

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 2022

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Vintage cars still race at Summit Point Motorsports Park.
Shown here, an Indy Lights series Lola 97/20 (red) &
a 1960 Falcon Competition II sports car (green).

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



Volunteers work behind the scenes at last month's Streetfest event in Shepherdstown.

TO OUR READERS — It was July 2020 — the height of the pandemic — when Steve and I published our first issue as the new owners of *The WV Independent Observer*. We were not quite sure what we'd be writing about in the months ahead. Turns out there is a lot happening in Jefferson County and it's only getting busier. It's been inspiring to meet, and tell stories about, so many of the artists, volunteers, teachers, business owners, and others who are working to keep this a wonderful place to live, work and play.

We hope that our efforts over the past two years have helped inform conversations about important local issues. Likewise, we hope The Observer's coverage of events and attractions has helped you explore and connect to the best in our community. Have story ideas or feedback for us? Email us at Connect@WeAreTheObserver.com.

It's a team effort to bring you The Observer, both in print and online. Thank you to our small (but mighty) editorial and business team. Thank you to the businesses and organizations whose advertisements make it possible for this publication to reach you each month: please check them out and let them know you saw them in The Observer. Most of all, thank you to our readers: it's you who make our efforts worthwhile.

**Harriet Pearson
PUBLISHER**

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// MUSIC

COMPOSING FRESH NOTES FOR A SECOND SEASON

Appalachian Chamber Music Festival Returns This August



The festival held its final 2021 performance on the rear lawn of Happy Retreat in Charles Town, with patrons enjoying the concert on lawn chairs and blankets. Photo: B. Christopher

LAST SUMMER, A NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL landed in Harpers Ferry, bringing a relevant and approachable experience of classical music. The Appalachian Chamber Music Festival is now back for its second season with a two-week schedule of performances celebrating the history, nature, and culture of Jefferson County and the surrounding region.

Festival founder and Artistic Director Katie Tertell relates, “I’ve been on a mission, I would say, for my entire adult life to introduce people to this great genre of chamber music. It is simply music to be played in a small space, in a chamber, so really it can define such a vast range of music. I think the most important thing about it is that the music is presented with

a certain level of intimacy where the audience is really experiencing what it means to play these acoustic instruments that we have in a space where they connect with the performers in a very intimate way.”

Celtic & Scots-Irish Traditions

This year’s programs explore influences of folk music traditions within classical music compositions, centering around a theme of Celtic and Scots-Irish tradition and influence in the Appalachian region. Tertell’s own travels and experiences have lent to the development of programs this season. “I lived in Ireland for five years, and I spend a lot of time now in northern England close to Scotland. The Scots-Irish tradition has had a massive influence in the music of this region.”

Tertell notes, “Excitingly, we have an Irish composer, Judith Ring, who has intensely studied the connection between Irish traditional music and Appalachian music, and she has written a new string quartet for us that really celebrates those ties.” Two additional world premieres will be presented during the festival, works by Mark Boden and Ciaran Farrell, as part of an international cross-disciplinary project curated by Tertell.

The festival finale, “Celtic Heritage in the Appalachian Region,” is scheduled for

Sunday, August 28, and will feature an opening set with the Furnace Mountain Band, followed by a lecture by guest speaker Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities at Shepherd University and Coordinator for the university’s Appalachian Graduate Studies program. This event will conclude with chamber music performances by the festival artists.

A Composer in Residence

The festival will host Steve Snowden as a composer-in-residence. A native of the Ozarks countryside, Steve’s work often focuses on underground American history and how past events relate to modern society. While his musical influences are deeply rooted in bluegrass, folk, and rock, he utilizes non-traditional techniques and processes to compose works that don’t squarely align with any single genre or style.

As composer-in-residence, Snowden will be participating in concert talks and will work with students in the festival’s seminar and strings camp. He will also be a set of trusted ears for the artists during rehearsals and sound checks, and assist with interpretation especially in other new works to be performed (including a new commission by composer Judith Ring, and works by other living composers including



Most of the 2021 performances were in non-traditional venues; several were held outdoors. Photo: B. Christopher

Simmy Singh, Mark Boden and Sarah Gibson). Steve will be available to chat with audience members before and after events.

Snowden's composition for string quartet "Bird Catching from Above" (2016) will be performed on several occasions in the second week of the festival, with his wife and ACMF 2022 artist, Lauren Nelson playing viola for these performances.

An American Classic In Original Format

The 2022 festival will also feature a performance of the American composer Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring." This work was originally composed as a ballet for the American choreographer Martha Graham's ballet troupe and was scored for 13 musicians. The more commonly performed version of this work is the shorter orchestral arrangement titled "Appalachian Spring Suite" (published in 1945). The festival will present the original format with 13 musicians performing on the stage of the Frank Arts Center at Shepherd University.

The ballet follows the story of a young farm couple as they prepare for marriage and set out to build their life on the frontier. "Appalachian Spring" features the Shaker folk tune of "Simple Gifts," which dates back to 1848. It was used for the part of the ballet which depicted scenes of the married couple going about their daily activities. Graham was a pioneer in her own right; she and Copland formed a friendship and artistic partnership that brought this work to life. The ballet was first performed in 1944 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., with Graham playing the lead role. Copland was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1945 for this work.

Copland sought to create a musical style and sound that was uniquely American, which can be heard in his works such as "Rodeo," "Lincoln Portrait," and "Fanfare for the Common Man." Of Graham, Copland noted "...



there's something prim and restrained, simple yet strong about her which one tends to think of as American." You can hear this dichotomy in his works, which meld the simplicity of folk music with soaring melodies and driving rhythms. Copland filled a need for American music which helped popularize his work, and this success led to Copland's composition of scores for radio and motion pictures throughout the 1930s and 40s, in addition to his ballets and orchestral works.

An Affordable Introduction To Chamber Music

The festival has also received community support for this year's season. Notably, the festival recently announced it has received a grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Detlev and Mary Ellen Preissler Fund for the Arts, Music, Design, and Nature to support the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival concerts. As a non-profit organization, grants and sponsorships support the festival's mission to bring chamber music experiences to audiences in an accessible way by helping keep ticket prices low. The price range for most tickets is between \$20 and \$25. Tickets for the festival finale, hosted at Happy Retreat in Charles Town, are \$10 for adults and free for ages 15 and under. The festival will also host four free events over the two week period.

The Appalachian Chamber Music Festival will take place August 15 through 28 and includes 14 concerts in various venues in Jefferson, Clarke, and Loudoun counties. Other activities include a Bluegrass Workshop with local legend Dave Asti and educational programs for both teens and adults. The full schedule of events and ticket purchase links are available at AppalachianChamber.org.



Local bluegrass musician Dave Asti will participate in a workshop at the festival.

SUMMER EVENTS AND FAIRS
 >>> PAGES 14-19 <<<

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// RECREATION

SUMMIT POINT MOTORSPORTS PARK

Year-Round Excitement Around Every Corner



By Steve Pearson

“I DIDN’T START OUT WORKING IN MOTORSPORTS,” says Edwin Pardue, director of motorsports operations at the Summit Point Motorsports Park. “My uncle and dad raced in NASCAR when I was a young kid, but it wasn’t until 2013 that I got into it when I became the general manager of the Dominion Raceway near Fredericksburg. I grew up in Virginia in the 1970s and remember coming to Summit Point dozens of times when I was younger, so it was a bit of a homecoming when I took the job here in 2019.”

