

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

AUGUST 2021

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



The Country Roads Car Club gathers on Friday evenings from April through September. This year's host location is in front of the Martin's grocery store on Flowing Springs Road in Charles Town. The weekly events bring together a wide spectrum of car enthusiasts to raise money for local charities. Visit CountryRoadsCC.com for schedule and participation information.

TO OUR READERS — What is community? The members of the Country Road Car Club certainly have enjoyed getting together weekly since 1998. While they gather for friendship and a shared hobby, they also collect their energy – and donations – for charities, including weekly food donations to the Jefferson County Community Ministries food pantry in Charles Town. At the July 23 event (above), the club presented the Lions Club of Charles Town with a check for \$1,000.

The elementary school buildings in Ranson and Shepherdstown have been near the center of these communities since the 1950s. Both locales retain a strong sense of the small towns they were, but after more than 60 years, both school buildings struggle to meet the needs of communities that have expanded far beyond their immediate vicinity. The schools will be bringing many memories and traditions to their new campus locations – and will no doubt create new traditions and continue to welcome both old and new families.

Katie Tertell, organizer of the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, is a frequent visitor to Harpers Ferry and finds a special sense of community in and around Jefferson County. In her work as a professional musician she travels around the world, yet she is in constant connection with her network of fellow musicians. She hopes to introduce both of these communities – local and global – to each other with an event that not only celebrates the music, but becomes itself a recognized tradition of this place we call home.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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// MUSIC



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MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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INSPIRED BY NATURE, CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE

Appalachian Chamber Music Festival Launches New Event



Cellist Katie Tertell (above) is the artistic director for the festival. She currently lives in the UK and enjoys a rich and varied experience as a freelance artist in Europe and America. A former member of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Katie works with numerous European symphony and chamber orchestras. She is a current recipient of the prestigious Exceptional Talent visa awarded by Arts Council England and teaches cello at Durham University (UK).

“YOU CAN PLAY ALMOST ANYWHERE with four people,” remarked Katie Tertell, artistic director and organizer of the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival. “You can be in an intimate space and the audience can be there with you. When I play informal house concerts, people say it’s such a different experience to be this close. Classical music [in an orchestral format] can seem distant, but chamber music is much more intense. The orchestra, as a large group, is very powerful, but with chamber performance, there is a strong sense of the shared connection with the other performers. Each player has an individual voice.”

Like so many others, Tertell notes the beauty and history of Harpers Ferry and the lower Shenandoah Valley as she discusses the choice to locate the festival here. “Music plays an important role in Appalachian culture. The classical music I play uses the same instruments and has the same voices. My dream is to bring world class artists and music together, to celebrate the history and culture of the area.”

“This was completely the right time,” says Tertell, explaining how the idea of this new festival came alive. “People are open to new things now and it seems a bit insane, but I wanted to take a leap of faith to follow through on what was driving me artistically to expose audiences to different music. We need art as a

society. We are hungry for the live experience, to live in a society.”

“We’re testing what works this year with workshops and a variety of venues and performances. All of us have played together, so we’re comfortable with each other. By the start of the festival we’ll have had some pretty intense rehearsals in Denver and Utah, and we’ll be in Harpers Ferry for a week of practice at the PATC [Potomac Appalachian Trail Club] cabin. It’s pretty rustic, but we’ll make it work.”

BY: Steve Pearson



PERFORMING AT THE FESTIVAL

Katie Tertell remarked that the world of chamber music performers is a small community, but it’s also very global. “I bump into the same people as I travel to perform. We are very close friends.” The performers she has gathered together for the first season of the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival are a stellar group.



Violinist **Rachelle Hunt** has appeared as a soloist with orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. She has been a member of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony (hr-Sinfonieorchester) in Germany since 2011. Rachelle has been a top prize-winner in numerous international and national competitions, including the Kingsville and Corpus Christi International Competitions. She has been presented as a soloist and chamber musician at such venues as the Concert Hall and Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center, the Sendesaal of the Hessischer Rundfunk (Germany), the Auditorio Jorge Fabio Lozano (Colombia) and Casa de la Música (Ecuador). After graduating from Rice University, summa cum laude, she was awarded a Fulbright Grant to study at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Germany, where she earned both the Konzertexamen Diploma and Chamber Music Certificate with the highest honors.



Violist **Koko Dylugerski** (below, with Leah Kovach), originally from Bulgaria, is currently based in Denver, where he performs with Opera Colorado, the Colorado Symphony, and was recently appointed Principal Viola of the Central City Opera Orchestra. Koko received his Master of Music degree from Rice University in Houston as a student of Ivo-Jan Van der Werff and previously studied under Kevork Mardirossian. During his time in Houston, Koko played regularly with the Mercury Baroque, Houston Grand Opera, and Houston Symphony Orchestras. Also an avid chamber musician, Koko is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Torrey Chamber Music Festival and Violamore Duo and with his wife, Leah Kovach.



Violist **Leah Kovach** grew up in Salt Lake City and is co-Artistic Director of the Torrey Chamber Music Festival. Leah is a member of the Colorado Symphony and was recently appointed to the Central City Opera Orchestra. She holds

degrees from Indiana University and Rice University, where her primary teachers were Atar Arad and James Dunham. Leah has performed around the world in prestigious ensembles including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Houston Symphony and the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra (Germany/International).

