

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 2021

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SHEPHERDSTOWN

Medical Office Building

New Patients Welcome



Christopher Bellew, MD
Family Medicine



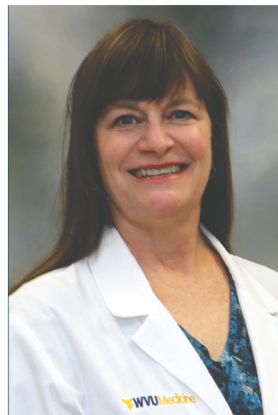
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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



DUFFIELDS DEPOT — Richard Duffield built this stone structure in 1839 to serve the newly-constructed B&O Railroad line that ran through his farm. The still-active rail line is now owned by CSX, with MARC passenger trains stopping at the open platform a few hundred yards to the west (on the location of a former stockpen). In service until 1884, this depot complex was originally much larger and housed the stationmaster's quarters along with passenger and freight services. The nearby water tower, grain elevator, and attached wooden warehouse structure no longer exist. In 2006, a private group acquired the property and obtained a grant to help fund the installation of a new metal roof on the original stone structure. In 2018, this group transferred the depot property to the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, which is continuing fundraising and work to maintain and restore the historic structure.

TO OUR READERS — We have driven past the MARC train parking lot in Duffields for years, not realizing that the historic depot (above) was just a few hundred feet up the track. From the descriptive sign in front of the building, it sounds as if it was quite the bustling complex in its heyday. One wonders what busy areas of Jefferson County today will be similarly transformed in the next fifty years.

A lot of what happens in county government focuses on daily operations — maintenance, public safety, and emergency response. It's important to keep those "trains" running on time and on budget. But the county government also plays a significant role in how (and where) the county grows (or shrinks). Likewise, the county schools measure results in the classroom daily, weekly and at the end of the year — but the long term payoff comes from educated citizens who have the skills to participate in a twenty-first century economy that is both local and global in the same place.

While it can be tempting to create drama and amplify headlines in pursuit of electoral victory, we hope that the candidates who step up to run for local offices in 2022 will keep in mind that we are all neighbors, perhaps with differences of opinions and priorities, but nevertheless deserving of respect.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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—C.G. Jung (*Memories, Dreams and Reflections*, p. 340)

Cathryn Polonchak, LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

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// COMMUNITY

ARE YOU READY FOR A PET?

Thinking Ahead Before You Adopt For A Lifetime

THERE IS A LOT OF RESEARCH showing that pets can boost both the physical and mental health of humans. The challenge is to understand and commit to the obligations of pet ownership so it's a mutually beneficial relationship.

“Owning an animal is a long-term, financially costly commitment,” advises Peggy Bowers, owner of Sundogs Canine Consultation and Training. Bowers suggests asking yourself, “where am I going to be in ten or fifteen years? Am I going to be able to be the caretaker for



A dog's personality in your home after a few weeks is likely to be very different from what you see in the shelter.

this animal?” Beyond the initial costs for spay/neuter, vaccines, and initial vet checkups, she mentioned food, monthly preventative medications, tick & flea treatments, bedding, toys, dental care, and others items on the list of expected costs. Maria Simmons, the shelter manager of the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County echoed this advice, noting that the most common reason for pet surrenders (a return of the adopted pet to the shelter) is for financial reasons — “People don't realize the financial commitment. Especially if an animal gets sick, the lab fees, vet fees, and testing fees add up quickly.”

Bowers noted that you may have an additional cost on your insurance or rent, plus boarding, grooming, nail trimming and other expenses depending on your situation and comfort level with doing some of these things yourself.

If you are thinking of adopting a dog, both Bowers and Simmons stressed the importance of being realistic about the breed type as well as your family situation. As Bowers observed, “you can't just put the dog on the shelf if it's not the right one.” Simmons posed some specific questions to ask: “Will you be around during the day to care for the dog, can it stay inside, or does it need space outside?” Bowers suggested thinking about how you would plan to exercise the dog and stressed the importance of a sturdy fence if you plan to leave the dog unsupervised in a yard — “invisible fences have a high fail rate and you take a risk every day that the dog could break through and be injured.”

If you are planning to purchase a puppy, Bowers strongly suggested working with local breeders. “You really want an opportunity to



Cats are typically much more self-sufficient than dogs in terms of their day-to-day need for human interaction.

meet the dog. And you want to see the mother and the littermates as well.” She stressed that you want to see the operation and “be sure you work with an ethical, responsible breeder.”

The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County offers both dogs and cats for adoption. Their website (AWSJC.org) provides information about visiting the shelter, their adoption programs, and



Peggy Bowers of Sundogs Canine Consultation and Training with Bailey.

donating to support their mission. Sundogs Canine Consultation and Training can be found online at SundogsCCT.com. Both websites have links to helpful resources about pet adoption, care and training.



Andrew Skinner

Stephen Skinner

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

// COMMUNITY

WHEN PETS BECOME YOUR BUSINESS

Bridget Brown Supports Sheep With Wool & Woven Art



(Above) Head Spring Farm is home to about 70 sheep.

"IT STARTED WITH JUST TWO SHEEP about 10 years ago," recalls artist Bridget Brown. "I'm a graphic designer and have created art in watercolor and pastel for many years. My partner Tim had purchased the sheep to raise and sell, but I decided I wanted to keep them. But I needed a reason and that's when I started creating the fiber art (see Art Tours on page 11). She explains that she found a mill in Frederick that would process the fleece into wool — some of which she would use for her own art and some of which she would sell as yarn. When Brown had the opportunity to purchase the mill's equipment, she and her partner did their homework.

"My first worry was about the equipment. But it's not high tech, it's just gears and chains. We also looked at it as a business from the beginning and knowing that we would have our own wool to sell. We figured out how much other wool we could process, and we knew

there would be a demand — there aren't that many mills nearby and it can take over a year to wait for a fleece to be processed. We had a line of customers as soon as we opened."



Fiber art by Bridget Brown

Brown says, "it takes us a day for each step to process one fleece (see image caption). It's a lot of work, but we're able to turn around a customer's fleece in four months typically. We have a good balance right now, between what we process for customers and our own stuff that we can sell. It's a great way to make a living."

Head Spring Farm will host a stop on the Over The Mountain Studio Tour on Nov 13 & 14 (see page 11). Brown sells her wool and wool products online at FiberFlock.com. The website for the Fiber Mill is HeadSpringFiberMill.com.



(above) The spinning machine can spin four single threads, which can in turn be combined to create 2, 3, or 4 ply yarn (with the option to mix wool from different animals to create unique blends).



