

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

AUGUST 2022

SPORTS

Shepherd U Rams
Ready For Season

4

ELECTIONS

What Candidates
Have To Say

8

NATURE

Tracking The
Bats Overhead

12

BOOKS

Asking Questions,
Recovering Truth

13

HEALTH

Challenge Yourself
With Fitness Goals

14

COMMUNITY

Writers Get Together
In Shepherdstown

15

EXPLORE & ENGAGE

14 Events Calendar

18 Fairs & Festivals

19 Ambulance Updates

20 Community Issues



Cover: Josh Gontarek (19)

FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM



WORLD-CLASS HEART CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Shepherdstown
60 Maclaine Way
Shepherdstown, WV
304.350.3273

Martinsburg
Dorothy McCormack Center
2000 Foundation Way,
Suite 3100 & 3500
Martinsburg, WV
304.350.3273

Hagerstown
13 Western Maryland Parkway,
Suite 106
Hagerstown, MD
304.350.3273

Winchester
650 Cedar Creek Grade,
Suite 100
Winchester, VA
540.535.0000

At the **WVU Heart and Vascular Institute**, our board-certified physicians are performing groundbreaking procedures using cutting edge techniques to provide world-class healthcare.

That's why we're expanding our services to every corner of our region – so you don't have to travel far to receive the great specialty care you deserve – ***close to home.***

We are now accepting new patients at our Shepherdstown location. Call today for an appointment!

MyWVUHeart.com

STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
STEVE PEARSON

MANAGING EDITOR
CATHERINE PEZZARO

PUBLISHER
HARRIET PEARSON

BUSINESS MANAGER
LESLIE DAVISSON

FOR ADVERTISING

Email: SALES@
WeAreTheObserver.com
Phone: 304-249-8968
Ad deadline is 15th of each month

BE AN OBSERVER

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

Email: CONNECT@
WeAreTheObserver.com

THE OBSERVER ONLINE

Web: WeAreTheObserver.com
Facebook: @WVObserver

Copyright © 2022
WV Independent Observer LLC

131 West German Street
PO Box 3088
Shepherdstown WV 25443

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

THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 



Protesters gather outside of the Jefferson County Commission meeting on July 21, asking Commissioner Tricia Jackson to either explain a photo of her posing with two individuals described as "Proud Boys flashing a white power sign" or resign from the Commission.

TO OUR READERS — The American experiment with democracy began with meetings — in churches, in taverns, in private homes, even in caves. The norm we’ve come to expect, enshrined in laws, is for meetings of local government commissions, councils and committees to be open to the public with opportunities for comment. It can be tiring for the folks sitting at the official table to listen, and sometimes it gets a little heated, but as has been said about other activities, if it’s too quiet, you’re not doing it right.

The Ranson City Council has been found taking shelter in a closed-door conference room, a habit that started during the pandemic, but which has continued well past its sell-by date. After a determined group of citizens made it clear they were not buying this situation, the Council has announced that open meetings will resume in August.

The Jefferson County Commission’s early-morning special sessions called on short notice make it difficult for many to attend in person, but the evening sessions have been well-attended of late. Marching in the streets may not be everyone’s cup of tea (photo above), but a steady flow of comments can help provide some sense of direction to the folks that we elect.

Speaking of elections, November is not far off and there are a lot of new candidates on the ballot. We’d like to hear what they have to say too. This month’s issue includes responses from the candidates running for WV Delegate in the 100th district, and we’ll continue with other candidates for state and local elections in the September and October issues.

 Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Andrew Skinner

Stephen Skinner

WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

SKINNER
LAW FIRM

REPRESENTING CONSUMERS AND INJURED PEOPLE

304.725.7029 SKINNERFIRM.COM

Attorneys: Stephen Skinner • Andrew Skinner • Bryan Ogilvie | Stephen Skinner is responsible for the content of this ad.

// SPORTS

APART BUT TOGETHER, PRACTICING HARD

Shepherd University Football Team Prepared For Exciting 2022 Season

By Bob Kuska

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

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME HOME-TOWN college football? Our local Shepherd University Rams open practice this week, looking ahead to their season opener on September 1. The Rams are coming off a heart-pounding 13 win, 2 loss season, a run that extended into the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Playoffs. Quarterback Tyson Bagent smashed nearly all of Shepherd’s passing records and brought home the Harlan Hill Trophy, the small-college equivalent of the Heisman.

Bagent returns for his senior year, and Shepherd head coach Ernie McCook envisions another big season in 2022. To protect Bagent in the pocket, McCook must shore up an offensive line weakened by graduation. But he returns two outstanding veteran linemen: center Adam Stilley, a graduate student from Charles Town, and All-American senior tackle Joey Fisher of Hagerstown.

These player’s stories also come with a D-II twist. To prevent D-II coaches from overdoing it during the summer, the NCAA prohibits them from interacting with any student-athlete more than eight hours per week — and then only under strict guidelines. The idea is to free D-II student-athletes to pursue other interests or earn needed cash. Translation: Stilley and Fisher spent their summers training on their own. They stretched, lifted, and sprinted day after exhausting work day for the brotherhood they call their team. They do it for the love of the game.

Over the summer, *The Observer* checked in periodically with both Stilley and Fischer as they eyed the approaching August 1 start of football practice. What follows is a story of total dedication from two large guys whose timely blocks will never grab headlines. Neither do they care. They just love playing football — and winning as a team.



Adam Stilley (72)

A DAILY ROUTINE WITH A PURPOSE FOR ADAM STILLEY

June 20 — Forty-one days until football practice. Adam Stilley checked his phone. The offensive linemen, like brothers separated, group-text to support each other through the summer. They urge each other to keep training. August 1 is coming.

Adam finishes with the texts and turns to the day’s task at hand: Removing dead trees from Somerfield Beach Campground in Addison, PA, about 90 minutes northwest of Shepherdstown. His parents Lori and Robert

own the commercial campground/marina, and Adam helps to maintain its 30 pristine acres along Youghiogheny River Lake, a.k.a., “The Yough.”

Up in one of the dead trees, a guy wielding a chainsaw makes a terrible racket. Adam, 6-foot-1, 290 pounds, gathers the falling branches. Tossing them into the bed of a blue Chevy truck is no problem. He bench-presses over 350 pounds and squats 485 pounds. The branches are like twigs to him.

Quitting time is about 5 p.m., and, like clockwork, Adam’s thoughts transition to football. Make that the Summer Conditioning Manual — the customized document that Coach McCook emailed to each player to guide his individual offseason workouts. Today is Monday, and the manual calls for a lower body workout. Afterwards, Adam races 10 times up and down the steep hill that leads to the Yough. It’s just him, a hill, and a dream.

Kuska: *When you’re running that hill, what are you thinking?*

Stilley: *I’m thinking that I’m going to be the best that I can be for August and this coming season.*

A DETOUR AND A NEW ROADMAP FOR JOEY FISHER

June 24 — Thirty-seven days until football. It’s not quite 6 a.m., and **Joey Fisher** and younger brother **Dustin** are rolling down I-270 South to Washington D.C. with all the other Friday morning commuters.

They work for their father Jim, who owns Fisher Locks & Doors. Dad has a day off, and the Fisher brothers make their first stop at a K Street office building in the District. They install two magnetic locks. Next stop is Bethesda



Joey Fisher (76)

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY 2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE >>> SEE PAGE 7 <<<

for more of the same, then another quick job, and on to Rockville to install electronic locks in a stairwell. “We’re not that busy today, and we’re getting the jobs done fast,” Joey explains.

Around noon, they wend their way back onto I-270 North and head home. Home is a 22-acre, partially wooded piece of heaven outside Hagerstown. It’s also where they lift in the summer and work on conditioning, the family Rottweilers always nearby. Dustin also plays for Shepherd, and both are eager for August to get here already, especially Joey. Though he’s got two years of eligibility left, next season could be his last on the “O” line. The pros are beckoning. They like his 6-foot-5, 290-pound frame, and game film showing him derailing defenders with wicked, well-timed blocks.

“It’s all right there for me,” Joey says of the coming season and the chance of making his pro dream come true. It would be the perfect denouement to a collegiate career that, through no fault of his own, once nearly was derailed, too.