Violinist **Audrey Pride** is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. She attended Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and received her bachelor's degree in violin performance studying with Mark Kaplan. She continued on to Northwestern University to complete her



master's degree with Blair Milton and, at the same time, was a member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra. She has studied at such summer music festivals as the Aspen Music Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Maestro Lorin Maazel's Castleton Music Festival, and the National Repertory Orchestra. Audrey is a former member of the Dayton Philharmonic and also taught violin in their after-school El Sistema-inspired program. Currently, Audrey is a full time member of the Knoxville Symphony and, through the KSO, can be seen performing on many stages and in many classrooms throughout Eastern Tennessee.



Violinist **Domenic Salerni** is a member of the New York-based Grammy Award-winning Attacca Quartet. He is also a member of the Chiarina Chamber Players, based in Washington, DC, and is active as a chamber musician, clinician, composer, and arranger nationally and internationally. As a member of the Chiarina Chamber Players, Domenic was a recipient of a 2020 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant and is very excited to perform a new work by Carlos Simon with Chiarina and Peabody Conservatory bass faculty Carl DuPont in 2021.

Cellist **Schuyler Slack** has performed in orchestral, chamber music, and recital settings across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. The Alexandria, VA native was appointed to the Richmond Symphony's Kenneth and Bettie Christopher Perry Foundation Cello Chair in 2016. Previously he held the joint position of Artist in Residence at the University of Evansville and Principal Cellist of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also a member of the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra, Williamsburg Symphony and is on the music faculty at Randolph-Macon College. He performs frequently in the cello sections of major orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra and the Baltimore and National Symphonies. His primary teachers were Cleveland Orchestra principal cellists Mark Kosower and Stephen Geber at the Cleveland Institute of Music.



Violinist **Delcho Tenev** began his music education in the "Dobrin Petkov" school under Prof. Darina Dankova in his hometown of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. At age 14 he moved to the United States and attended high school at the Idyllwild Arts Academy in California, studying with Prof. Todor Pelev. He received a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and then earned a Master's degree and Professional Performance Certificate from Lynn University. He has performed in international festivals, including Lorin Maazel's Castleton Music Festival. Delcho joined the violin section of the Colorado Symphony in September of 2015.



AUGUST 18 – WEDNESDAY

8:15 - 8:45 PM – PRE-FESTIVAL TASTER CONCERT · St. James' Catholic Church (49 Crosswinds Dr, Charles Town WV) · FREE

AUGUST 19 – THURSDAY

2:00 - 3:30 PM – FESTIVAL PREVIEW CONCERT · War Memorial Building (102 E German St, Shepherdstown WV) · Tickets \$12.50 - \$23.50

7:00 - 9:00 PM – NEW BEGINNINGS CONCERT · The Barns of Rose Hill (Berryville VA) · Tickets \$20

AUGUST 20 – FRIDAY

2:00 - 3:30 PM – INSPIRATIONS: OUR FOLK HERITAGE CONCERT · Franklin Park Arts Centre (Purcellville VA) · Tickets \$15 (virtual option available)

7:00 - 9:00 PM – FOLK INSPIRATIONS CONCERT · St. Peter's Chapel (110 Church St, Harpers Ferry, WV) · FREE · Tickets \$23.50 for reserved seating & reception

AUGUST 21 – SATURDAY

11:00 - NOON – COFFEE CONCERT: Duo Delights · Shepherdstown Train Station (111 Audrey Eagle Dr, Shepherdstown WV) · Tickets \$12.50 - \$23.50

2:00 - 3:30 PM – FROM EARTH TO DIVINE: Schubert Cello Quintet · St. Peter's Chapel (110 Church St, Harpers Ferry, WV) · FREE · Tickets \$23.50 for reserved seating & reception

7:00 PM – FORGING NEW TRAILS CONCERT · Charles Washington Hall (100 W Washington St, Charles Town WV) · Tickets \$29

AUGUST 22 – SUNDAY

2:00 PM – FESTIVAL FINALE: John Brown's Body at Happy Retreat (600 Mordington Ave, Charles Town) · Tickets \$12.75 (under 16 free) · Pre-concert events begin at 2:00. Outdoor concert begins at 3:00 pm

.....
Information about the performers & programs scheduled for each event and links to advance ticket purchase options online at
AppalachianChamber.org/Events.

// COMMUNITY

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS PLANS TWO NEW FACILITIES

State Rules Guide Local Projects

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS (JCS) manages 16 schools — 2 high schools, 4 middle schools, and 10 elementary facilities — and during the 2020-21 school year enrolled 8,478 students. Jefferson County is one of only three counties in West Virginia that expects growth in student population over the next four years. Local school systems are responsible for planning and constructing new facilities in their districts. These planning and construction activities must follow the rules established by both the School Building Authority of West Virginia and State Board of Education.

State Rules

The School Building Authority of West Virginia, guided by the Handbook on Planning School Facilities (Policy 6200), oversees the process of designing and building all school facilities in the state. Policy 6200, published by the State Board of Education, mandates a specific process for hiring architects, creating building

designs, hiring contractors, and the overall process of managing construction projects. It also provides very detailed requirements for the components to be included in each building — from classroom sizes to the number of bookshelves and the types of window shades.

