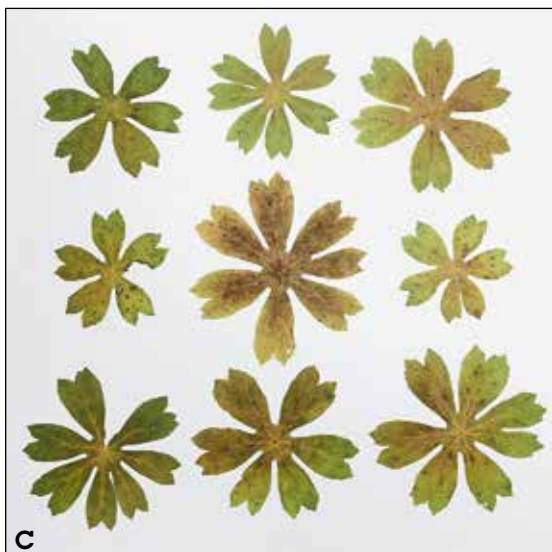
A



(A) *BURNING BUSH MANDALA* explores the endless pattern configurations of this particular leaf shape and references a mandala as a meditation aid. It can also suggest folk art similar to Pennsylvania Dutch hex signs.

(B) *BOXELDER FRUIT SPRING PATTERN II* is part of a series exploring pattern as found in woven textiles and could also reference the Op Art movement.

(C) The *NINE MAYAPPLES* highlights the unique shape of the deeply lobed leaves and also references Pop art with a nod to Warhol's *Flowers* series from 1964.



LISA ASHTON



BEAD & TEXTILE ART

"I began sewing and weaving beads over 50 years ago, around the time I was 11 or 12," says Ashton. She noted that even while she was working full time, she was sewing clothing and costumes, quilting, learning multiple techniques, but always concentrating on beading. She says much of her work was creating "costumes of fantasy, original and historical reproductions" (with documented research) that she would enter into competitions. She describes her creative process as a "stream of consciousness" approach, noting that often her pieces will evolve as she works on them and she does not know what the finished piece will look like until it's done. She often incorporates old jewelry and found objects into her work, taking inspiration from the original object and creating a "twist" with the beaded creation. "I consider my beaded pieces as "little worlds" where everywhere you look is an interesting new detail." Ashton currently resides in Harpers Ferry and can be reached at [LisaAshton35@gmail.com](mailto:LisaAshton35@gmail.com).



(D, above) A detailed view of a stone and beads collage. (E, below) Beaded quilt. (Cover) *Into the Mystic*.



STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 6 >>



Andrew Skinner

Stephen Skinner

WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

SKINNER  
LAW FIRM

REPRESENTING CONSUMERS AND INJURED PEOPLE

304.725.7029 SKINNERFIRM.COM

Attorneys: Stephen Skinner, Andrew Skinner, Levi Pellegrin & Bryan Ogilvie | Stephen Skinner is responsible for the content of this ad.

// LOCAL ART

DANIELLE CORSETTO



CARTOONIST AND DRAWING

Danielle Corsetto describes herself as “a professional cartoonist who also dabbles in caricature, figure drawing, gouache, and watercolor, and teaches all ages & skill levels how to make comics.” She says she has been writing and drawing comic strips since she was a child, and realized pretty quickly after graduating from college that she wasn’t drawn to a typical office job. With encouragement from experienced cartoonists she met over the years at various ComicCons, she took the leap to start her first long-running webcomic series, Girls With Slingshots, online in 2004.

Her current long-term project is a graphic novel called Elephant Town that takes place in Shepherdstown where she currently lives. She noted that the pandemic cut down on her travel and gave her some time to dive deeply into creating watercolor and ink & marker studies of the town to use as reference for the graphic novel drawings. “It’s not something you always have the time to do, but the pandemic gave me the space to focus.” For the event at the Mill, Corsetto will be presenting small watercolor and


ink drawings of Shepherdstown, as well as drawing caricatures.

You can find Corsetto on Instagram ([instagram.com/dcorsetto](https://www.instagram.com/dcorsetto)) which also has a link to her Patreon to subscribe to the weekly updates of Elephant Town.





(F, above) Reference drawing for Elephant Town. (G, below) Watercolor prints of Shepherdstown.





**BAVARIAN INN**  
RESORT & BREWING COMPANY

**FOR FINE DINING OR FUN DINING  
THE BAVARIAN INN IS YOUR DESTINATION.**

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER, SUNDAY BRUNCH,  
BREW PUB, CREATIVE COCKTAILS, OUTDOOR DINING**

[www.bavarianinnwv.com](http://www.bavarianinnwv.com)      304-876-2551



Personal  
Financial  
Management

Anyone can understand money.  
Not anyone can understand you.

Talk with a financial advisor at Goldman Sachs Personal Financial Management, and see what truly personal finance can mean for you.



**Rob Hoxton, CFP®**  
Hoxton Center  
8530 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 26443  
[goldmanpfm.com/nsv-shepherdstown-wv](http://goldmanpfm.com/nsv-shepherdstown-wv)

**(304) 876-2619**      **Get personal™**

United Capital Financial Advisers, LLC d/b/a Goldman Sachs Personal Financial Management is a registered investment adviser and an affiliate of Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC ("GS&Co.") and subsidiary of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., a worldwide, full-service investment banking, broker-dealer, asset management, and financial services organization. Advisory services are offered through United Capital Financial Advisers, LLC and brokerage services are offered through GS& Co., member FINRA/SIPC.

// COVID-19

# CAN THEY DO THAT?

Requiring a COVID-19 Vaccination

By Brenda Waugh

*Brenda Waugh, MA JD, is a lawyer/mediator specializing in alternative dispute resolution with Waugh Law & Mediation, serving clients in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. A graduate of the University of Virginia, West Virginia University, and Eastern Mennonite University. Email: waugh@brendawaugh.com.*

**THE ROLLOUT OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE** in the United States has been met with both enthusiasm and skepticism. Some feel relieved to minimize the risks of becoming infected or developing serious complications from the virus. Others fear that the vaccine itself is the greater risk, without a sufficient historical basis to guarantee its safety. With many public and private entities requiring a COVID-19 vaccination, the issue goes beyond evaluating the personal health and risk choices into questions of law. Does requiring vaccination violate state or federal constitutional rights? Do vaccination requirements conflict with federal or state statutes? A quick look at the most likely answers:

## CAN GOVERNMENTS IN THE U.S. REQUIRE THAT A PERSON GET A VACCINE?

Yes. While no state or federal authority has indicated that they plan to require the vaccine, individual states probably have the authority to require vaccination. During the smallpox epidemic early in the twentieth century, Massachusetts mandated vaccinations. Henning Jacobson, concerned that he would develop a reaction to the shot, challenged the constitutionality of compulsory vaccination as a violation of freedom of religion. The Supreme Court upheld the \$5.00 fine as a valid exercise of the commonwealth's police power. The court also recognized the potential for a medical exception. The West Virginia Code is explicit and currently grants the authority to the state board of health to adopt "rules and regulations to obstruct and prevent the introduction or spread of smallpox or other communicable or infectious diseases into or within the State."