The park first opened in 1969 and has been under new ownership for the past several years. The pandemic slowed things down, but Pardue says “We are back on track and now able to work on significant upgrades to the participant experience and expansion of the facilities. We’re in the recreation and entertainment business, but it’s important not to lose sight of seeing what we do through the eyes of the participants and visitors — the drivers and fans. Our goal is to be a top-notch, world-class facility with regional appeal.”

The park is open year round and hosts a wide variety of motorsports events — vintage racing, high-performance sports car racing, motorcycle racing, and drifting are competitive events that draw drivers and fans alike. Numerous car clubs will also rent the facility for their own private events. In addition to the organized events open to spectators, the park offers programs for driver training and on-track driving in your own vehicle.

“Everything we do here has a foundation of safety-first,” says Laura Bowman, director of community relations at the Summit Point Motorsports Park. Both she and Pardue emphasize that the park is a family-friendly place that brings together a wide variety of people who share a fascination with cars and racing. And it’s not just about the past either — Pardue noted that the track has been used for testing and developing electric race vehicles and that Teslas are a common site to see lapping the course on personal track days.

Summit Point Motorsports Park has events scheduled from March through December each year. Spectator tickets are always available at the gate during competitive events; pricing varies by event (typically between \$10 - \$20 per person, under 12 are free). The Park is located at Motorsports Park Circle in Summit Point WV (there are multiple gates, check the website for directions). Web: SummitPointMotorsportsPark.com, Tel: 304-725-8444.



The **Jefferson 500** in May (above) and the **Turkey Bowl** in November (below) draw vintage racers from across the country. These **multi-day events** bring back the classic sports and formula racing cars from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s for organized racing by class. Spectators are welcomed to visit the pits during these events – most drivers love to talk about their cars whenever they are not driving them. It’s a great opportunity to learn about a specific car and then see it in action later in the day.



Summit Point Motorsports Park has a **full time staff of 67 individuals**, including emergency medical personnel to staff the Park’s own ambulances. During event weekends, **dozens of part-time staff** are needed to work at the gates and around the track. If you’re interested in working outdoors in a “fast-paced” environment, give the office a call.



The **Sports Car Club of America** organizes multiple events for modern competitive sports car racing. Summit Point hosts multiple SCCA events throughout the year. **Time trials and hill climbs** allow drivers to see how they measure up against the track. **Road racing** is serious corner-to-corner racing against other drivers for the checkered flag.



Summit Point's **driver training programs** are designed to teach specific skills, develop confidence, and most importantly, build a driver's level of awareness in any situation. **Anyone with a driver's license can participate.** Especially for a new teenage driver, the practice time on a skid pad under the direction of a professional driver can provide some valuable lessons that could help them anticipate and avoid problems down the road.



Drifting is popular with younger participants — and a particular favorite of young spectators. Unlike traditional racing which emphasizes speed, drifting is judged on control, particularly in the **tandem events**, where two drivers will work together to execute precise moves around the track. Many of these cars are street legal, with the modifications limited to suspension tweaks, so this can be an **affordable and accessible approach to motorsports**, harking back to the days when stock car racers could drive their car to work during the week and around the track on weekends.



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SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

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// RECREATION - CONTINUED

CIRCUITS AT SUMMIT POINT MOTORSPORTS PARK



The **original Summit Point circuit** (upper right) opened in 1969 and was designed as a natural terrain road course. This 2-mile, 10-turn circuit, with multiple elevation changes, tight turns, and close-in stands of trees, gives drivers the sense of racing through a forest. The **Jefferson circuit** (lower center) is a 1.7-mile, 14-turn course built for high-performance racing and driver training. The **Shenandoah circuit** (upper left) has 22 turns, including a scaled replica of Nürburgring-Nordschleife's banked Karussell turn. The full Shenandoah circuit has 2.2 miles of pavement which can be configured to create various courses to provide an ever-changing technical challenge for drivers. The **Washington circuit** (center) provides multiple skid pad options for driver training and accident avoidance programs.



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// COMMUNITY

ROCKWOOL'S FIRST YEAR



ONE YEAR AGO THIS MONTH, Rockwool North America announced the start of commercial production at its 130-acre insulation factory off Route 9 in Ranson. And it was five years ago that Governor Justice’s announcement of the Danish company’s plan to build a 460,000 square foot factory in Jefferson County sparked strong reactions. Some welcomed the new investment and jobs. Others voiced concerns over the factory’s location and potential impact on the region’s environment and quality of life. “Toxic Rockwool” signs still dot the landscape.

Where do things stand now? *The Observer* contacted Rockwool and reviewed publicly available information to prepare this update.

What does Rockwool Ranson produce? Five types of stone wool insulation used in residential and commercial construction and renovation.

How many people work there and what are they paid? Consistent with projections, the factory runs three shifts with a total staff of 150; 10 open jobs are currently posted on the company’s website. Technicians (who make up approximately 80% of the factory’s workforce) earn between \$38,400 to \$55,000 annually plus benefits. Management salaries average \$85,000.

Is water quality being affected? Local residents have expressed concerns that the region’s karst geology makes groundwater vulnerable to contamination from Rockwool Ranson stormwater runoff. According to quarterly reports submitted to WVDEP by Rockwool, the factory exceeded benchmark stormwater discharge monitoring parameters for aluminum and other substances multiple times in 2021 causing the factory in January 2022 to close one of its stormwater outlets.

At least two legal actions, filed by Jefferson County Foundation and co-parties, are currently pending before the state Environmental Quality Board to require WVDEP to impose stronger water protection standards and oversight over the Rockwool Ranson factory.

Is air quality at risk? According to its temporary air permit, the Rockwool Ranson factory can emit significant amounts of a variety of pollutants. On May 23 of this year, Rockwool Ranson filed an application with WVDEP for its permanent “Title V” operating air permit according to the non-profit Jefferson County Foundation (JCF), which is monitoring this process. Concerned that winds can carry and deposit health-threatening emissions and dust from the factory’s tall stacks over open areas near and far across the Eastern Panhandle and state lines, JCF and others want WVDEP and EPA to make Rockwool Ranson’s Title V permit take into account operating changes in the plant when determining the best available control technologies required under the Clean Air Act.

What’s next? The next steps in the air permit process, according to the WDEP Citizen’s Guide, are that after the WVDEP publishes a draft Title V permit it must also: give notice to the public and any states within 50 miles of the factory; start a 30-day public comment period; and hold a public hearing if there is interest. The federal EPA must also review and approve the final permit and can receive public comments as well.

How can residents communicate with Rockwool Ranson? In June 2021, a tribunal authorized to investigate complaints by the Danish government under international laws criticized Rockwool for not providing “meaningful opportunities for the relevant stakeholders to express their views during the planning and decision-making process of the [Ranson] manufacturing facility project.” Rockwool is hosting a “community conversation and factory tour” on Wednesday, September 7 at 6 - 8:30 pm. Pre-registration is required – email ransonquestions@rockwool.com.

