

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

JUNE 2022

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 



The eastern end of the West Virginia Route 9 Bike Trail begins 3.5 miles north of downtown Charles Town. The 10.5 mile trail continues northwest — ending at the outskirts of Martinsburg. Berkeley County and the City of Martinsburg are working on a project to extend the Route 9 trail to connect with the under-construction Frog Hollow Trail, creating a direct connection into downtown Martinsburg.

TO OUR READERS — The room was packed at last month’s Tourism Summit, organized by the Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Chelsea Ruby, West Virginia’s Secretary of Tourism and Dr. Danny Twilley, of the Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative at WVU, both described the significant potential here in Jefferson County to expand opportunities for outdoor recreation — an economic base that can sustain a broad range of businesses, create jobs, and make living and visiting here even more attractive than it is today.

Twilley highlighted the importance of connections — especially the connections between communities inside Jefferson County that are formed by the physical network of outdoor recreation activities available in the surrounding area. Trails and paths are an important, yet often overlooked, connection that can drive an area to become a hub of outdoor recreation. Today, it’s possible to cycle directly from Pittsburgh to Harpers Ferry or Shepherdstown on a direct path — and these communities see the economic impact of this increasingly popular recreation vacation activity. Imagine if the rest of Jefferson County could be connected to this network. Not unlike high speed internet, if we can connect to it, good things will come.

Bob Kuska writes of another type of outdoor recreation — and one of the perennial joys of an American summer — baseball. Especially in a minor league park, fans are part of the game. Likewise, at the Contemporary American Theater Festival, it’s the audience that makes the experience. So batter-up, break a leg, and hope you enjoy some time out on the town this summer.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF



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// RECREATION

AT THE CROSSROADS OF TOURISM

Jefferson County Well-Placed To Develop Outdoor Recreation Economy

By Harriet Pearson



WHAT DO WEST VIRGINIA and northwest Iceland have in common?

Global travel guide *Lonely Planet* designated both as top-10 destinations in 2022, alongside other tourism hotspots. In a keynote speech at the recent Jefferson County Tourism Summit, West Virginia Secretary of Tourism Chelsea Ruby pointed out that raising the profile of the state is one of her goals and the focus of the state's ongoing "Almost Heaven" advertising campaign.

Within West Virginia, Jefferson County ranks at the top for tourism. According to a 2019 analysis prepared for Secretary Ruby by national economic consultants Dean Runyan Associates, tourism in Jefferson County supported more than 7,000 jobs, brought more than \$840 million in direct spending, and generated \$10.5 million in local government tax revenues.

And the region is positioned to attract even more tourism in the years ahead, according to experts speaking at last month's conference.

"We've got a lot of momentum," emphasized outdoor recreation expert Danny Twilley. Twilley, who runs the Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative at West Virginia University, explained that Jefferson County and surrounding region have all three components needed for success as an outdoor recreation destination: outfitters, lodging, and other service providers; extensive public lands (501 climbs and 20 whitewater runs located within 90 minutes of the county); and vibrant small town communities that draw hikers, cyclists and other active visitors.

To continue attracting outdoor recreation enthusiasts, Twilley recommended that the region focus on providing additional trails as well as visitor access to water bodies such as the Potomac River.

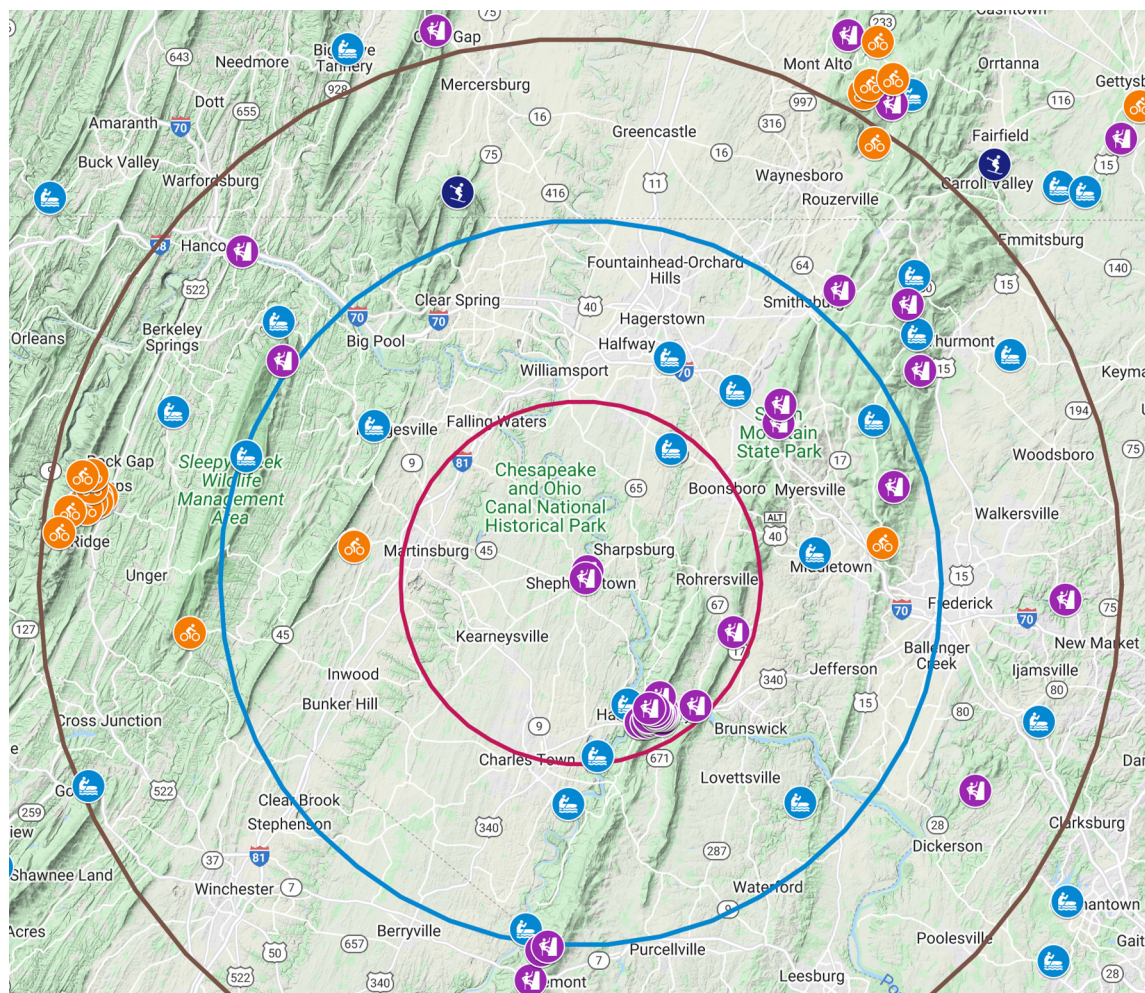
Jefferson County is the site of several other major tourism-based venues, according to Shepherd University Economics Professor Kathleen Reid, such as the Contemporary American Theater Festival, Charles Town Races

and Slots, and Summit Point Motorsports. In addition to these organizations' own local spending, a high number of visitors to these venues come from outside the region and when they come, Reid said, "they purchase gas, eat meals at local restaurants, lodge at local hotels, and shop at local stores. This spending... injects money into the West Virginia economy that becomes income to the local proprietors. In turn, that income is later spent, sending a ripple effect throughout the economy."