## CAN SCHOOLS REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS BE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 AS A CONDITION OF ATTENDING?

Yes, public schools can require that students be vaccinated. A few years after the Supreme Court decided the case involving Henning Jacobson, Roslyn Zucht refused the smallpox vaccine and San Antonio public schools refused her admission. The Supreme Court upheld Zucht's exclusion. Today, every state requires that students attending

public and private schools receive certain vaccinations, providing for limited medical and religious exemptions. In West Virginia, both the code and the regulatory rule require that children entering public, private, or religious school and state-regulated child care be immunized against chickenpox, hepatitis B, measles, meningitis, mumps, diphtheria, polio, rubella, tetanus, and whooping cough. The statute provides an exemption when a physician determines that the vaccination is contraindicated for a specific child and an immunization officer certifies that the exemption is appropriate. There is no religious exemption in the West Virginia Code.

## CAN EMPLOYERS REQUIRE VACCINES?

Yes, with some exceptions. Before COVID-19, many companies, especially in the healthcare industry, mandated vaccines. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that one Houston hospital now mandates COVID-19 vaccines for all employees, stating that it promotes the safety of the patients. Since employment in the United States is generally "at will," employers have great liberty in establishing working conditions. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has confirmed that a COVID-19 vaccination requirement would not violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Enforcement and exemptions to the requirement are not as clear. In some circumstances, employers may be required to provide reasonable accommodation for an employee who cannot be vaccinated due to a disability.

## CAN A PRIVATE BUSINESS EXCLUDE AN UNVACCINATED PATRON?

Most likely, yes. Businesses can restrict customers in any fashion they like, so long as it does not violate the law. Think: "no shirt no shoes no service." The Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides one of the few limitations on restrictions. It prohibits all public accommodations from discriminating based on race, sex, religion, national origin, or a protected class. "Public accommodations" is broadly defined and includes hotels, restaurants, retail establishments and recreational facilities. As long as the vaccination does not impact a protected group, the law probably can't restrict the business owner from imposing requirements.

**CAN AIRLINES OR CRUISE LINES RESTRICT TRAVEL TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT VACCINATED?** Most likely, yes. Since cruise lines and airplanes travel to international locations, the travel company can restrict access to those who could not depart the ship or plane, due to a lack of vaccine verification. In domestic travel, while the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution may restrict the government from impeding travel, it does not restrict the ability of private businesses to impose conditions so long as they are not inconsistent with state or federal law.

## A QUICK TAKE

**As you return to work, travel or public activity, some suggestions:**

If you are vaccinated, keep your records so that you can verify your vaccination history (a photo on your phone is a good place to keep a copy).

If you have health concerns about a vaccine, talk with your physician to understand your risks and clarify if you qualify for a medical exemption.

If you are a member of a religious organization that opposes vaccination, speak with your clergy member to obtain further information about religious exemptions.

If you have any question about the legality of a specific vaccine requirement, speak with a lawyer. Many issues are still unresolved and may impact any of these mandates.

Vaccine testing continues and additional vaccine options may be available in the near future.



TAX+ACCOUNTING+CONSULTING

### Martinsburg Chad R. Lawyer, CPA

1105 Winchester Avenue  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

☎ 304-263-9447

☎ 304-263-8150

☎ 304-263-8204

### Charles Town Eric J. Lewis, CPA

205 West Liberty Street  
Charles Town, WV 25414

☎ 304-728-6877

☎ 304-728-6807

### Shepherdstown Thomas C. Ours, CPA

130 E German Street, Suite 100  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

☎ 304-263-9447 ext.4

oll-cpas.com

// COMMUNITY

# CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE, CONCERNS CONTINUE OVER ROCKWOOL



*Rockwool facility in Ranson, as viewed from the Black burial ground adjacent to the factory property.*

## Factory To Begin Production In June

ACCORDING TO THE @ROCKWOOLRANSONCOMMUNITY PAGE on Facebook, the manufacturing facility will operate equipment in May to “run in” the factory, prior to beginning production operations in June. In an April 30 post, the company stated that “steam” will be visible from the chimney stack above the “wet electrostatic precipitator” (on right in photo) and a “plume” will be visible from the tall chimney (on left in photo).

## DANISH AGENCY INVESTIGATES

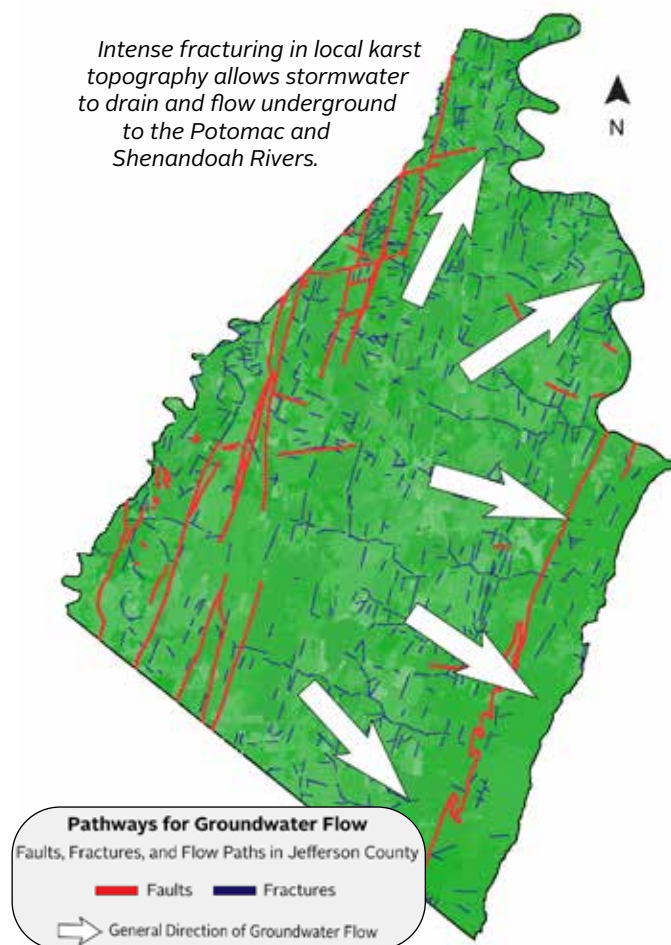
In October 2019, the Danish Mediation and Complaints-Handling Institution for Responsible Business Conduct (NCP Denmark) received a complaint against Rockwool filed by a West Virginia-based group. The complaint alleged that Rockwool violated the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. NCP Denmark conducted a preliminary investigation and found that it could not rule out that non-observance of the OECD Guidelines had taken place. After Rockwool declined the Danish agency’s offer of formal mediation, NCP Denmark launched a full investigation which is expected to conclude later this year (website: BusinessConduct.dk).