At Clear Spring High School (Class of 2016), Joey was a quarterback-sacking machine, a high-octane mix of speed, strength, and tenacity. College recruiters came calling, and Joey committed verbally to the University of Maryland. But about two weeks before signing the official letter of intent, Maryland fired its head coach and replaced his staff, including the assistant who recruited Joey. Things went from bad to horrible when the incoming coaching staff asked Joey to try tight end, an unfamiliar offensive position with a steep learning curve. He passed on Maryland, calling it a “gut-wrenching experience,” and the college recruiters descended again. Joey chose



Coach Earnie McCook

local powerhouse Towson State University. But he discovered belatedly that Towson’s three-man defensive front lacked a defensive end, his natural position. And so, Joey passed on Towson and sat out the 2016 season.

Now what? His high school coach (a Shepherd alum) encouraged him to consider the Rams. A meeting was arranged in the spring of 2017, and Coach McCook welcomed him with open arms. A scholarship was tendered, and Joey said he instantly “found a home at Shepherd” with a coach he liked and respected.

McCook, a former offensive lineman and a savvy evaluator of talent, also floated an unexpected question: Have you ever considered playing offensive tackle? According to McCook’s keen eye, few offensive tackles possess Fisher’s potent mix of size and speed. With time and hard work, he’d excel on the “O” line. This time, Joey nodded yes at the position change. “At this point,” he leveled with his new coach, “I just want to play.”

A PATH BLOCKED, THEN AN OPENING FOR STILLEY

July 1 — One month until football. Adam Stilley made a mental note of it. But duty already called on this Friday morning. The campground was booked solid for the Fourth of July weekend, and the grounds needed some TLC. Two days ago, a thunderstorm sprayed tree branches everywhere. Adam cruised the property in the blue Chevy truck, hauling off the downed branches for firewood. Afterwards, it was on to mowing and weed whacking — acres of it. The afternoon temperature hovered in the high 70s; the 82 percent humidity descended like a warm, soggy rag.

By late afternoon, Adam parked the New Holland riding mower and revisited that mental note from the morning: one month. Like clockwork, he’s back in his workout gear. “Tonight, I’m doing some deadlifts, incline presses, and conditioning after that.”

Adam answers all questions politely — that’s his upbringing. So is his ongoing

pursuit of excellence. He has a 4.0 GPA and will graduate next December with a master’s degree in Business Administration. Adam says he’ll pursue a business career or, his voice rising a tick, coaching is a possibility. His voice always rises when the subject is football.

Adam’s been playing football since he was young. And just like his teammate Joey Fisher’s experience, the path to Shepherd has become a story unto itself.

Adam took up football at age seven snapping the pigskin on a Jefferson County pee-wee team. His pee-wee quarterback: Tyson Bagent (see article in the April 2022 *Observer*). The two grew up together on the gridiron and starred at state prep powerhouse Martinsburg High (Stilley graduated in 2017, a year ahead of Bagent). Stilley took a chance on his college

KEEP READING >>> NEXT PAGE

FRESH, WILD CAUGHT U.S. SEAFOOD

Open Fridays
9:30am - 6pm
Saturdays
9:30am
'til Sold Out

aliblu@aol.com
540-931-8050

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

Facebook.com/LesAlisJumboSeafood

CELEBRATING OUR 28TH SEASON!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
>>> PAGES 16 & 17 <<<

HAPPY RETREAT

CRAFT BEER & MUSIC Festival

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
11 AM-6 PM

600 MORDINGTON AVE.
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

All proceeds of this event will benefit Friends of Happy Retreat

www.happyretreat.org

VISIT OUR EVENT PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE

// SPORTS — CONTINUED

Tyson Bagenet (2)



playing career — he walked on at West Virginia University without a football scholarship.

“The first few years, I was on the scout team getting beat up in practice,” he said. “I worked my tail off and became the second-string center, and I started traveling with the team to games.” But when WVU’s starting center went down with an injury in 2019, the coaches wouldn’t put a “walk-on” in the game. To this day, he’s unsure why.

But Adam got the message. He wouldn’t catch the break at WVU. Adam remembered a text exchange with Bagenet, who’d noticed his friend wasn’t starting at WVU. “He wrote, ‘We could use you. If you come here, you’ll start.’ Adam pondered the texts, and his gut told him to make a change. “I wanted to be somewhere where I’m playing, and in college you only get four years to get on the field.”

Adam transferred to Shepherd with high hopes. Then the pandemic hit, canceling the 2020 season. Like the rest of the Rams, he persevered and was ready to rumble last season. Five games into the season, he snapped a bone in his ankle and was finished for the year. “It definitely took some time to rehab,” he said, “but I’m fully recovered with no pain, thank the Lord.”

Kuska: *How would you compare Shepherd and WVU?*

Stilley: *I would say it’s a lot closer than people think, the players’ ability in D-I and D-II. Shepherd is also more like a family. The players on our team, everyone wants to be here to work together to win. I also think the Shepherd fanbase is just as supportive as any D-I fanbase out there. If Shepherd had a 60,000-seat stadium, I guarantee you our fans would be just as loud as any other place in Division I.*

Kuska: *If you could do it all over, would you have signed with Shepherd out of high school?*

Stilley: *I don’t think so. I learned a lot of hard lessons. You have to fight for what you get. I fought and fought. It just didn’t work out. But I learned a lot of life lessons and met a lot of good people in Morgantown.*



Josh Gontarek (19)

MAKING THEIR OWN LUCK

July 25 — A week until football. The offensive linemen have been texting and arranging to drive to Shepherdstown to train in person.

Joey Fisher has his eye on smashing the school record for the bench press. It’s 500 pounds, and he’s close. Real close. Mostly, Joey wants to get the season started. The Rams are ranked sixth nationally in one preseason poll and, to borrow a cliché, “They could go all the way.”

To do so, they will first have to navigate the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, one of the D-II’s toughest. As McCook reminds his players: “Nothing is given; everything is earned.” And so, these big guys on the “O” line will bake twice a day with their teammates in the August heat to be prepared to earn it come December.

But as they have also learned, sometimes you just have to say your prayers. Shepherd won two postseason thrillers in a row last season on last-gasp Hail Mary passes that smacked of sportscaster Al Michael’s famous call, “I can’t believe what I just saw.”

Joey’s memory of the second “prayer answered” remains indelible. Four points behind — Kutztown State 28, Shepherd 24. Final play. Shepherd has the ball 43 yards from the end zone. “Everything turned to slow motion,” Joey says. “Tyson rolled to his right. He threw the football and we all stopped. It was like time stood still. We saw the ball descend and [Shepherd tight end] Alex Wetzels caught it over the top of three or four guys in the end zone for the touchdown.

“Then reality snapped back into place. Everyone was running around celebrating. It was surreal.”

2022 SHEPHERD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE >>>

Register today!

Freedom's Run Race Series

Marathon | Half Marathon | 10k | 5k | Kids 1 Mile Fun Run

Register today!



October 22nd, 2022

www.freedomrun.org



Kyle Smith (11)

TAKING THE FIELD TOGETHER IN 2022

August 1 — Practice begins. With the team together again in Shepherdstown, the Rams have one month to prepare for the season-opener on September 1 at Southern Connecticut State. Shepherd hosts Edinboro University

on September 10 for its home opener. And as the clock ticks down to the start of the season, there's just one thing on each player's mind: working hard to deliver an exciting season of good old, home-town college football.

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY 2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEP 1 — SOUTHERN CONN. STATE
5:30 pm, New Haven, CT

SEP 10 — EDINBORO
Noon, Shepherdstown

SEP 17 — PENNWEST CALIFORNIA
Noon, Shepherdstown

SEP 24 — KUTZTOWN*
Noon, Kutztown, PA

OCT 1 — SHIPPENSBURG*
1:00 pm, Shippensburg PA

OCT 8 — LOCK HAVEN*
Noon, Shepherdstown

OCT 15 — MILLERSVILLE*
Noon, Shepherdstown

OCT 22 — WEST CHESTER*
Noon, West Chester, PA

OCT 29 — BLOOMSBURG*
Noon, Shepherdstown

NOV 5 — EAST STROUDSBURG*
1:05 pm, East Stroudsburg PA

NOV 12 — MERCYHURST
Noon, Erie, PA

*PSAC East Conference

Single game tickets: \$30 adult reserved seat, \$15 adult general admission; \$10/\$5 for youth (18 & under). Season ticket passes are \$140 for reserved seat, \$75 for general admission.

Gameday parking in the lots by the stadium are \$30 (Cree Lot) and \$20 (Lot B); season reserved parking is available. Season pass renewals available now; new season passes and single game tickets on sale starting August 8.