To support students' interest in exploring tourism-based careers, and in response to growing demand from local businesses for talent, Shepherd University offers minors in tourism, hospitality management, and related topics. The university's programs are "designed to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to function in the relevant

industry and to appreciate the challenges inherent to this service field," Professor Reid explained. In light of growing demand from local businesses for tourism-related talent, Shepherd School of Recreation Professor Stacey Kendig, who is also involved in overseeing Shepherd's offerings, indicated the need to educate students about the potential of these areas. "[Students] get 'sports' but they don't get 'tourism' as an opportunity," she observed, while noting the importance of the type of hands-on externships and capstone projects offered by the University — just recently, for example, with the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation.

The Tourism Summit that took place in April at the Bavarian Inn was organized by the Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau (web: DiscoverItAllWV.com), which plans to hold the event each year.



The circles on this map (above) show the numerous options for rock climbing, white-water, skiing, and trail cycling activities available within a 90 minute drive of Jefferson County. According to Dr. Danny Twilley of the Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative at West Virginia University, this concentration of outdoor recreation activities represents a strong asset for marketing Jefferson County as a "home base" for tourists planning their vacations around these types of activities. Image credit: D. Twilley.

// TIME AWAY

OUR LOCAL PARKS

WITH GASOLINE PRICES CLIMBING, it makes more sense than ever to take advantage of nearby recreation options. Fortunately, there is no shortage of national wilderness areas and parks within a short drive from Jefferson County. And you can stretch your dollar even farther by taking advantage of discounted or free access passes from the National Park Service.👉

➤➤ **HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK**

A National Park in our own backyard, Harpers Ferry draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from all parts of the country and from around the globe. Besides the history, the park offers many opportunities for hiking and camping. The admission charge (\$20 per carload) reflects its popularity but discounted passes are available (see below) to make it a cost-effective local playground.

➤➤ **APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL**

Completed in 1937, the “Footpath for the People” is free to access. But since parking is limited at most of the access points, the easiest local approach is from the Harpers Ferry visitor center parking lot (fee/pass required). Fun fact: West Virginia’s four miles of the Appalachian Trail is the shortest of any state’s, making it possible for AT hikers to traverse an entire state easily in a single day.

➤➤ **CHESAPEAKE & OHIO NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK**

184.5 miles of trails for walks, hikes, cycling – Free admission (except for Great Falls Tavern in Potomac, MD).

➤➤ **ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD**

Learn (or relearn) some Civil War history this summer and enjoy hikes through lovely countryside. Admission charge (\$20 per carload for 3-day access) with discounted passes available (see below).

Save Money with a Pass

By federal law, 80 percent or more of admission fees are used to benefit the park being visited. But, while you can feel good about where your fees go, you can also plan ahead to save money.

If you want to stay local, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers a park-specific annual pass for \$35 (good for one pass holder and immediate family). You’ll need to visit the entrance station at the park visitor center (171 Shoreline Drive, Harpers Ferry WV) to purchase.

If you want to venture further afield, the **America the Beautiful** pass offers access to 2,000+ national parks and federal recreation lands across the USA (including the Harpers Ferry park). The standard America the Beautiful pass costs \$80 and is valid for one year from the date of purchase. Each pass can have two “owners” and will cover entrance for up to four adults in a single vehicle (admission for children under 16 is always free at national parks).

The **America the Beautiful Senior** pass is only \$20 per year (or \$80 for a lifetime pass), available if you are over 62. Active military members, veterans, Gold Star families, and US residents with permanent disabilities are eligible for free America the Beautiful passes. A special program for 4th graders and their families also provides free passes (details at EveryKidOutdoors.gov). All versions of this pass can be obtained online via the National Park Service’s website, NPS.gov (look under “plan your visit, passes” in the menu) or at the Harpers Ferry park visitor center.

For links to the resources mentioned, check the online version of this article at www.WeAreTheObserver.com/Time-Away-federal-parks.



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SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

>>> PAGE 16 <<<

// RECREATION

FAMILY FUN AT THE BALLPARK

Frederick Keys Return With Focus on Fan Experience

By Bob Kuska

Bob Kuska is a career science writer and the author of three books on basketball. He lives in Jefferson County.

THE LATE BASEBALL ICON YOGI BERRA once advised, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” For baseball buffs in Jefferson County, the fork in the road is the I-70 split near Frederick. You can drive straight to catch nine innings at Baltimore’s Oriole Park at Camden Yards; or you can swing right on I-270 to shag foul balls at Washington’s Nationals Park.

But there’s a third option closer to home that offers high-quality baseball this summer and will save you lots of gas and money at the box office and concession stand. Stay straight on I-70, then take exit 54 and follow the signs for Harry Grove Stadium. That’s where the Frederick Keys are back in action this summer and swinging for the fences.

The Keys, who open the 2022 season on June 2, have 40 home games on tap through the first week of September. In addition to all those hot smashes up the middle, nearly all games feature family-friendly promotions and giveaways. That includes 18 post-game fireworks nights, with three in row (July 1-3) before Independence Day.

“We’re excited to bring back our fans from across the Eastern Panhandle for another great season,” said Henry Feigen, of the Keys’ marketing department. “We want everybody to enjoy some baseball and have a great time.”

Almost A Final Out

The Keys, named after Frederick’s famous patriotic native son Francis Scott Key, arrived in town in 1989 as a minor-league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. Playing in the venerable Carolina League, a minor-league Class A-Advanced circuit that hones the game’s top young prospects, the Keys racked up four league

pennants and, in the 2010s, operated as a model farm club, playing in their 5,400-seat stadium before enthusiastic, fireworks-loving crowds.

But in 2020, the final note nearly sounded on the Keys. The franchise landed on a list of 42 farm clubs that Major League Baseball (MLB) executives decided to shutter, part of a controversial initiative to downsize and innovate its then-160-team minor-league system. The Keys, however, didn’t stay shuttered for long. Last summer, they returned to the diamond as a founding member of the six-team MLB Draft League, the latest innovation in player development. The league, with its intense 68-game schedule, gives big-league scouts a nightly MLB-sanctioned showcase to scrutinize the nation’s top college prospects and hopefully discover their less-heralded teammates from the smaller schools and community colleges.

Eyes On The Draft Prospects

This jam-packed schedule is also a perk for MLB draft leaguers. These aspiring pros have the opportunity to perform daily under the watchful gaze of established minor-league managers who’ve seen it all and can impart their wisdom. Players also get a valuable first taste of pro baseball life, including the demanding travel schedule and almost-nightly call to “play ball” while remaining laser-locked on winning.

For the MLB, the hope is for the cream of the Draft League crop to rise to the top just in time for its annual amateur draft, now held in July. With one season in the books, so far so good. In 2021, over 90 draft leaguers signed pro contracts, including seven players from the Keys.

All these hot prospects at Harry Grove Stadium, however, didn’t translate to a winning record last season. In fact, the Keys finished a league-worst 18-32. This season, the Keys look to turn the tables on their Draft League foes, including the mighty (Morgantown) West Virginia Black Bears, Trenton (NJ) Thunder, Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers, State College



Keyote, the team's mascot, makes the rounds at lots of community events

(PP) Spikes, and the wily Williamsport (PA) Crosscutters.

A New Roster With Some Familiar Faces

Chances are good that the Keys will overcome their beginner’s bad luck. All teams start with fresh 33-man rosters assembled during the annual spring draft. In preparation, the Keys staff poured over the league’s approved applicants, freeze-framed their game videos, and, of course, engaged in the alchemy of analytics.