Bridget Brown explains how a fleece is processed in the fiber mill. After the raw fleece is washed it (1) goes through a picker to loosen the fibers, then (2) it then runs through a carding machine (behind Brown) which creates a loose fluffy "roving" and then (3) through the draw frame which tightens up the roving. The final step (4) is a trip through the spinning machine (image above, right).



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ART TOURS & FESTIVALS

>>> PAGE 11 <<<

A free, self-guided tour of 10 artist studios
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// ELECTIONS

NEW DISTRICTS FOR 2022 ELECTIONS

Population Shifts And Politics Draw New Lines In Jefferson

NEXT NOVEMBER, West Virginians will vote for the politicians to represent them in the US House of Representatives, WV Senate, and WV House of Delegates. Currently there are four parties with automatic ballot access in WV — Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Mountain (an affiliate of the national Green Party).

US House

West Virginia's 3rd Congressional district was eliminated due to the state's population decline over the past decade. The new 2nd district now stretches across the northern part of the state, from Parkersburg in the west to Charles Town

in the east (see inset map). The top three growth counties in the state (Berkeley, Monongalia, Jefferson) are grouped together in the same district. The 2nd is also home to two incumbent Congressmen, David McKinley of Wheeling and Alex Mooney of Charles Town. Both are Republicans and have indicated they plan to compete in the May 2022 primary. No other candidates have yet announced their plans to run for Congress in this district.

WV State Senate

In the state legislature, the 16th Senate district encompasses all of Jefferson County and roughly

half of Berkeley County. The Senate districts are represented by two senators, elected for overlapping four year terms. Democrat Hannah Geffert of Martinsburg is the incumbent in the 16th district seat up for election in 2022 (she was appointed to fill the unexpired term of John Unger). By law, the candidate for this seat needs to reside in Berkeley County (the other senator representing the 16th district must reside in Jefferson County — currently Republican Patricia Rucker, who will be up for reelection in 2024).

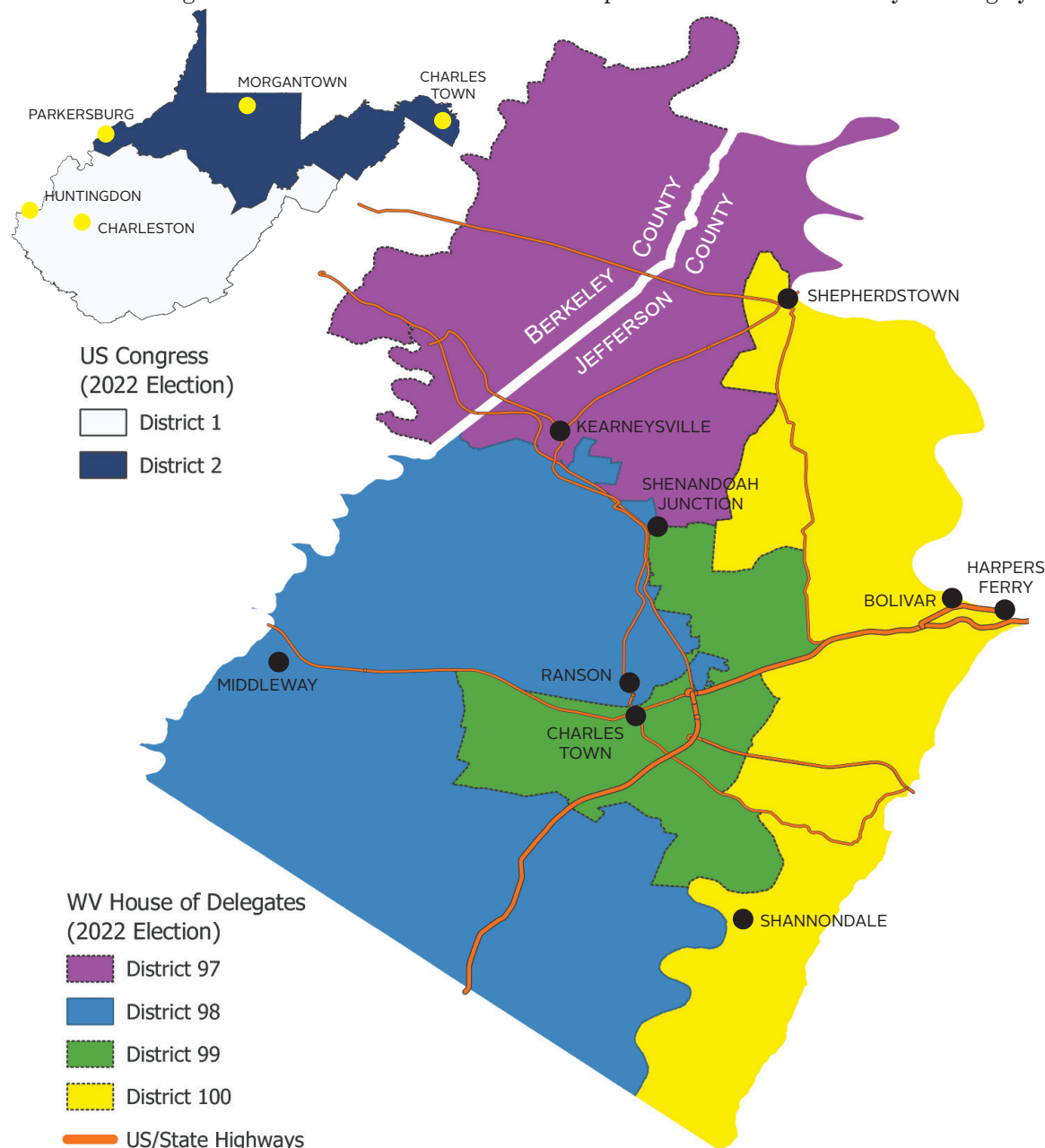
WV House of Delegates

After the November 2022 election, Jefferson County will be represented by 4 members in the House of Delegates. In addition to redrawing the district lines, the legislature split the remaining 33 multi-member Delegate districts into single-member districts, so there are now 100 districts across the state, with numbers 97, 98, 99 and 100 representing Jefferson County (see map).

The 97th district groups Democratic incumbent John Doyle of Jefferson County with Republican incumbent John Hardy of Berkeley County. The footprint of the district extends northward from Route 9, loops around Shepherdstown to the west, then dips down around the north of Willowdale and runs down Shepherd Grade Road past University Drive before it turns to the river right outside the town limits. The boundary line to the west of Shepherdstown is just past the shopping center on Route 45. Roughly two-thirds of the population is in Berkeley County and one-third is in Jefferson County.