For specific issues, the company suggests emailing ransonquestions@rockwool.com or contacting Rockwool Ranson’s community relations manager Paul Espinosa at paul.espinosa@rockwool.com or 304-620-3197; or calling Rockwool’s toll-free North America customer service telephone number 800-265-6878.

For additional detail and updates, check the online version of this article at www.WeAreTheObserver.com/rockwool-year-one

Assessor's Office

Jefferson County

West Virginia

NOTICE OF FILINGS DUE

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION
as of JULY 1, 2022

DATES TO FILE:

JEFFERSON CO. DOG TAGS
July 1st

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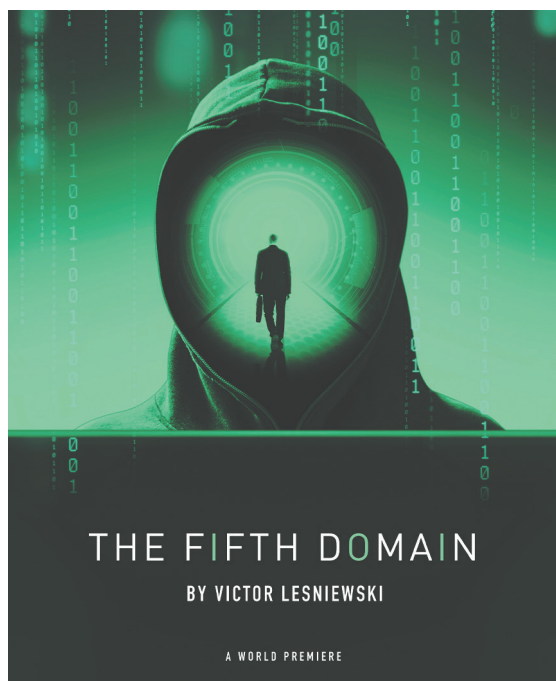
ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY

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// PERFORMANCE

CYBER THRILLER MAKES GLOBAL DEBUT AT CATF

Preview by: Harriet Pearson



HOW WILL HUMANITY COPE with the downsides of relying on cyberspace?

It took only 20 years for the number of Internet users to grow from a few hundred million to 5 billion people. Today, cyberattacks are constant. And because the United States was an early adopter of connected technologies, we are particularly vulnerable.

That is the backdrop for a new play: *The Fifth Domain*, a cyber espionage thriller that premieres this month at the Contemporary American Theater Festival.

The play's title refers to the idea that cyberspace is an arena for war and intelligence operations. That may sound like science fiction, but I assure you it is not. In the past decade the U.S. Department of Defense has formed a unified command for cyberspace alongside the other four domains of land, sea, air, and space. China has its ambiguously named "Strategic Support Force." Russia has considerable cyber capabilities. You get the idea.

The Fifth Domain tells the story of Troy, a cybersecurity analyst who worked at the National Security Agency until his demands for more accountability made things uncomfortable. Jumping to a private-sector job with a government contractor, he becomes a penetration tester ("pen testers" are authorized to hack into systems to find and help fix vulnerabilities). Unfortunately, Troy finds himself at the center of a cyber espionage drama with huge implications for the real world.

The opening scene quickly establishes the high stakes involved. A large-scale disruption of communications systems on the West Coast has caused widespread chaos. Is a cyberattack to blame? What is Troy's role in all this? Will the bad actor(s) be held accountable? According to playwright Victor Lesniewski, more than anything *The Fifth Domain* "is a big puzzle."

The play uses two creative techniques to bring the story to life for the audience. A PowerPoint-type presentation on cybersecurity is used to organize the action and help us keep track of key terms. Large-scale digital projections are used throughout to show the audience what the characters are seeing on their devices.

As a cyber professional myself (I advise organizations on cyber and privacy law and risk), I can attest to the important issues raised by *The Fifth Domain's* storyline. Yes, we want the government to defend our national security. But we also want the government to be reasonable and practical — including about what is expected from the private sector and individuals. And for sure we want our privacy to be protected and for there to be strong accountability and oversight over our defenders.

Playwright Lesniewski has the credibility to make this story both compelling and realistic: he combines a graduate degree in theater with technical chops earned at Carnegie-Mellon and practiced in his day job in the intellectual property field. New York-based director Kareem Fahmy (who is also an accomplished playwright) has collaborated with Lesniewski previously and the two bring easy rapport and complementary skills to *The Fifth Domain*.

Timely and well-informed, *The Fifth Domain* has the ingredients needed to entertain while helping us think through some of the most challenging issues of our times.



Playwright Lesniewski (left) and Director Fahmy (right)

BEYOND & BEHIND THE STAGE

Highlights of the Theater Festival

You can find a complete schedule of the play performances and purchase tickets at CATF.org

In addition to **The Fifth Domain**, the plays for 2022 are **Whitelisted** by Chisa Hutchinson, (both performed at the Frank Center stage); **Babel** by Jacqueline Goldfinger and **Ushuaia Blue** by Caridad Svich (both performed in the Marinoff Theater); and **The House of the Negro Insane** by Terence Anthony and **Sheepdog** by Kevin Artique (both performed in the Studio 112 Theater).

Pay-what-you-can preview performances will be presented July 3 through 7. Tickets for these preview performances are only available the day of the performance by calling the box office (681-240-2283). The festival formally opens the weekend of July 8, 9 & 10, with multiple performances of all six plays.

TALKTHEATER EVENTS

CATF provides many opportunities to engage with the playwrights, cast, and go behind and beyond the stage to ask questions, discuss the issues, and expand the in-theater experience. Schedules and reservations for these free events at CATF.org

CATF IN CONTEXT

Discussions with stage & technical directors

LECTURES

Resident artists share their creative process

STAGED READINGS

Peek into the evolution of the next new plays

CABARET

Evening discussions in the courtyard with artists and patrons

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Prepare yourself for a better understanding of the play

POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

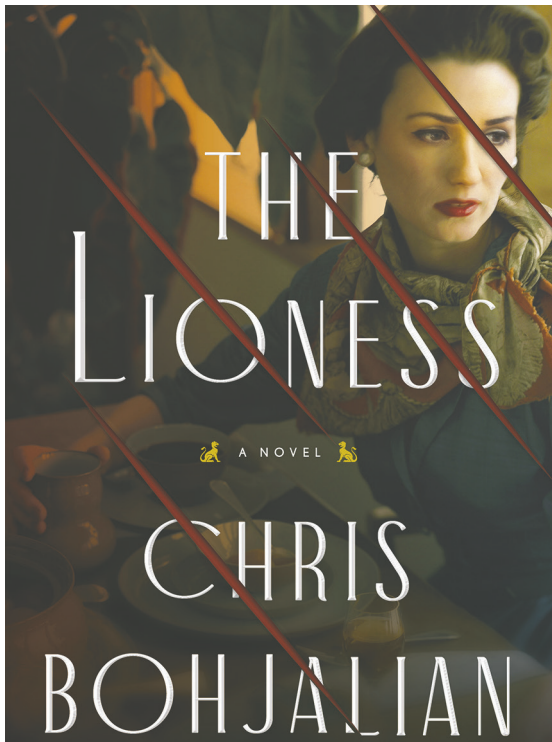
Unpack and explore the themes of each play

CHANGEOVER

Watch the stage transform from one set to another

PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

FEAR & INJUSTICE



The Lioness, by Chris Bohjalian, Doubleday (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.