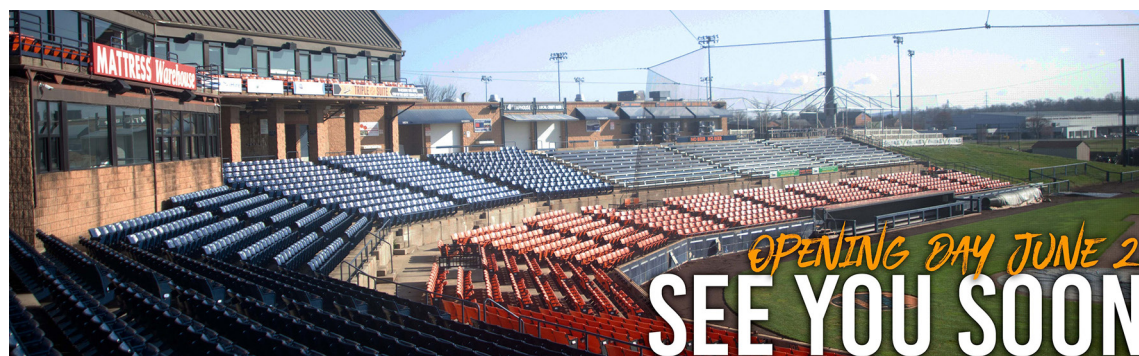
Through it all, the Keys were lucky to redraft five mainstays from last year’s squad, and they’re good ones. They include Jorel Ortega, a top collegiate infielder for University of Tennessee, third baseman Jake Plastiak, who swung a big bat last season for University of Kentucky, and first baseman/outfielder Anthony Herron, Jr., a .374 slugger last season for the University of Louisiana-New Orleans.

Their new Keys’ teammates include a number of big sticks and arms. Among them are four players with Maryland roots. Joe Oliver is the Keys’ new manager this season. If the name sounds familiar, Oliver spent 19 years in pro baseball as a catcher, making his big-league debut in 1989 with the Cincinnati Reds and retiring in 2001 following a brief stint with the Boston Red Sox. In 2014, Oliver got back into baseball as manager of the minor league Lowell (MA) Spinners. He’s been rotating through minor-league dugouts ever since and is thrilled to land in Frederick.

“There’s a lot that you can impress upon players at this level and show them,” Oliver explained. “They are obviously polished enough to play at a high level, but they are still sponges. They want to know what it is like to play at a high level.”

New Local Owners Invested In The Fans

The Keys also are under new ownership this season. Last January, the brand-new Attain



Seating at Harry Grove Stadium is close to the action and parking remains free.



The team auditions local fans to sing the National Anthem at home games

Sports and Entertainment - Maryland Baseball, LLC purchased the Keys and the minor-league Bowie Baysox. The company, based in McLean, Virginia and headed by seasoned business consultants Greg Baroni and Richard Roberts, has promised “increased community outreach, stadium enhancements, and a focus on the fan experience.”

Baroni and Roberts have come through on all three counts, especially their plans to up “the fan experience.” The Keys’ schedule is awash with fan promotions, including their always-popular Scout Night, which invites boy and girl scouts from around the region (the Eastern Panhandle included) to camp out on the field before, during, and after the game. Other

upcoming promotional gems include: Bark in the Park (June 15), a canine favorite; Star Wars Night and Auction (June 18); Father’s Day – Play Catch in the Outfield (June 19); and Candy Drop (July 10), where kids will be able to scoop up sweets dropped from a “candy copter” onto the outfield grass.

Parking is still free at Harry Grove Stadium, and tickets start at \$10 for adults (\$7 for kids). The ballpark food runs the gamut, from Blue Ridge burgers topped with buffalo hot sauce, bleu cheese, dressing, and onion straws to the traditional hot dog, heavy on the mustard, starting at \$3.

Suns To Rise Again In Hagerstown

Major League Baseball’s cut list in 2020 also included the Class A Suns in Hagerstown, where pro baseball had been in play since 1896! Lucky for local fans, the city didn’t agree with MLB. A new ballpark, the Multi-Use Sports and Event Facility, is under construction downtown, and a Hagerstown entry has been approved for 2023 in the Atlantic League, an independent circuit that partners with the MLB. More details to come.

With summer here, if you find yourself approaching the I-70/270 split, pondering strike zones, four-seam fastballs, and the probability of a well-executed triple play, heed Yogi’s advice: Take that fork in the road. Orioles? Nationals? Or how ‘bout them Frederick Keys!



The Keys play at Harry Grove Stadium, 21 Stadium Drive, Frederick MD. The box office (located to the right of the main gate) is open 8 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday (and until the 8th inning on all game nights). On Saturdays or Sundays with a home game, the box office opens at 10 am. Tickets and information online at MILB.com/Frederick; Phone 301-815-9939. If you’re looking for a family-friendly activity for Memorial Day weekend, the Keys are hosting free on-field activities and stadium tours on May 28 (Sat) from 11am to 2 pm.



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// PERFORMANCE

ENJOYING THEATER IN GOOD COMPANY

Talking About the CATF Festival in Shepherdstown



After re-imagining how they could present theater during the pandemic, Peggy McKowen and the CATF team have continued some of these innovations for the 2022 season to enrich the entire in-person experience. Shown here, McKowen is introducing a new audio play written by Chisa Hutchinson for Dorset Theater Festival at a listening party held at the Alma Bea restaurant in April. Each patron was provided headphones to provide an immersive theater experience in this unusual venue.

The Observer put Peggy McKowen, Producing Artistic Director of the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF), in the spotlight to answer some questions about this year's festival, presented this July in Shepherdstown. (See next page for more details about the plays, events, and venues featured during this year's CATF). The responses below have been edited for clarity and space (full interview is available at WeAreTheObserver.com).

O: 2022 marks your debut as the Producing Artistic Director for the Contemporary American Theater Festival. Should we look for changes? What can we expect to stay the same?

PM: Most of the festival experience will feel very familiar to patrons. There will be six fully produced new plays in repertory as planned.

The various “talktheater” events that surround the plays [enrichment activities such as lectures and staged readings] will be very similar with a few minor changes. For example, most of the talktheater events will be live streamed so that we can control numbers of attendees in person while offering the experience to as many people online as possible. Also, the festival experience will include COVID-19 safety policies in our best effort to keep everyone safe.

The biggest difference for many will be the absence of Ed Herendeen in the lobbies. CATF will be celebrating his legacy in many ways this summer as we thank him for building a foundation from which many dreams for the future are truly possible.

O: You led CATF's quick pivot during the pandemic, which used technology to provide new ways to experience theater. Will any of that experience influence what the festival does in 2022 and beyond?

PM: Yes! We learned several things from the use of technology. Online experiences can provide greater access to the art. Our creative challenge moving forward is to find the [right] blend of the live play while reaching a greater audience through the technology and incorporating the technology as part of the art. It is a different way of imagining what theater can be and how to create new plays for new communities.

O: CATF will put six plays on stage this year. And there are lectures, talks, and backstage experiences, too. Tell us what an ideal CATF experience would look like for you, from breakfast to late-night.

PM: I personally want to live in the new play bubble. I want to go to the play, talk about the play, and reflect on the play. I want to check-out from my phone and other devices and live entirely in the “make believe” world; a new play euphoria. I encourage patrons to do the same. Take the time to really escape from the other things of your life. Have a good breakfast with other new play bubble enthusiasts, see plays, join the post show discussions, see another play, have a sweet beverage in the copper canyon, and enjoy the sun. Have a leisurely dinner and a good night's sleep and do it all over again the next day and the next.

O: You have been a longtime champion of diversity and inclusion in theater. Why is that so important to you, and to CATF?

PM: CATF was founded on the principles of fearless art and diverse stories. We produce work that represents a diverse narrative told by diverse storytellers. And, CATF makes contemporary stories that are often thought provoking and emotionally challenging. Creating a community and company that is inclusive, empathetic, respectful and brave makes better plays, better communities, and a better world. Personally, I hope that CATF is recognized as a place of belonging for all of us — that we represent community, storytelling and art that transforms and unites.

O: CATF is returning after a two-year break for the pandemic. What impact should we expect for the local economy?

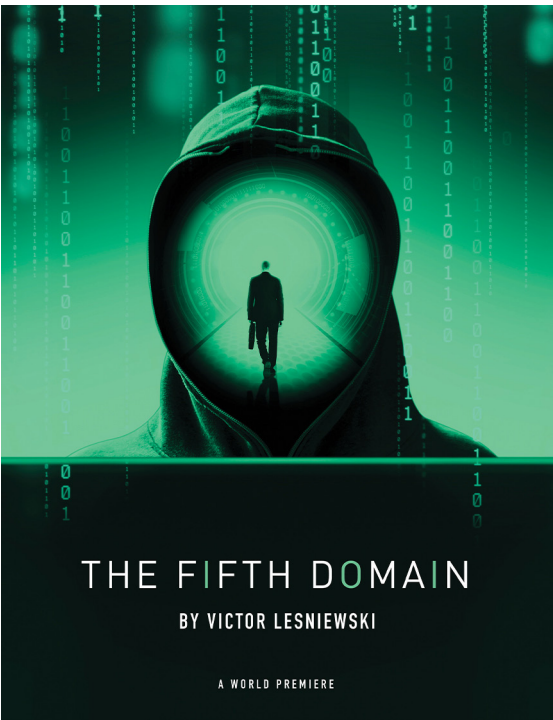
PM: Patrons come from thirty-nine different states, the Washington DC/Baltimore area, and our supportive community here in Jefferson County. These guests to the theater often have dinner, drinks, or shop before or after attending a play and we encourage everyone to partake in the local, small business community. Based on a pre-pandemic research study we commissioned, CATF is responsible for 5.8 million dollars in local economic impact [each year]. I think many businesses have felt the loss of that impact during the pandemic. We're glad to be back in business with our colleagues in the eastern panhandle.

THE 2022 CATF FESTIVAL – A PREVIEW



THIS YEAR'S CONTEMPORARY American Theater Festival festival kicks off on July 3 with four days of previews (pay-what-you-can) followed by a packed schedule of opening weekend plays and events on July 8, 9 & 10. Six plays will be presented on a changing schedule Tuesday through Sunday during the following three weeks through July 31. Details, locations & ticket sales at CATF.org. Box office phone 681-240-2283.

The Marinoff Theater (62 Campus Drive, Shepherd University) is the stage for *Babel* and *Ushuaia Blue*. Studio 112 (across the courtyard at 92 Campus Drive) is the stage for *The House of the Negro Insane* and *Sheepdog*.



The Frank Center (260 University Drive, Shepherd University) is the stage for *The Fifth Domain* and *Whitelisted*.

Between the plays, patrons can explore beyond the stage with talktheater lectures, tours, discussions, readings, and after-hours events. The ever-popular “change-over” events are back, where patrons can watch the CATF production crew race to transform each venue’s stage sets from one production to another. Many of these events are free, but space is limited and reservations are required.

Patron and performer health is important to CATF — particularly in light of the intense schedule — and all in-person patrons



are encouraged to be vaccinated and wear masks while inside the performance venues. [More details at CATF.org/covid.](https://www.cاتف.org/covid)





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PERSPECTIVE // HISTORY

VOLUNTEERS PRESERVE THE SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD

RIVER ROAD, EAST of Shepherdstown is a sleepy part of Jefferson County today. In September 1862 it was a pretty busy place, with an estimated 1,700 Union troops crossing the Potomac River from Maryland to engage 3,000 Confederate troops positioned on the south bank and cliffs above. One hundred and sixty years later, you need to look closely to see any signs of the two-day battle, other than a roadside marker.

The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association was organized in 2005 to help preserve the still relatively undeveloped lands that encompass the battlefield site and to help educate the public about the battle. To support these efforts, the Preservation Association has worked with national organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust, the National Park Service, and the US Department of Agriculture, as well as with local organizations such as the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Farmland Protection Board in Jefferson County. To date, approximately 500 acres have been preserved

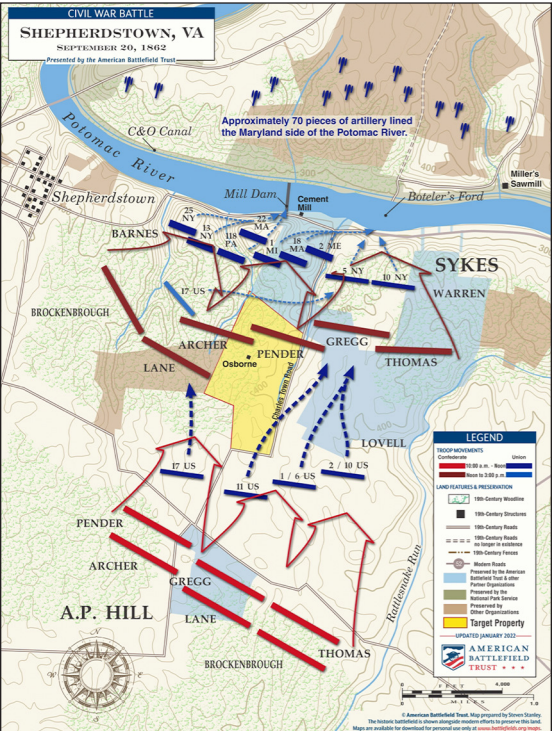
by various programs and efforts are ongoing to expand protection to additional land that covers the core battlefield site.

The Preservation Association relies on many local volunteers to assist with maintenance and education activities. Volunteers also help organize local fundraising efforts — many of the national funding programs are designed to generously match and expand upon local efforts, so local support plays a key role in attracting and prioritizing the grant funding from national preservation organizations.

Shepherdstown Battlefield Protection Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The SBPA can arrange tour guides for the extended battlefield site and welcomes new members and donations to support ongoing efforts to preserve the battlefield site and provide public education about the battle. The Association will have a booth at the Shepherdstown Street Fest (Jun 25) with literature as well as volunteers available to talk about their work. Website: ShepherdstownBattlefield.org.



Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association volunteers cleaned up Trough Road in the vicinity of the battlefield in April of this year. From left; Alex Feezer, Cindy Feezer, Sharon Capriotti, Josh Alemar, Steve Alemar, Mick Feezer, Karen Alemar. Photo by SBPA President Dr. Mike Nickerson.



(Above) Union forces crossed the Potomac River at Packhorse Ford (also known as Bate's Ford) on September 19, 1862 and attacked the Confederate troop positions just east of Shepherdstown. This battle came two days after the larger battle at Antietam, approximately 3 miles to the northeast. The battle near Shepherdstown would rage back and forth over two days, with the Confederates pushing the Union forces back to the Maryland side of the river. The rearguard Confederate action covered the departure of General Lee's main forces southward, effectively ending that year's push into northern territory. Abraham Lincoln would relieve General George McClelland from command of the Union Army in November of 1862, citing his failure to pursue Lee into Virginia in the aftermath of these battles. Map credit: American Battlefield Trust.

For a larger version of this map, visit Battlefields.org

“Unlived life is a destructive, irresistible force that works softly but inexorably.”
—C.G. Jung (*Collected Works, Vol.10, par. 252*)

Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
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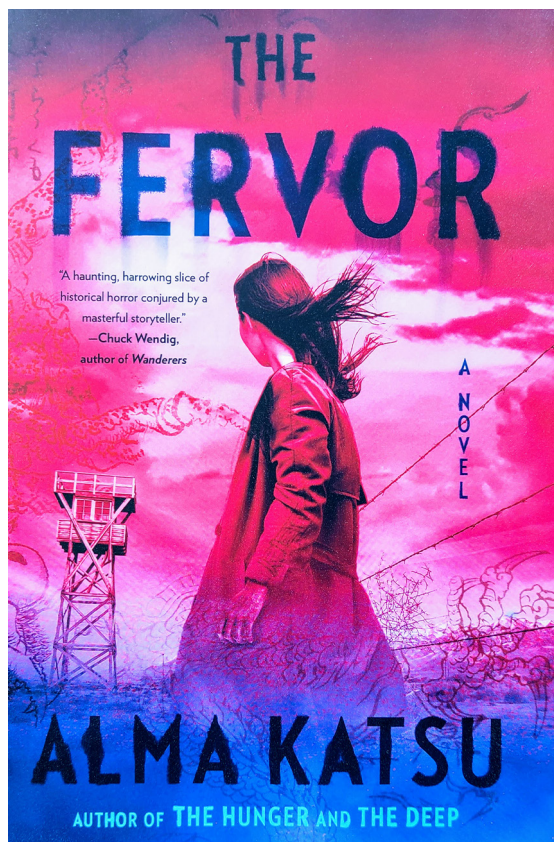
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PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

ANGER & CONSPIRACY: PAST & PRESENT



The Fervor, by Alma Katsu, Putnam (2022)

Review by: Danielle Johnson. Originally from New York, Danielle Johnson is a writer and political scientist who has lived all over the world. She has a PhD in Politics from Oxford University and is writing her first novel. She lives in Shepherdstown with her husband, kids, and dog.

ALMA KATSU'S NEWEST HISTORICAL HORROR novel, **The Fervor**, feels unsettlingly familiar despite its World War II setting. Although the story begins with the outbreak of a mysterious illness in a Japanese-American internment camp, it eventually merges in surprising and satisfying ways with two parallel story lines: one about a female reporter trying to uncover a government conspiracy, and the other focused on a grieving widow who gets sucked into a homegrown white nationalist movement. A touch of magical realism, mostly based on Japanese folklore and fairy tales, ties the book together.

In her author's note at the end of the book, Katsu writes that the long history of violence against Asian Americans is barely taught in American classrooms. As these attacks surge once again, and white nationalism becomes an increasing threat, Katsu's novel — a departure from her usual writing, and rooted in her own personal history — is both timeless and timely.

The story is peppered with the increasingly belligerent voices of the Loyal Sons, a fictional white nationalist group. In trying to explain their views, one member says that “those Japs – they're in the camps because they sold us out to the enemy. But you city folk don't want to believe it. I seen it in the papers.... You believe their lies and nonsense, and you want us poor, ignorant dirt farmers to believe it, too. You think you know better than us. You think we don't know anything, but we know what's really going on in this country. There's stuff going on right under your nose you know nothing about.” The wild claims based on little evidence, the whiff of paranoia, and the us vs. them mentality in speeches like this would not sound out of place in today's national political discourse.

These scenes remind us that the things we say to each other now are not fundamentally new, and that history keeps repeating itself because we seem to refuse to learn from it — none of us are immune. Archie Mitchell, one of the book's only characters based on a real person, is a prime example. In 1944 in Bly, Oregon, Archie's pregnant wife Elsie and several children were killed by a Japanese “fire balloon” while out picnicking. It was the only instance of American deaths as the result of enemy action during World War II in the continental United States. In the novel, Archie is wracked with guilt and grief and unwittingly finds himself recruited into the Loyal Sons. Although he sees himself as a peaceful person, still he gets caught up in the fervor of the movement: “It felt good to do something to defend Elsie. To strike back. He'd been taught that violence was never the answer, but now he was seeing that sometimes it might be. There was something else, too. An unexpected feeling of belonging. In that moment, he felt more a part of the community than he ever had as their minister. Hatred was a powerful common interest.”

Meiko, the Japanese American woman at the center of the story, is a poignant reminder that we all have within us the capacity for self-transformation. And within this capacity lies a greater potential for social harmony. When she learns that her own father was responsible for the outbreak that drives so much racism and government overreach in the book, she is sick with guilt because it means “in the Japanese tradition, that his family was responsible. She was responsible.” When she is asked to go to Washington, DC to speak with government officials about finding a cure for the outbreak, she agrees because “It is my familial obligation. I will do this because my father did not. And in doing so, I will prove our critics wrong: Japanese do not choose their country over obligation to all people. That may have been who we were, but we can change. And because Aiko and I are loyal citizens who want what's best for all Americans. There is no greater example I could set than that.”

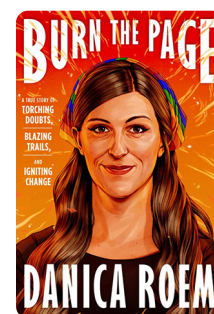
TURNING THE PAGE

Little Foxes Took Up Matches, by Katya Kazbek

Tin House Books (2022) \$26.95



Told with deep empathy, humor, and a bit of surreality, this story is a revelation about the life of one community in a country of turmoil and upheaval, glimpsed through the eyes of a precocious and empathetic child, Mitya, whose heart and mind understand that there are often more than two choices. An arresting coming of age, an exploration of gender, a magical modern folktale, a powerful portrait of a broken family — Katya Kazbek breaks out as a new voice to watch.



Burn the Page, by Danica Roem

Viking (2022) \$27.00

Timber Press (2021) \$27.50

An inspirational and hilarious memoir-meets-manifesto written by Danica Roem, the nation's first openly transgender person elected to a state legislature. Roem is currently serving a third term representing Prince William County in the VA House of Delegates since beating 13-term incumbent Bob Marshall in 2017. In wildly entertaining prose, Roem dismantles the stories hedged against her, showing, through brutal honesty and loving authenticity, how it was possible to embrace her low points and transform them into her greatest strengths.

Time Is a Mother, by Ocean Vuong



Penguin Press (2022) \$24.00

In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother's death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it. Shifting through memory, Vuong contends with personal loss, the meaning of family, and the cost of being the product of an American war in America. At once vivid, brave, and propulsive, these poems circle fragmented lives to find both restoration as well as the epicenter of the break.



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STUNNING COLORS AT THE FEEDER

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, West Virginia.

A HALF-DOZEN GOLDFINCHES, pure yellow against the fresh grass of May, sought scattered dandelion seeds. Brilliant as they are, they can't compare to the painted bunting that showed up at Tom O'Connor's Clarke County, Virginia bird feeder a few days ago.

An adult male painted bunting's dazzling array of primary colors resembles a freshly opened box of crayons. Roger Tory Peterson's bird guide, with masterful understatement, calls it "visually arresting." The shimmering blue head and the gold-green back feathers are stunning. Seen from below, the bird's underside blazes red from beak to tail. Although wing and tail feathers of most birds are seldom colorful, a painted bunting's wings and tail reflect traces of red, green and bronze. Yet the beauty of these important feathers barely registers on the bunting-bedazzled eye.

The gift of beauty may also be the painted bunting's undoing. They became ornaments for people's homes. In the 1840s, John James Audubon was able to buy caged painted buntings on the streets of New Orleans. But even when the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty established protections for all birds that migrate across international boundaries, this didn't stop people from wanting caged painted buntings. Never a common bird, its numbers are still dwindling because the males continue to be illegally trapped and sold as cage birds on the black market. Male painted buntings are easily caught alive in special cage traps in the spring when they become very territorial. It's easy to lure any male painted bunting in the area into a trap by placing a live male bird inside as a decoy. Such traps can be readily bought in certain outdoor markets in Mexico, Cuba, the Bahamas and Southeastern Florida.

The natural breeding range of the painted bunting in North America is restricted to areas along the East Coast from Florida to the Carolinas, and inland from the Gulf states north to Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. They fly south to winter in the Bahamas, Mexico



Painted Bunting resting on tree. Photo credit: Thomas O'Connor © FotoKimo Bluemont, VA

and Central America. Certain individuals sometimes wander far beyond their typical range as far north as New York and Ontario, Canada.