A Ten Year Plan

Policy 6200 also requires local school systems to prepare and update a Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) every ten years. The Jefferson County Schools 2020-2030 Facilities Plan was drafted by the school system staff in 2019 and presented for comment at four public hearings at each middle school that year.

The final Facilities Plan was approved by the Jefferson County Board of Education in February 2021 and approved by the West Virginia School Building Authority in March 2021. The plan identified repair and/or upgrade projects for each facility where feasible and/or economical. For the Ranson and Shepherdstown elementary facilities, the plan instead proposed building new facilities.

A Timeline for Completion

County voters approved issuing bonds for both the Ranson and Shepherdstown elementary school construction projects as specific line items on the November 2020 ballot. In April 2021, the state's School Building Authority approved a single state grant of \$7.5 million to cover both projects. The conditions of the School Building Authority grant requires both projects to be substantially complete within 28 months of the grant (August 2023).

Information sources for the information in this article (documents & links online at WeAreTheObserver.com): JCS 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP), Building Review and Recommendations Report; JCS CEFP Update (May 2019, prepared by OWPR Architects); School Building Authority of West Virginia documents (2021 Needs Project Comments by School Building Authority Staff; Superintendent Interviews); JCS Enrollment Projections Dashboard; discussions with JCS staff.

SHEPHERDSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – TOO COSTLY TO REPAIR

A QUICK LOOK: SHEPHERDSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

YEAR BUILT: 1957

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 414

FUTURE PROGRAM CAPACITY: 566

ABOUT THE BUILDING

52,000 square feet. Issues: water leaks in roof; energy inefficient (windows are 1 ply glass); heating/cooling malfunctions; overall deterioration in interior finishes; office location is remote from main door (security concern); bathrooms not ADA compliant; electrical system deficiencies.

ABOUT THE SITE

8 acres. Issues: no buffer to surrounding residences, small playground area, bus and vehicles traffic patterns overlap, limited parking on site.

COST TO ADDRESS EXISTING BUILDING ISSUES

\$6.4 million.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS/REPLACEMENT

The project to relocate the elementary school program to a new site for the 2023-24 school year has been approved by the West Virginia School Building Authority. Land for the new school, a 98 acre parcel located on Shepherdstown Pike just north of Gardners Lane, was acquired in January 2018 for \$975,125.

THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY of West Virginia (SBA) describes the current Shepherdstown Elementary School building as “antiquated,” and supports “immediate replacement.”

The SBA notes many health and safety deficiencies, including failure to meet current indoor air quality and entrance security standards. The school does not have space to accommodate pre-kindergarten students. While the site meets (barely) the size requirements for the elementary school program, the building condition is very poor,

with the cost of known repairs exceeding 30 percent of the estimated replacement cost of the building. The capital improvement bond approved in November 2020 included \$16.1 million in funds to construct a new facility on a new 98-acre site (which could fit a future middle school as well). The school system intends to sell the current property when the new school facility is operational.



The new campus, located approximately 2 miles south of downtown Shepherdstown, can also fit a new middle school (see 2019 concept map, above). The site is located outside of the urban growth boundary of Shepherdstown (see left) and will require either an on-site sewage system or the construction of a new line to connect to the Shepherdstown treatment plant.

SHEPHERDSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL – STAYING PUT FOR NOW



Students can easily walk to downtown Shepherdstown, but space for bus loading and parking is tight.

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) notes that the Shepherdstown Middle School facility needs repair and staff note excessive maintenance needs. It also notes that the 8 acre site is smaller than the state’s current recommended minimum of 11 acres for a middle school.

The site concept plan for the replacement Shepherdstown Elementary School proposes a campus to include a future middle school on the 98 acre parcel off Shepherdstown Pike (just north of Gardners Lane), however the CEFP does not currently include any recommendation to relocate the middle school program within the 2020-2030 window

A QUICK LOOK: SHEPHERDSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

YEAR BUILT: 1928
(additions in 1956, 1960, 1975, 1991, 1993)

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 337

FUTURE PROGRAM CAPACITY: 420

ABOUT THE BUILDING

53,000 square feet. Issues: main entrance not ADA accessible. Roof leaks. Plumbing requires excessive maintenance.

ABOUT THE SITE

8.8 acres (below current West Virginia standards). Issues: insufficient play field. Insufficient staff parking. Bus loading is on public street.

COST TO ADDRESS EXISTING BUILDING ISSUES

\$2.7 million.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS/REPLACEMENT

Roof replacement, security improvements, restroom upgrades, new bleachers. The Jefferson County Schools 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan does not include any plan to relocate the middle school program from the current site.

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// COMMUNITY

RANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – BURSTING AT THE SEAMS



THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY of West Virginia (SBA) describes the current Ranson Elementary School building as “antiquated,” and supports “immediate replacement.” The SBA notes many health and safety deficiencies, including failure to meet current indoor air quality and entrance security standards. The school does not have space to accommodate pre-kindergarten students. While some of the building deficiencies could be addressed at a reasonable cost, the small size of the site does not allow for any additions and is too small for the existing activities.

The capital improvement bond approved in November 2020 included \$16.4 million in funds to construct a new facility on a new 150 acre site. The school system intends to repurpose the current building to provide other school services (for special needs students, adult education, or other programs).

A QUICK LOOK: RANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

YEAR BUILT: 1957

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 382

FUTURE PROGRAM CAPACITY: 555

ABOUT THE BUILDING

35,401 square feet. Issues: water leaks; cracked wall; restrooms not ADA compliant; energy inefficient windows.

ABOUT THE SITE

4.29 acres. Issues: no buffer to surrounding residences; insufficient staff parking; playground space is limited (and utilized by portable classroom units).

COST TO ADDRESS EXISTING BUILDING ISSUES

\$1.1 million.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS/REPLACEMENT

The project to relocate the elementary school program to a new site (see top left for concept map) for site for the 2023-24 school year has been approved by the West Virginia School Building Authority.

Land for the new school (below) was purchased in January 2018. The new site is approximately 150 acres and is located off of Mildred Street (Rt 115) north of Old Leetown Pike.



The current Ranson Elementary School (bottom left) is fenced in (literally) by the surrounding neighborhood. It's a tight fit for the existing programs, with no room for expansion (the school uses several portable classrooms on the site to accommodate the current enrollment). The new campus (bottom right) is planned to also fit a new middle school and a new high school (see concept image, top left) and is within walking distance of current and future residential neighborhoods of the Fairfax Crossing development.



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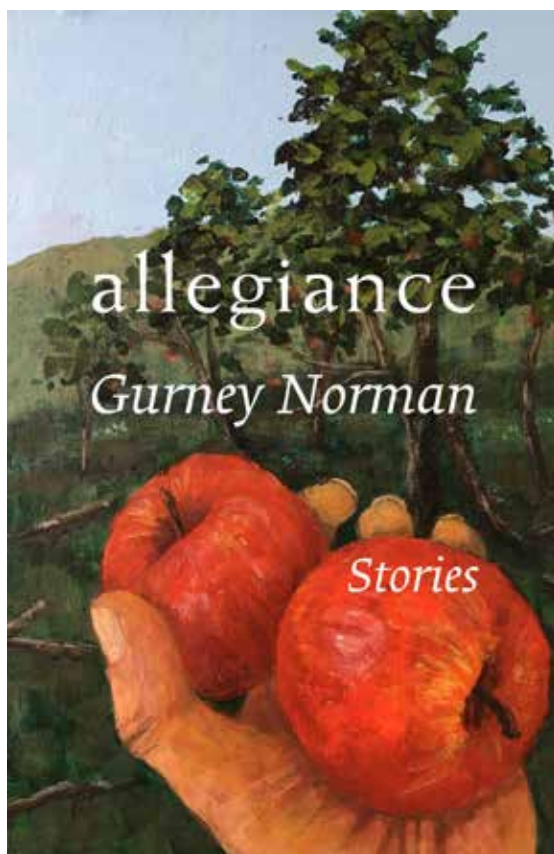
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LOOKING BACK

Allegiance, by Gurney Norman

Publisher: Ohio University 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*.



EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT A PROLIFIC AUTHOR – he has published just four works of fiction in the last five decades – Kentucky’s Gurney Norman’s body of work has earned him a major place in Appalachian literature. The reissue of *Allegiance*, a collection of short stories and vignettes in a primarily autobiographical key, is as good an introduction as any Norman title to a world of close connection to the land, acute observation of both human interactions and nature, and an engaging, poetic voice that captures the pure joy of storytelling.

Originally issued by Old Cove Press in 2020, *Allegiance* treads familiar territory for readers of Norman. Still, one does not need to be acquainted with his other writings to enjoy this volume. One of its recurring characters is Norman’s alter ego, Wilgus Collier, who we see throughout different stages of his life, from early childhood to maturity.

In “Linville Price,” Wilgus reminisces about the character who gives the name to the story, “known for his eccentric and sometimes shady dealings with people.” Price is a lovable crook who rips off folk through petty scams but somehow is charming enough to prevent his victims, including Wilgus, from holding him accountable. In “Uncle Jake’s Grave,” a woman makes an annual trip to a family cemetery in an area that was strip-mined and requires “a four-wheel drive vehicle to get past the mud and rocks and uprooted trees that had slid down the hill.”

It is not a coincidence that the title of Norman’s first story collection is *Kinfolks* (1977), since the connection with one’s kin remains one of the strongest themes in his newer stories. Many of the anecdotes and recollections in *Allegiance* revisit the characters of *Kinfolks*, just like other pieces expand on his mythical folktale novella *Ancient Creek*, which was originally issued as a spoken-word record in 1975.

Stories of a Home County

A creative writing teacher at the University of Kentucky, Norman has had a storied life from which to draw autobiographical fiction. Raised in a coal camp in Eastern Kentucky, he went on to study creative writing in Stanford University alongside writers Larry McMurtry and Ken Kesey. Living in San Francisco, he was one of the editors and writers of the legendary countercultural publication, *The Whole Earth Catalog*, where his first novel (*Divine Right’s Trip*) was serialized in 1971 and published as a book the following year.

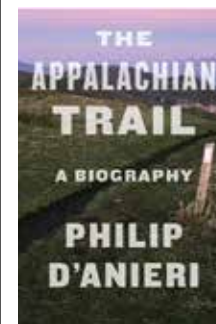
Several of Norman’s stories have been made into short films, including “Fat Monroe,” starring Ned Beatty. Collectively known as *The Wilgus Stories*, these films have screened in the New York Film Festival and the Sundance Film Festival (the film’s director, Andrew Garrison, has the film available for public viewing on Vimeo.com). Norman has also written and narrated documentaries for public television, all of which showcase his passion for the history and geography of Kentucky.

“Regional writing is not much understood,” Norman once said, reminiscing on how his work as a young journalist for a small weekly publication, the *Hazard Herald*, showed him “the infinite kinds of human experience” that went on in his home county. “I knew I had found my place in the world, as a writer, and that what a writer might need is simply a home county.” It is through this lens that Norman turns stories of family and lore into engaging fiction of universal appeal.

Link to The Wilgus Stories film series can be found at the online version of this article at WeAreTheObserver.com/allegiance-book-review

THE FRONT SHELF

The Appalachian Trail: A Biography, by Philip D’Anieri
Houghton Mifflin (2021) \$26.00

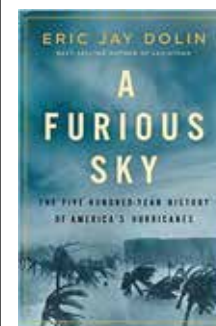


The conception and building of the Appalachian Trail is a story of unforgettable characters who explored it, defined it, and captured national attention by hiking it. From Grandma Gatewood – a mother of eleven who thru-hiked in canvas sneakers and a drawstring duffle – to Bill Bryson, author of the best-selling *A Walk in the Woods*,

the AT has seized the American imagination like no other hiking path. The 2,000-mile-long hike from Georgia to Maine is not just a trail through the woods, but a set of ideas about nature etched in the forest floor. This character-driven biography of the trail is a good read not just for ambitious hikers, but for anyone who wonders about our relationship with the great outdoors and dreams of getting away from urban life for a pilgrimage in the wild.

A Furious Sky: The Five Hundred-Year History of America’s Hurricanes, by Eric Jay Dolin

Liveright (2021) \$18.95



The best-selling author of *Leviathan* tells the historical account of America’s hurricanes and reveals how they’ve shaped this country. Dolin presents a five-hundred-year story of American hurricanes, from the nameless storms that threatened Christopher Columbus’ voyages of exploration, to the current-day devastation

wrought by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the escalating intensity of hurricane seasons driven by human-induced climate change. Populating his narrative with unlikely heroes such as Benito Vines, the nineteenth-century Jesuit priest whose revelatory methods for predicting hurricanes saved countless lives, and journalist Dan Rather, whose coverage of a 1961 hurricane would change broadcasting history, Dolin uncovers the often surprising ways we respond to natural crises. A necessary work of environmental and cultural history, *A Furious Sky* will change the way we understand the storms on the horizon of America’s future.

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PERSPECTIVE // NATURE

MAKING THE CUT: A TREE HOLDS UP NEW LIFE ABOVE

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 THE PAST FIVE YEARS, we worried that every time it stormed a big limb would break off of our beloved old Kentucky coffee tree and destroy our entryway fence. Now our property is safe from that disaster and a magnificent old tree remains as wildlife habitat.

Earlier this year, I invited Erik Berndt, certified arborist and owner of Viking Tree Service, LLC, to inspect the nearly dead tree. My wife and I wanted to save as many main branches as possible while minimizing the risk of damage by falling wood. Erik agreed our tree was an excellent candidate for trimming as a wildlife habitat tree. He encouraged me to look at some of the standing dead trees at Morgan's Grove Park, which his company cares for, to see examples of his work.

We were impressed when we examined several standing dead trees there. Each was trimmed to look like a natural dead snag in the woods. After years of cringing whenever we saw a big shade tree with branches crudely lopped off, we were overjoyed to find a company willing to trim our tree the way we wanted. We were also delighted to find a tree service that considers a wildlife habitat tree an actual "thing."

Viking Tree crew showed up at the appointed time with an impressive array of equipment and machinery. With block and tackle, they ascended the main trunk and carefully removed the outer branches. When they encountered a heavy limb whose weight would stress the tree in a storm, they removed it with surgical precision. But they didn't stop there. They made a series of v-shaped cuts at the top of each large limb to allow moisture to enter the dead wood, so the tree decays from the top down. This allows the main trunk to remain sound and stand for many years. Furthermore, cuts carefully made at various angles made the limbs look like they had splintered and broke off naturally.

For hard-to-reach limbs, a large lift was necessary. Each cut made the tree look safer and less likely to drop a branch to crush our fence or garden shed.

By 4:00 pm the crew had completed the finishing touches and I admired the balanced, sculptural quality of the tree and its remaining branches. It was a piece of art.



An old Kentucky coffee tree (above) finds new life as a wildlife habitat tree (below) after some thoughtful pruning by Viking Tree Services, LLC.



While it's now official, this tree had already been a wildlife habitat for a long time. Several trunks have woodpecker holes in them. The lowest branch sprouts a tuft of stunted Kentucky coffee tree leaves. Years ago, a bird dropped a seed of bush honeysuckle into the crotch between two main trunks about ten feet up. The seed has grown into a sizable bush. More bits of green include poison ivy and Virginia creeper vines and a young Kentucky coffee tree shoot that has sprouted next to the trunk, growing from the original root system.

A tree is home to an amazing amount of life. As it matures and declines, it hosts an increasing number of organisms including mold and bacteria, algae and fungi, insects, spiders, woodpeckers, and raccoons. Fallen limbs continue to feed and shelter numerous life forms as they decompose and enrich the soil. For an old tree, dying isn't an occurrence but more of a gradual transformation.

Our Kentucky coffee tree demonstrates how a treasured old tree need not be destroyed. It can stand for many years as a wildlife habitat.



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EXPLORE // SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY

AN UNEXPECTED HIT TO THE LIBRARY

Forced To Temporary Home, But Progress On New Building



The initial impact was on the rear wall but the stress rippled through the structure to damage the east wall.

THE 2021 4TH OF JULY in Shepherdstown started off with a low-key ceremony honoring the flag organized by the Volunteer Fire Department. It ended with a bang sometime late in the evening with an unknown vehicle crashing into the rear wall of the Market House located in the middle of King Street (the Shepherdstown Police Department continues to investigate

the incident). By the time the damage was discovered on the morning of July 5, the stress from the impact had spread to the unreinforced brick of the east wall with cracks extending up to the roof. The Town, owner of the 220 year-old building, had the structure inspected and bracing installed by the evening of the 5th. The Town has also arranged for an expert restoration



The library board gathered on June 30 to open construction bids for the new building.

company to make repairs as soon as the Town's insurance company completes its assessment of the project.

The Shepherdstown Library has called the Market House its home for nearly a century, but plans for a move were being developed well before the recent incident. On June 30, the Library board gathered in Morgan's Grove Park to open the bids submitted for construction of the new library building to be located off of Potomac Farms Drive. The lowest responsive bid submitted by Doyle Construction proposed \$3,153,000. The board expects to finalize a contract with Doyle by early August and anticipates beginning the year-long construction project in September.

The Shepherdstown Community Club is providing space in the War Memorial Building (102 East German Street) for a temporary library annex. Visit the library website (ShepLibrary.org) for current information on hours and available services. The library also has a new temporary phone number 304-268-6127 until repairs are completed on the Market House building.

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



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WEEK OF AUGUST 2

AUGUST 5 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Morgan White (country) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

AUGUST 5 TO 8 (THU, FRI, SAT, SUN) — THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE · 7:30 pm (Thu, Fri, Sat) and 2:30 pm (Sun) at the Old Opera House · \$10 · Tickets/Info: OldOperaHouse.org

AUGUST 6 (FRI) — THREESOUND/FFME/TIM CINTRON (pop/rock/funk) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$10 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

AUGUST 6 (FRI) — CALIFORNIA BOB (acoustic rock) · 5-8 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 6 (FRI) — DC IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$22 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 7 (SAT) — ROWDY ACE BAND (country) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 7 (SAT) — TEN (Pearl Jam Tribute) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$15 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 8 (SUN) — TALTON BROTHERS BAND Album Release Show (rock/soul/jazz) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

AUGUST 8 (SUN) — JASON MASI (soul/R&B) · 1-5 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 8 (SUN) — EYES OF THE NILE (Iron Maiden Tribute) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

WEEK OF AUGUST 9

AUGUST 10 (TUE) — SPEAK STORY SERIES PRESENTS DIANE MACKLIN · ONLINE · 7:30 pm · \$15 · Mature audience · Tickets/Info: SpeakStorySeries.com

AUGUST 12 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Oston (pop) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

AUGUST 13 (FRI) — EMI SUNSHINE (new country) · 7 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$25 · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

AUGUST 13 (FRI) — VANILLA FUDGE (Rock) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$30 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 13 (FRI) — MIKE JENSEN & THE POINT OF ROCK (classic rock) · 5-8 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 14 (SAT) — SIDETRACKED (60's to 90's rock & roll) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 14 (SAT) — YACHT ROCK NIGHT WITH BOAT HOUSE ROW · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 14 (SAT) — ROCK THE FARM FESTIVAL (rock cover bands) · Noon to 10 pm at Green Hill Farm, Sharpsburg, MD · \$20 · Tickets/Info: FB @greenhillfarmsharpsburg

AUGUST 14 (SAT) — ANDREW FINN MAGILL presents "Celtic Roots and South American Musical Treasures" · ONLINE · 7 pm · FREE · Call 304-876-3119 for information about the livestream

AUGUST 15 (SUN) — MEISA HERRON (blues/R&B/classic rock) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

MORE EVENT SPOTLIGHTS >>> PAGES 14 AND 15

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

WEEK OF AUGUST 16

AUGUST 19 (THU) — APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

The Appalachian Chamber Music Festival melds world-class chamber music performances with the rich and inspiring history, nature and culture of Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, Jefferson County and surrounding areas. The festival kicks off with the New Beginnings concert on Thursday, August 19 at 7 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill and continues through Sunday with additional events in Charles Town, Harpers Ferry & Shepherdstown. See page 5 for all venues and performance times. Attendees can reserve tickets for individual events or purchase a full festival pass that covers all events for the weekend at a discounted price.

AUGUST 19 (THU) — MIKE LOVE (rock/pop) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 20 (FRI) — WILL SHEPARD (acoustic guitar) · 5-8 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 20 TO 22 (FRI, SAT, SUN) — MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL -Hagerstown · Maryland Theater, Hagerstown, Maryland · \$15-\$80 · Info: TheMarylandTheatre.com

AUGUST 20 (FRI) — (HED) P.E. & DROPOUT KINGS (alternative) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$15 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 21 (SAT) — TRAILS LESS TRAVELED: VIRGINIUS ISLAND INTERPRETIVE TOUR · 10-11:30 am at Harpers Ferry National Park · FREE (pre-registration only). Info: HarpersFerryHistory.org

AUGUST 21 (SAT) — FREDDIE LONG (pop/rock/blues) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 21 (SAT) — SIDETRACKED (classic rock) · 6-9 pm at Harvest Gap Brewery · FREE · Info: FB @HarvestGap

AUGUST 21 (SAT) — JOHN 5 (rock) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 21 (SAT) — JORDAN TICE (bluegrass) · 7 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$25 · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

AUGUST 22 (SUN) — JIM STEELE (acoustic originals/covers) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

WEEK OF AUGUST 23

AUGUST 23 (MON) — AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST SILAS HOUSE at Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies · 6:30 pm at the Scarborough Library Reading Room, King Street, Shepherdstown, WV · FREE

AUGUST 26 (THU) — TAB BENOIT (blues) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$35 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 27 (FRI) — MARK CULLINANE (country/rock) · 5-8 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 27 (FRI) — IDLEWILD SOUTH (Allman Brothers Band tribute) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 27 TO 28 (FRI, SAT) — DIRTY BOOTS COUNTRY FEST 2021 · 4-10 pm on Fri, 2-10 pm Sat at the Washington County Agricultural Center, Boonsboro, MD · \$8 · Tickets/Info: wiynn.com/event/dirty-boots-country-fest

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — THE I STEADIES 36TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION PARTY · 4-10 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — THE ERIC BYRD TRIO Album Release · 7 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — SCOTT KURT & MEMPHIS 59 (Tom Petty tribute) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$12 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — RADIO MONKEY (70s, 80s, 90s hits) · 12-3 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — TODD BOOKS & POUR DECISIONS (classic rock/pop covers) · 5-8 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

AUGUST 28 (SAT) — BODEANS (rock) · 7 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$35 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

AUGUST 29 (SUN) — FOR THE LOVE OF LINDA (Linda Tonstadt tribute) · 6 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$12 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

AUGUST 29 (SUN) — CHRIS BOWEN (acoustic originals/covers) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



SILAS HOUSE, AUTHOR

Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities presents Activist and Author Silas House. House has focused his work on Appalachia and is known for his lyrical style, diverse and sympathetic characters, and political engagement. Published novels include Clay's Quilt, A Parchment of Leaves, The Coal Tattoo, Eli the Good, and Southernmost. Shepherd University professor Sylvia Shurbutt's recently published exploration of House's work examines his work with various issues in the context of Appalachian culture.

The event is on August 23 (Mon) at 6:30 pm at the Scarborough Library Reading Room (301 N King Street, Shepherdstown; street parking available). Free admission.

EXHIBIT AT BERKELEY ARTS COUNCIL

Local artists Mary Jo Sims and John Turner are exhibiting paintings, drawings, collage, prints and mixed media artwork at the Berkeley Art Works. Titled "Retirement Idyl," the exhibit displays several of their individual works, along with several collaborative works by the two artists that present a beautiful harmony in their artistic styles and interests.

The exhibit runs through August 7. Berkeley Art Works, 116 North Queen Street, Martinsburg. Open Wednesday - Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturday 11am to 4pm. Web: BerkeleyArtsWV.org. Image: Powerball by John Turner.



SUPPORT ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

The Bridge Gallery is hosting its Annual Art Bazaar to benefit the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County. Purchase donated art, art materials, frames, ceramics, jewelry and other fun bazaar items to support the AWS shelter and adoption programs that place over 500 animals in new homes each year.



Location: Bridge Gallery at 8566 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown (parking on site). Event dates are August 14-15 (Sat-Sun) and August 20-22 (Fri-Sat-Sun), hours are 10 am to 4 pm each day. To donate items, stop by the gallery before the event during business hours - Wed-Sat Noon to 5, Sundays noon to 3. Questions: call 304-876-2300 or email Info@BridgeGalleryAndFraming.com.



MASTER GARDENER CLASS

The WVU Extension Master Gardener Class is a hands-on program that covers topics such as soil health, botany, pest identification & management, weeds, trees, and fruits & vegetables. The class is the first step to obtaining master gardener certification. In addition to the educational benefits, the program offers serious gardeners the opportunity to connect with other like-minded individuals and share knowledge with the community. The class will be held in-person at the WVU Tree Fruit Research and Education Center (67 Apple Harvest Drive, Kearneysville).

Sessions are Monday afternoons from Noon to 4 pm, beginning August 9 and ending November 8. Call the Berkeley County Extension Office at 304-263-1936 or the Jefferson office at 304-728-7413 for application and registration information. Course fee is \$100 (includes a notebook filled with gardening knowledge).

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“Conflict engenders fire, the fire of affects and emotions, and like every other fire it has two aspects, that of combustion and that of creating light.”

-C.G. Jung
(“Psychological Aspects of the Mother Archetype” CW 9i, p. 179)

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Speak
Story Series

DIANE MACKLIN

Speak Stories Series hosts storyteller Diane Macklin for an online performance on August 10 (Tue) at 7:30 pm. Macklin has dedicated over two decades to the art of storytelling and listening. She engages audiences with a dynamic, theatrical style, blending in her background as a certified educator, dancer, and cultural mediator. She is the 2018 winner of the Jackie Torrence Tall Tale Contest for the National Association of Black Storytellers' Festival and Conference; the 2014 Maryland State Arts Council Apprenticeship Awardee with Mama Linda Goss, co-founder of NABS; plus the Taft Museum's 2013 Robert S. Duncanson Artist-in-Residence.

Advance ticket purchase required (online at SpeakStorySeries.com/tickets).



Shepherd
UNIVERSITY

Photo credit: Anna Colliton

ANDREW FINN MAGILL, FIDDLER

Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities hosts Andrew Finn Magill for a concert titled "Celtic Roots and South American Musical Treasures." Magill is a fiddler/violinist and prolific composer based in Asheville, North Carolina (visit @AndrewFinnMagill on Facebook for info and music links).

The event is on August 14 (Sat), 7:00 pm at the Robert G. Byrd Center (213 N. King Street, Shepherdstown; street parking available). Free admission. Call 304-876-3119 for information.

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COUNTY FAIRS >>> PAGE 16

EXPLORE // LOCAL FAIRS

Get your funnel-cake game on — fair season is here! Take a thrilling ride at the carnival or grab a seat at a monster truck rally or demo derby. Then stroll through the many agricultural exhibits to see blue-ribbon livestock. Plus, there are plenty of opportunities to shop and support local vendors too. Visit each fair's website for additional info and schedules.

WEST VIRGINIA FAIRS



BERKELEY COUNTY YOUTH FAIR · JULY 31 — AUGUST 7

Location: Berkeley County Fairgrounds (2419 Golf Course Road Martinsburg)

Tickets: Daily admission \$5 (aged 13+), \$3 (ages 6-12), free entry for kids under 6.

Website: BerkeleyCountyYouthFair.org



It's full steam ahead at the 74th annual Berkeley County Youth Fair! Enjoy agricultural exhibitions, live entertainment, demolition derbies, tractor pulls, and a midweek chicken BBQ. Carnival wristbands available to buy onLine for unlimited rides each night.

MORGAN COUNTY EXPO · AUGUST 6 — 7

Location: Morgan County Courthouse (77 Fairfax St, Berkeley Springs, WV) & Berkeley Springs State Park (2 S Washington St, Berkeley Springs, WV)

Tickets: Free admission

Website: MorganCountyExpo.com

Friday's Expo will be held at the Morgan County Courthouse from 5:30 - 8 pm and will feature activities and educational exhibits for kids sponsored by the 4-H club, Boys and Girls Club, and the Girl & Boy Scouts. The Cruisers Car Show will also take place on Friday. Saturday will feature local artists and businesses in Berkeley Springs State Park from noon to 5 pm.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR · AUGUST 22— 28

Location: Jefferson County Fairgrounds (2005 Old Leetown Pike, Kearneysville)

Tickets: Daily admission \$7 (ages 16+), \$5 (ages 6-15), free entry for kids under 6.

Website: JeffersonCountyFairWV.org

Get ready for a full week of fun and entertainment at the 68th annual Jefferson County Fair! Whether you're looking for tasty treats, thrilling carnival rides and games, live entertainment, tractor pulls, demo derbies, or agricultural exhibitions by the local 4-H, there's something for everyone!



MARYLAND FAIRS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR · AUGUST 13 — 31

Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds (501 Perry Parkway Gaithersburg MD 20877)

Tickets: Daily admission is \$15 (ages 12+) and free for kids under 11. Parking is \$10.

Website: MCAGFair.com

The theme of this year's fair is "Family Fun for Everyone." Stop by the agricultural shows and exhibitions, enjoy spectacular carnival rides, try some of the dozens of food selections, and don't miss the monster truck and demolition derby shows. There are numerous vendors and free entertainment options too.



FREDERICK COUNTY YOUTH FAIR · SEPTEMBER 17 — 25

Location: Frederick County Fairgrounds (797 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD)

Tickets: Daily admission is \$10 (ages 11+), free entry for kids under 10. Multi-day passes available.

Website: TheGreatFrederickFair.com

The Great Frederick Fair promotes local agriculture as well as youth engagement in agriculture. Visit some of the many educational exhibits while you also enjoy entertainment including demo derbies, live concerts, and tractor pulls.

VIRGINIA FAIRS

CLARK COUNTY FAIR · AUGUST 8 — 14

Location: Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds (890 W Main St, Berryville, VA)

Tickets: Daily admission is \$10 (ages 16+), \$5 (ages 5-15), free entry for kids under 5.

Website: ClarkeCountyFair.org



Celebrate community, agriculture, and tasty local food at the Clarke County Fair. Carnival rides will be open all week with discounted admission during the first half of the fair.

WINCHESTER GREEK FESTIVAL · AUGUST 14 — 15

Location: Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church (1700 Amherst St, Winchester, VA)

Tickets: Free admission and parking

Facebook @WinchesterGreekFestival2021

For something a little different, visit the annual Greek Festival in Winchester. Experience authentic Greek cuisine including roasted lamb, gyros, moussaka, pastitsio, and a large variety Greek pastries. Greek vendors will have booths set up for shopping and don't forget the traditional Greek music and dancing!