## LITIGATION OVER STORMWATER PERMITS CONTINUES

In March 2020, the Jefferson County Foundation appealed the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) water discharge permit registration issued to Roxul USA Inc. in February 2020 for construction activities in Ranson. The evidentiary hearing before the WV Environmental Quality Board (EQB) began in December 2020 and continued into March 2021. Final documents have been filed in this case and a ruling from the EQB is pending.

During the EQB hearing WVDEP took the position that the agency has no official karst risk mitigation guidance for water discharge permit, despite previously posting a karst template on its website. A similar appeal against the stormwater discharge permit for the Rockwool factory’s operation was filed in December 2020 and the case is in process.

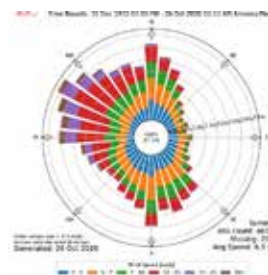
*Intense fracturing in local karst topography allows stormwater to drain and flow underground to the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers.*



*Warning sign along US 340 North at the West Virginia border.*

## AIR QUALITY STUDIES BEGIN

The local winds vary in direction and intensity throughout the year. The “wind rose” shows the patterns of winds blowing from the indicated



directions (for example, the bar next to the “W” indicates winds blowing from the west). Depending on the day, any part of Jefferson County could be downwind from the mineral wool factory near Kearneysville. Researchers from the WVU School of Public Health research have begun a project to study the potential exposure and near-term health effects of heavy metals in children in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.



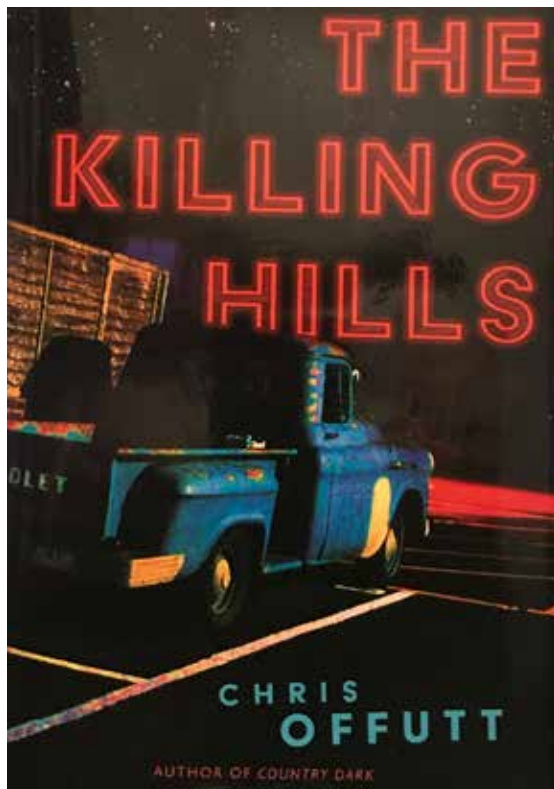
// BOOK REVIEW

**CRIME IN THE HOLLER**

*The Killing Hills*, by Chris Offutt

**Publisher:** Grove Press (2021)

**Review by:** Gonzalo Baeza — Born in Texas, raised in Chile, and currently living in Shepherdstown, Gonzalo is a fiction writer with books published in Spain, Italy, and Chile. His stories have appeared in *Boulevard*, *Goliad*, and *The Texas Review*.



AMERICAN ARTIST GEORGE AULT (1891-1948) is known for his paintings of nighttime rural settings, deceptively quaint yet mysterious depictions of barns, and desolate town corners shaped by light and shadow. The cover of Chris Offutt’s latest novel, *The Killing Hills*, has an Aultian character to it that aptly captures the essence of this thriller, a story of violence and blood feuds but also quiet moments of foreboding deep in the eastern Kentucky hills.

Mick Hardin is an Army intelligence officer who normally investigates homicides in military facilities around the world. Having served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he returns to his native Rowan County in eastern Kentucky after he finds out his wife is pregnant – and the child may not be his. While Hardin dwells on whether to meet his wife or not, and spends his days in alcoholic stupor, his sister Linda, the county’s new sheriff, asks him for help. Local resident Nonnie Johnson has been found dead in the woods. According to Linda, “There never was a body in Rowan County that most folks didn’t

already know who did it. Usually a neighbor, a family, or drugs. Maybe two drunks who argued over a dog. This is different. Everybody liked her.”

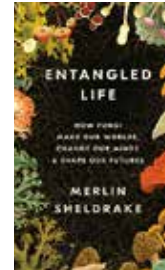
In spite of the gruesomeness of the crime, the assignment helps Mick avoid sorting out his situation with his wife Peggy as well as stop engaging in self-destructive behavior. Throughout the course of the siblings’ investigation, we meet a colorful cast of characters. Old Man Tucker, a retired school janitor and ginseng hunter who first finds Nonnie’s body and knows his way through the most recondite hills and hollers where the killer may be hiding. Coal tycoon Murvil Knox, who seems to have a vested interest in steering the investigation a certain way. Backwoods drug dealer “Fuckin’ Barney,” who seems to know who killed Nonnie but is reluctant to talk to Mick. Barney’s boss, Detroit kingpin Charley Flowers, who sends two henchmen to take care of Mick. And finally, to complicate the mystery further, there is young Tanner Curtis, who some suspect killed Nonnie and who’s always been an outsider in this close-knit community on account of having been adopted as a child.

*The Killing Hills* displays Offutt’s keen ear for naturalistic dialogue and eye for observation, whether it is regional idiosyncrasies, the nervous tics of a character being interrogated by Mick, or the precise detail about local flora that helps readers situate themselves. It is in calculated gestures such as Mick regularly introducing himself as “Jimmy Hardin’s boy” to elicit recognition and familiarity that help Offutt transport us to a mountain milieu where clan and kin are more important than concepts like guilt or innocence, a land where the law that prevails is not necessarily the one that has been codified on paper. In the author’s distinctive style, eastern Kentucky and its deceptively-tranquil hills and hollers become much more than a backdrop to the story, casting an ominous shadow that often seems to shape the characters’ personalities and actions.

Although this is the first Offutt novel that could be properly classified as crime fiction, its action and taut prose paying homage to masters of the genre like Jim Thompson, what differentiates *The Killing Hills* from most thrillers is its skillful combination of a fast-paced story and solid characterizations with a good measure of plot twists. With a protagonist who seems infallible when it comes to feats of physical prowess but who is humanized by the turmoil of his personal affairs, this could be the beginning of a series of rural crime novels or simply one more piece in the eastern Kentucky literary mosaic Offutt has been building since his outstanding debut short story collection, *Kentucky Straight* (1992).