In the center of Jefferson County, the cities of Charles Town and Ranson will be in separate districts, with Ranson in the new 98th district and Charles Town in the new 99th district. The 98th is home to incumbent Republican Paul Espinosa and stretches from the Shenandoah River on the east to the Berkeley County line on the west and north to Route 9 (including all of Ranson). The 99th is home to incumbent Republican Wayne Clark and encompasses all of Charles Town along with the residential neighborhoods to the east and northwest of the city.

The new 100th district has no incumbent and stretches southeast from downtown Shepherdstown (and the Maddox Farm and Willowdale neighborhoods immediately to its west) to include Bolivar and Harpers Ferry, along with the Blue Ridge and Shannondale areas to the east of the Shenandoah River.



The district lines for the US Congress and WV legislature have been redrawn for the upcoming 2022 elections. While the state lost a congressional district, Jefferson County added a delegate district (shared with Berkeley County, in purple).

For detailed maps and additional analysis, visit [WeAreTheObserver.com/2021-redistrict-wv](https://www.WeAreTheObserver.com/2021-redistrict-wv)

PERSPECTIVE // LAW NOTES

SHORT-TERM RENTALS What Homeowners Should Consider

BEFORE YOU OPEN UP YOUR PROPERTY for guests, you should be aware of the state and local regulations, tax requirements, and insurance issues.

Where you live is a big factor in what restrictions apply to using your property as a short-term rental. If your property is within the municipal boundaries of Bolivar, Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, Ranson, or Shepherdstown, you'll need to check current zoning regulations specific to those municipalities. Local restrictions may also change over time. For example, Jefferson County is in the process of updating its zoning regulations (see adjacent article). Additionally, if your property is in a homeowners association, you should review HOA covenants and restrictions. Likewise, you should check whether restrictive covenants on your property deed limit the use of the property as a short-term rental.

In West Virginia, individuals operating short-term rentals must also obtain a business registration certificate from the state. Both Airbnb and Vrbo are required to collect and remit state and local sales taxes on behalf of the hosts on their services and, starting in January 2022, hotel occupancy tax should be handled the same way. However, if you market or direct-book a property yourself, you must manage the tax remittances directly. You'll also need to familiarize yourself

with how you identify these taxes when you advertise the property. Consider consulting with an accountant to determine how operating expenses, improvement costs, and depreciation should be reported with your personal tax return.

Using your property as a short-term rental will also change your insurance needs, so be sure to discuss your plans with your insurance agent. Airbnb and Vrbo provide some liability and property protection through their host agreements, but these coverage are not technically insurance — and they don't provide coverage for any direct-book guests. If you are renting a property that is not your primary residence, you may be subject to Health Department approval as a lodging facility — and need a commercial insurance policy.



BY: Brenda Waugh


Brenda Waugh, MA JD, is a lawyer/ mediator with Waugh Law & Mediation, serving clients in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Email: waugh@brendawaugh.com.

IS THERE A ROOM AVAILABLE? Short Term Rentals In Jefferson County

IF YOU'VE EVER RENTED a beach house or a mountain cabin for a week, you've likely stayed at a "short-term rental" property. These resort-area rentals have been available for decades, and prior to the internet, were typically booked through a local property management company. While local-agent rentals are still common in beach and mountain locales, the online booking companies Airbnb and Vrbo have established themselves as portals for guests to access a wide variety of short-term rentals in big cities, small towns, the suburbs, and recreation areas across the country.

Airbnb's website lists about 200 options within Jefferson County, with approximately 65 of these as single rooms — a category which includes bedrooms in private homes as well as rooms at bed & breakfast inns. Vrbo's website lists approximately 150 options for the county, with a significant amount of overlap with the Airbnb listings. With slightly more than 20,000 residences within the entire county (a number that is growing rapidly), the number of short-term rentals works out to less than one percent of all private residences in Jefferson County.

There are roughly 1,200 hotel rooms available in Jefferson County, ranging from the

luxury suites of the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown to the apartment-style units at Hilton's Home2 Suites in Charles Town. The Hollywood Casino is the largest hotel, with almost 300 rooms. On the other end of the scale, there are a dozen or so bed & breakfast inns in Bolivar and Harpers Ferry offering personalized hospitality by their local owners. The total number of short-term rentals available on Airbnb/Vrbo are the equivalent of one average size hotel in the area. As an alternative comparison, the county lost around 200 rooms with the closures of the Clarion Hotel and the Quality Inn properties in Shepherdstown. 

The Jefferson County zoning ordinance currently permits short-term rentals of 7 or more days in all residential zones. The county Planning Commission recently proposed a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow rentals of fewer than 7 days, but with additional permitting requirements, both from the Zoning Office and the Health Department (these rules would apply only to properties outside of the various municipalities within the county). The County Commission is expected to schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendment in November. For additional info about the amendment and public comment options, see the online version of this article at WeAreTheObserver.com.



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ON THE BALLOT IN 2022
>>> PAGE 16 <<<

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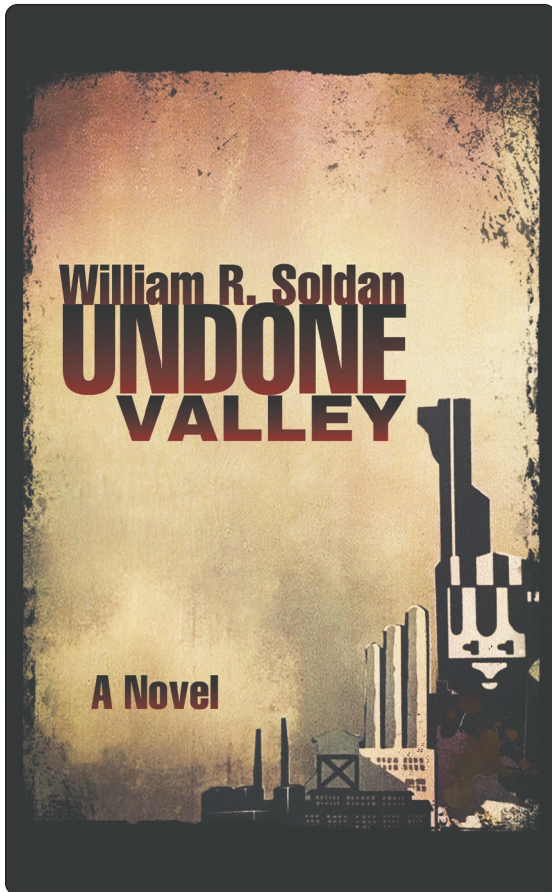
PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

BLUE-COLLAR TRAGEDY

Undone Valley, by William R. Soldan

Publisher: Cowboy Jamboree (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.