More details and ticket ordering at ShepherdRams.com, phone 304-876-5527



TAX+ACCOUNTING+CONSULTING

Martinsburg

Chad R. Lawyer, CPA

224 West King Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401

P 304-263-9447

P 304-263-8150

F 304-263-8204

Charles Town

Eric J. Lewis, CPA

205 West Liberty Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

P 304-728-6877

F 304-728-6807

Shepherdstown

Thomas C. Ours, CPA

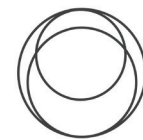
130 E German Street, Suite 100
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

P 304-263-9447 ext.4

oll-cpas.com

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

>>> PAGE 18 <<<



WAUGH

LAW & MEDIATION

Brenda Waugh, Lawyer & Mediator

waugh@brendawaugh.com

304-728-3660 (Charles Town) • 540-501-5501 (Leesburg)

Schedule your free initial consultation online-
www.brendawaugh.com

// ELECTIONS

VOTING FOR WV STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Delegate Districts In Jefferson County

THE POPULATION IN WEST VIRGINIA'S EASTERN PANHANDLE is growing and we have new district lines for the state Senate and House of Delegates for the 2022 election. We still have four Delegate districts in Jefferson County, but they now have new numbers — 97, 98, 99 & 100.

The 97th District wraps around (but stays outside of) the Town of Shepherdstown to include neighborhoods to the north of the town (Cress Creek, Fernbank, Steamboat Run, Terrapin Neck, Scrabble) as well as neighborhoods to the west of the town (Heatherfield, Mecklenburg Heights, Colonial Hills) and stretches southward to include portions of Kearneysville and Shenandoah Junction. Democrat Philip Wenner is challenging incumbent Republican John Hardy in this district.

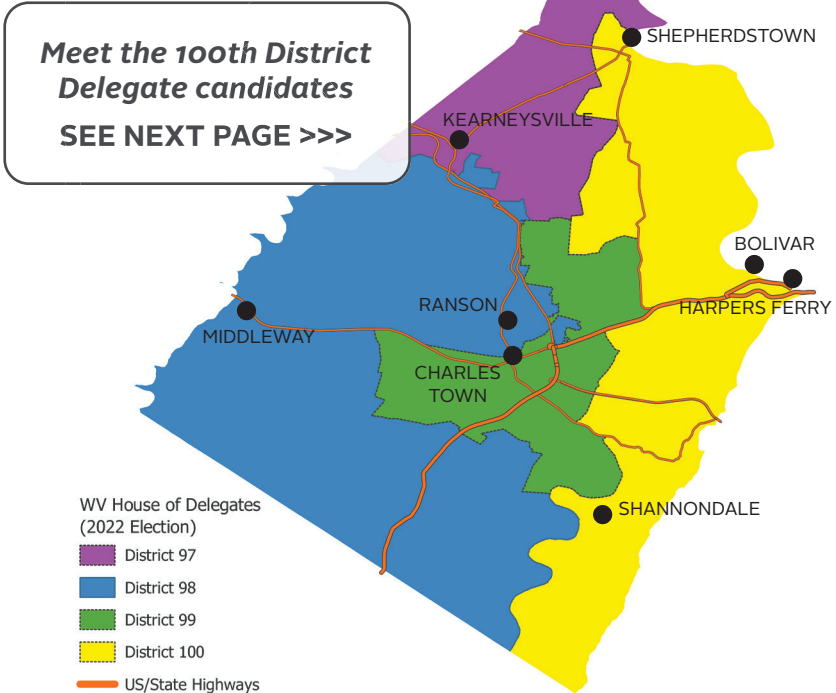
The 98th District includes the City of Ranson, along with the unincorporated areas around Johnsontown, Kearneysville, Fox Glen, Leetown, Middleway, Summit Point, Ripon, Kabletown, and Meyerstown. Incumbent Republican Paul Espinosa is running unopposed in this district.

The 99th District includes City of Charles Town, the subdivisions around Locust Hill, Huntfield, and Mechanicstown, as well as the subdivisions off of Flowings Springs Road and Old Country Club Road. Democrat Debra Cornwell is challenging incumbent Republican Wayne Clark in this district.

The 100th District includes the Town of Shepherdstown, plus Willowdale and Maddex Farms neighborhoods to the west and the neighborhoods near the elementary school to the south. This district stretches eastward to include the Towns of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry, and the unincorporated areas around Moler Crossroads, Bakerton, and

Uvilla. This district includes all of the areas to the east of the Shenandoah River (Blue Ridge, Mountain Mission, Shannondale) as well as Millville and portions of Halltown. Democrat Susan Benzinger and Republican Bill Ridenour are both new candidates running in this district.

You can find a link to an interactive district map to look up your address at WeAreTheObserver.com/2021-redistrict-wv.



Panhandle Paints
FINEST PAINT - EXPERT ADVICE

304-728-6656

99 CARY LU CIRCLE
HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425
WWW.BENJAMINMOORE.COM

have summer color year-round!

Benjamin Moore
Paint like no other.

©2022 Benjamin Moore & Co. Benjamin Moore, Color Selection Simplified, Paint like no other, and the triangle "M" symbol are registered trademarks of Benjamin Moore & Co. Printed in the USA.

SAME DAY SERVICE

Petti
PEST CONTROL

Local. Trusted. Professional.

(304) 725-9997

**GOT CARPENTER BEES?
MOSQUITOS? TERMITES?**

FREE INSPECTIONS

We can help. Give us a call today!

// ELECTIONS

The Observer invited the 100th District candidates to introduce themselves:

SUSAN BENZINGER – DELEGATE DISTRICT 100

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Web: SusanForJefferson.com;
Facebook (SusanForJefferson);
Instagram (SusanForJefferson)
email: SusanForJefferson@gmail.com
tel: 304-995-8062



Candidate Snapshot

65 years old; Resident of Jefferson County (Blue Ridge) for 10 years; Democratic Party nominee

Community service — member of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission, member of the Board of Directors of the Jefferson County Day Report Center, member of the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Foundation, Co-sponsor (with my husband) of the Raymond B. and Susan M. Benzinger Scholarship at Blue Ridge, member of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, member of the Harper’s Ferry Woman’s Club, member of the Mountain Community Center, recent graduate of Leadership Jefferson (part of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce), member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

Experience — Retired pension and tax attorney by trade; Worked for two large accounting firms (KPMG Peat Marwick, Ernst & Young), Mercer HR Consulting, Internal Revenue Service, three small legal offices (sole proprietor/partner), and a family gift shop business..

Education — Undergraduate degree from George Mason University; Law degree from George Mason University School of Law (now the Antonin Scalia Law School)

What influenced your decision to run for Delegate?

As a retired tax and pension attorney, and taxpayer, the use of tax dollars effectively, efficiently, and with transparency is something I feel strongly about. I have grown tired of seeing

issues in our community that can and must be addressed, but are not — high-speed internet, clean water and support for public school teachers and staff, to name a few. We just keep talking in circles on the same issues. and quite frankly the time for talk is over, and the time to act is now. We have resources, we just need to use them wisely to better our communities and the future of our state.

What should the residents of Jefferson County expect from a Delegate?

Residents of Jefferson County, particularly of the 100th District, deserve a representative who has their best interests at heart and is willing to bring their issues to the legislature. I am prepared to be that representative by participating in community service and community events, listening to the issues of everyone in our area, and my willingness to work with our local delegation regardless of party affiliation. I believe we all need to work together — in our district, in our County, in the Eastern Panhandle and in Charleston. As an individual delegate I will support the issues that have the greatest impact on my fellow residents.

What priorities would you advocate for in the House of Delegates?

High speed internet is no longer a luxury for the few but a necessity for all. We must have this in our district to support our children, our families, and our businesses. I am also concerned about salaries for public employees — specifically teachers, social workers, and first responders. Finally, clean water is a must to preserve our way of life in the County. Clean water supports our health, local agriculture and tourism, which in turn grows and maintains many of our local businesses.

Is there specific recent WV legislation (enacted) that you disagree with and would look to modify?

In the last legislative session, there seemed to be a focus on more, rather than less, government oversight of West Virginians rather than private companies operating in the state. For instance, the majority passed legislation, SB 694, protecting energy companies over protecting the rights of our citizens. The measure makes it easier for gas companies to extract resources from beneath landowners’ property — even without their consent.

Additionally, the legislature passed bills to keep the public from accessing information from agencies supported by taxpayer dollars. In the last session, the legislature passed bills to block the release of records from jails and prisons, and denied requests to stream videos of their public meetings.

ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY
 >>> PAGE 20 <<<

COUNTERTOP SOLUTIONS

10% OFF COUNTERTOPS
(Levels 1 - 6 Only)

Includes Material, Template, Fabrication & Installation

* 0% Financing Available

240-716-6569
 286 Langston Blvd. Martinsburg, WV | Open Daily
www.granitecountertopsolutions.com

// ELECTIONS — CONTINUED



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

**FARM USE FORMS &
FARM STATISTICS**
File by September 1st

**COMMERCIAL BUSINESS
REPORT**
Due by September 1st
(Corporation & Business Forms)

**PERSONAL PROPERTY
REPORT***
Due by October 1st
*Online filing available

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
Apply by December 1st

Located in the
Charles Town Courthouse
100 East Washington Street
(304) 728-3224
Monday - Friday | 9am - 5pm

Handicapped entrance -
108 East Washington Street

jefferson.wvassessor.com

AMBULANCE SERVICE CHANGES
>>> PAGE 19 <<<

As I mentioned before, my work as a tax attorney allows me to really appreciate the use of taxpayer dollars from the appropriations aspect. For instance, I am concerned that we're using the people's hard earned taxed dollars to support private education. This takes funding and resources away from our public schools in a way that is not consistent with our constitutional provisions as it relates to educating youth.

While the legislature did pass a bill relating to broadband (high-speed internet), the governor ended up vetoing the measure. We have been debating this issue for years and while most legislators aren't impacted by the lack of internet service, there are thousands of people in my district and around the state that do not have reliable internet. This impacts education, economic and workforce development, tourism - you name it. Each year we do nothing, the cost goes higher and we continue to lose ground on recruiting and retaining new businesses, supporting small businesses, and our children fall behind in their studies.

Is there specific recent WV legislation (not enacted) that you would like to re-introduce?

What I was most disappointed in from the last session was what appeared to be a greater interest in helping special interests and corporations than helping West Virginians. A few examples include HB 4252, which would have capped patient costs for insulin and equipment to manage their diabetes.

Then there is the failure of the legislature

to pass HB 4344 to address the state's foster care system and begin to develop a core plan to solve the systemic issues in the state that has created the largest foster care population in the nation right here in West Virginia. As Frederick Douglass said "It is easier to raise strong children than repair broken men." We must act now to help these children.

Ultimately, we need the legislature to govern in a way that develops a proactive plan to help the state grow economically and not interfere in the daily lives of Mountaineers.

In light of recent decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court and actions by the federal government, the WV legislature will likely be discussing legislation touching on multiple rights of citizens. Do you have specific views to share with voters on any of these issues?

Our founding fathers wrote the constitution to protect each and every one of us from a government that would be too powerful and would interfere with our individual pursuits and desires to live our lives as we see fit. Individual colonies were concerned that the new federal government would override state governments. As a result, our Constitution was written to limit the power of the government. The amendments added guidance on keeping the government out of our houses, thoughts, religions, bedrooms, and doctor's offices. I will support legislation that keeps the government at bay in our daily lives and I will not support restrictions on our rights to live as we wish.

BILL RIDENOUR – DELEGATE DISTRICT 100

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Web: BillRidenourforDelegate2022.com
Facebook (Bill Ridenour for WV Delegate - District 100)
Instagram (BillRidenourforDelegate)
Gab (BillRidenourforDelegate)
email: Elect@BillRidenourforDelegate2022.com
tel: 703-868-2837

Candidate Snapshot

64 years old; Resident of Jefferson County for 1 year; Republican Party nominee

Community service — Cub Scout Patrol leader; Boy Scout leader; Youth sports coach

Experience — Defense Intelligence Officer, Navy Intelligence Directorate, Counterintelligence Field Activity, Defense Intelligence Agency (2000 - 2021); Marine Corps (1980 - 2000); NROTC (1976-1980); Sawyer (part time) in Sawmill (1973 - 1979)

Education — Marine Corps War College (Master's Strategic Studies - Distinguished Graduate); University of Oklahoma (Master's Managerial Economics); Defense Intelligence College (Post-Graduate Intelligence Program); Marine Corps Command and Staff College and Amphibious Warfare School; Purdue University (undergraduate)



What influenced your decision to run for Delegate?

In 2021, as the Chief of Strategic Policy in the Pentagon's Intelligence Directorate, I witnessed firsthand the disaster of the Biden presidency. I saw Biden's Leftist national security and domestic policy teams ignore any concerns for their catastrophic actions. After witnessing the debacle of Afghanistan, the impending Russian invasion of Ukraine, social engineering of our

military, economic chaos, and other disasters I can't discuss, I decided I had a responsibility to do what I could to oppose a regime that is threatening our Liberty, and economic and national security. Based on studying our Founding and our governmental system, I knew that our state legislature was designed to be the principal check on federal power, so I decided to run and do what I can to help ensure West Virginia remains an Oasis of Liberty.

What should the residents of Jefferson County expect from a Delegate?

The People of District 100 do not work for the government; the People's representatives work for them. I will work for the People. I will strive to ensure our People can pursue their lives without government interference. I will work to advance Free Enterprise and create an environment to attract businesses to West Virginia to ensure good jobs for our People. I will further open our economy to investment and businesses by improving infrastructure, cutting unnecessary regulations, and reducing taxes. I will strongly oppose any federal overreach and unconstitutional actions. I will work to improve our local infrastructure, including improving broadband internet for homes and businesses, and road infrastructure. I will help increase school choice for families. I will work to provide cost of living increases for our teachers and police. I will work as hard and honestly for the People of Jefferson County as I did as a Marine in defense of our country. I will be transparent and accessible to the People.

What priorities would you advocate for in the House of Delegates?

If elected, I will — Work with state agencies and other groups to create legislation to push back on federal overreach, and reinforce West Virginia's sovereignty and Liberty; Increase West Virginia's energy production in defiance of the federal government to ensure we have power for our communities and businesses; Enhance education by increasing school choice, including funding students not systems, refocusing on core subjects, opposing vice indoctrination, and opposing anti-American, racist and sexualization propaganda; Reduce state government bureaucracy and unnecessary regulations, to ease burdens on our People, and businesses, to create more jobs. Increase government accountability; Combat corruption in government, including establishing an independent Office of Inspector General; Require prosecution of certain crimes; Work with other state legislatures to combat the illegal immigration and the drug epidemic crises the Biden regime is creating.

Is there specific recent WV legislation (not enacted) that you would like to re-introduce?

I would support legislation to — Counter racism, sexism, and political-economic bias in schools; Ban vaccine and mask mandates; Further protect the right to keep and bear arms;. Ban illegal immigrant sanctuary cities and require local entities to enforce immigration laws; Provide cost of living allowances for state police and teachers.

In light of recent decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court and actions by the federal government, the WV legislature will likely be discussing legislation touching on multiple rights of citizens. Do you have specific views to share with voters on any of these issues?

Religious freedom is critical for a free society and we should oppose efforts to suppress religion. Freedom of speech is under attack by collusion between the Biden regime, the legacy media and large corporations. I believe this is the greatest threat to Liberty in our history. I strongly support the 2nd Amendment, and will help make West Virginia a gun rights sanctuary state, ensure the federal government cannot interfere in our rights, and ban federal red flag laws. I am pro-Life and welcome the Supreme Court's decision to properly return the decision to the states, where it always should have been.

The Observer will be inviting other candidates to introduce themselves in the coming months. Read our election coverage online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections



Stay online.
Not on hold.

Internet backed by the industry's best customer service.



Faster upload speeds

Great for 4K video streaming, video conferencing, uploading large files, and online gaming.



A consistent, steady connection

Connection is glitch-free and not affected by heavy internet traffic times.



A simple installation

As easy to install as other internet options.

(877) 268-2GLO
glofiber.com

More election coverage at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections

TRACKING THE BATS OVERHEAD

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.

LAST SATURDAY NIGHT, I led a friend and her family on a bat walk. She said it was the only thing she wanted for her birthday, so I met her at her house near Ranson, West Virginia around 8:30 pm. It had rained all day but started to clear up in the late afternoon. Perfect “batting” weather.

I attached my Echo Meter Touch 2 bat detector into the lightning port of my iPhone while we stood talking in the front room of her house. Her daughters, aged 4 and 5, were excited to see the color pictures I gave them of the bats we were likely to record. It wasn't yet dark outside but almost immediately, bat vocalizations showed up on my screen and I pressed the “record” button. My bat detector can isolate and pick up most sounds bats make, create a visual spectrogram of the sounds, record them at various speeds, and sometimes identify the bat species.