One such wanderer appeared at Tom O'Connor's bird feeder in Bluemont, Virginia last week. O'Connor, who takes exquisite photographs of birds, sent me three pictures in an email and described the encounter: "He showed up here Tuesday, May 10, 2022, [and was] in and out all morning. The feeder shots of the painted bunting were shot through the glass widow of my living room. That's why they're not (too) sharp." O'Connor also acknowledged the bird's alternate name, Nonpareil, means "without equal."

That name, in my opinion, also applied to the photographs he attached. Having never seen (nor painted) a painted bunting myself, I was thrilled to learn about this sighting and asked permission from O'Connor to share his photos. Compared to the size of the feeder, the bird looks a bit smaller than an American goldfinch. And the photography is sharp enough to show the individual feathers in the bird's scarlet eye ring.

Male painted buntings take two years to acquire their glorious colors. During their first year they closely resemble the females, which are plain only by comparison. Their various shades of green match the skin of a lime in different stages of ripeness. Many songbirds are olive-drab, but a female painted bunting sports bright greens normally worn by birds in the parrot family.

Keep a sharp lookout at your bird feeders this spring, because in nature, beauty may show up anywhere.



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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

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

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

LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS IN SPOTLIGHTS AND ARTICLES

JUNE EVENTS



JUN 3 (FRI) – FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE – Beach Party · 5 - 8 pm · North Charles St in Downtown Charles Town · DJ, food trucks, family friendly · FREE · FB: @CharlesTownNow

JUN 3-5 (FRI-SUN) – ERIC CARTER – Original Paintings · 11 am - 6 pm · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUN 4 (SAT) – SHENANDOAH VALLEY HERBAL GATHERING · 9:30 am - 9:30 pm · Sacred Roots Herbal Sanctuary, 1799 Persimmon Ln, Shepherdstown · 8 classes, botanical vendor marketplace family-friendly (no dogs please) · \$165, pre-register by Jun 2 · Web: SacredRootsWV.com

JUN 4 (SAT) – MODEL TRAIN SHOW · 10 am - 3 pm · B&O Roundhouse, 100 E Liberty St, Martinsburg · Model train demonstrations, memorabilia sale · \$6 adult, kids 12 & under free · Web: BunkerHillTrainClub.com



JUN 4 (SAT) – BARK IN THE PARK · 10 am - 2 pm · Jefferson Memorial Park, Forrest Ave, Charles Town · Fun, games & contest for dogs, demos, vendors · Free for people, \$10 for dogs · Web: AWSJC.org

SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT PAGE 17

JUN 4 (SAT) – RANSON FEST & CAR SHOW · 10 am - 4 pm · Downtown Ranson · Music, craft vendors, food & drink, family-friendly · FREE · FB: @RansonCVB

SEE AD FOR MORE INFO ON PAGE 7

JUN 4 (SAT) – WE ARE ALL PRIDE · 10 am - 4 pm · Downtown Martinsburg · All-inclusive community event with music, vendors, food & drink, family-friendly · FREE · Web: @EasternPanhandleWVPride

JUN 4-5 (SAT-SUN) – DILLON FARM MUSEUM – Annual Spring Show · 1 - 5 pm · 3083 Ridge Road South, Martinsburg · Demonstrations & displays of vintage farm equipment · FREE · Web: DillonFarmMuseum.org



JUN 7 (TUE) – MEDIEVAL NIGHT · 7 - 8:30 PM · Christ Reformed United Church of Christ, 304 E German St, Shepherdstown · The Society for Creative Anachronism presents arts, crafts & reenactments · FREE · FB: @CRUCCShepherdstown



JUN 10-12 (FRI-SUN) – BARBARA KEECH – Photography · 11 am - 6 pm · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUN 11 (SAT) – DOGFEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · Noon - 6 pm · 100 Block of N King St, Shepherdstown · Rescue adoption pageant, dog skill & agility demos, music, vendors, food & drink, family-friendly · FREE · FB: @ShepherdstownDogFest

JUN 11 (SAT) – MOVIES IN THE PARK – Encanto · Gates open 7 pm, movie at dusk · Morgan's Grove Park · Family-friendly movie, food available from Ortega's Tacos, sponsored by Shepherdstown Community Club · FREE · FB: @ShepherdstownCommunityClub

JUN 11 (SAT) – LAWN CONCERT & BBQ FUNDRAISER – Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History & Education · 6 - 8 pm · Patterson's Mill (directions provided with ticket) · Concert by Johnny Staats & Robert Shafer · \$150/person · Web: ByrdCenter.org/tickets-and-sponsorship.html

JUN 14 (TUE) – SPEAK STORIES – BOBBY NORTON · 7:30 pm · Online only · AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING ABOUT ETHICAL CHOICES · \$15 · WEB: SPEAKSTORYSERIES.COM

SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 17

JUN 16 (THU) – LAURIE SCOTT – ANIMAL BARNYARD · 10:30 am · Trinity Church yard, 208 W German St, Shepherdstown · Ducks, sheep & other animals in a hands-on learning program, family-friendly · FREE

JUN 22 (WED) – JERRY SCHNEIDER – THE BUTTERFLY GUY · 10:30 am · Trinity Church yard, 208 W German St, Shepherdstown · Presentation on pollinators, family-friendly, bring a t-shirt to decorate (or purchase for \$4) · FREE

JUN 18 (SAT) – WV FEST IN CHARLES TOWN · 10 am - 3 pm · Downtown Charles Town (street closures) · Music, vendors, food, activities, family-friendly · FREE · Web: @CharlesTownNow

JUN 24-26 (FRI-SUN) – JOE WALSH – Paintings & Mixed Media · 11 am - 6 pm · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUN 25 (SAT) – STREETFEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · 9:30 am - 8:30 pm · Downtown Shepherdstown (street closures) · Music on 2 stages, vendors, artisans, food, beer garden, kids activities, parking at University lots (shuttles) · FREE · FB: ShepTownStreetFest



JUN 25 (SAT) – SUMMERTIME AT THE MILL · 10 am - 6 pm · Shenandoah Planing Mill, 471 Cold Storage Rd, Charles Town · Music, artisan demonstrations, local artists, food & drink, kids activities, family-friendly · FREE · FB: @SPMWV

JUN 27 - JUL 17 – THE BIG MOVE – Shepherdstown Public Library · Volunteers needed to pack, move & unpack books as the library moves into its new building · Info & signup at ShepLibrary.org

EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

JULY EVENTS

JUL 3 (SUN) — ROCKIN' INDEPENDENCE EVE IN WINCHESTER · 2 pm - 11 pm
in downtown Winchester VA · Family-friendly event with music & activities · FREE
· FB: @OldTownWinchesterVA

JUL 4 (MON) — INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE & PICNIC IN SHEPHERDSTOWN
· Parade starts at 11 am and marches down German Street (streets closed to traffic beginning at 8 am) · Free parking at University lots · Picnic noon - 3 pm at Morgan's Grove Park with live music, hot dogs, hamburgers & drinks for sale · FREE · Organized by Shepherdstown Rotary Club FB: @Shepherdstown4thOfJulyParadeAndPicnic

JUL 8 - JUL 31 — CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL Previews Jul 3 - Jul 7, Opening weekend Jul 8 - 10 · Various locations in Shepherdstown & Shepherd University · Full schedule & tickets at CATF.org [SEE AD >>>](#)



Get ready for Shepherdstown Street Fest!