UNDONE VALLEY, WILLIAM R. SOLDAN'S first novel, opens with two epigraphs from none other than French existentialists Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre. They give the reader a feel for the bleakness that is about to come but also of the introspective nature of Soldan's well-delineated characters in what is nevertheless a gripping literary thriller.

The novel tells the story of Dalton Hartwell, a college dropout in rustbelt Ohio who spends his days taking care of his dying mother and working as an on-call maintenance man in an apartment complex. Hartwell's father, a union organizer, was shot and murdered two decades before in circumstances his son has never been able to clarify, not in the least because his mother, Pamela, has told him only part of the tragic story.

This fragile family balance is upset when Pamela receives a letter from the Ohio corrections department notifying her that Andrew Lareaux, the man who killed her husband, has been paroled from prison. Dalton's simmering rage of two decades unravels and he decides to find out the truth on his own.

In *Undone Valley*, there are several other narratives that run parallel to Dalton's. One tells the story of Malreaux as he navigates prison politics and strikes a bargain with the feared Aryan Brotherhood to ensure that his last days in prison go smoothly and he does not run into trouble with hostile inmates. Another subplot deals with Ellie, a single mother and Malreaux's daughter, who struggles financially as a waitress while she prepares to welcome her father home.

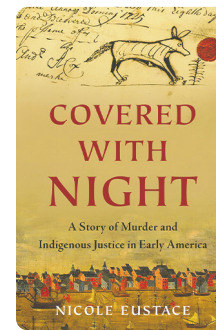
Soldan lays out these pieces on a chessboard in the first third of the novel and it seems each member of the cast is advancing toward a predetermined, fatalistic denouement. Nonetheless, the story is far from predictable as its fully fleshed-out characters act in often unfathomable ways. The result is a novel where the suspense is sustained both by its strong characterizations as by a propulsive revenge tale with an element of foreboding Soldan administers in precise doses.

A Cascade of Misfortune

The terrain in which the story unfolds is a reflection of Dalton, Andrew, and Ellie's own inner landscape, a once prosperous manufacturing region that collapsed after "a slew of mill shutdowns" followed a fateful day known locally as "Black Monday," when a large industrial facility ceased operations. Soldan tells a familiar tale for the extractive regions of the country: "The months and years following saw massive layoffs and crippling fallout as mill owners refused to update equipment and adhere to EPA standards, and one after the other the remaining companies either merged with larger concerns in other cities or closed entirely, leaving most mill structures in the Valley shuttered and empty."

Undone Valley is a story that works on two levels, both as an engaging noir novel and as a more subtle existentialist meditation that in no way interferes or weighs down its kaleidoscopic plot. The prolific Soldan is the author of three short story collections — *In Just the Right Light* (2019), *Lost in the Furrows* (2020), and *Houses Burning and Other Ruins* (2021) — of gritty, blue-collar fiction, as well as the poetry collection *So Fast, So Close* (2020). In *Undone Valley*, Soldan delivers a story that reads like the work of a seasoned novelist and a complex narrative architecture where the different plot threads and character stories converge seamlessly.

OUR PAST & REPASTS

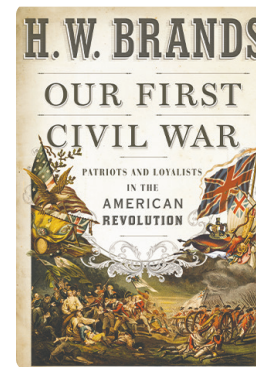


Covered with Night: A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America, by Nicole Eustace

Liveright Publishing (2021)
\$29.95

On the eve of a treaty conference between Iroquois leaders and European colonists in the distant summer of 1722, two white fur traders attacked an Indigenous hunter and left him for dead near Conestoga, Pennsylvania. Though virtually forgotten today, this act of brutality set into motion a remarkable series of criminal investigations and cross-cultural negotiations that challenged the definition of justice in early America.

Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution, by H. W. Brands



Doubleday (2021) \$32.50

What causes people to forsake their country and take arms against it? What prompts their neighbors, hardly distinguishable in their station or success, to defend that country against the rebels? That is the question H. W. Brands answers in his powerful new history of the American Revolution.

The Complete Autumn and Winter Cookbook

America's Test Kitchen (2021) \$34.99



When the flavors of summer fade, autumn and winter fruits and vegetables can be just as bold and bountiful. Find recipe inspiration from the season's first ripe figs and plump brussels sprouts to roasted sides featuring celery root, kohlrabi, and kabocha squash, or a cranberry curd tart to brighten a winter's night.

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WOOLLY BEARS AND GIANT LEOPARDS

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.

WHAT DO THE GIANT WOOLLY BEAR and the great leopard moth have in common? Quite a lot, it turns out.

This time of year, you're very likely to see a giant woolly bear — a black, fuzzy caterpillar that turns into the great or giant leopard moth. A giant woolly bear is very much like the black and brown fuzzy caterpillar that's become famous in folklore as a winter weather forecaster. According to the *Farmer's Almanac*, a woolly bear that has more black than brown means a long winter ahead. But a giant woolly bear is all black, always. If you follow the folklore, this might be an awfully bad winter.

The other day I found a giant woolly bear in our cellar. It quickly rolled itself into a tight ball and then the orange-red skin showed between the rows of bristles. The black bristly hairs are arranged in clusters or rosettes, which make it hard to uncurl the caterpillar, thus protecting it from enemies. Some people may get a rash from touching the bristles, but otherwise the insect is harmless.

Not as common as the banded caterpillars, giant woolly bears are bigger — about two inches long — and rather more sedate, not scurrying around as frantically as their lighter colored cousins. Unlike many moths that



Giant woolly bear caterpillar curled up, showing orange-red skin below its bristles (credit D. Pifer).

spend the winter in a snug silk cocoon, woolly bears overwinter as caterpillars. You might find one hiding in your wood pile or among dead leaves.

In spring, the giant woolly bear spins a silken cocoon and goes dormant. Toward the beginning of summer, a dramatically spotted moth emerges from the cocoon. The giant or great leopard moth is a truly beautiful insect.



Giant leopard moth from above and below (credit D. Pifer).

Wings, body and legs are covered with shaggy white scales. The moth looks as if cloaked in immaculate white fur. The body and wings are marked with dramatically contrasting black spots. These may appear as open circles and ovals or closed spots and polka dots. Some individuals have bold dots and heavy black markings, while others have finer lines with fewer spots and stripes. Just behind the head and seen from the front, a pair of large spots, glossed with iridescent blue-green, give the impression of a skull with glittering eyes. When the moth opens its wings, the abdomen is marked with dark, iridescent blue-green spots with some orange markings. Even the legs are banded black and white, with black areas showing the same blue-green iridescence found elsewhere on the body.