By then half a dozen family members of various ages were ready to go on our bat walk. I explained echolocation, how bats use their voices to navigate in total darkness by making rapid, high-pitched squeaks or clicks and then listening to the reflected sound, or echo, as it bounces off objects. That's how bats find a flying moth to catch for dinner, or avoid crashing into the wall of a cave or a projecting stick that might be in their flight path.

Bats also communicate with each other by making social sounds. But the bat detector can't determine the bat's identity by these sounds, and labels them as “No I.D.” Just after I explained why we wouldn't be able to identify all bat sounds, reference pictures of two bats popped up on my phone screen. We had recorded either a silver haired bat or a big brown bat. The silver-haired, listed first, was the most likely choice. Each bat's picture was linked to a Wikipedia description of the bat species, which I read to the group. Everyone seemed excited. Somebody said, “I didn't even know there was more than one kind of bat.”

Capitalizing on this excitement, I flipped down the menu to a GPS view. Superimposed over a satellite photo of our location, the flight path of every bat we had recorded so far appeared in bright magenta-red. The group was impressed that bats passed directly over our friend's house.

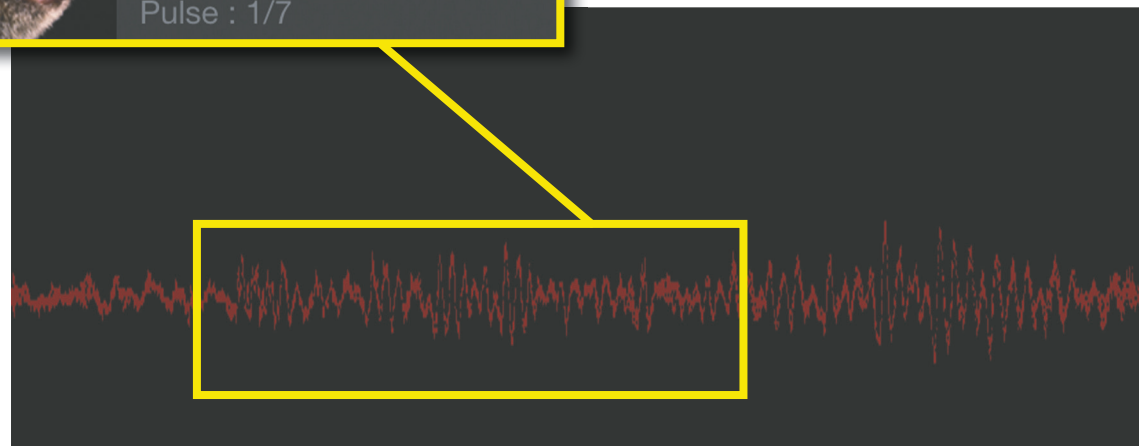
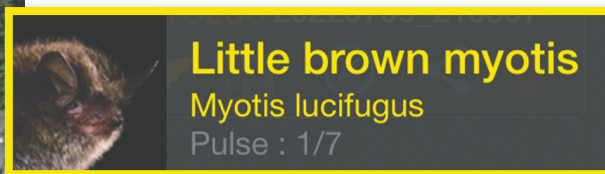
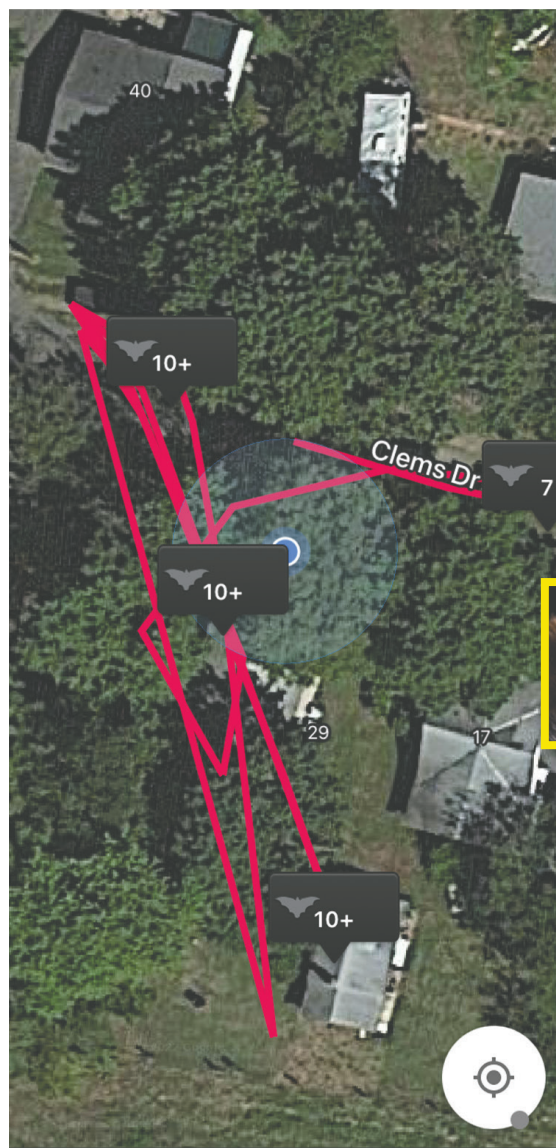
For the next half hour, we walked down the road through the subdivision. We paused at the edge of an adjacent field and again in front of an abandoned shed. Bat recordings continued to appear on my phone screen. By the end of the evening we had made about 200 bat recordings and yet we never went more than a few hundred yards from the house.

As we returned, I told the story of the little brown bat. Once the most common bat in our area, it is now very rare because so many of them have died of a fungus disease that attacks bats in the winter during hibernation. I described how the disease causes the bats to wake up and fly around during the day, depleting their energy so they can't survive the winter. Just then, a picture of a little brown bat flashed on the screen, along with its recording. A rare little brown bat had just flown overhead!

Back on the front porch I played back some of the recordings we had made, explaining how the spectrogram slows down the recording so it is within the range of human hearing, distorting the sound. Both little girls were fascinated by the slowed-down bat sounds, which sounded more like tolling church bells than high-pitched clicks.

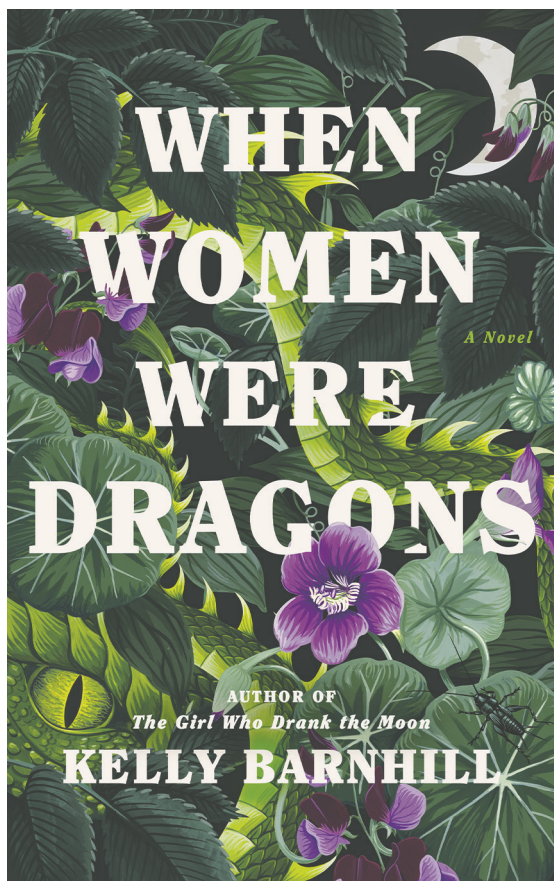
Our friend was ecstatic that we had recorded a little brown bat as well as eastern red bat, big brown bat, silver-haired bat, hoary bat, tricolored bat and evening bat. Next day, she texted me that she was just thrilled to do this on her birthday and that she would do it again.

When I show people my bat recordings, they're often surprised at how many different kinds of bats we have. And I've learned that bats are virtually everywhere.



(Above, left) A GPS view of our friend's house with flight paths of bats we recorded plotted in red. (Above, right) A spectrogram of the recording we made of the little brown bat. Myotis is part of its scientific name, *Myotis lucifugus*, which means “mouse eared bat that flees from the light.”

ASKING QUESTIONS, RECOVERING TRUTH



When Women Were Dragons, by Kelly Barnhill, 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.

I CAME ACROSS *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill just after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The reviews indicated that it was a book about women’s rage, and also dragons. What’s not to love, I thought? I did indeed love it, but I was also surprised by the tender coming-of-age story about a grieving girl, and the powerful indictment of a society that tries to force its people to sweep their traumas under the carpet. This is a book I will be gifting to friends and one day, to my own daughter.