**THE FRONT SHELF**

*Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures*, by Merlin Sheldrake

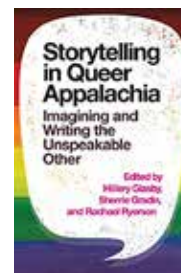


Random House Trade (2021)  
\$18.00

Fungi provide a key to understanding the planet on which we live and the ways we think, feel, and behave. In *Entangled Life*, the brilliant young biologist Merlin Sheldrake shows us the world from a fungal point of view, providing an exhilarating change of perspective. Fungi throw our concepts of individuality, and even intelligence, into question. By examining fungi on their own terms, Sheldrake reveals how these extraordinary organisms – and our relationships with them – are changing our understanding of how life works.

*Storytelling in Queer Appalachia: Imagining and Writing the Unspeakable Other*, edited by Hillery Glasby, Sherrie Gradin, and Rachael Ryerson

West Virginia University Press (2020) \$29.99



In one of the first collections of scholarship at the intersection of LGBTQ studies and Appalachian studies, voices from the region’s valleys, hollers, mountains, and campuses blend personal stories with scholarly and creative examinations of living and surviving as queers in Appalachia. The essayists collected in

*Storytelling in Queer Appalachia* are academics, social workers, riot grrrl activists, teachers, students, practitioners, scholars of divinity, and boundary crossers, all imagining how to make heard the unspeakable other of Appalachian queerness.

*Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression*, by Iris Gottlieb



Chronicle Books (2019) \$27.50

*Seeing Gender* is an of-the-moment investigation into how we express and understand the complexities of gender today. It is a must-read for intelligent, curious, want-to-be-woke people who care about gender and sexuality in the 21st century. This deeply researched book demystifies an intensely personal – yet universal – facet of humanity.

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY**  
**FOUR SEASONS BOOKS**  
114 W GERMAN ST, SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV  
FOURSEASONSBOOKS.COM  
4SEASONS114@GMAIL.COM  
(304) 876-3486

// NATURE

# AT HOME WITH A SPECIAL TULIP TREE

By Doug Pifer

Doug Pifer is an artist, naturalist, and writer. He has a Master's Degree in Journalism from Penn State and has been an editor and art educator. His illustrations have appeared in various books and magazines and he has been a contributor to *The Observer* for several years. He lives with his wife and assorted animals on 5.7 acres in a historic farmhouse near Shepherdstown.

FOR ABOUT A CENTURY, a magnificent tulip tree has stood in the front yard of our house. It has withstood the weather, shaded the house, and maintained its characteristic shape. Its columnar trunk is straight, its open crown forks into a dome like top. The side branches arch gracefully downwards from the main trunk and then sweep upwards at the tips. In May, lovely blossoms appear that resemble green and orange tulips. These mature into candle-like cones of seeds that disperse during the winter, helicoptering to the ground and twinkling in the sun.



Uniquely-shaped leaves turn a beautiful shade of Indian-yellow in the fall. The bark of the tulip tree is smooth on young trunks and branches. As it ages it cracks and breaks into interconnecting fissures in a net-like pattern.

This tulip tree hosts a variety of wildlife that we've come to know. Each fall, a yellow-bellied sapsucker arrives and immediately starts to drill parallel rows of sap wells in the trunk of the tree, which the bird revisits throughout the winter. Two species of swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on the branches. Their caterpillars feed on the leaves.

Last summer one of these caterpillars crawled up on our front porch. Behind its head were markings that resembled big eyes. When disturbed, it puffed the front part of its body up to look like the head of a snake. When this defensive bluff didn't work, two fleshy, bright orange "horns" popped out of the skin behind its head, emitting a strong chemical scent that must taste terrible to a would-be predator.

One late spring night a lovely moth called "tulip tree beauty" landed on the screen door, attracted by the light. Its name is derived from its larvae's preference for tulip tree leaves. Its two-toned gray wings were finely penciled with concentric, curving lines much like a topographic map.

Tulip tree flowers are beautiful but hard to see even though they are tulip-sized and similar to magnolias, to which they are related. Their greenish color and the large leaves hide them where they appear near the ends of branches.

Each petal has a distinctive mark or band near its base, not black like some tulips but bright orange. The color is pure orange, not yellowish or reddish — almost matching the pigment cadmium orange.

Pigment is important to me right now. I'm commemorating our tulip tree in a two-story mural on the wall of our front stairway inside the house. Images of birds we see in this very tree will be painted semi-hidden among leaves, flowers, and branches. A partial list includes catbird, blue jay, red-eyed and warbling vireo, scarlet tanager, orchard and Baltimore oriole, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy and red-bellied woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown thrasher, ruby-throated hummingbird, eastern kingbird, eastern bluebird, mockingbird, cardinal, and yellow-billed cuckoo. For a touch of drama and variety, I'll depict several of these birds heckling one of our local black rat snakes.

This isn't just any tulip tree. It's a lively home I share.



Sample board for mural by Doug Pifer

## HANDS-ON LEARNING

### Summer Solstice Nature Journaling



In celebration of the Summer Solstice weekend, join Carolyn Duckworth at Cool Springs Preserve for a learning session on journaling. Carolyn has been keeping nature journals for decades, from Yellowstone to Harpers Ferry, and will share techniques and exercises, in both words and images, to inspire our nature journal habits. Any level of experience is welcome. Participants must bring their own 'tools' – pencil(s), notebook/paper (field journal if you have one), and a portable chair – and an open mind to trying new materials and techniques. If you have nature journals that you have created, bring them along to share as inspiration. **June 19 (Sat), 9:00 am - noon.** Field Journaling Guides: Carolyn Duckworth & Joy Bridy. Free, but pre-registration required (limited to 10 participants). Info: [PotomacAudubon.org](http://PotomacAudubon.org) (>calendar).

## FAMILY EVENT

### Fascinating Fireflies

Celebrate the magic of 'firefly season' with an evening firefly walk at Cool Spring Preserve with Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement at Blandy Experimental Farm, a UVA research facility and arboretum located near Winchester, VA. Stroll along the trails of the preserve and learn why fireflies flash, what they eat, and other fun facts about this species. An easy hike along trails, but participants should bring a flashlight and be prepared (if you choose) to walk through high grass and woods. **Saturday, June 26 (Sat), 8:15 - 10:00 pm** at Cool Spring Preserve. Free, but pre-registration required (limited to 14 participants). Info: [PotomacAudubon.org](http://PotomacAudubon.org) (>calendar).