Interestingly, these moths have well developed ears on the base of the abdomen. Scientists think these may help moths detect and avoid the echo-location sounds emitted by moth-hunting bats. Glands behind the moth's head emit an acrid smelling liquid to discourage hungry predators.

Black woolly bears aren't picky and eat the leaves of willow, cabbage, maple, violet, nettle, plantain, and other common plants. But adult leopard moths are seldom seen, possibly because of their nocturnal habits and lifespan of only a few weeks.

White moths carry folklore as do their black caterpillars. Native Americans regard a white moth as a harbinger of good news from the spirit world and changes for the better. So, might a bad winter be followed by a lovely spring? I'll take this optimistic symbolism with me as we approach the close of the year.

ALUMINUM IN THE WATER

Tests at Elks Branch Spring Prompt Questions to Local Officials

ELKS RUN AND ITS TRIBUTARY, Elk Branch, are the primary source of drinking water for Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. Tests of an Elk Branch spring show a 20-fold increase in aluminum in September compared to prior months, according to reports shared with government officials in Harpers Ferry, Bolivar, and the Jefferson County Health Department. Aluminum's health effects have been widely studied and associated with neurological disorders.

The recent tests are part of a water quality monitoring program organized by the Jefferson County Foundation using third-party experts (Read more at WeAreTheObserver.com/taking-waters-into-their-own-hands, February 2021). The program was prompted by concerns over risks posed by the Rockwool factory in Ranson which started commercial operations in July 2021. The Foundation's previous tests showed slightly elevated levels of aluminum in August and no detectable levels prior to then.

In its own water discharge monitoring report for the second quarter of 2021, Rockwool disclosed elevated levels of aluminum and iron in discharge water to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). Rockwool's WVDEP filings including an October 14 letter suggested a link between the elevated levels and insufficiently stabilized and vegetated land on its site.

Jefferson County Foundation President, Dr. Christine Wimer, said that the Foundation shared its recent data with the Harpers Ferry Water Commission, among others, to "inform and prompt appropriate follow up actions on the part of governmental organizations... which have the responsibility to take action to protect the region's water." The Foundation's legal challenge of the water permit issued by the WVDEP to Rockwool is currently pending before the state's Environmental Quality Board.

The Harpers Ferry Water Works has indicated that it plans to start testing for aluminum at the water system intake near the mouth of Elks Run. This testing is scheduled to begin in November and will be a part of its regular quarterly testing schedule going forward. This source-side testing would be in addition to the testing that the Water Works already performs to the water leaving its treatment plan to ensure that its own processes are not putting aluminum into the raw drinking water. ☑

For previous coverage and future updates on this water monitoring program, visit [The Observer's website at](http://TheObserver.com)

WeAreTheObserver.com/
Jefferson-County-Water

EXPLORE // HIKING AND NATURE



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BABES IN BACKPACKS — A NEW PVAS HIKING PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH TOTS AND TODDLERS

Join a PVAS naturalist at Cool Spring Preserve this month for a hike specifically designed for adults with young children. This event offers parents the opportunity to exercise and socialize with other adults while giving kids the chance to explore and learn about nature. Trails are not stroller accessible, so adults will need to bring backpack carriers for younger children and non-walkers. All are welcome at this event and there is no age limit for participating children. *November 3 (Wed), 9:00 - 10:00 am. Details and pre-registration (required) at PotomacValleyAudubon.org (under calendar).*

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SHARING & CARING >>> PAGE 15

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BALD EAGLES OF THE POTOMAC VALLEY

This month's online PVAS program features a presentation by Randy Robinson on "Bald Eagles of the Potomac Valley." Randy's presentation will focus on a pair of bald eagles that currently nest near the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). These eagles began building their nest at the NCTC in 2003 and a video camera was installed in 2006 to better observe the pair and their activities. Using photos and video captured by this camera, Randy will discuss eagle behavior, biology, and the technology that makes close observation possible.

November 10 (Wed), 7-8:30 pm, online-only (via Zoom). Details and event link at PotomacValleyAudubon.org (under calendar). For more info, contact Krista Hawley at AdultPrograms@PotomacAudubon.org.



BOLIVAR HEIGHTS TO NASH FARM HIKE

The Harpers Ferry Park Association's upcoming "Trails Less Traveled" hike features a 2.5 mile walk from Bolivar Heights to the Nash Farm inside Harpers Ferry National Park. The Nash Farm is a hidden gem of the park and a stroll through the property transports visitors to a site that has served as a way station for Union troops during the Civil War as well as a brewery and dairy farm. The walk will also pass paw paw groves and historic homes along Prospect Street and attendees will be sure to learn something new from hike leader Chris Craig, a Certified Tour Guide in Harpers Ferry.

November 6 (Sat), 10:00 - 11:30 am, meet at Bolivar Heights parking area. \$10 (pre-registration required). For more information or to register for the hike, visit Harpersferryhistory.org.