The novel imagines a 1950s America in which hundreds of thousands of angry, oppressed women spontaneously transform into dragons and take to the skies and the seas, leaving behind countless ruined families. Although there isn’t a single person unaffected

by this “mass dragoning,” the phenomenon is heavily — and effectively — censored. It is “too embarrassing to look at. Too inappropriate. It’s dragons, after all — tainted, it would seem, with feminine stink. Such things are not discussed. Best forgotten, people said. People are awfully good at forgetting unpleasant things.” The story of how this event and its cover-up transforms the country is mirrored in the life story of the narrator, Alex. She is a brilliant young girl whose mother dies, whose aunt dragons, whose father abandons her to raise her cousin (now her “sister”) on her own, and whose culture tells her just because she is female, she should “keep her eyes on the ground.”

Meanwhile, groups of scholars and scientists go underground to try to understand the phenomenon. But it is the 1950s, and those who question what happened (and continues to happen) to so many women are swiftly deemed “un-American,” condemned and blackballed. Just as Alex is forced to pretend that her aunt never existed and she has always had a sister (rather than a cousin), so too is America forced to pretend that there is no such thing as dragons. But there are unavoidable consequences to this kind of forgetting, and the trauma cannot remain hidden forever.

Here the novel has uncomfortable parallels with our lives today, even beyond the obvious theme of women’s rage. As one of the scholars explains in his history of dragons, the pages of which punctuate the larger story like a kind of found footage, “Men delight in nothing so much as to recast themselves in the center of the story. And throughout history, the bouts of female dragoning are almost universally followed by a collective refusal to accept incontrovertible facts, and a society-wide decision to forget verifiable events that are determined to be too alarming, too messy, too unsettling.” There are echoes here of our current times, of the disinformation that clouds our judgement, whether it’s abortion rights, vaccines, school shootings, or the legacies of slavery.

This novel is the best kind of magical realism, in that the presence of dragons feels somehow completely natural. And its ultimate lesson will stick with me, and I hope for all the other readers who find themselves immersed in this beautiful story: that “embarrassment, as it turns out, is more powerful than information. And shame is the enemy of truth.” For those who would typically avoid any genre including these great winged beasts, I encourage you to try this novel anyway — unfortunately, it does not require nearly as much suspension of disbelief as you might imagine.

UNDERCURRENTS

Birds By the Shore, by Jennifer Ackerman

Penguin Random House (2019) \$16.00



For three years, Jennifer Ackerman lived in the small coastal town of Lewes, Delaware, in the sort of blue-water, white-sand landscape that draws summer crowds up and down the eastern seaboard. With a quiet passion and friendly, generous intelligence, Ackerman explores how landscape shapes our thoughts and perceptions and shows that home ground is often where we feel the deepest response to the planet.

Life Between the Tides, by Adam Nicolson

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (2022) \$30.00



As Adam Nicolson journeys between the tides, both in the pools he builds along the coast of Scotland and through the timeline of scientific discovery, he is accompanied by great thinkers — Virginia Wolf, T.S. Eliot, and even Nicolson’s father-in-law, a classical scholar in his own right. No one can escape the pull of the sea or the mystery found in rock pools, where you can look beyond your own reflection and find the miraculous an inch beneath your nose.



The Last Resort, by Sara Stodola

Harper Collins (2022) \$27.99

A captivating exploration of beach resort culture — from its roots in fashionable society to its undervalued role in today’s world economy — as the travel industry approaches a climate reckoning. With its promise of escape from the strains of everyday life, the beach has a hold on the popular imagination as the ultimate paradise. In *The Last Resort*, Sarah Stodola dives into the psyche of the beachgoer. At the same time, she grapples with the darker realities of resort culture: strangleholds on local economies, reckless construction, erosion of beaches, weighty carbon footprints, and the inevitable overdevelopment and decline that comes with a soaring demand for popular shorelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY

FOUR SEASONS BOOKS

114 W GERMAN ST, SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV
 FOURSEASONSBOOKS.COM
 4SEASONS114@GMAIL.COM
 (304) 876-3486

// ENVIRONMENT

FREEDOM'S RUN 2022 – YOUR SOLUTION TO THE COMFORT CRISIS

SO MANY THINGS TODAY COMPETE for our attention and energy. So it's no surprise that when we get a few minutes of peace we seek comfort. But a book I brought on a summer trip to Oregon suggests we should regularly seek to get out of our comfort zones.

In *The Comfort Crisis*, author Michael Easter writes: "Do Hard Things and the rest of life gets easier." Easter argues "Most people today rarely step outside their comfort zones... We are living progressively sheltered, sterile, temperature-controlled, overfed, under-challenged, safety-netted lives."

A few key excerpts from the book:

"A radical new body of evidence shows that people are at their best – physically harder, mentally tougher and spiritually sounder – after experiencing the same discomfort that our early ancestors were exposed to every day."

"Scientists are finding that certain discomfort protects us from physical and psychological problems like obesity, heart disease, cancers, diabetes, depression and anxiety. And even more fundamental issues like feeling a lack of meaning and purpose."

For many of us the last two years have pushed us out of our comfort zones dealing with family, jobs, children, and our own health during the era of coronavirus. But we don't need (or want) a global public health crisis to help keep us focused on our health and overall wellness.

This is where a "misogi" can help. *The Comfort Crisis* describes a misogi as a challenge you set up to test yourself both physically and psychologically. A misogi challenge asks: "What



Participants at the start of the 2021 Freedom's Run event.

are you mentally and spiritually willing to put yourself through to become a better human?"

The benchmark for a good misogi challenge is that you should have about a 50 percent chance to make it, and that's if things go right. Sir Edmund Hillary, famous for his ascent of Mount Everest with Tenzing Norgay, understood misogi when he reflected: "If you set out on an adventure, and you are absolutely convinced you're going to be successful, why bother starting?"

So what does *The Comfort Crisis* and misogis have to do with Freedom's Run? Challenging yourself to do something that is not comfortable, having the courage to prepare, and spending some time alone in nature can do magical things. Training for a running event presents those challenges.

Freedom's Run is an event that traverses a terrain full of history and beauty – as well as challenge. The full marathon will start in Harpers Ferry, include a loop through the beautiful Murphy Farm, continue down Shoreline Drive to cross the Potomac River footbridge to the C&O Canal, then proceed upriver. The marathoners will blend with the half runners at mile 15.

The 5K, 10K and Half Marathon will start in Shepherdstown. The 5K and 10K will go across Rumsey Bridge and do a "there-and-back" on the C&O Canal and then back across the bridge into town to finish at Ram Stadium.

The Half Marathon will course down river on C&O Canal to meet the marathoners on Miller Saw Mill Rd. and proceed into Antietam National Battlefield. The beautiful course runs through one of the Battlefield grassy trails that offers 360 degree views and hilly challenges as well as past Burnside Bridge to return along the C&O Canal into town. All events, including the one-mile kids fun run, finish at Ram Stadium.

Challenge yourself! The Freedom's Run Race is Saturday, October 22, 2022. Event info, course maps, and registration details available online at [FreedomRun.org](https://freedomrun.org).

By Mark Cucuzzella

Mark Cucuzzella MD, FAAFP, is a Professor of Family Medicine at West Virginia University School of Medicine and a practitioner at the WVU Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Health and Shepherdstown Medical office.



JOINT & SPORTS INJURIES
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Joint pain holding you back?

Use your own cells to heal faster!

FREE CONSULTATIONS FOR A LIMITED TIME
CALL 304-900-0777 OR VISIT [JSIRM.COM](https://jsirm.com)



Timothy George, NP-C

EXPLORE // WRITER'S CONFERENCE

WRITERS CONFERENCE RETURNS TO SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

MANUSCRIPT TO MARKETPLACE, A CONFERENCE for writers of all genres, will take place on the Shepherd University campus September 9 & 10 and is expected to draw attendees from across the region and beyond.

Conference founder and co-director Alan Gibson, a Shepherdstown resident, is a published author with a background in advertising. According to Gibson, writers of all levels are welcome to attend the conference — especially aspiring writers who want to learn how to get published and market their work. Conference attendees will be able to network and trade insights not only with fellow writers, but also with publishing industry luminaries.

Publishing guru Robin Cutler will kick off the conference with a keynote on “Transitioning from Self-Published to Published: Things You Need to Know.” Cutler has experienced all facets of publishing and was responsible for the creation of one of the largest self-publishing platforms, IngramSpark. She is now CEO of HowToPublishBooks.com, among other roles.