EXPLORE // LOCAL FOOD

A FRESH TAKE ON AN OLD FAVORITE

Rock Hill Creamery Opens In Downtown Shepherdstown



Bringing a smile to the face of a customer.

DANIELLE FUHRMANN got into the ice cream business by accident – literally. About ten years ago, she hit Gary Miller’s vintage car (a minor fender-bender) and offered to work for him to pay for the damages. Miller’s car was repaired and Fuhrmann gained a mentor. At the time, Miller was still operating Rock Hill Creamery, a business that he had started in 1996 using milk supplied from his family’s farm in Berkeley County. Over the years, Miller had multiple storefront locations for the ice cream shop and also was a fixture at fairs and events in the Eastern Panhandle. Eventually it was just the outdoor events until he retired and closed the business in 2016.

Fuhrmann worked with Miller for a few years, graduated from Shepherd University with a degree in business marketing and a minor in computer science, and thought she would launch into an office-based career. She picked up work at the Blue Moon Cafe in the kitchen and realized that she preferred the energy of food service over office life. By 2019, she was ready to try something different and was remembering the fun she had working in the ice cream business. She recalls, “I was thinking I should call Gary and see if he would let me give it a try and the next day I bump into him at Lowes. I hadn’t seen him in over a year. We talked and we pretty quickly agreed that it was a good idea.”

“My first plan was to restart with events. Gary helped me build a trailer and then I started looking for a place to make the ice cream. I was still working at the restaurant and there wasn’t a real sense of urgency to start this, and then the pandemic hit,” she remembered. “So I kept on thinking and then found out that this space on German Street was available. This is where PRESSED Flour was and before that it’s where Maria’s Tacos got started. It’s the right size and has the space upstairs where I can make the ice cream.”

“I’m using the recipes I got from Gary,” says Fuhrmann. “Keeping it simple makes for good ice cream and because I make it right here each week I don’t need to add preservatives. Gary once made 80 batches a week – I’m making just a fraction of that, so I know I have lots of room to grow. It’s not a complex process but you can’t leave it alone. You watch it freeze and you watch it soften, to get the right texture. The



The menu at Rock Hill Creamery is a mix of favorites and new flavors, with fresh batches added every day.

fun is in playing with the flavors. I’ll go to bed thinking about what order to mix the next day so I can keep the production going.”

Fuhrmann noted, “I sold out on my first open weekend. That was flattering, but as a business I want to be able to keep my customers happy. Many customers come for a specific flavor and I don’t want to disappoint them. Everyone who gets ice cream is happy – it’s a wonderful feeling.”

Rock Hill Creamery is located at 111 West German St, Shepherdstown WV. Current hours are Wed-Thu, noon - 8 pm, Fri & Sat, noon - 9 pm, Sun, noon - 8 pm. Online: Facebook @RockHillIceCream and Instagram.com/RockHillCreamery. Email: RockHillCreamery@gmail.com. Phone: 304-707-8765.



OUR READERS ARE  
YOUR CUSTOMERS

*in Jefferson County*

ADVERTISE IN  
*The Observer*

Email: Sales@WeAreTheObserver.com

**Darnell & Company A.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

DAVID E. DARNELL, CPA

Personal and Business  
Tax Preparation  
including  
Multi-State Returns  
and Tax Planning

By Appointment Only  
Monday-Friday  
9AM to 4PM

Accounting,  
Bookkeeping  
and Payroll Services

304-725-5712  
59 RULAND ROAD, SUITE F  
KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

Quickbooks Installation  
and Training

conveniently located off of Route 9, behind the Jefferson County DMV

“We should not pretend to understand the world only by the intellect; we apprehend it just as much by feeling. Therefore, the judgement of the intellect is, at best, only the half of truth, and must, if it be honest, also come to an understanding of its inadequacy.”

—C.G. Jung (*Psychological Types, Conclusion, p. 628*)



INDIVIDUALS • COUPLES • ADULTS • ADOLESCENTS

Harpers Ferry • 304.261.2771 • Shepherdstown

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



CONTACT: [KIMO@KIMOPICS.COM](mailto:kimo@kimopics.com)

# PHOTO EXHIBIT



**11AM TO 5PM**

**FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS**

**AND**

**SUNDAYS**

See images at [www.kimopics.com](http://www.kimopics.com)

**COUNTIES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER**

**JEFFERSON—WEST VIRGINIA**

**WASHINGTON—MARYLAND**

**BERKELEY—WEST VIRGINIA**

**KimoPics** STUDIO AND **GALLERY**

AT THE ENTLER HOTEL

129 E. GERMAN STREET SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV



SERIES ONE

Live music 
 Family/kid friendly 
 Spoken performance 
 Nature/outdoors  
 Email [Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com](mailto:Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com) if you have an event or activity to include in our calendar.

**WEEKLY**

- BARN AT HARPERS FERRY** · Info/schedule: FB @HFEEventBarn
- HARPERS FERRY BREWING** · Info/schedule: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing
- INKWELL'S TAVERN, CHARLES TOWN** · Info/schedule: FB @InkwellsTavern
- LILAH RESTAURANT, SHEPHERDSTOWN** · Info/schedule: FB @LilahRestaurant
- MECKLENBURG INN, SHEPHERDSTOWN** · Info/schedule: FB Mecklenburg-Inn
- O'CONNELLS IRISH PUB, MARTINSBURG** · Info/schedule: FB OConnells-Irish-Pub

**MAY 27**

- GINADA PIÑATA** (funk & fusion) · May 28 (Fri) at Harpers Ferry Brewing · 5-8 pm · Info: FB @GinadaPinata
- KEVIN FARLEY** (comedy) · May 28 (Fri) at O'Connells Irish Pub, Martinsburg · 7:30 pm · \$15 · Info: FB OConnells-Irish-Pub
- SHEPHERDSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY** re-opens for in-person visits · Starting June 1 · Reservations required · Info: ShepLibrary.org

**JUNE 03**

- CARBON LEAF** (Americana, indie rock) · June 3 (Thurs) at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg VA · 7 pm · \$45 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com
- SHEPHERDSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY** Summer Reading Program kickoff · June 5 at the library · 11:00 am - 1:00 pm · Info: ShepLibrary.org
- MARYLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** presents Brown & Beethoven · June 5 (Sat) at 7:30 pm and June 6 (Sun) at 3 pm · Maryland Theater, Hagerstown · Tickets/Info: MDTheater.org
- DAWG DAZE CONCERT** · June 5 at Antietam Brewery, Hagerstown MD · Starting at noon · Bobby D & The Truck Stop Burritos, Jester, Ever Rise · Free · Info: @AntietamBreweryWesternMarylandPkwy
- CHRISTIAN LOPEZ SOLO SHOW** (alt. folk country rock) · June 5 (Sat) at Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill
- THE REAGAN YEARS** (80s tribute) · June 5 (Sat) at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com
- SPEAK STORY SERIES PRESENTS CHIRINE EL ANSARY** · June 8 (Tue) ONLINE · 7:30 pm · \$15 · Mature audience · Info/tickets: SpeakStorySeries.com

**Chirine El Ansary** grew up between Egypt and France. Chirine brings a physical approach to storytelling and a deep interest in how words and movements can merge to create atmospheres, generate emotions, and convey precise images. Starting in 1995 in the old city of Cairo, she has performed in the streets of Damascus, Aleppo, Sanaa, Nairobi, Zanzibar, Johannesburg, Rome, Naples, Rotterdam, Paris, Oslo, Shiraz, Warsaw, Constantine, Beirut, and London. She has also performed in prisons, Palestinian refugee camps, remote mountain villages, train stations, and forests.


**JUNE 10**


- LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES** featuring Gangstagrass (hip-hop bluegrass) · June 10 (Thu) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · 7-9 pm · Free · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels
- MOVIE IN THE PARK - TOM & JERRY** · June 11 (Fri) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · 8:30 pm · Free · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels


Enhanced listings and advertising options (print and online) available  
 EMAIL: [SALES@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM](mailto:SALES@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM)

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

 **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - ARMORY CANAL HIKE** • June 12 (Sat) at Harpers Ferry National Park • 10 am - noon • Free (pre-registration required) • Info: HarpersFerryHistory.org


 **SUMMERTIME AT THE MILL** • June 12 (Sat) at the Shenandoah Planing Mill, 471 Cold Storage Rd, Charles Town • 9 am - 6 pm • Free • Info: FB @SPMWV

 **CAZHMIERE** (top 40 dance) • June 12 (Sat) at Pump House East, 4529 Shepherdstown Rd, Martinsburg • 6 pm - 10 pm • Advance ticket only • Info: FB @PumpHouseEast


 **NINE DEEZ NITE** (90s tribute) • June 5 (Sat) at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg VA • 8 pm • \$15 • Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com


===== **JUNE 17** =====


 **LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC** Series featuring Tony M Music (for kids) • June 17 (Thu) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park • 7-9 pm • Free • Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels


 **The Nielsen Trust** • June 17 (Thu) at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg VA • 8 pm • \$45 • Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

===== **JUNE 24** =====


 **HISTORY ON THE ROCKS** • June 24 (Sat) at Harpers Ferry National Park • 10 - 11 am • \$10 donation (pre-registration only) • Info: HarpersFerryHistory.org


 **NEW VOICE PLAY FESTIVAL** • June 24 & 25 (Fri, Sat) at 8 pm and June 26 (Sun) at 2:30 pm at the Old Opera House, Charles Town • \$15 • Tickets/Info: OldOperaHouse.org


 **LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES** featuring Jah Works (roots rock reggae) • June 24 (Thu) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park • 7-9 pm • Free • Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

 **THE REAGAN YEARS** (80s tribute) • June 26 (Sat) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park • 7-9 pm • \$50 per group space (up to 6 people), advance only • Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels


 **THE DERAILLEURS WITH FIDDLIN' DAVE** (jazz club vibe) • June 26 (Sat) at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville VA • 7 pm • \$20 • Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill


 **1964** (Beatles tribute) • June 26 (Sat) at Big Cork Vineyards, Rohrsersville MD • 7 pm • \$28 • Tickets/Info: MDTheater.org


 **PAT MCGEE BAND** • June 26 (Sat) at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg VA • 8 pm • \$25 • Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

 **DOG DAY AFTERNOON** • June 26 (Sat) at Inkwells Tavern, Charles Town • 10 am - 2 pm • Free • Info: FB @InkwellsTavern

===== **JULY 1 AND BEYOND** =====


 Levitt AMP Shenandoah Junction Music Series featuring Hillbilly Gypsies (bluegrass) • July 1 (Thu) at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park • 7-9 pm • Free • Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

 The Sweet Life and Michael Perdwew (jam, funk, reggae show) • July 9 (Fri) at Bright Box, Winchester VA • 8 pm • Free • Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

 Rob Maher & Irwin Loring • July 10 (Sat) at the Barn of Harpers Ferry • 7-10 pm • Free • Info: FB @HFEventBarn

 The Reflex (80s tribute) • July 9 (Fri) at Bright Box, Winchester VA • 8 pm • \$10 (adv.), \$12 (door) • Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

 Shepherdstown Public Library community picnic • July 17, 1:30 - 4 pm at Morgan's Grove Park, Shepherdstown • Info: ShepLibrary.org

 Barns of Rose Hill 10th Anniversary Community Celebration, featuring Cheick Hamala Diabaté • July 31 (Sat) at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville VA • 5 pm • \$20 • Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill



contemporaryamericantheaterfestival  
AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

playcastplus

JULY 2021

AUDIO PLAYS

PODCASTS

STREET PARTIES

RESERVATIONS OPEN & TICKETS ON SALE:  
**JUNE 1**

LEARN MORE

CATF.ORG

FAMILY DRIVE-IN THEATER REOPENS >>> PAGE 16

EXPLORE // FOOD & DRINK



**Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle™**

Sales  
Service/Repairs  
Shuttle Service

Rentals: Bicycles, Canoes, & Kayaks  
Pedal & Paddle Day Trips

Experience riding a FAT BIKE on  
the historic C&O Canal

**304-876-3000**  
**ThePedalPaddle.com**

**Two Rivers Treads**  
RUN. WALK. HEALTH.

TwoRiversTreads.com

304.885.8843

400 S. MILDRED ST | RANSON WV 25438

**ADVERTISE IN THE OBSERVER**  
Email: Sales@WeAreTheObserver.com

**CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS**

•Indoor Rock Climbing Gym •Outdoor Guide Services  
•Training & Technique Classes •All Ages & Abilities Welcome

LET'S TALK!  
304-240-0587 | ClimbingNewHeightsWV.com  
54 General Motors Access Road, Martinsburg

**SHEPHERDSTOWN**

- BAVARIAN INN & BREWPUB**  
Fine & casual dining
- BETTY'S RESTAURANT**  
Casual diner, open early
- BLUE MOON CAFÉ**  
Inventive American fare
- CHINA KITCHEN**  
Traditional Chinese
- COMMUNITY GARDEN MARKET**  
Organic & natural grocery
- DEVONSHIRE ARMS CAFÉ & PUB**  
English-style pub
- FARMER'S MARKET**  
Sunday morning market
- GRAPES & GRAINS GOURMET**  
Wines & craft beers
- GREEN PINEAPPLE**  
Poke, ramen, & bubble tea
- KING'S NY PIZZA**  
Pizza, subs & Italian
- KOME THAI & SUSHI BISTRO**  
Creative Asian fusion
- LELLYBELLE CAFÉ**  
Vegetarian & vegan fare
- LILAH RESTAURANT**  
New American
- LOST DOG COFFEE**  
Coffee, tea & beans
- MARIA'S TAQUERIA**  
Mex/SoCal cuisine
- MECKLENBURG INN**  
English-style pub & garden
- PRESS ROOM**  
Regional cuisine, fine dining