EXPLORE // TOURS & FESTIVALS

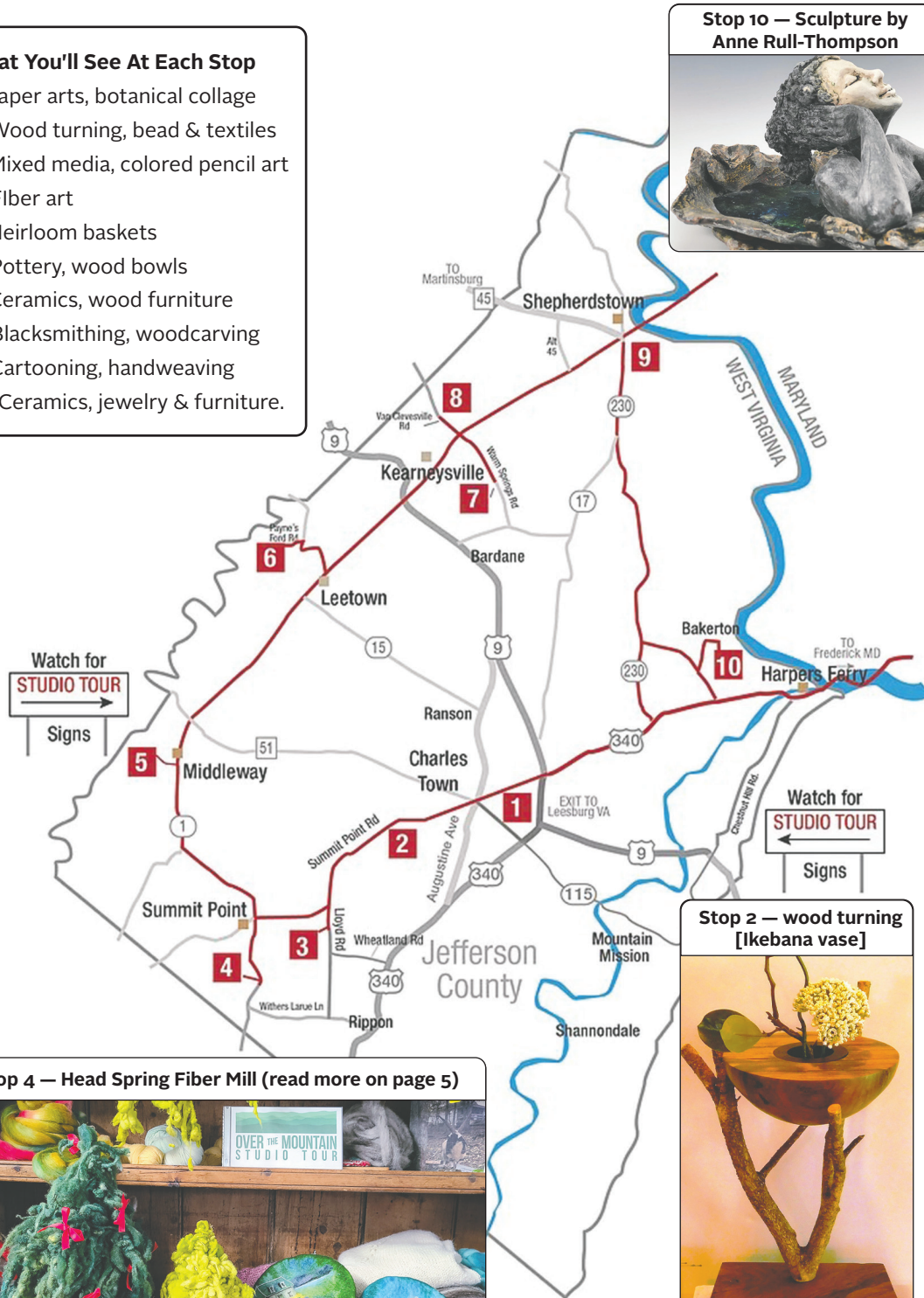
OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO ART TOUR RETURNS

Twenty-one local artists will show and sell their works on this self-guided 10 studio tour. Each studio will be hosting a pair of artists. Guests are welcome to visit in any order and are encouraged to ask questions of the artists, many of whom will be demonstrating and creating during the tour.

All of the studios will be open on November 13 & 14 (Sat & Sun) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Interactive map and artist details on the web at OverTheMountainStudioTour.com.

What You'll See At Each Stop

- 1) Paper arts, botanical collage
- 2) Wood turning, bead & textiles
- 3) Mixed media, colored pencil art
- 4) Fiber art
- 5) Heirloom baskets
- 6) Pottery, wood bowls
- 7) Ceramics, wood furniture
- 8) Blacksmithing, woodcarving
- 9) Cartooning, handweaving
- 10) Ceramics, jewelry & furniture.



BLUE RIDGE SPROUTS FESTIVAL

Celebrate local food and agricultural traditions of the Shenandoah Valley at the Blue Ridge Sprouts Food Festival. Attendees can enjoy food prepared by top chefs in the region, participate in friendly, food-related competitions, and attend workshops and demonstrations about gardening, landscaping, kitchen skills, beekeeping, and even mixology (taught by Ashley Pryor, mixologist for Lilah Restaurant in Shepherdstown). The festival also has an all-day line up of activities for teens and 'tweens (ages 8-15).

November 6 (Sat), 11:30 am - 5 pm, West Oaks Farm Market, 4305 Middle Rd, Winchester. Tickets are \$20 (FREE for kids under 15).



TRAILS & TREES STUDIO ART TOUR

The Trails & Trees Studio Art Tour in Berkeley County offers guests the opportunity to talk with the artists and explore the spaces that inspire them. Many artists will be creating/demonstrating and selling their work. The 2021 tour features 16 juried artists in 10 studios, showcasing glass blowing, quilting, woodworking, wood turning, stained glass, pottery, original jewelry, baskets, paintings, fiber art, and clock making.

The studios will be open on November 6 & 7 (Sat & Sun) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tour map and artist details at TrailsAndTrees.org.

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



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ART & MUSIC EVENTS >>> PAGE 14



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Visit WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM/EVENTS-ACTIVITIES for more events.

Email EXPLORE@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM if you have an event or activity to include in our calendar.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

OCT 28 (THU) — THE SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY PRESENTS MR. JOHN & FRIENDS (kid's Halloween program) · 4-5 pm at the War Memorial Building, Shepherdstown · FREE · Info: ShepLibrary.org

OCT 29 (FRI) — HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK · 6:30 pm at The AMP at Sam Michaels Park · FREE, pre-registration required · Info: FB (The AMP at Sam Michaels)

OCT 29 (FRI) — STORIES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, hosted by the Shepherd University English Honor Society · 7-9 pm behind White Hall (near the Little House) · Light refreshments · FREE

OCT 29 (FRI) — DRAG-O-WEEN FUNDRAISER · 7-10 pm at the Barn of Harpers Ferry · \$20 · Info: FB @hfeventbarn

OCT 30 (SAT) — TRUNK-OR-TREAT AND HALLOWEEN PARTY · 1-3 pm in Morgan's Grove Park, Shepherdstown · FREE · Info: FB @ShepherdstownBooFest

OCT 31 (SUN) — HALLOWEEN DRAG BRUNCH (Ages 13+) · Show begins at 11:30 am (seating begins at 9:45 am) at Lilah Restaurant in Shepherdstown · \$10 cover, reservation required · Info: FB @LilahRestaurant

OCT 31 (SUN) — FIRST ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION · 4-6 pm at the Shepherdstown Fire Department · FREE · Info: FB @sfdc03

OCT 31 (SUN) — HALLOWEEN EVENING DRAG PARTY (18+) · Show begins at 7 pm (seating begins at 6 pm) at Lilah Restaurant in Shepherdstown · \$10 cover, reservation required · Info: FB @LilahRestaurant

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1

NOV 4 (THU) — SHEPHERD JAZZ COMBOS · 7:30 pm at the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall · FREE · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

NOV 6 (SAT) — TRAILS LESS TRAVELED: BOLIVAR HEIGHTS TO THE NASH FARM, a 2.5 mile historical hike presented by the Harpers Ferry Park Association · 10-11:30 am, meet at Bolivar Heights parking area · \$10 (pre-registration required) · Register/Info: harpersferryhistory.org