WHEN I PICKED UP **THE LIONESS**, the latest from author Chris Bohjalian, I thought it would be a well-written beach-read-style page-turner. Bohjalian has written twenty-three books, some of which have been adapted for the stage and screen. I have read and loved several, all of which have addressed complicated historical and moral dilemmas through the lens of particular characters. But the description of this novel seemed different — “a luxurious African safari turns deadly for a Hollywood star and her entourage” when they are kidnapped by Russian mercenaries. The combination of 1960s Hollywood and the hot Serengeti settings made me think this novel would be a thriller above all, more fun perhaps than Bohjalian’s past works. But while this book makes for compulsive reading, be forewarned that it does not shy away from extraordinary acts of violence, brutal mistakes, and their rippling consequences.

Although most of the novel takes place over the course of only two days, Bohjalian is adept at shifting between past and present from the viewpoints of several characters. The story

is told from the perspective of ten different captives, ranging from Hollywood actresses to safari guides. Not only did I never feel confused by this, but I was impressed by Bohjalian’s ability to develop the backstory and moral foibles of each separate individual so that each was truly compelling.

This approach is extremely effective, giving readers an in-depth look at how different people handle mortal fear and blatant injustice, and how their own personal histories may contribute to their choices. In the beginning, each chapter is a window into a character’s mind as they ride in the Land Rover, unsure of what is happening to them or why. They reckon with their own insecurities, weaknesses, and resentments as they try to decide what to do. Stay quiet and avoid causing trouble? Escape? Fight back?

Sometimes, it is the contrast between their thought processes that is the most compelling, forcing readers to evaluate what we think we know about love and relationships. That is because these characters never make their assessments in a vacuum, but in consideration of those they love — and also those they hate.

Even more unsettlingly, the novel forces us to ask ourselves what we would do in a similar situation and to reflect on whether we like the answers. Where do our sympathies lie? With the one who tried to strangle one of the kidnappers so someone else could grab his gun? Or with the one who plots to stay silent in the hope of getting himself and his loved ones through unscathed?

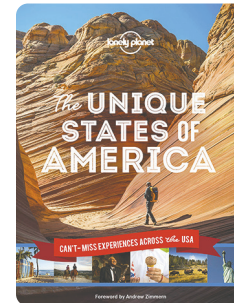
Ultimately, our shared humanity is why we can’t fully write any of these characters off, no matter what we think of their choices. As the unnamed narrator in the novel’s prologue observes, “I can’t speak for the dead. And I won’t speak for the missing. I can only tell you what I think happened. Others — the dead and the missing — would probably have their own versions. Blame, I can tell you, is every bit as subjective as the truth.”

Above all, this novel is a mystery that will keep you turning the pages to find out why this motley Hollywood crew has been kidnapped in such a professional fashion, and the twists and turns are just as riveting as those in any popular thriller. Bohjalian also gives us insight into not only the pressures of fame, family, and identity in old Hollywood, but the history of African post-independence power struggles (particularly the Simba rebellion in eastern Congo) and the Cold War in general. His extensive research is written into the storyline with a light hand, although I did find myself occasionally looking up certain events for more context. And of course, the book is laced with interesting facts and beautiful descriptions of east African wildlife — one more reason to read this book this summer, even if there are no beaches.

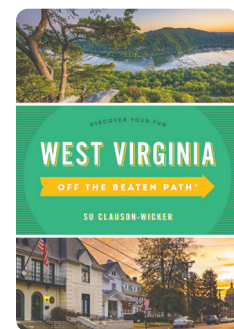
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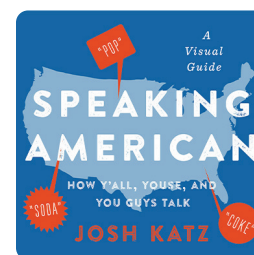
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by Su Clauson-Wicker
Globe Pequot Press (2022)
\$17.95

West Virginia: Off the Beaten Path features the things travelers and locals would want to see and experience — if only they knew about them. From the best in local dining, to quirky cultural tidbits, to hidden attractions, unique finds, and unusual locales, this book takes the reader down the road less traveled and offers chances to really explore West Virginia.

Speaking American: How Y’all, Youse, and You Guys Talk

by Josh Katz
Mariner Books (2016) \$17.99



Did you know that your answers to just a handful of questions can predict the zip code of where you grew up? In 2013, Josh Katz accumulated and visually mapped over 350,000 unique survey responses to questions about word choice and pronunciation throughout America. In *Speaking American*, Katz offers a visual atlas of the American vernacular — who says what, and where they say it — revealing the history of our nation, our regions, and the language that divides and unites us at the same time.

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oll-cpas.com

LIBRARY GRAND OPENING
>>> PAGE 19 <<<

DUTCHMAN’S PIPE, THE OLD PORCH VINE

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.

WHEN MY WIFE AND I added a new trellis to our old side porch, we knew the perfect vine to plant there. Facing northwest, the porch is shaded by the house until it gets the full afternoon sun, just the place to plant a Dutchman’s pipe, also called pipevine. Now, three years later, our trellis is covered with the broad, heart-shaped leaves and intertwining green stems. And hidden in the maze of green were a few of its bizarre flowers, which have no petals and resemble an old-fashioned, curved tobacco pipe.

A Step Back In Time

Dutchman’s pipe used to be a popular porch vine in the days before air conditioning. It covers any kind of trellis with broad leaves that overlap each other. This creates a haven of shade from the summer sun, cooling the house and turning a sunny front porch into a pleasant place to sit on warm summer evenings. Modern air conditioning, tastes in architecture, and changing ways of living have made outside porch-sitting an outdated American custom. Remembering my own childhood visits to grandparents and relatives, I grow nostalgic for porch visits on warm summer evenings. Most family gatherings and summertime parties now happen on decks, patios or around fire pits.

What’s In A Name

Pipevine belongs to the Birthwort family of plants. “Wort” is an Old English suffix for plant, and “Birth” harkens back to ancient herbalists, who followed the doctrine that a plant would help the human body part that its root, leaf, stem or flower most resembled. To them this plant’s flower looked much like a human uterus, so they believed it must help with childbirth.

Aristolochia, pipevine’s generic name, has two origin stories. The ancient Greek “father of botany,” Theophrastes, coined the name from two words meaning “ideal” and “child bed” referencing its supposed medicinal value. Cicero, the Roman orator, mentions Aristolochos, a man who dreamed that the plant was an antidote for snakebite. This may explain a belief among some folks that the plant will repel snakes.

But don’t take all your medical advice from ancient history. Be aware, if you have pets or small children, all parts of the plant contain toxic aristolochic acid that, if swallowed, may cause irreversible kidney failure and cancer of the bladder or urinary tract.

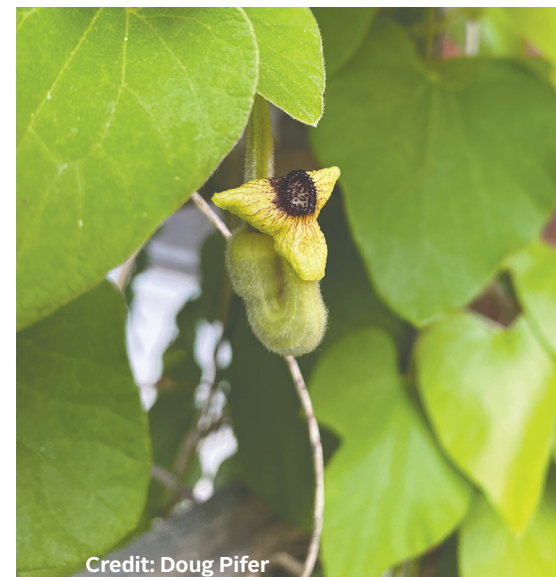
Nature’s Tricks

Pipevine is native to the woodland ravines in the Potomac and Shenandoah valleys. It isn’t picky about types of soil and scrambles up any available place. Flying insects are attracted to the deep-throated flowers which produce an unpleasant smell. A few dark, “nectar guide” stripes, similar to those on violets and irises, appear on the front opening of the flower. Such stripes supposedly guide insects toward the inside.

Pipevine flowers don’t offer sweet nectar. Instead, they play a dirty trick to get small insects to pollinate them. Lured by the flower’s scent, a little insect crawls over the spiky hairs along the flower’s throat. But it’s a trap. Those inward-pointing hairs keep the insect from escaping until it becomes covered with pollen. By then the hairs have withered and the insect climbs back out.

When our pipevine started to bloom this year, I learned something new. The pipevine native to our area is *Aristolochia macrophylla* (large-leaved pipevine). Its flower opens into three hairless, rounded lobes. The pipevine we planted is a different species, *A. rugosa* (hairy pipevine). Its flower is covered with short hairs, and its lobes are more pointed. The hairy species has a more southerly natural range.

The pipevine has started to show up again at nurseries and on websites that encourage planting native plants in gardens. I hope this continues.



Credit: Doug Pifer

// ENVIRONMENT

DON'T PICK YOUR POISON

How To Identify Wild Parsnip & Poison Hemlock



Both Poison Hemlock and Wild Parsley have clusters of umbrella-shaped flowers that look similar to the flowers of Queen Anne's Lace. The Wild Parsnip flowers will turn yellow as they mature. Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE IS A LOVELY NAME for a pretty wildflower. But beware the look-alikes that have become common in West Virginia, particularly Wild Parsnip, Poison Hemlock, and Cow Parsley. All of these are in the same "wild carrot" family and all are invasive plants that sprout in newly disturbed soil or areas that are mowed infrequently (but enough to clear other plants and give an advantage to these fast-growing invaders). While Queen Anne's Lace looks lovely to pick for a bouquet of flowers, the other three can be quite unpleasant to touch and are toxic if ingested.

Look for the Purple & Yellow

If you see tall plants (3 to 6 feet) with the characteristic umbrellas of small white flowers in May or June, you're likely looking at Poison Hemlock. A key give-away for Poison Hemlock is purple splotches on the stems. Wild Parsnip also blooms in May and June but its flower umbrellas have a yellow color. Locally, Queen Anne's Lace blooms in July and August at the same time as Cow Parsley. Both of these summer bloomers have white flower umbrellas, but the stems of the Queen Anne's Lace will be hairy and green while the stems of Cow Parsley will be smooth and greenish-purple (a solid color, not splotchy like the Poison Hemlock).

Potentially Deadly to Animals & People

Locally, Poison Hemlock has become quite common, but it's not something you want in your garden or pasture fields. If eaten, symptoms in both animals and humans include trembling, convulsions, vomiting, and difficulty breathing (including respiratory paralysis). For some, the sap of the plant can also cause skin rashes and

eye irritation. The sap of the Wild Parsnip is particularly irritating and can cause blistering. While some consider the leaves of Cow Parsley edible, the roots are toxic.

Recommended Removal

Emily Morrow, Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent of the West Virginia University Extension Service offered guidelines on removing Poison Hemlock. "Hand removal is the recommended method — do not mow it. You'll want to wear gloves and long sleeves and long pants. And be sure to wash yourself afterwards. Put all of the plants in plastic bags and discard in the trash. Don't burn or compost these plants." She also says that "chemical control is another option. That's best done in the spring or fall when the plant is not in its active phase." The WVU Extension office doesn't have specific removal guidelines for Wild Parsnip — but extension offices in other states where it is more common recommend using the same methods used to remove Poison Hemlock. 📌

The WVU Extension office website has additional information on how to identify, remove, & control these and other invasive plants: [Extension.WVU.edu/lawn-gardening-pests/weeds](https://www.extension.wvu.edu/lawn-gardening-pests/weeds)



Stems of the Poison Hemlock plant have purple splotches. Photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



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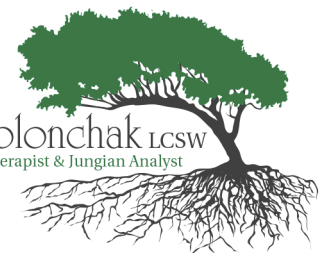
SUMMER FAIRS & FESTIVALS

>>> PAGE 18 <<<



The healthy man does not torture others – generally it is the tortured who turn into torturers.”

—C.G. Jung (*Civilization in Transition*, 587)



Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR



There's lots of fun to be had in and around Jefferson County.

Email us at Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com to share your event details and find out how advertising in The Observer is a cost-effective way to reach 13,000+ households in Jefferson County every month and make sure people know about your event.

LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS IN SPOTLIGHTS AND ARTICLES

INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

JUL 2 (SAT) — INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL IN BRUNSWICK · 10 am - 5 pm in downtown Brunswick, MD · Family-friendly event with food, craft beer, vendors, face painting, music · FREE · FB: BrunswickMD

JUL 3 (SUN) — ROCKIN' INDEPENDENCE EVE IN WINCHESTER · 2 pm - 9 pm in downtown Winchester VA, fireworks at 9:20 pm at Jim Barnett Park · Family-friendly event with music & activities · FREE · FB: @OldTownWinchesterVA



JUL 3 (SUN) — INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION AT MARTINSBURG AIRPORT · 3 pm - 10 pm (fireworks at 9:30) at Eastern WV Regional Airport (Pilot Way) · Food trucks, vendors, activities, music · FREE · Web: BerkeleyWV250.com

JUL 3 (SUN) — FIREWORKS IN BRUNSWICK · 9:00 pm · Brunswick Middle School, 301 Cummings Drive, Brunswick MD · FREE · FB: BrunswickMD



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 at 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 4 (MON) — Concert & Fireworks in Leesburg · 6:00 pm (concert), 9:30 pm (fireworks) · Ida Lee Park, 60 Ida Lee Drive NW, Leesburg VA · FREE · Web: LeesburgVA.gov (parks & recreation > events)