Another keynote will explore how the internet and other technologies are changing what it means to be a writer. In “The Digital Era of Authorship: Thinking Beyond the Book,” publishing industry analyst Jane Friedman will describe how writers can adapt to changes in how content is distributed to readers.

Stephen Spotswood, an award-winning playwright, journalist, and educator based in Washington, D.C., will close the conference with a talk designed

to help attendees ask the right questions about their journey as writers.

2022 marks this conference’s second year with plans to make it an annual event. New to the conference this year is the opportunity to book one-on-one consultations in which attendees can receive candid expert feedback. Topics of these sessions include: “Manuscript Review; Pitch to a Publisher; Pitch to an Agent;” and “Every Book Needs a Killer First Line.” Also new are prizes which will be awarded in the categories of “flash fiction,” short poems, and “killer first lines.”

Shepherdstown-based independent book store Four Seasons Books will operate a book sale during the entirety of the conference. Four Seasons owner Kendra Goldsborough is also on the conference committee which includes several university representatives. Local mystery author Lee Doty has joined Gibson as overall co-director.

The registration fee to attend the conference (see below) includes reception, lunch, and snacks. Conference organizers hope the heavily-discounted registration fee for students makes it clear that they are welcome and encouraged to attend Manuscript to Market.

Online registration for the conference is at WritersConferenceSU.com. Regular registration fee is \$199 and for students with ID only \$10. **Readers of The Observer can take \$25 off the regular registration fee with discount code WVO25.**



Robin Cutler



Jane Friedman



Stephen Spotswood

Manuscript
to **Marketplace**

The Design Center, LLC
Blinds, Shades, Shutters, Upholstery, Custom Window Treatments and So Much More!
304-260-8810 or 304-676-7785

Sue Marks-Designer/Owner

112 West Burke Street
Martinsburg, W.Va. 25401
www.designmartinsburg.com

We'll make design projects fun for you!!!
email: designcenter@frontiernet.net
Residential and Commercial Design Svcs.

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

DAVID E. DARNELL, CPA

By Appointment Only
304-725-5712

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

Accounting, Bookkeeping and Payroll Services

59 RULAND ROAD, SUITE F, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430
conveniently located off of Route 9, behind the Jefferson County DMV

THOMAS SHEPHERD INN

Now Open Under
New Ownership!



FREE PARKING ♦ WiFi ♦ EXCELLENT LOCATION
UPDATED GUEST ROOMS ♦ BREAKFAST INCLUDED
PRIVATE GARDEN PORCH

300 West German Street, Shepherdstown, WV
304-876-3715 ♦ ThomasShepherdInn.com

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

JULY EVENTS

UNTIL JUL 31 – CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL – Performances and special events daily at multiple venues on the Shepherd University campus · Web: CATF.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



Courtesy of the SVSGEA

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

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

AUGUST EVENTS

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



Courtesy of Speak Stories

AUG 9 (WED) – STORYTELLER CARRIE SUE AYVAR – Tales & stories from around the world · 7:30 pm · Presented by Speak Stories, Online only · \$15 · Web: SpeakStorySeries.com

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



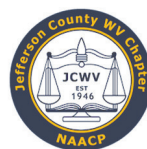
Courtesy of Potomac Valley Audubon Society

AUG 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

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 ad below

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)



AUG 20 (SAT) – AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL & HERITAGE FESTIVAL – Sponsored by Jefferson County WV NAACP · Parade, vendors, food, music, family-friendly · Noon - 9 pm · Downtown Charles Town WV · FREE · FB: @JCWVNAACP

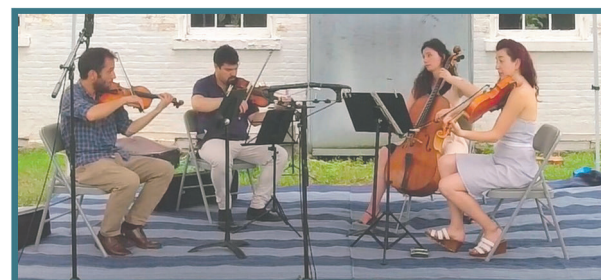


Celebrating History, Nature, Culture
APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
 August 15-28, 2022



Harpers Ferry | Charles Town | Shepherdstown | Hillsboro | Purcellville | Berryville | Middleburg

2 WEEKS **14** CONCERTS **10** VENUES
 BLUEGRASS WORKSHOP EDUCATION & OUTREACH
www.appalachianchamber.org



EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

AUG 20-21 (SAT-SUN) – WORLD WAR II WEEKEND – Explore the lives of civilians and soldiers during the WWII era, presented by reenactors and WWII veterans · Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 North Market Street, Frederick, MD · FREE · Web: RoseHillMuseum.org



AUG 27-28 (SAT-SUN) – HERITAGE SPUD FEST – Pick your own potatoes, craft festival, food trucks, fresh-made potato chips · Washington County Ag Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro MD · FREE · Web: RuralHeritageMuseum.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 9-10 (FRI-SAT) – 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 >>> See article page 15

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](https://www.facebook.com/HappyRetreat) >>> See ad page 6

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: BlueGoosePottery.com >>>



SEP 23-25 (FRI-SUN) – MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL – Juried show with 200+ artists & artisans · 10 am - 5 pm daily · Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 1707 Old Leetown Pike, Kearneysville WV · Tickets \$10 (under 13 FREE) · Web: MHACfestival.org

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. Shepherd University campus. Web: Shepherd.edu/Appalachian

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: FreedomRun.org >>> See article page 14

FARMERS MARKETS (WEEKLY)

- CHARLES TOWN** · Saturdays 9 am - noon · FB: [Charles Town Farmers Market WV](https://www.facebook.com/CharlesTownFarmersMarket)
- MARTINSBURG (DOWNTOWN)** · Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm · FB: [@MartinsburgFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/MartinsburgFarmersMarket)
- MARTINSBURG (SHOPPING PLAZA)** · Sundays 9 am - 1 pm · FB: [Southside Farmers Market](https://www.facebook.com/SouthsideFarmersMarket)
- SHEPHERDSTOWN** · Sundays 9 am - 1 pm · FB [@ShepherdstownFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdstownFarmersMarket)

EXPLORE // EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

SUMMER FAIRS & FESTIVALS

MARYLAND RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL · AUG 27 - Oct 23 (weekends) · 1821 Crownsville Rd, Annapolis MD · Web: RennFest.com >>> See article page 15

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



Courtesy of Loudoun County Fair



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



Courtesy of Clarke County Fair



SHEPHERDSTOWN FAIRY FESTIVAL · OCT 15 - 16 · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · Tickets \$25 (weekend), \$15 (day), under 13 FREE gate, lawn seating · Web: TheFairiesAreComing.org

MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN & IN THE VALLEY



The **Appalachian Chamber Music Festival** is not your typical classical music performance. Katie Tertell, the founder and artistic director of the festival, has made it a mission to bring the chamber music format into non-traditional spaces and to attract audiences that might otherwise not experience this type of performance. Fundamentally, chamber music brings performers and audiences together in intimate spaces – really just an early version of a house concert. This year's festival will explore the connections between folk and classical music, particularly with the Scottish and Appalachian traditions. The program features classical works, new music composed especially for the festival, and a performance of Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring in its original format.

The 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.



Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle™

Sales
Service/Repairs
Shuttle Service

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

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

304-876-3000 — 115 W German St
ThePedalPaddle.com

Two Rivers Treads
RUN · WALK · HEALTH

- Foot Health & Wellness
- Gait Analysis
- Running & Hiking Gear
- Group Runs & Walks

400 S. Mildred St.
Ranson, WV 25438
304.885.8843

Shop with us online at:
TwoRiversTreads.com

“Whenever we give up, leave behind, and forget too much, there is always the danger that the things we have neglected will return with added force.”

—C.G. Jung
(Memories, Dreams and Reflections, p. 277)

Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

INDIVIDUALS · COUPLES · ADULTS · ADOLESCENTS
Harpers Ferry · 304.261.2771 · Shepherdstown

EXPLORE // JEFFERSON COUNTY EMS UPDATES

JEFFERSON COUNTY PURCHASES AMBULANCES

Many Questions Remain on Organization, Staffing, Locations, and Budget

IN A UNANIMOUS VOTE on July 8, the Jefferson County Commission approved a plan to purchase 10 ambulances as part of the EMS reorganization project. As of July 21, the Commission has approved requisitions for 7 ambulances (including equipment) from local volunteer fire companies, for a total of \$1.68 million. If the requisition amounts for the additional 3 ambulances are similar, the total amount allocated to ambulance and equipment purchase would be in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million. The Commission has reserved a total of \$5 million for the EMS reorganization project, with the funds coming from the \$11.2 million in federal funds received by the County under the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act.