NOV 6 (SAT) — 4WHEEL & OFF-ROAD SHOW & SWAP MEET · 10-4 pm at Orr's Farm Market, Martinsburg · \$10 (Ages 0-12 FREE) · Info: FB @OrrsFarmMarket

NOV 6 (SAT) — THE WOODSHEDDERS (Indie/Appalachian/Honky-Tonk) · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8

NOV 9 (TUE) — SPEAK STORY SERIES PRESENTS STORYTELLER LAURA SIMMS · 7:30 pm ONLINE · \$15 · Info: SpeakStorySeries.com

NOV 11 (THU) — EMISUNSHINE (bluegrass/gospel/country/Americana) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

NOV 11 (THU) — SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY SALON SERIES PRESENTS AFRO HOUSE, featuring Robin Rhodes and Friends (Afrofuturistic) · 7:30 pm at the Frank Arts Center Theater · FREE · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

NOV 12 (FRI) — ORPHEUS EXPLORED (multi-disciplinary concert) · 7:30 pm at the Frank Arts Center Theater · \$15 · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

NOV 13 (SAT) — KEN WENZEL (saxophone/jazz) · 1-4 pm at Big Cork Vineyards, Rohrsersville, MD · FREE · Info: BigCorkVineyards.com

NOV 13 (SAT) — PETER AND THE WOLF: An Interactive Experience (chamber orchestra) · 7-8 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NOV 13 (SAT) — MILES GANNETT (singer/songwriter/bluegrass/folk) · 8-10 pm at the Barn of Harpers Ferry · \$5 · Info: FB @hfeventbarn

NOV 13-14 (SAT,SUN) — OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR · 10 am to 5 pm, self-guided tour of 10 artist studios throughout Jefferson County · FREE · Map/Info: OverTheMountainStudioTour.com

NOV 14 (SUN) — FIFTH ANNUAL "PUZZLE MANIA" Jigsaw puzzle competition, presented by the Friends of Music · 1-4 pm at the Shepherd University Wellness Center · \$5 · Tickets/Info: FriendsWV.org

Puzzle Mania is a light-hearted fundraiser in support of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra. Participants will compete as teams (up to four people, ages 10+, \$100 entry fee) to complete 500-piece puzzles as quickly as possible. The three fastest teams will receive prizes. Light refreshments are available for purchase, with all proceeds going to support the Friends of Music.

NOV 14 (SUN) — EUPHONIUM RECITALS FEATURING ISAAC VILA AND JAVIER FLORES · 3-5 pm at the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall · FREE · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

NOV 14 (SUN) — OLD-TIME RADIO SHOW at the Gallery Coffeehouse (live performance comedy/drama) · 6:30-8 pm at the Franklin Park Arts Center, Purcellville, VA · \$8 · Info: FranklinParkArtsCenter.org

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15

NOV 20 (SAT) — HANDMADE CHRISTMAS IN SHEPHERDSTOWN (local gifts and crafts) · 11 am to 5 pm in the War Memorial Building, Shepherdstown · FREE · Info: FB @ShepherdstownCommunityClub

NOV 20 (SAT) — SETH WALKER (Blues/Contemporary Americana) · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org

NOV 20 (SAT) — "LOOKING BACH-WARDS," presented by Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra · 7:30 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown · \$35 · Tickets/Info: FriendsWV.org

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22

NOV 27 (SAT) — BLUEGRASS AND BBQ W/ THE PLATE SCRAPERS (bluegrass) · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org

NOV 28 (SUN) — KEITH HARKIN (of Celtic Thunder) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$35 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29

NOV 29 (MON) — SMALL ENSEMBLES AND COMPOSITION RECITAL · 7:30 pm at the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall · FREE · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

DEC 3 (FRI) — SANTA & S'MORES SING-ALONG STORYTIME · 5-8:30 pm at The AMP at Sam Michaels Park · \$12, pre-registration required · Info: FB @TheAMPatSamMichaelsPark

DEC 4 & 5 (SAT, SUN) — SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT · 7:30 (Sat) & 3 pm (Sun) at the Shepherd University Wellness Center Arena · \$15 · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

WEEKLY EVENTS

BARN AT HARPERS FERRY · Info/schedule: FB @HFEEventBarn

CHARLES TOWN - FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE · Info/schedule: FB @CharlesTownNow

POP-UPS AT EVOLVE · Info/schedule: FB @EvolveShepherdstown

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 // MUSIC, ART & PERFORMANCE

SELECTIONS FROM THE AFRO HOUSE CONCERT SERIES

The Shepherd Salon Series presents an evening of Afrofuturistic music selections from the Afro House Concert Series. Afro House is a Baltimore-based art house focused on creating transformative, disruptive, and emotive music. Pianist Scott Patterson, co-founder, composer, and artistic director for Afro House, will be joined by Shepherd adjunct faculty bassist Robin Rhode and vocalist Max Bent, a teaching artist with Young Audiences in Maryland.



November 11 (Thu), 7:30 pm at the Frank Arts Center Theater. FREE and open to the public. Sponsored by Jefferson Security Bank. For more information, visit Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts.

RUDE MECHANICALS PLAYERS PRESENT HAMLET



The Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players of Shepherd University return to the stage this November to present Shakespeare's Hamlet. Prepare to experience a whirlwind of emotion as players explore themes of family dysfunction, revenge, and trauma while bringing the characters of Hamlet to life on stage.

Performances take place at Reynolds Hall at 7:30 pm on November 5, 6, 12, and 13; 3:00 pm on November 7 and 14; and 8:30 pm on November 10 and 11. Admission is FREE for Shepherd students and employees with ID, \$2 for K-12 and college students, \$7 for general admission. For more information, contact Dr. Betty Ellzey at bellzey@shepherd.edu.



LAURA SIMMS

Speak Story Series presents storyteller Laura Simms in an online performance on November 9 (Tue), 7:30 pm. Simms masterfully blends the tales and myths of old with her personal experiences to create unique, compelling performances. In addition to engaging the community with her storytelling, Simms is also passionate about education. She is artistic Director of the Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center as well

as the founder for the Center for Engaged Storytelling in New York.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at SpeakStorySeries.com. Speak is for adult audiences. Mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion. Email info@SpeakStorySeries.com for questions or additional information on season tickets.

LET'S DANCE! PIANO ENSEMBLE

Shepherd University's Piano Ensemble will perform a lively selection of dance music from across the world that feature six hands and four hands formats. The recital will feature works by Manuel de Falla, John Philip Sousa, Aleksandr Ilyinsky, Ulrich Nehis, Jeff Manookian, Arthur Benjamin, and more.



November 17 (Wed), 7:30 pm at the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall. FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts.

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POP-UPS COMING IN NOVEMBER

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EXPLORE // SHARING & CARING

HORIZON GOODWILL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER IN CHARLES TOWN



Start your day with a good cause at the Fundraiser Breakfast supporting Horizon Goodwill Youth Homeless Services. Breakfast will include an omelet station, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, and more for dine-in or carry-out. The cost of breakfast is by donation and all proceeds from the event will go to support Horizon Goodwill's West Virginia Homeless Youth Program.

November 13 (Sat), 7:00 - 10:00 am at VFW Post 3522, 116 E Liberty Street, Charles Town. For more information contact Emma Lardner (elardner@goodwill-hgi.org) or Post Quartermaster Randy DeLawder, at 304-707-2252.

CELEBRATE BY GIVING

The holiday season can be a joyful time of year, where friends and family come together to celebrate and give thanks. It can also be an opportunity to give back to your community and help others. Consider supporting the mission of one of the many local charitable organizations that assist community members in need.

Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM)



JCCM is a cooperative of local churches that offers a variety of services to those in need. In addition to their food pantry, JCCM also helps individuals access routine health care services, provides emergency assistance with clothing, and offers cold weather shelters from November through March. JCCM welcomes donations as well as dedicated volunteers to support their many programs.

The JCCM Food Pantry and intake office is located at 238 West Washington Street in downtown Charles Town. Food donations are accepted from 9 am to 2 pm during the week. The pantry is open for clients Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon (also on the last Saturday of the month from 9 am to 1 pm). For more information on services, volunteering, or donations, visit the website at JCCM.us.

Shepherdstown Shares

Shepherdstown Shares is a free food pantry available to assist individuals and families living in the Shepherdstown vicinity.



The Shepherdstown Shares Pantry is located in the Trinity chapel building at the corner of Church Street and West Back Alley in downtown Shepherdstown. The pantry is open for clients Saturday 2:00 - 5:00 pm and Monday & Thursday 4:30 to 6:30. For more information on services or to donate, visit the website at ShepherdstownShares.org/food-support.

HOLIDAY BEAR FAIR

Jefferson the Bear Returns to *The Observer* this December!



Get your crayons and creativity ready! The second annual Holiday Bear Fair featuring Jefferson the Bear returns in the next issue of *The Observer*. The Holiday Bear Fair is once again sponsored by Jefferson Security Bank.

WHAT'S THE HOLIDAY BEAR FAIR?

The Bear Fair is a free, safe, and fun way to spread holiday cheer!

Gather your kids (and the kid in you!) to decorate a picture of Jefferson the Bear. Display your creation at home or share with the community by dropping it off in the lobby of a participating Jefferson Security Bank branch (look for a specially-marked box). You can also email a picture of your creation to *The Observer*. And this year, you may win a prize!

WHEN DOES THE HOLIDAY BEAR FAIR TAKE PLACE?

Thanksgiving week until the end of December.

WHERE DO I FIND JEFFERSON THE BEAR PICTURES TO DECORATE?

Look in December's *Observer*, which will be available in mailboxes and pick up points across Jefferson County starting Thanksgiving week.

You can also download and print Jefferson the Bear's picture from *The Observer's* website WeAreTheObserver.com.

PRIZE? DID YOU SAY PRIZE?

Anyone who submits a decorated bear will be automatically entered to win a gift card to a local small business.

Remember to support your favorite local businesses -- eat, play, and shop local this Holiday Season!



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ANIMAL RESCUE & CARE
>>> PAGE 4 <<<



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EXPLORE // LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY COMMISSION & SCHOOL BOARD NEED CANDIDATES



While the congressional and state elections next November will likely attract a lot of attention, there will be plenty of county and municipal offices on the ballot next year too — these are the local officials who can really affect what happens close to home in Jefferson County.

Much of this work is routine — overseeing staff who provide administration, planning, and public services. Still, over the next several years, the County will face many many complex issues, including a growing demand for housing, conversion of rural land into residential lots, school construction & maintenance, addressing the lingering effects of the pandemic, encouraging economic growth, and updating the County's comprehensive plan.

UPDATING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MAPS

Jefferson County is divided into 5 magisterial districts — Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Kabletown, Middleway & Shepherdstown. The County Clerk is in the process of updating the magisterial district lines to balance the population shifts of the past decade and also align with the recently redrawn legislative district maps (see page 6). The County Commission is expected to review and approve the revised magisterial district maps in December.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

The County Commission is responsible for administering the fiscal affairs of the county, which involves assessing and taxing real estate along with personal/business property. The Commission also oversees the use of property within the county through its zoning ordinance and building permits. The day-to-day operation of the county is managed by a professional administrator and numerous specialized staff in multiple departments. The commissioner role is part-time but does require a significant time commitment. There are 5 commissioners, one from each magisterial district, each elected to a six year term.



RUNNING FOR COMMISSIONER

Voting: countywide for 2 positions; candidates may run with a party endorsement or as independents

Residence requirement: Must live in the designated magisterial district. In 2022, the Commission positions requiring residency in Shepherdstown and Charles Town districts are up for election.

Primary election day: May 10, 2022

General election day: November 8, 2022

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jefferson County Schools provides education services to over 9,000 students from pre-K through 12th grade across 16 schools and is the largest employer in the county. The Board of Education oversees the administration of this system and is responsible for hiring the Superintendent to act as the chief executive officer who in turn manages a central staff, school principals, teachers, and support staff. The role is part-time, but does require a significant time commitment. The Board consists of 5 members, each elected to a 4 year term.



RUNNING FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Voting: countywide for 3 positions; candidates run without a party affiliation.

Residence requirement: No more than 2 members of the board may reside in the same magisterial district. The Board of Education currently has 1 member from the Charles Town District (Laurie Ogden), 2 members from Kabletown (Kathryn Skinner & Gary Kable), and 2 members from Shepherdstown (Donna Joy & Mark Osbourn). The terms of Kable and Osborn run until 2024, so for the 2022 election no more than 1 additional member may be elected from either the Kabletown or Shepherdstown district.

General election day (no primary): May 10, 2022

CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE IN JANUARY

All candidates for **County Commission** or **Board of Education** must file a Candidate's Certificate of Announcement with the Jefferson County Clerk. This form must be received in the Clerk's office between **January 10 and January 29, 2022** (the form cannot be filed early). Call the Clerk's office at 304-728-3215 for filing fees and other requirements.

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