JUL 4 (MON) — FIREWORKS AT HAGERSTOWN FAIRGROUNDS · 9:30 pm · 351 N Cleveland Ave, Hagerstown MD · FREE · FB: Hagerstown Parks and Recreation

JULY EVENTS

JUL 2-4 (SAT-MON) — ROBIN YOUNG — WATERCOLOR & OIL PAINTINGS, BOUQUETS OF SUNFLOWERS · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St, Shepherdstown WV · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUL 3 (SUN) — HISTORY JAM BY JIM SURKAMP — A free-wheeling discussion of local history - stories, pictures, Q&A · 4 pm · Snellygaster Wine Bar, 1102 W Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV · FREE · FB: @WineBarHF

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL — JUL 3-31 (SEE BELOW)

JUL 3-7 (SUN-THU) — Pay-what-you-can preview performances · Shepherd University Campus · Web: CATF.org >>> See article on page 8

JUL 8-31 — Performances and special events daily (except Tuesdays) at multiple venues on the Shepherd University campus · Web: CATF.org SEE AD >>>

JUL 8-10 (FRI-SUN) — GUTTER TAG HOME & GARDEN — Stained Glass, Plants, Herbs at Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St, Shepherdstown WV · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUL 8-10 (FRI-SUN) — EURYDICE — A play by Shepherd University's Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players · Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 3 & 7:30 pm, Sun 3 pm · Reynolds Hall, 109 N King St, Shepherdstown WV · \$10 · Web: Shepherd.edu (search Rude Mechanicals) >>>



JUL 8 (FRI) — BAD MOON RISING — The music of Creedence Clearwater Revival · 6 pm · The gardens at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St, Winchester VA · \$15, pre-sale online only · Web: TheMSV.org

JUL 9 (SAT) — BIO BLITZ — Potomac Valley Audubon celebrates 40 years by inviting the public to help survey the trees at Eidolon Nature Preserve · 9 am - 3 pm · 2146 Orleans Rd, Great Cacapon WV · Family-Friendly · FREE, pre-registration required · Web: PotomacAudubon.org

JUL 9 (SAT) — MOVIES IN THE PARK — Spiderman: No Way Home · Gates open 7 pm, movie at dusk · Morgan's Grove Park · Family-friendly movie, snacks available or bring your own, sponsored by Shepherdstown Community Club · FREE · FB: @ShepherdstownCommunityClub



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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

JUL 10 (SUN) – OPEN HOUSE AT YANKAUER NATURE PRESERVE – Family-friendly activities (including a scavenger hunt) to celebrate 40 years of Potomac Valley Audubon · 10 am - 2 pm · 438 Whittings Neck Rd, Martinsburg WV · FREE, pre-registration required · Web: PotomacAudubon.org



◀◀◀ **JUL 12 (TUE) – SHEILA KAY ADAMS** – Ballad singer & clawhammer-style banjo player · 5:30 pm · Marinoff Theater (Shepherd U) · \$15 · Visit SpeakStoriesSeries.com for additional showtimes.

JUL 14 (THU) – WILDERMISS – Levitt Amp Music Series · 6 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · FREE · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels

JUL 15-17 (FRI-SUN) – OIL & WATER PAINTINGS by Jack Chromey & Patricia Perry · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St, Shepherdstown WV · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUL 16 (SAT) – DUBS & DAWGS – Car show and fundraiser · 9 am - 3 pm · Briggs Animal Adoption Center, 3731 Berryville Pike, Charles Town WV · FREE for spectators (see web for participant info) · Web: BAACS.org/dubsanddogs

JUL 16 (SAT) – ANTIQUE & MODIFIED CAR SHOW – Organized by the Shenandoah Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America · 10 am - 4 pm · Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St, Winchester VA · FREE for spectators · Web: TheMSV.org

JUL 21 (THU) – THE CLAUDETTES – Levitt Amp Music Series · 6 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · FREE · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels



JUL 22 (FRI) – SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY GRAND OPENING – Ribbon cutting ceremony with music, food and games to mark the opening of the new library building · 3-5 pm · 145 Higbee Lane, Shepherdstown WV · Web: ShepLibrary.org

▶▶▶ Read about the new library on page 19

JUL 22 (FRI) – ST. JAMES JAM – Fundraiser for food & clothing ministry, includes 5K run, bounce house competition, stroller walk/run, corn hole tournament and silent auction · 7-10 pm · St. James Catholic Church, 49 Crosswinds Dr, Charles Town WV · See web for pre-registration details · Web: StJamesWV.org

JUL 22-24 (FRI-SUN) – HARPERS FAIRIES & ENCHANTED PORTALS by Marianne Caruso & Dan Mace · Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 W German St, Shepherdstown WV · Artist show at local pop-up gallery · FREE · FB: @EvolveShepherdstown19

JUL 26 (TUE) – HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT WORKSHOP – Learn about the tax credit program available to residential and commercial building owners to assist with preservation projects · 5 pm · Charles Washington Hall, 101 W Washington St, Charles Town WV · Web: WVCulture.org

JUL 28 (THU) – TALL TALL TREES – Levitt Amp Music Series · 6 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · FREE · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels

JUL 29-31 (FRI-SUN) – PAGEANT OF STEAM – Shenandoah Valley Steam & Gas Engine Association · 890 W Main St, Berryville VA · Demos of vintage steam and gas engines, tractor pulls, horse pulls, vendors · \$10, children under 12 FREE · Web: SVSGEA.org ▶▶▶

JUL 29 (FRI) – MOVIE NIGHT: DISNEY'S LUCA – Sponsored by Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library · Gates open 7 pm, movie at 8:30 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · FREE · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels



Courtesy of SVSGA

JUL 30 (SAT) – SHEPHERD FOOTBALL GRIDIRON CLUB BINGO – Fundraiser for the Shepherd University Football program · Doors open at noon, games begin at 2 pm · Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Department, 8502 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown WV · \$25 entry, 20 games, prizes, 50/50, raffle, silent auction. Email LStilley85@gmail for information.

JUL 30 (SAT) – THE REAGAN YEARS – Concert at The Amp · Gates open at 6 pm, music at 6:30 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · Tickets \$15 (advance), \$20 gate, lawn seating · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 5 (FRI) – FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE – School Spirit Night! · 5 - 8 pm · North Charles St in Charles Town · DJ, food trucks, family friendly · FREE · FB: @CharlesTownNow

AUG 12 (FRI) – MOVIE NIGHT: DISNEY'S ENCANTO – Sponsored by Charles Town Dental · Gates open 7 pm, movie at 8:30 pm · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · FREE · FB: @TheAmpAtSamMichaels

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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

AUG 12 (FRI) – CANOE/KAYAK THE SHENANDOAH RIVER – Potomac Valley Audubon celebrates its 40 year anniversary with a family-friendly (ages 7 & up) kayak and canoe trip on the river. Boats and shuttle bus service provided by River & Trail Outfitters · 10 am - 1 pm · Parking at 99 Cary Lu Circle, Harpers Ferry WV · \$60, pre-registration required · Web: PotomacAudubon.org >>>



Courtesy of Potomac Valley Audubon Society

AUG 15-28 – APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL – World-class chamber music performed in local venues in Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, Shepherdstown & local towns · Advance ticket purchase available at AppalachianChamber.org >>> See article on page 6

AUG 18 (THU) – SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY RAM BAND – Summer camp band exhibition concert · 7-8 pm · Ram Stadium, 205 N Duke St, Shepherdstown WV · FREE · Web: Shepherd.edu/Music (events)

SEP 9-10 – MANUSCRIPT TO MARKETPLACE WRITER'S CONFERENCE – Workshops and discussion sessions for novice and aspiring authors looking to publish their work. Shepherd University campus. Web: WritersConferenceSU.org

SEP 10 (SAT) – CRAFT BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL – Happy Retreat hosts a fun, outdoor fundraiser to support restoration & maintenance of Charles Washington's historic residence · 11 am - 6 pm · Happy Retreat, 600 Mordington Ave, Charles Town WV · Advance tickets on sale now · FB: @HappyRetreat >>> See ad on page 5

SEP 17 (SAT) – FALL ART FESTIVAL – Artisan-made functional pottery, jewelry, glassware, baskets, soap, bowls, quilts & more by local artists · 10 am - 4 pm · Blue Goose Pottery, 7278 Hedgesville Rd, Hedgesville WV · FREE · Web: c.com

SEP 24 (SAT) – APPALACHIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL – Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies & Communities hosts its annual celebration of the region's artistic and cultural traditions. Events held across Shepherd University campus. Web: Shepherd.edu/Appalachian >>>



Courtesy of AHC

OCT 22 (SAT) – FREEDOM'S RUN – features marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K and kids walk events in Shepherdstown and along the C&O Canal. Start/Finish on the Shepherd University campus. Registration open now. Web: FreedomsRun.org

FARMERS MARKETS (WEEKLY)

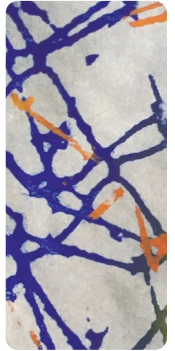
- CHARLES TOWN** · Saturdays 9 am - noon · FB: Charles Town Farmers Market WV
- MARTINSBURG (DOWNTOWN)** · Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm · FB: @MartinsburgFarmersMarket
- MARTINSBURG (SHOPPING PLAZA)** · Sundays 9 am - 1 pm · FB: Southside Farmers Market
- SHEPHERDSTOWN** · Sundays 9 am - 1 pm · FB @ShepherdstownFarmersMarket

IN THE GALLERIES

BERKELEY ARTS COUNCIL: CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING · JUN 29 - AUG 6 · 116 N Queen Street, Martinsburg · Juried exhibition of original works in engraving, etching, lithography, linoleum, woodcut & screen printing · FREE · Web: BerkeleyArtsWV.org >>>

JEFFERSON ARTS COUNCIL: EVERYDAY ART IN LINE & WASH · JUL 2 - JUL 31 (opening reception July 2, 1-3 pm) · 108 N Charles St, Charles Town · Work by novice artists · FREE · Web: JeffersonArtsCouncil.org

BRIDGE GALLERY: LANDSCAPE & PLEIN AIR PAINTING · JUL 6 - JUL 28 (opening reception July 6, 4:30-7 pm) · 8566 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown · Featured artists: Tim Clayton, Seth Hill, David Bottini, Walt Bartman · FREE · Web: BridgeGalleryandFraming.com



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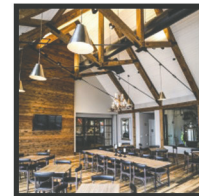
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COMMUNITY MEETINGS >>> PAGE 20

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LIBRARY PROGRAMS ENTERTAIN & EDUCATE



The South Jefferson public library has decorated its children’s room to reflect the “Oceans of Possibilities” theme of this summer’s reading program. All of the local public libraries (Charles Town, Bolivar-Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown & South Jefferson) have a variety of events, activities, classes and challenges (for prizes) as part of these programs which run into early August. Check each library’s website for details

BolivarHarpersFerryLibrary.com • CTLibrary.org (Charles Town)
ShepLibrary.org • SoJeffersonLibrary.org

SUMMER FAIRS & FESTIVALS

MARYLAND RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL · AUG 27 - Oct 23 (weekends) · 1821 Crownsville Rd, Annapolis MD · Web: RennFest.com

WASHINGTON COUNTY AG EXPO & FAIR (MD) · JUL 16 - 23 · 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro MD · Web: AgExpoAndFair.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR (PA) · JUL 10 - 16 · 3725 Warm Spring Rd, Chambersburg PA · Web: FranklinCountyFair.org

LOUDOUN COUNTY FAIR (VA) · JUL 26 - 30 · 17558 Dry Mill Rd, Leesburg VA · Web: LoudounCountyFair.com

FREDERICK COUNTY FAIR (VA) · JUL 25 - 30 · 250 Fairground Rd, Clear Brook VA · Web: FrederickCountyFair.com

BERKELEY COUNTY YOUTH FAIR (WV) · JUL 30 - AUG 6 · 2419 Golf Course Rd, Martinsburg WV · Web: BerkeleyCountyYouthFair.org

CLARKE COUNTY FAIR (VA)
AUG 14 - 20 · 890 W Main St, Berryville VA
Web: ClarkeCountyFair.org

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR (WV) AUG 21 - 27 · 2005 Old Leetown Pike, Kearneysville WV · Web: JeffersonCountyFairwv.org >>>

THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR (MD) · SEP 16 - 24 · 797 E Patrick St, Frederick MD
Web: TheGreatFrederickFair.com

BLUEMONT FAIR (VA) · SEP 17 - 18 · 33846 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont, VA · Web: BluemontFair.org



EXPLORE // LIBRARY GRAND OPENING



SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY MOVES TO NEW HOME



(Above) The children's room flows seamlessly between separate spaces for young kids, tweens, and teenagers. (Above, right) The adult room will feature couch and table seating, along with multiple computer stations for public use.

THE SHEPHERDSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY has occupied the iconic market house building at the center of downtown Shepherdstown for 100 years. That's a lot of time to accumulate books — and memories. But come July 22, library director Hali Taylor and the library staff will cheer on the ribbon-cutting for a brand new library building just outside of downtown Shepherdstown. The new facility will provide plenty of space to house the entire book and media collection, plus several meeting and special-purpose rooms. And plenty of convenient parking — always an issue at the downtown library.

Local Access to a Statewide Network

The Shepherdstown library is one of three public libraries in Jefferson County operating as part of the Statewide Library Network overseen by the West Virginia Library Commission (the library in Charles Town is also a public library, but is an independent non-profit corporation that operates independently of the commission). Along with Bolivar-Harpers Ferry and South Jefferson, the Shepherdstown library has a mission to serve residents county-wide. The Jefferson County libraries also work closely with the Martinsburg-Berkeley County public library (which has a main building in downtown Martinsburg and three branch buildings) and the Morgan County and Paw Paw public libraries to provide a network of resources for residents across the Eastern Panhandle. If you have a library card from any library in the statewide network, you have a library card that works at all of the libraries in the network — and you can have books and other media from any of the other libraries delivered to your preferred location.