A Proposed Deployment Model

The July 8 meeting also featured a presentation by Bob Burner, Director of the County's Emergency Services Administration (ESA). The map at right shows a proposed deployment of 10 ambulances (4 of which would be used as spares). In this model, the ESA would operate 6 Advanced Life Support ambulances staffed during the day and 5 ALS ambulances staffed at night, operating from four existing stations — Citizens (Charles Town), Independent (Ranson), Friendship (Harpers Ferry), and Shepherdstown.

More Paid Staff

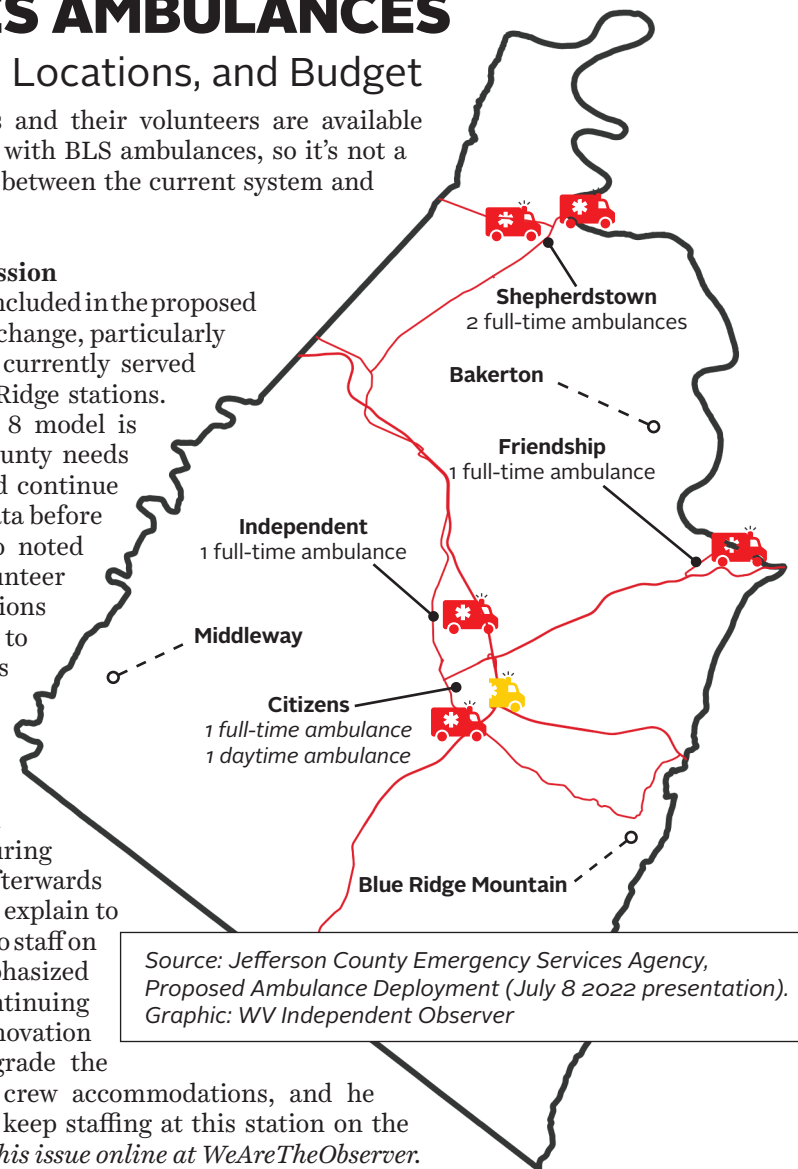
The proposed model assigns 3 more ESA staff compared to the current system, which staffs 4 ALS and 1 Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances during the day and 4 ALS ambulances at night. In the current system, the ambulances are owned

by the volunteer companies and their volunteers are available to supplement the ESA staff with BLS ambulances, so it's not a straightforward comparison between the current system and the proposed model.

Locations Still Up For Discussion

The geographic deployment included in the proposed model would be a significant change, particularly for the areas of the county currently served by the Middleway and Blue Ridge stations. Burner noted that the July 8 model is preliminary and that the county needs to do additional analysis and continue to evaluate actual incident data before finalizing locations. He also noted that the individual volunteer organizations own the stations and the County will need to negotiate acceptable terms for leasing space for the ambulance operations.

The Chief of the Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer company, Earl Cogle, was in the audience during the meeting and remarked afterwards that "the County will have to explain to the community why there is no staff on the mountain." He also emphasized that his organization is continuing ahead with a planned renovation of its station house to upgrade the ambulance equipment and crew accommodations, and he is hopeful that the ESA will keep staffing at this station on the mountain. *More coverage of this issue online at WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-2022.*



Source: Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, Proposed Ambulance Deployment (July 8 2022 presentation). Graphic: WV Independent Observer

LOCAL STORIES · LOCAL ISSUES
LOCAL CUSTOMERS

The Observer covers community news, local events & local business

MAILS DIRECT TO 13,000+ JEFFERSON COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS

ON THE WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

On the web at WeAreTheObserver.com

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

Susan!
BENZINGER ★

for House of Delegates 100th District

www.SusanforJefferson.com
@susanforjefferson

PAID FOR BY SUSAN BENZINGER FOR DELEGATE, RAYMOND B. BENZINGER, TREASURER

ENGAGE // COMMUNITY ISSUES

QUESTIONS FOR SOLAR PROJECTS

THE COUNTY COMMISSION discussed permit fees for solar projects at its July 21 meeting. The commissioners discussed a range of fees, with Commissioner Jane Tabb proposing \$700,000 to ensure the County covers its review and inspection costs while Commissioner Steve Stolipher suggested a cap of \$75,000. Projects of similar size in nearby jurisdictions pay permit fees ranging from \$700,000 to \$1,400,000. The Commission decided to defer a decision and requested staff to provide further research and recommendations to be presented at a future meeting (Aug 4 or Aug 18).



The **Blake solar project** had a Public Hearing at the Board of Zoning Appeals for a Conditional Use Permit on July 28 at 2 pm. There will be a Public Workshop at the Jefferson County Planning Commission on **August 9 (Tue) at 7 pm**. Members of the public are invited to attend and comment on the Concept Plan. The Blake solar 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.

A second utility-scale solar project, **Wild Hill**, will have a Public Hearing on its Concept Plan at the Board of Zoning Appeals on **August 25 (Thu) at 2 pm** and a Public Workshop for a Conditional Use Permit at the Planning Commission on **September 13 (Tue) at 7 pm**. This project was previously reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to the adoption of the current solar project zoning guidelines. This project is sited on several large parcels off of Kabletown Road south of Old Cave Road and extends westward to the Cloverdale Heights subdivision.

All meetings will be held 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 South Samuel St). Additional information online at WeAreTheObserver.com/solar-in-jefferson

SHEPHERDSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Review Committee Seeks Volunteers for Plan Update



THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN for the Corporation of Shepherdstown is due for an update. As a first step, the Town Council has authorized the Planning Commission to create a committee of volunteers to review and assess the Town's progress towards the goals set forth in the 2014 plan and to make recommendations for updates and revisions to be included in the 2024 plan. Any community member can serve on the committee (regardless of whether you live in the Town proper or not).

The Comprehensive Plan includes topics such as Land Use, Housing, Economic Development & Tourism, Transportation, Public Services & Infrastructure, Parks & Recreation, Natural & Environmental Resources, Historic Preservation, and Cultural Resources.

*Volunteer applications due no later than **August 8 (Mon)**. Forms/links are available online at WeAreTheObserver.com/Shepherdstown-Comp-Plan-Review*



Perfect for working adults!



Get your degree **FULLY ONLINE**
from Shepherd University

CHOOSE FROM


- Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)
- M.A. Curriculum and Instruction
- Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
- M.S. Data Analytics and Information Systems

MORE INFORMATION

www.shepherd.edu/online

THE
FUTURE
OF **YOU**

Learn more about **YOU** at Shepherd University
www.shepherd.edu



The **WV Independent Observer** writes about community news, local events, and feature stories of interest to the people who live, work, and visit Jefferson County, West Virginia.
For more of our stories, visit **WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM**