

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 2022

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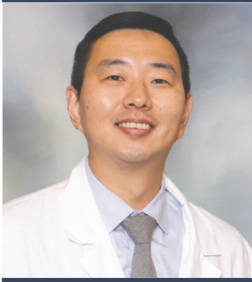
WELCOME



WVUMedicine.org

WVU Medicine is pleased to introduce 11 new providers who have joined our medical staffs at Berkeley Medical Center, Jefferson Medical Center and University Healthcare Physicians.

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VIGNESH GUNASEKARAN MD



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STACEY HANLON MD



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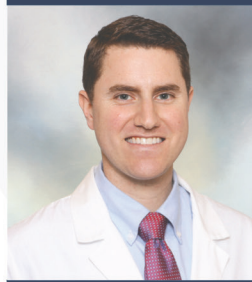
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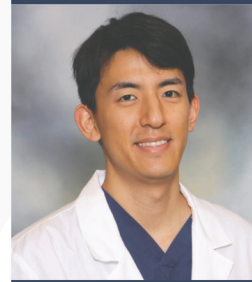
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Spring Mills 304.596.5165

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



Friends of George Kalathas gather for a candlelight vigil outside of his pizza restaurant at the corner of Mill & German Streets in Shepherdstown. George was a fixture behind the counter for five decades, feeding the appetites — and warming the hearts — of generations of students and local residents. His death in early October was a loss felt by the entire community.

TO OUR READERS — As election season draws to a close and we head into the holiday season, it's worthwhile to remind ourselves about the things that can bring us together. That's something that many in Shepherdstown were thinking about in early October when they heard the news about George Kalathas (above). We seemed to have missed a lot of celebrating time over the past two years, so we're looking forward to this year's festivities for some extra cheer (pages 5 & 9).

We wrap up *The Observer's* election coverage this month with an analysis of the amendments to the West Virginia Constitution on the ballot. Like the County Commission's initial approach to the EMS transition, the proposed Amendment 2 to allow the Legislature to exempt certain types of property from local taxes seems to be lacking in specifics — and has certainly roused opposition across the political spectrum. You can find profiles of all of the Jefferson County candidates running local and state offices at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-Elections.

Lawrence Crouse Workshops, a family-owned company celebrating 50 years of making hand-made furniture, is one of many small manufacturing businesses in Jefferson County. It's never easy keeping a small business going, and well-thought-out tax reforms that work fairly for all companies — not just subsidies for big corporations — would be greatly appreciated by these local entrepreneurs.

Remember to vote!

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JEFFERSON THE BEAR RETURNS IN DECEMBER!

Get your crayons and creativity ready! The **Holiday Bear Fair**, once again sponsored by **Jefferson Security Bank**, returns in next month's *Observer*.

How it works:

Get your bear picture from December's paper (or download at www.WeAreTheObserver.com).

Gather your kids (and the kid in you!) to **decorate the picture** of Jefferson the Bear.

Go to a participating Jefferson Security Bank branch to **drop off your creation**.

Gift cards to be awarded by JSB.

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



// COMMUNITY

JEFFERSON COUNTY SHOWS ITS HALLOWEEN SPIRITS



Local businesses & residences brighten the night with creative Halloween displays. Maria's Taqueria in Shepherdstown (cover image) has a traditional "day of the dead" theme window display, this year with a nod to the current business climate. Needful Things Emporium in Charles Town definitely has the creepiest window display — Freddie is the tamest element. If you are in either downtown, you can take a walk into the nearby residential neighborhoods to see some fun and creative displays — just don't lose your head. The Huntfield neighborhood is always a good bet for many "spook-tacular" displays — some definitely not recommended for the faint of heart. Along with the scary, there are many who opt for the traditional pumpkin or two — or two dozen. More images at WeAreTheObserver.com.




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VOTE

Susan Benzinger
 for WV House of Delegates
 100th District

www.SusanForJefferson.com
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Susan!
 BENZINGER

ENDORSEMENTS: WVEA | AFT West Virginia | JCEA | West Virginia AFL-CIO | United Mine Workers of America Coal Miners | International Union of Operating Engineers Local 123 | Eastern Panhandle Central Labor Council | Planned Parenthood | Mountain Mommas | Conservation West Virginia | Lawpac West Virginia Association for Justice

Paid for by Susan Benzinger for Delegate, Raymond B. Benzinger, Treasurer

// COMMUNITY

FUN HALLOWEEN EVENTS

OCT 28 (FRI) – VAMPIRE’S BALL – Featuring music by Billy Thompson · 9 pm - midnight · War Memorial Bldg, 102 E German St, Shepherdstown · \$6 (\$10 couple) · FB: Halloween in Shepherdstown (events)

OCT 29 (SAT) – CRYPTID FESTIVAL – With Halloween craft show · 10 am - 4 pm · Lions Club of Charles Town, 310 S George St, Ranson · FREE · FB: Snarly Yow

OCT 29 (SAT) – DANCE PARTY WITH MR JON – Costume party for young kids (age 3+ recommended) · 11 am · Shepherdstown Public Library, 145 Higbee Ln, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: The Shepherdstown Public Library

OCT 29 (SAT) – HISTORIC HALLOWEEN – Demonstrations of old-time Halloween traditions · 11 am - 4 pm · Old Dry Goods Store, Harpers Ferry (lower town) · FREE (parking fee at HFNHP visitor center) · FB: Harpers Ferry Park Association

OCT 29 (SAT) – HAUNTED HALLWAY – Frights for kids, sponsored by Shepherdstown Community Club · Noon - 3 (also Sun 11-1 & Mon 6-8) · War Memorial Building, 102 East German St, Shepherdstown · FB: Halloween in Shepherdstown

OCT 29 (SAT) – ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW – Movie accompanied by a live shadow cast · midnight · Apollo Civic Theater, 128 East Martin St, Martinsburg · \$20, ID required, 17 & under must be accompanied by adult · Web: ApolloCivicTheater.org

OCT 30 (SUN) – PUMPKIN CONTEST, COSTUME CONTEST, ENCHANTED TEA & HAUNTED HALLWAY – A day of spooky fun in downtown Shepherdstown · 10 - 3 · McMurrin Lawn & War Memorial Building, downtown Shepherdstown · FB: Halloween in Shepherdstown

OCT 30 (SUN) – PAW PARADE & PARTY – Costume contest for dogs, fundraiser sponsored by Wishmakers on Campus · 1 - 3 · Shepherd University Midway (200 block of North King St, Shepherdstown) · FREE (pre-register to enter contest) · Web: Shepherd.edu/Paw-Parade-and-Party

OCT 30 (SUN) – HOCUS POCUS – The original movie, costumes encouraged · 2 pm · Apollo Civic Theater, 128 East Martin St, Martinsburg · FREE, ID required, 17 & under must be accompanied by adult · Web: ApolloCivicTheater.org

LOCAL TRICK OR TREAT EVENTS >>> PAGE 16

JOHN DOYLE *for* County Commission

Making Jefferson County government open, accountable, and accessible to all



JOHN DOYLE WILL:

Support our dedicated **emergency service workers** (paid and unpaid) who save lives in the county every day. Response times must not be lengthened.

Work to make sure our County’s **zoning** ordinance is implemented **properly**.

Work to **strengthen agriculture and tourism**, critical to Jefferson County’s economy.

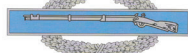
Work to keep our **air and drinking water clean**.

Work to bring **high speed internet** to Jefferson County.

Support our **public parks and libraries**.

Make sure the County Commission serves **all the citizens** of our county and reaches out for their input.

DEDICATION



This is the **Combat Infantry Badge**, awarded by the US Army to those who have been under constant fire for long periods as infantry soldiers.

John Doyle was awarded this badge, as well as the Bronze Star for Valor, for his service in the Vietnam War. He will bring the same level of dedication to serving Jefferson County residents.

DoyleForCommission.org
Facebook.com/DoyleForCommissioner

Auth. Tom Doyle, Treas.

John Doyle has called for the County Commission to put a “stay” on its plan to revamp Jefferson County’s emergency services operations, until a series of “town hall” style meetings can be held.

Doyle suggests that one such meeting be held at each of the seven fire departments in our county. Every person involved in either the fire service or the emergency service (or both) should be invited to every meeting, as should the public. All five county commissioners should attend all seven meetings, and they should simply listen to the people who attend.

Doyle Believes We’ll Get Some Good Ideas That Haven’t Yet Been Thought Of

Auth. Tom Doyle, Treas.

// ELECTIONS ANALYSIS

FOUR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT

Voters will see four proposals to amend the West Virginia Constitution at the very end of their ballot. For each, voters will be asked to indicate “yes” or “no.” It seems relatively clear what Amendments 1 and 3 say and will do. Amendment 2’s language is ambiguous and questions have been raised about its potential to undermine local government finances (see next page). The key question about Amendment 4 is how, if voters say “yes,” state legislators would use expanded powers on education policy in light of their lack of consensus and questions about some legislators’ support for public education. **2**

AMENDMENT 1

Clarifies that courts have no authority to interfere with impeachment proceedings of the House of Delegates or the Senate, and that a Senate judgment of impeachment is not reviewable by any court in the state.

ARGUMENT FOR: Avoid a repeat of the uncertainty encountered during the 2018 impeachment proceedings against all 5 state supreme court justices.

ARGUMENT AGAINST: The West Virginia constitution already specifies the separation of powers between the branches of government, so an additional amendment is unnecessary.

AMENDMENT 3

Authorizes churches and religious institutions to register as corporations. West Virginia is the only state in the country that presently does not allow churches and religious institutions to register as corporations. West Virginia state statute has allowed for incorporation of religious institutions since 2003, but the Constitution was never amended to support the 2003 statute.

ARGUMENT FOR: Allows churches and religious institutions to hold title to property, open bank accounts under the corporate name, and benefit from the liability shield of a corporate entity.

ARGUMENT AGAINST: None found.

AMENDMENT 4

Expands the West Virginia Legislature’s oversight of the State Board of Education (BOE) to include educational policy. Currently the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability has oversight of the BOE. This amendment would expand the Legislature’s oversight to include policy.

ARGUMENT FOR: The Legislature has oversight authority over all other departments of the state government. This aligns oversight of the BOE with all other departments of the state government.

ARGUMENT AGAINST: The Legislature already has specific oversight authority over the BOE. In the context of recent legislative debates, this amendment has the potential to inject even more partisan disagreements into the classroom.

Just what does
JASON BARRETT
stand for now?



HE CHANGED HIS POSITION ON WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE

Jason Barrett used to support the freedom of WV women to have access to quality health care within the state.

The Journal, Martinsburg, WV Feb. 24, 2002

BUT THIS YEAR JASON BARRETT VOTED FOR A BILL THAT WILL REDUCE ACCESS TO WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE IN WV.

HE CHANGED HIS POSITION ON LOCAL CONTROL

Jason Barrett used to say:

“We must have local control, because what works in Berkeley County doesn’t work in Boone County, or what works in Jefferson County doesn’t work in Jackson County.”

The Journal, Martinsburg, WV Dec. 8, 2018

NOW HE SUPPORTS AMENDMENT 2 WHICH WOULD TAKE AWAY THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL THEIR BUDGETS.

WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT TAXES AND WHAT HE ISN’T TELLING YOU

His website boasts that he has never voted for a tax increase. But he supports Amendment 2 which will remove taxes on big business and out-of-state corporations and require an INCREASE in the sales tax you pay. So says the National Tax Foundation. And so did Mr. Barrett.

The Journal, Martinsburg, WV Mar. 15, 2017

JASON BARRETT CHANGES WITH THE POLITICAL WINDS.

HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH YOUR VOTE.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hannah Geffert, Garry G. Geffert Treasurer.

// ELECTIONS ANALYSIS

MANY UNCERTAINTIES ON #2 Critics Cite Lack Of Specific Plan

By Steve Pearson

Amendment 2 would change the West Virginia Constitution to allow the Legislature to enact tax exemptions for business equipment, machinery, and inventory as well as for personal motor vehicles.

A tax exemption sounds promising on its face, but opponents of Amendment 2 point to the loss of tax revenues that would squeeze local residents with replacement taxes or painful cuts in local government services.

In Jefferson County, the personal property tax provides about \$2 million to the County budget

(see pie chart below) and about \$6 million to the Jefferson County Schools budget (spread across the school levy, the excess levy, and the bond levy) – roughly 5 percent of the Schools' budget.

The principal argument against Amendment 2 is the lack of any specific plan or commitments from the Legislature on how to backfill the funds to localities. Supporters point to the many “options” the Legislature could pursue, but the overwhelming concern among local government officials is that there is no guarantee that the Legislature will provide the funds to make up for the missing revenue – or that any make-up funding would be reliable or not subsidize other areas of the state at the expense of Jefferson County taxpayers.

COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REVENUE

The Jefferson County Commission's current budget shows revenues of \$29 million, with property taxes providing approximately \$15 million of that total. Out of the \$15 million

in tax revenues, approximately \$2 million comes from personal property taxes on business equipment and personal vehicles – roughly 13 percent of the total amount provided by local taxes.

The \$2 million estimate was provided by Angie Banks, the Jefferson County Assessor. This calculation excludes mobile homes, buildings on leased lands, leasehold improvements, and other particular types of property. Banks pointed out that farm-use equipment (tractors, combines, etc.) is already exempt from personal property tax. She does not yet have any estimates on the tax revenue that would be generated from the solar farms that are planned for construction, but the equipment of those projects could be a significant increase to the tax base of the county – if it is not exempted by the Legislature.



WHAT \$2,000,000 REPRESENTS IN THE 2023 JEFFERSON COUNTY BUDGET

Hist. Comm. (\$44,000), Rural Dev. (\$35,000), Arts & Hum. (\$13,000), Civil Service (\$10,000) & Community Center (\$1,000)	
Libraries (\$360,000)	Health Dept. (\$81,000)
Economic Development (\$437,000)	Public Transit (\$89,000)
	Agricultural Agent (\$119,000)
	Animal Control (289,000)
Parks & Recreation (\$835,000)	

If you sort all of the expense categories of the County Commission budget from high to low, Public Safety items are at the top – \$4 million for EMS, \$3.8 million for law enforcement, \$2 million for the 911 call center, and \$577,000 for payments to the volunteer fire companies. Another 3.8 million funds the constitutional offices (attorney, clerk, sheriff). \$2.2 million goes to insurance and \$7.5 million goes to various county offices (engineering, maintenance, assessor, etc). The remainder is roughly \$2 million, spread across many programs that enhance our local community (see chart).

Without a specific – and reliable – plan, Jefferson County's accommodation to any revenue reductions imposed by the Legislature would come disproportionately from these so-called “discretionary” programs – those without a dedicated funding source or that are not mandated by the state.

OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2022
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU

WWW.OVERTHEMOUNTAINSTUDIOTOUR.COM

CELEBRATE SMALL BUSINESS
PAGE >>> 12

End of the Season *Shepherdstown*
SALE *Pedal & Paddle*

Sale Schedule
November 2nd to 4th
New bikes and new kayaks on sale*
November 5th & 6th
Used bikes, kayaks, and canoes on sale

*Stay tuned for more info. Sales will apply to in-stock items only. Sales on used equipment are as-is and are final

304-876-3000 | www.ThePedalPaddle.com
115 West German Street, Shepherdstown

// ELECTIONS

MEET THE CANDIDATES — CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

The Circuit Court Clerk is an administrative position that manages the operations of the circuit court. The Clerk coordinates the jury system, processes all of the documents filed with the court, and assists individuals who are involved in criminal, civil, adoption, domestic relations & guardianship cases with the administrative (non-judicial) aspects of the court process. *The Observer* invited both candidates running for this position to introduce themselves in their own words.

LAURA STORM — CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Facebook: LauraStormforCircuitClerk
Email: Laura4CircuitClerk@gmail.com

Candidate Snapshot — 61 years old; Jefferson County resident for 24 years; Democratic Party candidate



Community service — Trustee at Asbury United Methodist Church in Charles Town; member of Charles Town Rotary; Ranson CVB, President; Teen Court Advisory Board; Adult Drug Court treatment team; Local Advisory Board for Treatment Courts of Jefferson County; Juvenile Drug Court mentor;

Fraternal Activities Chair for the Women of the Moose #1028; JCYSL Soccer coach and fundraiser chair

What specific experience and expertise do you have that is relevant to performing the role of Circuit Clerk?

I have worked in the Circuit Clerk's office for 21 years now and the last 14 years I have served as your Circuit Clerk. I have served for 4 years as a board member of the West Virginia Association of Counties and I am currently in my second term as vice-president representing circuit clerks statewide.

What are the most important issues you expect the Circuit Clerk's office will need to address in the next few years?

Through my many years of dedicated service, I have brought the most up to date technology and services

available to this office. I have also created an excellent atmosphere of cooperation and communication with other officers and agencies in the justice system so that cases are efficiently processed.

One of the most important duties a circuit clerk has is they must follow the directives given in all court orders filed either by the judges or the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. The clerk's duties are ministerial; that is, the duties are prescribed by statute, order, rule, or other directive and are absolute, certain, and required. The clerk has no discretion as to the performance of these duties. I have fulfilled my duties at the highest level. Politics should never play a part in how litigants are treated in the clerk's office as all persons should be treated with respect and dignity. I have proven my leadership abilities by effectively serving while offering kindness and compassion to all persons entering the clerk's office.

What are your priorities for how the Circuit Clerk's office operates?

My priority will be to finish our project of digitizing all court records for preservation and quick access by the public. I will continue to ensure that this clerk's office operates at the highest standards for customer service and efficiency.

TINA RENNER — CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Facebook: RennerForJefferson
Email: RennerForJefferson@gmail.com

Candidate Snapshot — 59 years old; Jefferson County resident for 30 years; Republican Party candidate



Experience & Education — Currently a bus operator at Jefferson County Schools (7 years); currently a small business owner (8 years), Graduate of James Wood High School (1981).

Why did you decide to run for Circuit Clerk?

As many people know, in January 2021 I attended the January 6th rally to support President Trump and I was persecuted for it, despite doing absolutely nothing

wrong. I've always been interested in politics, but the events surrounding January 6th really opened my eyes to the true nature of politics. I started getting involved locally through organizations like We The People of Jefferson County and the Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee. Later that same year, I noticed that my opponent brought partisan politics into the Circuit Clerk's office by defying the order of the Jefferson County Commission ending mask mandates [see note]. It was clear to me that the Circuit Clerk didn't serve the people and was only interested in playing partisan political games. The people of Jefferson County deserve better and so I decided to run for Circuit Clerk, to return the office to where it belongs: serving the people of Jefferson County fairly, while following the rule of law, and ignoring partisan political games.

What specific experience and expertise do you have that is relevant to performing the role of Circuit Clerk?

I am a successful small business owner and know how

to manage people and a budget. Customer service is my specialty all while trying to save Jefferson County Taxpayers money.

What are the most important issues you expect the Circuit Clerk's office will need to address in the next few years?

Efficiency. Crime has started to increase because of many of President Biden's policies. As crime increases, so do the number of cases that go through our court system. However, the court's budget is unlikely to increase. The biggest challenge is going to be improving efficiency and managing cases while staying within the constraints of your budget.

Editor's Note: The County Commission has no jurisdiction over the County Courthouse, which operates under the direction of the Circuit Judges, following state laws and regulations. The Circuit Clerk is obligated to follow the directives of the Judges.



LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

During her 20+ years of teaching history and political science at Shepherd University, Hannah started a School to Career Academy that helped 8th grade children and their parents learn about college and scholarships. She also helped bring the community college to Martinsburg.

Meanwhile, she was an active community volunteer. For example, at the Apollo Theatre she produced summer musicals performed by children. She has delivered food with Back Pack, been a grade school Read Aloud volunteer, and taught Sunday school. She volunteered at the VA domiciliary and has been on the boards of the Apollo Theatre and the Shenandoah Medical Center.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hannah Geffert, Garry G. Geffert Treasurer.

www.SENATORGEFFERT.com



VOTE NOV 8, 2022

// ELECTIONS

MEET THE CANDIDATES — COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is an administrative position with two principal responsibilities — to maintain the official records of the county and to oversee elections. The Clerk's office records the official records of births, marriages, deaths, wills, property deeds, mortgages. The Clerk's office is also responsible for maintaining the receipt and expenditure records of the County Commission. The Clerk's office maintains voter registration records and is responsible for the integrity and smooth running of the election process for federal, state and county-wide elections. *The Observer* invited both candidates running for this position to introduce themselves in their own words.

Extended responses and information about both candidates are online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-Elections.

SANDY MCDONALD — COUNTY CLERK

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Email: SandyMcDonald4CountyClerk@gmail.com
Phone: 304-261-1519

Candidate Snapshot — 55 years old; life-long Jefferson County resident; Democratic Party candidate



Community service — 12 years Charles Town City Council (3 terms); member of Citizens Fire Company, 37 years currently serve as Vice President; Member of the West Virginia State Firemen's Association 20+ years, and currently serve as Financial Secretary & Board Member

Work experience — 35 years working for the Jefferson County Commission

What specific experience and expertise do you have that is relevant to performing the role of County Clerk?

My lifelong residency and thirty-five-year employment with Jefferson County has provided me incredible insight into the issues facing this county. Because I began my career in the Jefferson County Clerk's office, I have deep institutional knowledge of the duties of the County Clerk. With my proven record of community involvement, I have built trust and formed many meaningful connections with constituents across all walks of life.

What are the most important issues you expect the County Clerk's office will need to address in the next few years?

I believe the County Clerk's office needs leadership that is present, leadership that will improve unity within county government.

What are your priorities for how the County Clerk's office operates?

I will be a hands-on County Clerk and work side by side and support staff. The records belong to the people. Safeguarding records and elections will be our main priority.

JACKI SHADLE — COUNTY CLERK

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Facebook: Jacki Shadle for County Clerk
Email: JackiShadleForClerk@gmail.com
Phone: 304-261-7727

Candidate Snapshot — 56 years old; County resident for 27 years; Republican Party candidate



Community service — Volunteer work as a parent at church activities, Bible school, band, swim team, tennis team, AFJROTC. Precinct elections clerk. Attended the Leadership Jefferson program. Currently a member of Gateway Republican Women, We the People of Jefferson County, Eastern Panhandle Business Association, and Rotary.

Experience & Education — Executive Assistant to Finance Director/Business Management Coordinator, University of Maryland European Division (Heidelberg, Germany); Budget Analyst, American Systems Corporation (Chantilly, VA); Homebound Teacher, Jefferson County Schools; Long Term Substitute Jefferson County Schools. BA Business and Management, University of Maryland.

What specific experience and expertise do you have that is relevant to performing the role of County Clerk?

I have served as Jefferson County Clerk for the past six

years and would like to continue in this position for another term. I have helped to streamline tasks and duties of the offices under the supervision of the County Clerk, making them more efficient and transparent. I also applied for and received \$33,000 in state grants for the county. These grants have been applied to historical document preservation. My office has successfully administered six elections. I worked with the County Commission and the State Auditor's office to get our county on wvcheckbook.gov. This program brings transparency to government spending, which is something I strongly support.

What are the most important issues you expect the County Clerk's office will need to address in the next few years?

As Jefferson County Continues to grow, so will the responsibilities and workload of the Clerk's office. Handling our increased workload and maintaining a high standard of customer service and professionalism within our budget constraints will be one of the biggest challenges for the office moving forward.

What are your priorities for how the County Clerk's office operates?

I am proud of the way the Clerk's office currently operates. We consistently maintain a high standard of customer service, professionalism, and transparency. However, there is always room for improvement, and I hope that I can continue to improve the day-to-day operations of the office in my second term.

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// ELECTIONS



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSESSOR
NOTICE OF FILINGS DUE
 ASSESSMENT INFO as of JULY 1, 2022

DATES TO FILE:
 JEFFERSON COUNTY DOG TAGS
 July 1st
 —
 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
 Apply by December 1st
 —
 Charles Town Courthouse
 100 East Washington Street
 (304) 728-3224 | M - F 9am - 5pm
 Handicapped: 108 East Washington Street
JEFFERSON.WVASSESSOR.COM

MORE ELECTION COVERAGE ONLINE
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OLL CPAS
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 Martinsburg, WV 25401
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 P 304-263-8150
 F 304-263-8204

Charles Town
Eric J. Lewis, CPA
 205 West Liberty Street
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STATE SENATE & HOUSE CANDIDATES ASK FOR YOUR VOTE

The Observer asked all local candidates for the WV Senate & House of Delegates for a brief statement about why they should get your vote. The responses received by our print deadline are included here. Additional responses and information about all candidates (including Delegate District 97) are online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-Elections.

HANNAH GEFFERT — SENATE DISTRICT 16



When deciding how to vote in the Senate, I ask two questions: “Is this good for West Virginia?” and “Will this help keep our young people in the State?” I want to build our public schools up, not tear them down. Strong public schools are the backbone of a community, and a major draw for new businesses. We have children trapped in a foster care system which lacks people and resources. I want local decisions to be made locally, not in Charleston, and I want women to have the freedom to get good health care within our State.

JASON BARRETT — SENATE DISTRICT 16



I’ve served eight years in the House of Delegates. During those eight years I have developed an in-depth knowledge of the state’s budget and I’ve fought tirelessly to address Eastern Panhandle-specific issues. I feel that I can, and should, do even more for our state and for our community, and I think serving in the WV Senate will allow me to do just that.

SUSAN BENZINGER — DELEGATE DISTRICT 100



I will work tirelessly for our community and be your voice in Charleston. We have great people and resources but we also need to address important issues that face all of us. I will focus on bringing good paying jobs to our area to improve our economy, providing services to combat the opioid epidemic, and raising pay for teachers so that we can retain and attract the best teachers to provide our children with the excellent education they deserve. I will also work to be sure we have clean water and high-speed internet for every home, school, and business.

BILL RIDENOUR — DELEGATE DISTRICT 100



I will: Fight to preserve our Liberty and our Free Enterprise system; Be pro-Parent; Expand school choice for families, including home-schooling and charter schools, and improve our public education; Oppose indoctrination and sexualization of our kids; Oppose any draconian mandates that harm our People; Reduce bureaucratic impediments to economic growth, and improve infrastructure in the Panhandle, particularly Internet for homes and businesses; Provide our law enforcement the resources they need to combat crime, and keep criminals and illegal drugs out of our state; Attack corruption and work for term limits for professional politicians. Protect our 1st 2nd Amendment rights.

WAYNE CLARK — DELEGATE DISTRICT 99



When I look at who I want to represent me in Charleston, I want someone who’s going to go down there and work and get things done. I have a track record of getting things done, sponsoring good quality bills, and maintaining a solid conservative voting record. I’m always available via email or phone and am always out in the community helping others. I want to make sure someone who mirrors my values, my work ethic, and is willing to go the extra mile to get things done represents us in Charleston. I’m proud to be your representative for Charles Town and Jefferson county.

DEBRA CORNWELL — DELEGATE DISTRICT 99



As a seventh generation West Virginian and an owner of two small businesses in Charles Town, I’m invested in the community and care about our citizens. I live here with my husband George IV, son George V, and dog Emmitt. After earning a degree from Shepherd University, I’ve enjoyed a career in journalism and business. Freedom of Choice is the bedrock of democracy so I’m running to give voters that choice. My legislative priorities include maintaining local control of tax dollars and development, addressing the addiction and mental health crisis, locality pay for public servants, and making sure children in foster care are safe. I ask for your vote. Thank you.

// ELECTIONS

COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATES ASK FOR YOUR VOTE

The Observer asked all candidates for the Jefferson County Commission for a brief statement about why they should get your vote. The responses received by our print deadline are included here. Additional responses and information about all candidates are online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-Elections.

JOHN DOYLE — SHEPHERDSTOWN DISTRICT



I grew up in Charles Town and graduated from Shepherd University, with a major in Political Science and a minor in History. I served in the US Army infantry in Vietnam, was President of the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA) and was a board member of what is now the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center. I've served in the West Virginia House of Delegates for 26 years. My record in the Legislature shows that I believe in government that is open, accessible and accountable to the people. I oppose the current plan to restructure emergency services.

JENNIFER KROUSE — SHEPHERDSTOWN DISTRICT



The last thing Jefferson County needs is another career politician at the helm. Unlike my opponent, I'm not running for County Commissioner as my "consolation prize". My ONLY motivation for running is to be a servant to the people. As Commissioner, I will be the voice of every citizen who feels silenced, ignored, or steamrolled by their government. I will fight for the principles of faith, family, and freedom that have made this country great. In short, I will fight to make Jefferson County the best place in the nation to raise our families.

CLAIRE ANNE ATH — CHARLES TOWN DISTRICT



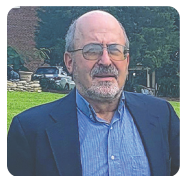
Voters should vote for me because I'm not a career politician or candidate — I'm a mother raising young children in Jefferson County who wants what's best for her community. For decades we have seen the same names on the ballot every election year, and I think that needs to change. I strongly believe in term limits and having true citizen representation. Once my time is complete as a commissioner, I will not seek re-election or any other elected position and will return to life as a private citizen and stay-at-home mother.

DALE MANUEL — CHARLES TOWN DISTRICT



I feel that you should vote for me because I strongly believe that local government has a significant effect on a citizen's everyday life. While serving as a Commissioner, I would strive to make choices that benefit our citizens. I will make our citizens feel comfortable communicating with me as their elected official by making myself available to answer questions and provide all necessary information on the current issues. I will also continue to prove my commitment to the community through my involvement with citizens' organizations including the Day Report Center, Kiwanis, Parks and Recreations, Animal Welfare Society, and more.

DAVID TABB — CHARLES TOWN DISTRICT



I, David Tabb, a lifelong resident, support transparency of our taxes. The county's population has grown and the budget does not reflect the needs of our county. This Commission does not have the experience to take over the emergency services. Any additional change to emergency services, would need a referendum, requiring a vote by the residents. As a County Commissioner, I would work with the Jefferson County Volunteer Fire Companies to ensure the quality service that has been provided over the last 180 years. A vote for David Tabb will ensure the Volunteer Fire Companies will continue to exist.

VISIT GOVOTEWV.COM FOR GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 2 Deadline for Absentee Ballot Applications	NOVEMBER 7 Deadline to Hand-Deliver Absentee Ballots
NOVEMBER 5 Early Voting (In Person) Ends	NOVEMBER 8 Election Day

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WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections

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// BUSINESS

LAWRENCE CROUSE WORKSHOP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Small-Scale Local Manufacturing Company Sells Across The Country



A **STICK-BACK CHAIR** doesn't sound very comfortable, but the basic design of the Windsor chair, developed in the south-east of England in the early eighteenth century, turns hard wood into a comfortable perch adaptable to many uses. The design also allows local artisans to adapt the construction to make use of easily-available native wood species. Abe Crouse, who runs the Lawrence Crouse Workshop along with his wife Diana, explained that "each chair will have four different types of wood. The legs and cross braces are hard maple, which provides strength. The traditional seat is pine, but locally we use poplar. The curved bow in the back is oak that is steamed. We use hickory for the back spindles because they have a bit of flexibility that makes it more comfortable." Crouse, who took over the company from his father Lawrence about eleven years ago, says the construction of all of the company's furniture follows the hand-built processes used since the 1700s — all of the joints are wedged or pinned without nails, for a chair that is designed to last for decades — or centuries.

Crouse also commented on the finish of his chairs. "Typically, Windsor chairs are painted, because of the different woods used in the construction of a single chair. We have a

process that we use to finish the paint so that it has a well-worn look right out of the showroom. Or we can paint it so that it looks new. It's a flexible design that can look right at home in both historic homes and modern buildings." Crouse says the shop will typically produce two dozen chairs a month. "We also build our own bed and table designs and will do custom pieces, but these chairs are our bread and butter." 🗨️

The Lawrence Crouse Workshop is holding a special open house on Nov 12 & 13 (Sat & Sun) 10 - 5 (both days) to celebrate the company's 50th anniversary. The workshop & showroom are located at 155 Chance Ln, Kearneysville WV.



The workshop is a small-scale factory, even if it looks a bit rustic. The manufacturing process includes lots of carving (above, left) handwork (above, upper right). A typical Windsor chair is constructed with four types of wood for a balance of comfort and functionality. Once complete (above, right) chairs and tables can be hand-painted in any color and finish.

Outside of the open house, showroom hours are by appointment only (call 844-692-7645). Website: LawrenceCrouse.com. Crouse's bed, tables and chairs are also sold at the Valley Furniture Country store in Stephens City VA (5958 Valley Pike, just south of the drive-in theater); the store is open Fri, Sat & Sun (see website for hours - ValleyFurnitureCountryInteriors.com).



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

PERSPECTIVE // HISTORY

SHEPHERDSTOWN MARKET HOUSE PAST & FUTURE

Town Seeks New Use For Building After Library Moves Out

By Steve Pearson

IF YOU'VE SEEN THE WHITE BRICK market house building at the center of Shepherdstown, you know that it also looks back at you. The “all seeing eye” is a reminder of the building’s past — and perhaps an encouragement to think broadly about its future.

The story started in June 1800, when the Shepherdstown town trustees appointed three commissioners to manage the construction of a market house, 57 feet long and 20 feet wide, to be erected in King Street at the south side of the intersection with German



The regular Sunday farmers market (tents behind the building) recalls the original use of the market house.

Street. Smack dab in the middle of town. By August 1800, the building was completed and the trustees decided to lease the stalls on a yearly basis to local farmers. The single-story building was open along the sides, with a shingle roof supported by brick piers. In April 1845, the town voted unanimously to allow the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to construct a second story above the open-wall market and to lease this second story to the Odd Fellows for 999 years. In December 1853, the town filled in the walls of the building with brick between the original piers, to create an engine house for the fire company (the fire company would relocate after the new fire hall at Washington & New Streets was completed in 1912).

Citizens Vote For Library

In July 1926, the town held a special election to vote on allowing the Woman’s [sic] Club to use the front of the market house rent free to maintain a public library, with the citizens voting 103 for and 23 against. In 1962, the Club purchased the Odd Fellows lease and expanded into the second floor to create the children’s department of the library. In 1972, the Club turned the library operations over to the West Virginia Public Library Commission. In July



The All Seeing Eye is a symbol of importance to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

of 2022, the Shepherdstown Public Library bid a bittersweet farewell to the market house building as it moved to its new location on Higbee Lane at the outskirts of town.

Peering Ahead

For the first time in over 220 years, the market house building finds itself vacant. The town recently surveyed residents to collect ideas on how this iconic building might continue to play a vital role at the center of the Shepherdstown community. For historic pictures, survey results and a summary of the comments, visit WeAreTheObserver.com/Market-House-2022.



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NATIVE WOODRATS RETURN TO JEFFERSON COUNTY

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.

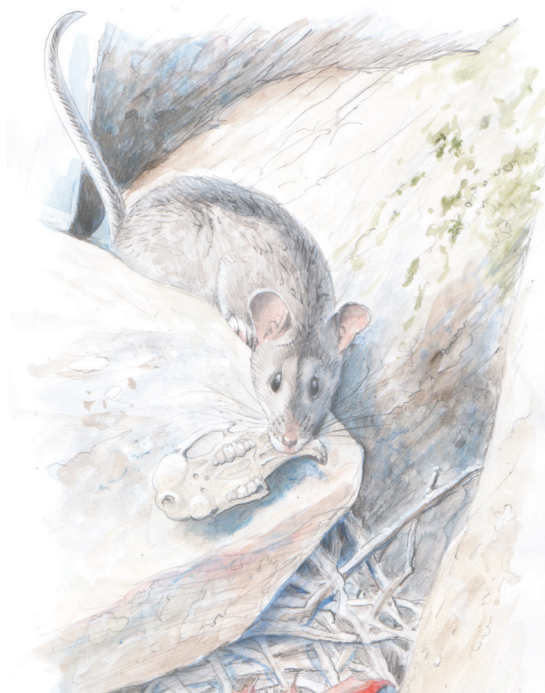
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST BILL MCSHEA trapped, tagged, and released an Allegheny woodrat in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in 2001. It was remarkable to find such a rare species still occupying its ancestral range. For the next 20 years no more woodrats were found there. It looked as if that might have been the last surviving woodrat in the area. But this past summer a team of wildlife biologists trapped, ear-tagged, and released several Allegheny woodrats in two locations within the park — one in Virginia and one in West Virginia.

The Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*) is a sleek, handsome animal, but no ordinary rat. Its tail is covered with hair, not bare and scaly. Its underparts are whitish, which makes it look like a giant white-footed mouse. And unlike invasive Norway and black rats, woodrats are wild and reclusive. They are native to the United States.

Closely associated with mountainous, forested areas like those surrounding Harpers Ferry, woodrats build nests deep in the clefts of rockslides and cliffs. Like squirrels, they gather acorns, beechnuts, and other seeds during the fall to eat during the winter. Biologists describe the Allegheny woodrat as an “indicator species” because its populations can be monitored to

determine the health of its habitat.

Woodrats build nests of sticks with an opening in the top like a bird’s nest. And they often hide trinkets — bits of bone and antler, bright colored leaves, bottle caps, bits of leather and other objects — in their nests. Several years ago, I wrote about finding a woodrat’s nest on the mantel inside an abandoned house deep in the woods. It contained colored leaves, a candy wrapper, and a perfectly cleaned rabbit skull. I described the woodrat as the Martha Stewart of animals, in reference to its home decorating habits. Out West, where they’re more common, woodrats earned the name “trade rat” and “pack



Allegheny woodrat carries a rabbit skull to its stick nest in a rock crevice. Illustration by Doug Pifer courtesy the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

rat,” owing to their hoarding habits and their tendency to pick up any small prize they might find, leaving in its place any treasure they might have been carrying.

Scott Bates, regional wildlife biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), said five woodrats were live trapped this past summer. They were ear tagged and released in the same area where they were found in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The group consisted of an adult male, an adult female and three juvenile males, evidence of a successful breeding season. Bates said woodrats are trapped in summer when they are most active. Although they do not hibernate, they don’t move around as much in winter.

Another woodrat was trapped and photographed in the Virginia section of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park as a cooperative research effort by the National Park Service, Radford University, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, and the West Virginia DNR. According to Karen Powers, Ph.D., a biology professor at Radford University, “Given the Allegheny woodrats’ rarity across their historical range, collaborative efforts like this can go a long way in conserving the species.”

Biologists hope woodrats will continue to live here. “It’s good to know that despite disease, predation by great horned owls, and loss of forested lands to development, these animals still can thrive so close to the Washington DC area,” Bates said.

I’m encouraged to see certain species once considered rare or almost extinct — bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and Allegheny woodrats — returning to our immediate locale. Despite the damage done to their habitat, their continued presence offers a glimmer of hope that humans and wildlife might successfully coexist.

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PERSPECTIVE // LEGAL

AM I GOING TO MOM'S OR DAD'S HOUSE?

Protecting Kids And Families Post-Divorce with A Parenting Plan



By Brenda Waugh

With an office in Charles Town, Brenda Waugh provides legal and mediation services to individuals and families in West Virginia and nearby jurisdictions. Contact her at waugh@brendawaugh.com.

A RECENT CHANGE IN WEST VIRGINIA'S child custody law makes it even more important for divorcing parents to plan how to share decision-making and custody of their children.

What Changed?

Parents can still share decision-making and allocate custodial time at the time of divorce. Prior to the change, the law included a presumption that decision-making be shared. The new provision, which took effect just this summer, includes a presumption that custodial time be shared equally. While the presumption can be defeated under certain conditions, going forward both decision-making and custodial time will usually be shared equally. This change makes having an effective parenting plan even more important.

Parenting Plans Protect Kids and Families

In a parenting plan, the parents document how they will make decisions about their child's religious and educational upbringing and medical issues. The plan also details how the child will live in two houses at once, celebrate important holidays, and enjoy a summer vacation. When parents divorce and present the agreed-upon plan to the court, the judge will adopt it as part of the court order if they believe it promotes the best interest of the child.

Tips to Make Plans Work

Here are a few tips parents can use to create a parenting plan that works for their family.

Create a deep, durable agreement – Think beyond this week or this month. Try to anticipate changes that may occur in the next few years. An agreement that addresses difficult subject areas

now may help make it possible for parents to maintain a healthy relationship into the future.

Be precise, but create flexibility – Start by being decisive and precise. Decide on a schedule for each parent's custodial time: days, times, where to transfer custody, etc., and put the details in writing. Only then should you include a provision that allows for flexibility or changes by agreement.

When thinking about custodial schedules, review your work schedules – Explore work schedules to find times when parents are not working and can be with the children. Maximize the time parents (and not third parties) can spend with the children.

Maintain traditions in sharing holidays – What are your family and extended family's holiday traditions? Can they be maintained? I often see families where one side celebrates Christmas Eve and the other Christmas Day. Some have Thanksgiving dinner early in the day and others in the evening. Figuring out how to maintain those traditions and help maintain extended family relationships can often create a more successful plan.

Spell out how you will share decision-making – What church or school will your child attend? When might that change? What physician will your children go to? Who will schedule appointments? Should both parents agree about extra-curricular activities? How will you resolve differences when you disagree? Mediation? Deciding this at the beginning of co-parenting can help minimize miscommunications and provide a framework for sharing decisions.

Avoid generic parenting plan forms – You can find many templates for parenting plans on the internet. It is okay to read them, but avoid adopting them as your own. They may involve laws in a different state. Or they may focus on areas that are not important to you or may overlook those you need to address. Your family's needs are unique.

Don't go it alone – Consider working with a mediator, a family therapist, or a collaborative divorce team to create a plan. Having a neutral third party helps structure your conversations and may make them more productive. Experienced professionals may also help identify areas that you may not have considered. Some firms, like my own, offer a sliding fee scale for low-income families.

“Hence a purely intellectual insight is not enough, because one knows only the words and not the substance of the thing from the inside.”

—C.G. Jung (*Collected Works*, Vol. 9ii, par. 61)



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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

TRICK OR TREATING



OCT 28 (FRI) – TRUNK-OR-TREAT
 – Middleway Volunteer Fire Company
 · 6 pm · 110 Darke Hill Rd, Kearneysville
 · FREE (bring candy for 300 kids) ·
 FB: MiddlewayVFC

OCT 29 (SAT) – TRICK-OR-TREAT
 – Charles Town · 5:30 - 7:30 pm ·
 Downtown Charles Town (streets
 closed) · FB: Charles Town Now

OCT 31 (MON) – TRUNK-OR-TREAT
 – Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire
 Company · 5-7 pm · 8052 Martinsburg
 Pike, Shepherdstown · FREE (bring
 candy for 300 kids) · FB: SFDCo3

**OCT 31 (MON) – HAUNTED
 HALLWAY** – Frights for kids · 6-8 ·
 War Memorial Building, 102 East
 German St, Shepherdstown

OCT 31 (MON) – TRICK-OR-TREAT – Shepherdstown · 6 - 8 pm ·
 Downtown & neighborhoods in Shepherdstown (German Street will be
 open to traffic)

OCT 31 (MON) – TRICK-OR-TREAT – Bolivar · 6 - 8 pm

MORE HALLOWEEN EVENTS >>> PAGE 5

OCTOBER EVENTS

OCT 28 (FRI) – CHORAL CONCERT – Shepherd University Chamber Singers
 and Camerata · 7:30 pm · Frank Center (main auditorium), University Drive,
 Shepherdstown · \$15 (\$10 student & senior) · web: Shepherd.edu/Music

OCT 28 (FRI) – VAMPIRE'S BALL – Featuring music by Billy Thompson · 9
 pm - midnight · War Memorial Bldg, 102 E German St, Shepherdstown · \$6
 (\$10 couple) · FB: Halloween in Shepherdstown (events)

OCT 29 (SAT) – HOWL-O-WEEN PAWS & CLAWS FUNDRAISER – proceeds
 to support the Animal Welfare Society of
 Jefferson County · 5:30 pm · Hollywood Casino
 (Skyline Ballroom), 750 Hollywood Dr, Charles
 Town · \$65 (reservation required, over 21 only),
 email Ann Trumble (AWSTrumble@gmail.com)
 · FB: @AWSJC

OCT 29 (SAT) – CATF PLAY READING – MAD,
 a comedy with a crazy mom, her kids, and her
 mother's ghost · 6 pm · Charles Town Old Opera
 House, 204 N George St, Charles Town · FREE
 (reservation required) · web: CATF.org/fall-
 reading-series



NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOV 3 (THU) – BOOK TALK – Emma Copley Eisenberg will discuss her book,
 The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia · 6
 pm · Student Center (Storer Ballroom), 210 N King St, Shepherdstown · FREE
 · Web: Shepherd.edu/Music

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NOV 3 (THU) – INDIGENOUS FLUTE

– Performance by Grammy Award-winner Mary Youngblood · 7 pm · Frank Center (main auditorium), University Drive, Shepherdstown · \$15 (\$10 youth/senior, Free for SU students) · Web: Shepherd.edu/Music

Mary Youngblood



NOV 4-5-6 (FRI, SAT, SUN) – SHAKESPEARE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE"

– Performance by Shepherd University's Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players · Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 3 pm · Reynolds Hall, 109 N King St, Shepherdstown · \$7 (at door) · Also NOV 9, 10, 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm; NOV 13 at 3 pm · FB: Rude Mechanicals

NOV 4-5 (FRI & SAT) – CATF PLAY READING

– Your Name Means Dream, a woman's robot caregiver wonders what she's missing as she watches her age · Fri 7 pm, Sat 2 pm · Marinoff Theater, 92 West Campus Dr, Shepherdstown · FREE (reservation required) · web: CATF.org/fall-reading-series

NOV 5 (SAT) – CATF PLAY READING

– Lavender Men, a historical fantasia of "Taffeta" a self-proclaimed "fabulous queer creation of color" · 6 pm · Marinoff Theater, 92 West Campus Dr, Shepherdstown · FREE (reservation required) · web: CATF.org/fall-reading-series

NOV 6 (SUN) – PUZZLE PALOOZA GAME NIGHT

– Fundraising event for Harpers Ferry Park Association · 2 - 6 pm · Clarion Inn Harpers Ferry, 4328 William Wilson Fwy, Harpers Ferry · \$25 individual, \$80 team (pre-register) · Web: HarpersFerryHistory.org (events)

NOV 8 (TUE) – STORYTELLER ADAM BOOTH

– 2022 West Virginia Folk Artist of the Year · 7:30 pm · Presented by Speak Stories, Online only · \$15 · Web: SpeakStorySeries.com



Adam Booth, Speak Stories

NOV 9 (WED) – PROTECTING OUR WATERS FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION

– Potomac Valley Audubon Society hosts a discussion on the sources of plastic pollution · 7 pm · Hospice of the Panhandle Education Center, 330 Hospice Ln, Kearneysville · FREE · Web: PotomacAudubon.org

NOV 12 & 13 (SAT & SUN) – OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR

– 17 artists at 8 studios around Jefferson County, an opportunity to meet local artists, discuss their work, and buy some art · 10 - 5 both days · multiple locations (see website for map - online & printable) · FREE · Web: OverTheMountainStudioTour.com >> See ad page 7

NOV 12 (SAT) – TABLER FARM OPEN HOUSE

– Shepherd University's agricultural innovation center offers tours, plus pumpkin painting & scavenger hunt for kids · 2 - 5 pm · 482 Billmyer Rd, Shepherdstown · FREE (pre-registration required) · Web: Shepherd.edu/Tabler-Farm-Open-House

NOV 13 (SUN) – COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

– American Conservation Film Festival celebrates 20 years with hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and conversation · 4:30 - 6:30 · Alma Bea, 202 East Washington Street, Shepherdstown · \$25/person · FB: American Conservation Film Festival

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COMMUNITY SURVEY >>> PAGE 20

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NOV 18 (FRI) – GAME & MUSIC NIGHT – Christ Reformed United Church hosts an activity night for families & kids of all ages – jazz workshop & jam upstairs, board & console games downstairs, Shepherd University’s agricultural innovation center offers tours, plus pumpkin painting & scavenger hunt for kids · 7 - 8:30 pm · 304 East German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: CRUCCShepherdstown

NOV 19 & 20 (SAT & SUN) – TURKEY BOWL VINTAGE RACING – An annual on-track event with hundreds of vintage race cars at Summit Point Motorsports Park · 9 am - 5 pm (both days) · 500 Motorsports Park Circle, Summit Point · FREE · web: SummitPointMotorsportsPark.com >> See ad page 13



NOV 19 (SAT) – WALK IN THE WOODS – Jim Cummins, retired aquatic biologist will guide a 3 mile hike along the C&O Canal with discussion of the natural and social history of the Potomac River Basin · 1 - 4 pm · Antietam Creek Campground (directions with registration) · FREE (pre-registration required) · Web: PotomacAudubon.org (events)

NOV 19 & 20 (SAT & SUN) – TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT – "Serenata in vano" by Danish Composer Carl August Nielsen, and Franz Schubert's Octet in F major · 7:30 pm (Sat), 3 pm (Sun) · Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 West German St, Shepherdstown · \$40 · web: FriendsWV.org

DECEMBER EVENTS

DEC 2 (FRI) – MARK TWAIN – A living portrayal by Doug Riley of the History Alive!

Program of the WV Humanities Council · 6 pm · Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Public Library, 151 Polk St, Harpers Ferry · FREE · web: BolivarHarpersFerryLibrary.com

DEC 11 (SUN) – HOLIDAY BINGO BASH – Eastern Panhandle Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority fundraiser for scholarship and local service projects · 2 pm (doors open at noon) · Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Company, 8052 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown · \$20 (advance), \$25 (at door) · Questions/tickets: email EPACDSTinfo@gmail.com

ONGOING (SAT & SUN) – HOT BUTTON GALLERY – Craftivist Carol Williams presents thought-provoking and timely textile art · Gallery open Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, Sundays Noon - 4 pm (all month) · 129 E German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · Web: AnotherCarolWilliams.com >> See ad below

CALL FOR ENTRIES

CALL FOR WRITERS (DUE DEC 1) – Anthology of Appalachian Writers – For consideration to be included in Volume XV, submit original, unpublished fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, or essay works that relate in some respect to Barbara Kingsolver and her poetry and stories about the environment, sustainable living, patriarchal abuse, gender, family, and social justice issues, or socially engaged fiction. For details & submission guidelines, email Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (sshurbutt@shepherd.edu).

CALL FOR ARTISTS (DUE DEC 7) – My Home Town Juried Photography Exhibit at Berkeley Arts Center – The exhibit aims to capture the essence of a town and its inhabitants, its neighborhoods, architecture, local businesses, the downtown district – what brings us a sense of history, memory and nostalgia. The entry fee for the exhibit is \$35 for the first two works. Awards will be given for Best in Show, Merit Award and Honorable Mention, with a total prize fund of up to \$1,000. Details at BerkeleyArtsWV.org.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

We hope you can join us!

West Virginia American Water will be hosting a community open house in November. Join us and get to know the West Virginia American Water team who will be serving your community, including members from customer service, human resources, operations, engineering, water quality and more! The company will also have information about their services, payment options, customer assistance programs and more!

What: West Virginia American Water’s Community Open House (light refreshments will be served)

When: Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Where: T.A. Lowery Elementary School, 103 Shenandoah Junction Road, Shenandoah Junction, WV 25442

THE HOT BUTTON GALLERY

TIMELY TEXTILE ART FROM CRAFTIVIST CAROL WILLIAMS

SATURDAYS 11AM TO 5PM
SUNDAYS 11AM TO 4PM (ish)

129 E. German St, Shepherdstown (At The Entler Hotel) www.anothercarolwilliams.com

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LOTS OF HOLIDAY CHEER JUST AROUND THE CORNER

NOV 12 (SAT) – GREAT PUMPKIN ROLL COMPETITION – 3 pm · Town Park, 575 Washington St, Harpers Ferry · FREE

NOV 19 (SAT) – CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING – Join and watch the Shepherdstown Rotary club for this annual tradition · morning · McMurrin Lawn, downtown Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Rotary

NOV 25 (FRI) – TREE LIGHTING & SANTA VISIT – Shepherdstown kicks off the Christmas season with a bonfire, storytime, tree lighting & a visit with Santa · 4:30 - 9 pm (Santa arrives by fire truck between 6 and 6:30 pm) · McMurrin Lawn, downtown Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Christmas in Shepherdstown

NOV 26 (SAT) – WHO-LIDAY CELEBRATION – Hosted by the Shepherdstown Community Club · Noon - 4 pm · War Memorial Building, 102 East German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Community Club

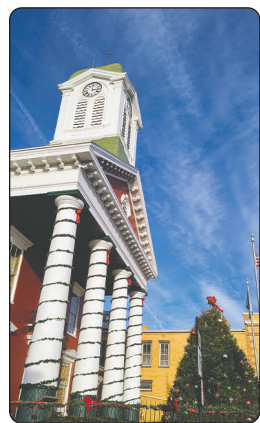
NOV 26 (SAT) – LIVING NATIVITY – 5, 6 & 7 pm · Trinity Episcopal Church, 208 West German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · Also on DEC 3 · FB: Trinity Episcopal Church Shepherdstown

DEC 3 & 4 (SAT & SUN) – OLD TYME CHRISTMAS – In Bolivar & Harpers Ferry, a celebration of traditions old & new · see website for schedule & locations · Web: ExperienceHarpersFerry.com >> see ad page 11

DEC 3 & 4 (SAT & SUN) – HOLIDAY GALA CONCERT – Shepherdstown School of Music presents · Sat 7 pm, Sun 4 pm · Frank Center (main auditorium), University Drive, Shepherdstown · \$15 (\$10 senior/youth) · FB: Shepherd.edu/music

DEC 10 & 11 (SAT & SUN) – OLD TYME CHRISTMAS – In Bolivar & Harpers Ferry, a celebration of traditions old & new · see website for schedule & locations · Web: ExperienceHarpersFerry.com >> see ad page 11

DEC 10 (SAT) – TUBA CHRISTMAS – Your favorite carols, performed by an all-tuba and euphonium orchestra · performance at 1 pm · McMurrin Lawn, downtown Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Christmas in Shepherdstown · Want to perform? Email Scott Hippensteel (shippens@shepherd.edu)



DEC 3 (SAT) – SHEPHERDSTOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE – Organized by Shepherdstown Rotary · 10 - 11 am · German Street from Church St to Princess St (street closures) · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Rotary

DEC 3 (SAT) – CHARLES TOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE – 2 - 4 pm · Washington St (street closures) · FREE · FB: Charles town Now

DEC 3 (SAT) – CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK – 10 am - 4 pm · Trinity Episcopal Church, 208 West German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Trinity Episcopal Church Shepherdstown

DEC 3 (SAT) – LIVING NATIVITY – 5, 6 & 7 pm · Trinity Episcopal Church, 208 West German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Trinity Episcopal Church Shepherdstown

HOLIDAY MARKETS

HANDMADE CHRSTMAS MARKET – NOV 19 (SAT) · 30 merchants · 11 am - 5 pm · War Memorial Building, 102 East German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Community Club

HARPERS FERRY HOLIDAY HANDMADE MARKET – DEC 10 & 11 (SAT & SUN) · 90 vendors at 3 locations (shuttle transportation available) · Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4 · Clarion Inn Hotel, Bolivar Community Center, Barn of Harpers Ferry · FREE · FB: Harpers Ferry Holiday Handmade Market >> see ad below

HO HO HO-LIDAY HANDMADE MARKET – NOV 25, 26 & 25; DEC 3 & 4; DEC 10 & 11; DEC 16, 17 & 18 · see FB page for hours · War Memorial Building, 102 East German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Community Club

SHEPHERDSTOWN HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE – Weekends between Thanksgiving & Christmas · see FB page for hours · Historic Shepherdstown Museum, 129 East German St, Shepherdstown · FREE · FB: Shepherdstown Holiday Marketplace

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Harpers Ferry

Holiday Handmade Market

December 10 & 11, 2022
Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4

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Clarion Inn (4328 William L. Wilson Fwy.)
Bolivar Community Center (60 Panama St.)
The Barns (W. Washington St.)

ENGAGE // COMMUNITY SURVEY

CONVERSATIONS ON LOCAL GROWTH

Take A Survey & Share Your Thoughts



Sitework has begun at the Toll House Woods subdivision; plans show 69 new houses to be built south of Shepherdstown (off Rt 480, near Morgan's Grove Park).

The Community Engagement Committee of the Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University is conducting a study of growth issues in the Eastern Panhandle and surrounding region.

Local residents are asked to fill out a 14-question survey on what concerns related to growth in our community are the most important. There is an opportunity at the end of the survey to add any concerns or issues you have that are not addressed in the survey. "Everyone's input is important to us, and will inform upcoming discussions on local growth," said Ross Curtis, who chairs the Community Engagement Committee.

The Stubblefield Institute studies and promotes positive civic engagement for both students and the public. Its Community Engagement Committee focuses on local problems and issues in the Eastern Panhandle as well as Washington, Frederick, and Loudoun counties. In September, the Institute named Ashley Horst as its new Executive Director and awarded its first Civility Awards to a nationally-recognized group of leaders in government, business, and journalism.

You can find a link to participate in the survey at StubblefieldInstitute.org/PublicEngagement. A virtual event on November 16th or 17th is being planned to discuss these issues. A link to the survey and details on the online event will also be posted at WeAreTheObserver.com.

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

OCT 27 (THU) – Community Forum for County Commission Candidates · 6:00 - 8:00 pm · St. Andrew Mountain Community Center, 58 Mission Rd North, Harpers Ferry [at Old Charles Town Rd / Rt 115 & Mission Rd] · Open to all · All candidates for County Commission have been invited to participate in a moderated discussion on EMS & public safety topics.

OCT 30 (SUN) – Town Hall with Dale Manuel & John Doyle · 4:00 - 6:00 pm · St. Andrew's Mountain Community Center, 58 Mission Rd North, Harpers Ferry [at Old Charles Town Rd / Rt 115 & Mission Rd] · Open to all · Candidates will take questions on any and all topics.

NOV 5 (SAT) – Town Hall with Dale Manuel & John Doyle · 1:00 - 3:00 pm · Town & Country Nursery (across from 1885 Darke Ln, Kearneysville) · Open to all · Candidates will take questions on any and all topics.

Videos of candidate forums available — Jefferson County WV NAACP, the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County, and Talk Radio WRNR hosted candidate forums in October. Links to video recordings are available at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections.



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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**