- ROCK HILL CREAMERY**  
Fresh-made ice cream
- SHEPHERDSTOWN LIQUORS**
- SHEPHERDSTOWN SWEET SHOP**  
Baked goods & sandwiches
- TOMMY'S PIZZA**  
Pizzas & subs to go

**CHARLES TOWN & RANSON**

- ABOLITIONIST ALE WORKS**  
Craft beer & pub dining
- ALFREDO'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILL**  
Quaint & homey bistro
- ANDY'S PIZZA**  
Pizza, Rolls & Subs
- GINZA**  
Hibachi & sushi
- GRANDMA'S DINER**  
American & Spanish
- INKWELL'S TAVERN**  
Cocktails, craft beer, food
- MAD MONKS BAKERY**  
Coffee and baked goods
- MI DEGOLLADO**  
Traditional Mexican
- ORTEGA'S TACO SHOP**  
Homemade Mexican cuisine
- PADDY'S IRISH PUB**  
Irish-theme sports bar
- ROSSY'S PLACE**  
American restaurant

- SIBLING COFFEE ROASTERS**
- SUMITTRA**  
Innovative Thai & Asian
- TEE DAWGS BBQ**  
TX style smoked meats
- HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR**

- A LA MODE CAFE ICE CREAM & DESSERTS**
- ALMOST HEAVEN PUB & GRILL**  
Pub food & drinks
- THE ANVIL RESTAURANT**  
Casual dining, rustic space
- THE BARN OF HARPERS FERRY**  
Bar & events venue
- BATTLE GROUNDS BAKERY & COFFEE**  
Pastries & sandwiches
- THE CANAL HOUSE CAFÉ**  
Local ingredients
- CANNONBALL DELI**  
Sandwiches, Snacks,

- COACH HOUSE GRILL N' BAR**  
Full service dining
- THE COFFEE MILL**  
Coffee shop
- COUNTRY CAFÉ**  
Breakfast & lunch, casual
- CREAMY CREATIONS**  
Ice cream shop
- HAMILTON'S TAVERN 1840**  
Inventive craft menu
- HARPERS FERRY BREWING**  
Craft brews
- HARPERS FERRY ICE CREAM SHOP**  
Ice cream & milkshakes
- KELLEY FARM KITCHEN**  
Vegetarian & vegan
- LES & ALI'S SEAFOOD**  
Fresh catch fish market
- MOUNTAIN HOUSE CAFE**  
Cozy family inn, takeout
- THE RABBIT HOLE**  
Casual American & drinks
- WHITE HORSE TAVERN**  
Burgers, brews & bourbons

**FRESH, WILD CAUGHT U.S. SEAFOOD**

**LES & ALI'S JUMBO SEAFOOD**

**Fridays**  
9:30am - 6pm

**Saturdays**  
9:30am 'til Sold Out

aliblu@aol.com  
540-931-8050

**1422 BLAIR RD / AT THE EZ MART**  
(RT.340 & BLAIR RD)

facebook.com/LesAlisJumboSeafood

**CELEBRATING OUR 27TH SEASON!**



EXPLORE // SHOPS AND GALLERIES

The locally-owned shops and restaurants across Jefferson County offer a personal touch and small town ambiance. Visit our website [WeAreTheObserver.com/shop-local](http://WeAreTheObserver.com/shop-local) for addresses and other details.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN**

**ADMIRAL ANALOG**  
Vintage & new vinyl

**AZAD'S ORIENTAL RUG EMPORIUM**  
Handmade rugs

**BADGERHOUND STUDIO & GALLERY**

**BRIDGE GALLERY**  
Showcase of local artists

**COOPER CAPTURES**  
Nature photography & art

**CREATIVE PROCRASTINATIONS**  
Whimsical art emporium

**DICKINSON & WAIT CRAFT GALLERY**  
American craft products

**EVOLVE GALLERY**  
Pop-up art gallery

**FOUR SEASONS BOOKS**  
New & resale books

**GALLERY AT 105**  
Local artists

**GERMAN STREET MARKET**  
Gifts & delicacies

**THE GOOD SHOP**  
Women's clothing

**THE HIVE HOUSE**  
Beekeeping supply

**HONOR D FINE SHOES & HATS**  
Stylish shoes, hats for all

**KIMOPICS GALLERY**  
Local photographer

**MEDITATIVE MEDICINALS**  
CBD, health & beauty

**MOUNTAINEER POPCORN**  
Sweet & savory treats

**O'HURLEY'S GENERAL STORE**  
Novelties & gifts

**ON THE WINGS OF DREAMS**  
Gifts for spiritual journeyers

**REVERSA ROSE**  
Natural skin-care products

**THREADS**  
Fun t-shirts & gifts

**TONIC HERB SHOP**  
Holistic health products

**CHARLES TOWN & RANSON**

**ART DECO DEKOR**  
20th century vintage

**B.VINTAGE**  
Modern farmhouse vintage

**BUSHEL & PECK**  
Specialty grocery store

**FAST CASH PAWN**  
Jewelry, electronics, etc.

**FEAGANS JEWELERS**  
Custom jewelry & repair

**FUZZY DOG BOOKS & MUSIC**  
Used books & vinyl

**THE HOBBIES SHOP**  
Models, RC, kites, etc.

**LITTLE POTTERY HOUSE**  
Make & paint pottery

**MITIELDA LATINA**  
Convenience store

**NEEDFUL THINGS**  
Vintage & new items

**OP-SHOP**  
Curated resale clothing

**TRADEWINDS FLOORS**  
Carpet & flooring

**TWO CROWS ANTIQUE**  
50+ antique dealers

**TWO RIVERS TREADS**  
Active & outdoor footwear

**WEANT TO PLAY**  
Sporting equipment

**WEAR IT AGAIN KID**  
Consignment boutique

**THE WILLIAMS STORE**  
Convenience store

**THE WOODEN SHOE**  
Vintage lighting, glass

**WASHINGTON STREET ARTISTS COOP**  
Gallery & exhibits

**YARNABILITY**  
Arts & crafts

**HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR**

**THE GILDED FLEA**  
Antique & vintage wares

**HARPERS FERRY PARK ASSOCIATION BOOKSHOP**

**THE HODGE PODGE**  
Gifts, souvenirs & antiques

**MAGPIE POTTERY**  
Ceramics by local artisans

**MARY ADAMS ACCESSORIES**  
Eclectic jewelry

**NATURE'S HEALTH & BODY**  
Health & wellness products

**HARPERS FERRY OUTFITTERS**  
Outdoor gear & bike shop

**RIVERS STUDIO & GALLERY**  
Functional & sculptural art

**HB SNALLYGASTER GENERAL STORE**  
Whimsical goods & cafe

**TENFOLD FAIR TRADE COLLECTION**  
Hand-crafted wares

**TESSOTERICA**  
Hand-crafted bath items

**TRUE TREATS HISTORIC CANDY**  
Retro candy & fun treats

**THE VILLAGE SHOP**  
Souvenirs & novelties

**THE VINTAGE LADY**  
Jewelry & local WV goods

**WASHINGTON STREET STUDIOS**  
Ceramic studio and classes

**NEW**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN WELCOME CENTER**  
102 South King St  
(behind the Sweet Shop)



**WAUGH**  
LAW & MEDIATION

Mediation • Collaborative Law • Litigation

Brenda Waugh, Lawyer & Mediator  
waugh@brendawaugh.com  
304-728-3660 (Charles Town)  
540-501-5501 (Leesburg)

—Schedule your free initial consultation online at [brendawaugh.com](http://brendawaugh.com)

**ADVERTISE IN THE OBSERVER**  
Email: [Sales@WeAreTheObserver.com](mailto:Sales@WeAreTheObserver.com)

**COUNTERTOP SOLUTIONS**

**10% OFF COUNTERTOPS**  
(Levels 1 - 6 Only)

Includes Material, Template, Fabrication & Installation

\* 0% Financing Available

**240-716-6569**  
286 Langston Blvd. Martinsburg, WV | Open Daily  
[www.granitecountertopsolutions.com](http://www.granitecountertopsolutions.com)

New Paintings by Walt Bartman  
at The Bridge Gallery  
*May 15th - June 20th*

Meet the artist/Painting demo  
Saturday, May 29th, 2-5



304-876-2300  
8566 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Paintings by Annette Gloomis  
at The Bridge Gallery  
*May 15th - June 20th*

Meet the artist Sunday, June 6th, 3-5



8566 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
[BridgeGalleryAndFraming.com](http://BridgeGalleryAndFraming.com) • 304-876-2300

**THE DESIGN CENTER**  
SUE MARKS ~ OWNER/DESIGNER

Affordable Services • Reliable Resources • Locally Owned  
Residential and Commercial Design Services

Blinds, Shades, Shutters, Upholstery,  
Custom Window Treatments,  
Project Management  
& So Much More!

*We'll make design projects fun for you!*

[TheDesignCenterLLC.com](http://TheDesignCenterLLC.com)

112 West Burke Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401  
office: 304-260-8810 • cell: 304-676-7785

EXPLORE // FAMILY FUN

# BIG SCREEN UNDER THE STARS

## Family Drive-In Theater Continues As Community Treasure



*Jim Kopp, owner and operator of the Family Drive-In Theater since 2010 and all-around community booster, died of Covid-19 complications in January 2021. With no clear plan in place for continuing operations, the theater's future was dim. Andy Combs, a local pastor who held services at the theater started looking online for advice, grants, or investors that might help keep the theater open. He found Andrew Thomas, owner of a couple of drive-in theaters in Houston, who purchased the theater earlier this spring.*

**MOST OF US LIKE MOVIES**, but Andrew Thomas really loves movies. “After I got out of college with an economics degree, I realized that sitting in front of a computer all day moving numbers around wasn’t



*In addition to broadcasting sound via FM to your vehicle's stereo system, the theater still operates the 1950s vintage pole speakers (with mono-channel sound).*

what I wanted to do. My father has a locksmith business, but I wasn't very good at that either. As a young kid, we didn't go to the movies a lot as a family. But when I started working as a teenager, that's what I would spend my money on, DVDs and tickets.” With encouragement from his soon-to-be wife, Juanita, Thomas started looking and found his first opportunity in the movie business in Alvin, Texas. The theater had closed in 2008 and needed work, but after a year of negotiations with the landlord and a lot of effort, the two of them opened the Wellborne Cinema the day after Christmas in 2013. Soon married to each other and the business, the Thomas's expanded their operations in 2015 with the purchase of the Show Boat Drive-In located in Hockley, TX. In 2020, Thomas partnered with Alicia Tashiro, owner of Blue Moon Cinemas, to launch the Moonstruck Drive-In located in East Downtown Houston.

“There is a strong nostalgia for drive-in theaters and it's become a special experience. Especially with younger generations, even though they did not experience the 1950s and 60s style drive-ins, they seem drawn to it. Like me, I never went to a drive-in until I purchased the Show Boat. It has a multi-generational appeal, where you can take kids and grand-kids”

Ron Graham, the projectionist at the Family, recalls how he started in the business just after Jim Kopp purchased the drive-in from the Dalke family in 2010 (who had built the theater in 1956). “There was an open interview

and I thought I'd get a part-time job working concessions so I could watch movies. Jim saw that I shared his enthusiasm and he trained me on all of the operations. He had a tremendous energy and dedicated himself to this place. When I started we were running 35mm film. It would take half a day to unpack the film for each movie from the cans, splice it together, and set it up on the platter system. So for 4 projectors it was a two day effort. We switched to digital projection in 2013. Our front projector throws the light 349 feet to the screen and the rear throws it 178 feet. Those are hot bulbs and we had to air condition the projection room too, so it was a big investment, but it really updated the experience.”

Graham pointed out that Kopp's enthusiasm extended beyond just the projection room. “He was a showman and would regularly dress in costume to promote the movies. We would also travel around the area to promote the theater and let people know we were here.” Thomas observed that Kopp was a bit of an outlier in the current drive-in world. “There are not a lot of drive-ins left and most of the owners are older. Usually it's a family business and the next generation is not interested in continuing. My plans had been to expand from Houston along the Gulf Coast into Florida, where there is good weather year round for drive-in theater. When I found out about the Family, I realized that there was a good opportunity up here because it's a unique experience and it has a regional draw.”

“There is also a tremendous amount of community support for the theater and I want to continue to expand the activities and community engagement. We've kept the team and are slowly rebuilding the knowledge that Jim had. We'll be open regularly by Memorial Day and later in June plan to run the full 7-night schedule through the summer.”



*The Family Drive-In Theater is located at 5890 Valley Pike (Rt. 11), Stephens City VA, approximately 40 minutes from Charles Town. Information and show times on the web at [TheFamilyDI.com](http://TheFamilyDI.com) and on Facebook [@FamilyDriveInTheater](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyDriveInTheater). Schedules are updated on Mondays. Patrons are encouraged to purchase vehicle tickets via the website to ensure a parking spot (you can purchase additional passenger tickets online or at the gate). For events and other information email [Info@TheFamilyDI.com](mailto:Info@TheFamilyDI.com) (no phone).*