FARMERS MARKETS (WEEKLY)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, Sundays 9 am - 1 pm (from Mar 20), downtown (behind the old market house). FB @ShepherdstownFarmersMarket

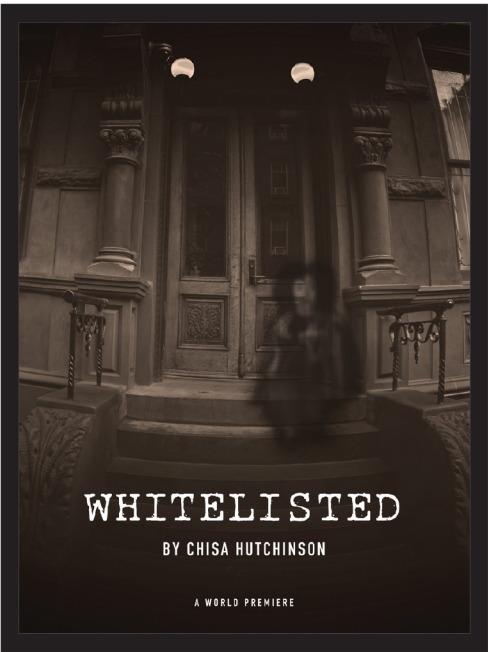
CHARLES TOWN, Saturdays 9 am - noon (from Apr 9), downtown (100 block of Samuel St). FB: Charles Town Farmers Market WV

MARTINSBURG, Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm (from May 7, downtown (100 block West Martin St). FB: @MartinsburgFarmersMarket

MARTINSBURG, Sundays 9 am - 1 pm (from May 15), Martinsburg Plaza (605 Winchester Ave). FB: Southside Farmers Market



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CONVERSATIONS, COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS

The Contemporary American Theater Festival is more than just the plays on stage. It's lectures, discussions, and events throughout Shepherdstown. It's also the conversations that spark up between the audience after the shows and over meals. The Festival creates its own community for a few short weeks, but lives on in the enduring community that calls itself Shepherdstown. Both look forward to the old and new friends who have a chance again to visit and add to these conversations.

EXPLORE // KIDS ACTIVITIES

TRY ACTING LIKE A KID

The **Black Box Youth Playhouse** in Shepherdstown (113 South Princess St) is offering 4 **weekday camps** (Mon-Fri) for youth aged 4 through 18 this summer. **Storybook Theater** (age 4-6, Jul 25-29, 9-noon, \$175) introduces kids to storytelling, movement and crafts. **Take The Stage** (age 6-9, Jul 25-29, 1-4, \$175) campers will create characters for a scripted play; daily activities include theater games & rehearsals for a short play. **Theater Immersion** (age 8-18, Aug 1-12, 9-3, \$395) will include classes,



games, activities and hands-on experience of producing a play. **Technical Theater** (age 12-18, Aug 1-12, 1-4, \$200) is dedicated to the technical side of theater; participants will design, build, and run the “backstage” elements of the play performed by the Immersion Camp players on the final evening. *Info & registration at BlackBoxYouth.org.*

SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAMS

Shepherd University School of Music is offering 3 **youth programs** this summer taught by University faculty. **String Orchestra** (grades 3-7 Jr camp, \$150 & grades 8-12 Sr camp \$310, both Jun 20-24, 9-noon) with individual & group coaching, chamber music & string quartets, master classes, and faculty performances; final concert on Jun 24 at noon. **Jazz Camp** (grades 6-8 Jr camp, \$185, Jun 20-24, 10-2 & grades 9-12 Sr camp, \$310, Jun 20-24, 9-4, final concerts on Jun 24) group coaching, combo & improvisation classes, theory classes, master classes, and faculty performances. **Woodwind Camp** (grades 7-12, \$150, Jun 27 - Jul 1, 9-noon) full-group and chamber ensembles, as well as masterclasses and a performance. All camps at the School of Music (Frank Center, 260 University Drive). *Info & registration at Shepherd.edu/music/summer-music-programs.*



LET YOUR KIDS DIVE INTO A LOCAL READING PROGRAM THIS SUMMER



The **Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library**, **South Jefferson Public Library**, and **Shepherdstown Public Library** are all running reading programs for kids this summer. The theme for 2022 is “**Oceans of Possibilities**.” Bolivar-Harpers Ferry’s program began on May 13, South Jefferson’s sign-up begins May 31, and Shepherdstown’s program kicks off on June 4, at 10 am with “goody bags” for the first 50 kids who pick up a reading log. There are a variety of reading and other activities for kids at the libraries all summer long.

More information online at SoJeffersonLibrary.com, BolivarHarpersFerryLibrary.com, and ShepLibrary.org.


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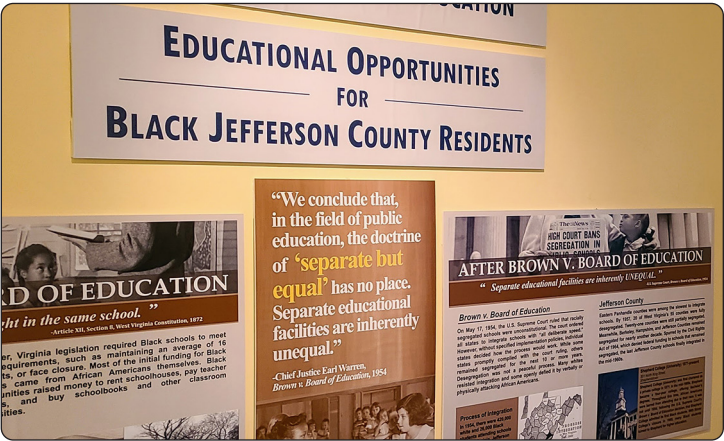


SPEAKING ON LIFE'S COMIC DILEMMAS

Speak Storytelling presents storyteller Bobby Norfolk in performance on June 14 (Tue) at 7:30 pm. This month's event is online only. Norfolk's program is entitled "The Moral of the Story." Drawing on decades of experience, he tells entertaining stories in which characters face ethical choices, leading to comic consequences. Norfolk is an actor, comedian, author, teaching artist, and former National Park Ranger. He has been performing throughout the U.S. and worldwide for over 40 years. Winner of three Emmy Awards, Bobby was honored with the Circle of Excellence Award by The National Storytelling Network. *Tickets are \$15 (free for season ticket holders), available online at SpeakStorySeries.com. Speak is for adult audiences, mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion. Email info@speakestoryseries.com for more information.*

MUSEUM EXHIBIT ABOUT BLACK EDUCATION

A new exhibit exploring the Black student experience in Jefferson County before and after desegregation is now open at the **Historic Shepherdstown Museum**, located in the Entler Hotel (129 East German St). Open Saturdays noon - 4 pm and Sundays 1 - 3 pm. Admission is free (donation requested). Private tours are available and the museum welcomes volunteers who are interested in being docents. Web: HistoricShepherdstown.com.



Saturday, June 4
10 AM—2 PM

bark in the park

The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County annual Bark in the Park is on June 4 (Sat) from 10 am to 2 pm at Jefferson Memorial Park (Forrest Ave, Charles Town). Events include a blessing of the animals, canine demonstrations, dog & owner games, and canine contests. Vendors will include rescues, craft products, and food (for people too). *This is a fundraising benefit for the Animal Welfare Society shelter. Requested \$10.00 donation per dog to register for the event (includes bandana & goody bag). Dogs must be current on vaccinations. Web: AWSJC.org*

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FIND WAYS TO
ENGAGE LOCALLY
>>> PAGE 19 & 20 <<<

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EXPLORE // LIVE MUSIC

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BARN OF HARPERS FERRY — Irish & Old Tyme jam sessions · Wed, 6 - 9 pm, weekly · 1062 W Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV · FB: HFEEventBarn

BROAD AXE — Weekly Jazz Jam · Thu, 8 - 10 pm, weekly · 28 W Franklin St, Hagerstown MD · FB: @BroadAxeLive

MECKLENBURG INN — Bluegrass, Rockabilly, R&B · Thu, 8 - 11 pm, Fri 9 - midnight, Sun 3 - 6 pm · 128 East German St, Shepherdstown WV · FB: Mecklenburg Inn

RATHSKELLER AT BAVARIAN INN RESORT — Piano - a mix of classic, contemporary & original · Thu/Fri/Sat, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, weekly · 164 Shepherd Grade Rd, Shepherdstown WV · FB: @TheBavarianInn

BARN OF HARPERS FERRY — Performers lineup posts on Facebook · Fri & Sat, 8 - 10 pm, weekly · 1062 W Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV · FB: HFEEventBarn

INKWELL'S TAVERN — Bluegrass, Country, Rock · Fri & Sat, 7 - 10 pm, weekly · Bluegrass, country, rock · FB: @Inkwell'sTavern

ORR'S FARM MARKET — Bluegrass · Sat, noon - 5 pm, weekly starting May 21 · 682 Orr Dr, Martinsburg WV · Web: OrrsFarmMarket.com

RAINBOW ROAD CLUB — Rockabilly & Country · Sat, 9 pm - 2 am, weekly, \$10 cover · 137 Berryville Pike (Rt 340), Charles Town WV · FB: RainbowRoad340

Summertime is for festivals, and there are several in-town music-filled events in Jefferson and Berkeley counties this month.

JUN 4 – RANSON FEST & CAR SHOW · 10 am - 4 pm · Downtown Ranson · FB: @RansonCVB >>> SEE AD – PAGE 7

JUN 4 – WE ARE ALL PRIDE · 10 am - 4 pm · Downtown Martinsburg · Web: @EasternPanhandleWVPride

WE ARE ALL PRIDE
JUNE 4TH 10:00-4:00
DOWNTOWN MARTINSBURG
PRESENTED BY EASTERN PANHANDLE PRIDE

JUN 11 – DOGFEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · noon - 6 pm · 100 Block of N King St, Shepherdstown · FB: @ShepherdstownDogFest

JUN 18 – WV FEST IN CHARLES TOWN · 10 am - 3 pm · Downtown Charles Town (street closures) · Web: @CharlesTownNow

JUN 25 – STREETFEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · 9:30 am - 8:30 pm · Downtown Shepherdstown (street closures) · FB: ShepTownStreetFest >>> SEE STREETFEST AD WITH MORE INFO ON PAGE 9

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ENGAGE // COMMUNITY ISSUES

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING FOR INDUSTRIAL SOLAR FACILITIES — JUNE 9

The Jefferson County Commission has scheduled a public hearing and possible vote on June 9 at 9:30 am for a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance that would allow processing of applications for [“industrial scale”] solar energy facilities as a principal permitted use [“by-right”] in all areas of Jefferson County inside the Urban Growth Boundary and Preferred Growth Area noted in the current Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would also allow processing of these facilities as a conditional use in all other areas of Jefferson County.



There are two solar projects already approved by the WV Public Services Commission that are ready to submit applications pending the adoption of this amendment. The public hearing will be held online and at the Commission meeting room at 200 East Washington St, Charles Town (in the basement of the library – enter via the side door on North Samuel St).

Updates at WeAreTheObserver.com/solar-in-jefferson

AIR QUALITY FORUM – JUNE 2

The Rockwool Ranson facility is required to file an application for its air permit with the WV Department of Environmental Protection in June. The non-profit Jefferson County Foundation will summarize the permitting process as it applies to the Rockwool facility, followed by a discussion about how residents can engage in this review process. June 2, 7 - 8 pm, Shepherdstown Train Station, 118 Audrey Eagle Dr. Attendees are requested to wear masks. Info: JeffersonCountyFoundation.org.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICES



In June 2022, the Jefferson County Commission engaged a consultant to evaluate if the County’s ambulance service “is both cost effective and operationally optimal.” The current operational model is a hybrid of county-paid crews (2 individuals each) on call 24/7 in 4 fire stations (plus an additional county-paid crew on call during the day at a 5th station) using ambulances owned and maintained by the seven volunteer fire and rescue companies in the county. The consultant provided several options to reduce the number of staffed locations and transfer ownership of all of the ambulances to the County. The Fire & Rescue Association (of the 7 volunteer companies) provided additional recommendations to the Commission that proposed various options for ambulance ownership and staffing that would continue volunteer involvement.

At their May 19 meeting, the Commissioners voted unanimously to direct the County Administrator, John Nissel, to develop a plan to create a County Ambulance Service, which would include the County owning and operating all ambulances. The timeline for the planning process and details of the operational plans (including the number of ambulances) have not yet been determined. Updates at WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-2022



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ENGAGE // LOCAL ELECTIONS - JUNE 7

This month, residents of Ranson will elect candidates running for four City Council positions and residents of Shepherdstown will elect candidates for Mayor, Recorder, and the entire Town Council. To vote in either of these elections, you must be registered to vote and reside within the corporate limits of the specific municipality.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

City of Ranson, West Virginia

June 7, 2022

To vote for a candidate mark an "X" in the square opposite to and at the left of the name.

In order to cast a WRITE-IN vote, you may write the name and office of the candidate in any location on the front side of this ballot.

FOR COUNCIL – WARD

(Vote For ONE)

☐

HERBERT MCDANIEL, JR.

☐

SCOTT COULTER

FOR COUNCIL – WARD II

(Vote For ONE)

☐

DONNIE HAINES

☐

ANDY COLANDREA

FOR COUNCIL – AT – LARGE

(Vote For Not More Than TWO)

☐

KEN SUITS

☐

JASON GORE

☐

GENE TAYLOR, JR.

☐

TOMMY CUSTER

RANSON

WHEN: June 7, 6:30 am - 7: 30 pm

WHERE: City Hall, 312 South Mildred St, Ranson. Voting is in the City Council chambers (look for the sign on the door).

EARLY VOTING: Also at City Hall, from May 25 to June 4, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. No early voting on Sundays, Memorial Day or the day before election day.

CANDIDATES:

Council Ward 1 (vote for 1): Herbert McDaniel Jr., Scott Coulter

Council Ward 2 (vote for 1): Donnie Haines, Andy Colandrea

Council At-Large (vote for 2): Ken Suits, Jason Gore, Gene Taylor Jr, Tommy Custer

OFFICIAL BALLOT

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Shepherdstown, West Virginia

June 7, 2022

To vote for a candidate mark an "X" in the square opposite to and at the left of the name.

In order to cast a WRITE-IN vote, you may write the name and office of the candidate in any location on the front side of this ballot.

FOR MAYOR

(Vote For ONE)

☐

JIM AUXER

FOR RECORDER

(Vote For ONE)

☐

LORI ROBERTSON

FOR TOWN COUNCIL

(Vote For Not More Than FIVE)

☐

JENNY HAYNES

☐

MARTY AMERIKANER

☐

CHRIS STROECH

☐

CHERYL ROBERTS

☐

SHEPHERDSTOWN

WHEN: June 7, 6:30 am - 7: 30 pm

Where: Town Hall, 104 North King St, Shepherdstown.

EARLY VOTING: Also at Town Hall, from May 25 to June 4, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (to 4:00 on Saturdays). No early voting on Sundays, Memorial Day or the day before election day.

CANDIDATES:

Mayor: Jim Auxer (unopposed)

Recorder: Lori Robertson (unopposed)

Town Council (vote for 5): Jenny Haynes, Marty Amerikaner, Chris Stroeck, Cheryl Roberts, Leah Rampy (write-in*), James Vigil (write-in*).

**To cast a vote for a write-in candidate, you must write both their name and office ("Town Council") on the front of the ballot. You can vote for up to 5 candidates (any combination of incumbents or write-in candidates).*

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