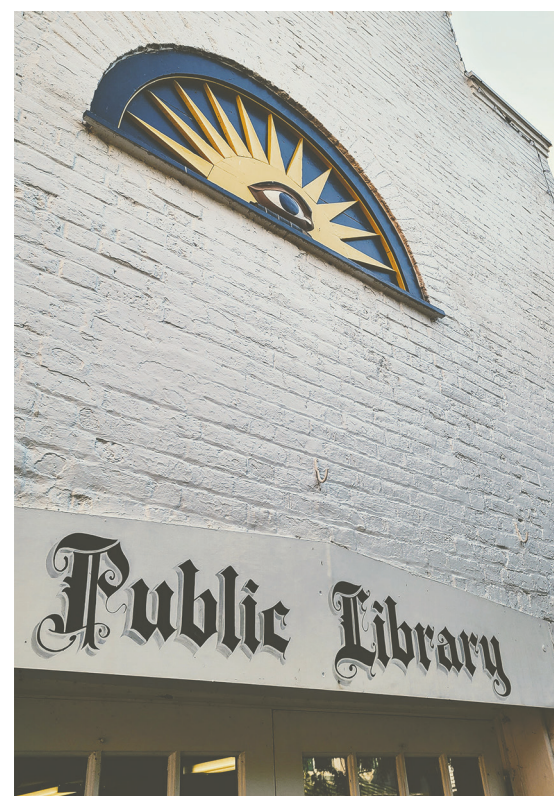
Public Support, Private Donations

The public libraries are supported by a mix of state and local funding augmented by private donations. For the Shepherdstown library, Taylor estimates that the state funding for next year will cover one third of operating costs, while local funding (from the County Commission, the Board of Education, and the Town of Shepherdstown) will cover forty percent of operating costs. The remaining balance will be supported by fundraising, spearheaded by the Friends of the Shepherdstown Library, which also led the campaign to raise funds for the construction of the new library facility.

A Bigger Building, A Bolder Vision

Taylor was animated as she gave a tour of the new building. “This is the fun part. It’s been a twenty year project of discussing, planning and raising funds. Getting to see it all come together now is exciting.” The first thing you notice when you enter the building is the light. High ceilings and lots of windows make it a bright and inviting space. Talking about space, Taylor compared the old with the new: “the children’s library upstairs at the market house is roughly 900 square feet. We have 3,500 square feet just for the children in the new building. The expansion allows for separate areas for children, tweens, and young adults, but it all flows seamlessly in one large room.”

The adult section is separated from the childrens room and both spaces are surrounded by smaller rooms that can accommodate a variety of activities, both noisy and quiet, without interrupting patrons in the main rooms. There is a large conference room that Taylor says will be available for community use.



(Above) The market house building is owned by the Town of Shepherdstown. Once the library moves out, the Town will have a professional assessment of the building's condition to determine what repairs are needed. After that, the Town Council will have a public discussion about how to use the space as well as how to fund renovations and future maintenance needs.

This conference space comes equipped with multiple televisions, a separate kitchen, and access to the outdoor patio, so it can be used for both meetings and receptions.📺

The Shepherdstown Public Library will be located at 145 Higbee Lane, Shepherdstown WV. Phone 304-876-2783, web: ShepLibrary.org. Ribbon cutting ceremonies (with kid-friendly activities) will be held on July 22, 3-5 pm. The library will open for patrons on July 23. Volunteers are still needed to help pack and move books (signup at the Friends' website, FOSLWV.org).

ENGAGE // COMMUNITY ISSUES

PUBLIC HEARING ON SOLAR PROJECT
July 28 — Board of Zoning Appeals



THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA) is scheduled to review an application for a conditional use permit to construct an 80 megawatt solar generation facility on 500 acres of land located to the east of Charles Town. The meeting will begin at 2 pm on July 28 (Thursday) in the County Commission meeting room in the lower level of the Charles Town Library (200 East Washington St – the lower level entrance is on Samuel St).

The BZA meeting will include a presentation from the planning & zoning staff, a presentation from the project applicant, public comment, and a deliberative session. The BZA typically takes action to approve or deny an application immediately following the deliberative session. Any member of the public wishing to comment on the conditional use application is encouraged to submit written comment at least a week prior to the meeting date to ensure the comments will be included in the packets provided to the BZA members. Any individual may speak during the public hearing portion of the meeting, but will be limited to 3 minutes.

This project is referenced in the PJM new services queue as AF1-290. The project map shows the solar panel fields on multiple parcels straddling Charles Town Road (Rt 115) and Kabletown Road, adjacent to the new Kings Crossing subdivision to be built just to the east of St. James the Greater Catholic Church.

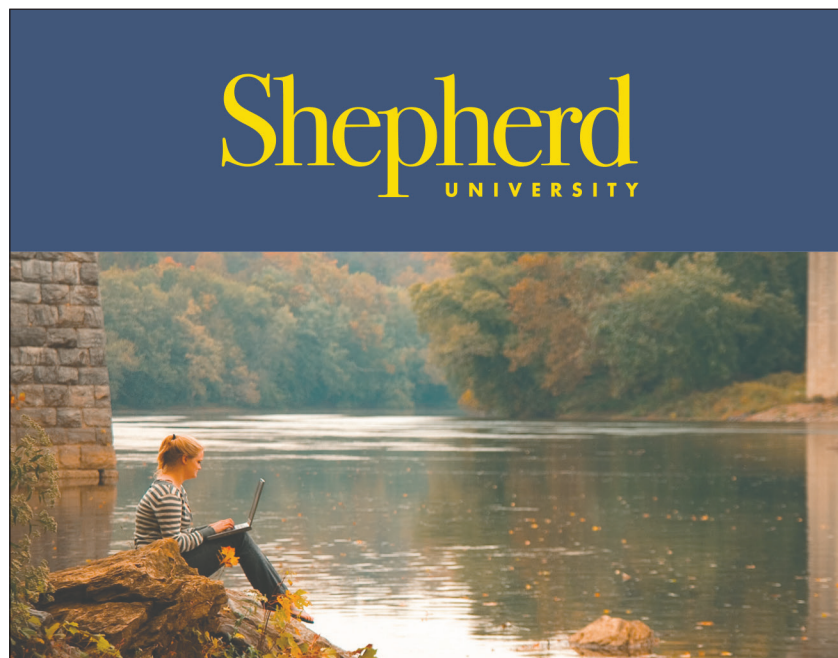
Additional information online at WeAreTheObserver.com/solar-in-jefferson

COUNTY PURCHASES AMBULANCES



THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION has officially agreed to purchase 3 ambulances currently owned by local volunteer fire companies – 1 from Bakerton and 2 from Friendship (Harpers Ferry). The County is still developing its plan for reorganizing the county ambulance services and has not yet decided how many ambulances it will ultimately purchase. These 3 vehicles were offered for sale and the Commissioners have indicated confidence that they can be used in any of the plans that would be presented to the County Commission for consideration.

Additional information online at WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-2022



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