

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 2022

COMMUNITY

Local Grocery Grows
Market For Local Food

4 >>>>>>>>>>

ELECTIONS

Meet the Candidates —
County Commission

6 - 10

COMMUNITY

Battlefield Advances On
Historic Preservation

11

ART & CULTURE

A Career in Cartoons,
It's A Colorful Life

12-13

NATURE

Some Funny Tales
Of Nature's Tricks

14

BOOKS

Ghosts of the Past
Haunt The Mind

15

EXPLORE & ENGAGE

16 Events Calendar

17 Art & Culture

19 Blue Ribbon School

20 Community Issues



FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT [WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM](https://www.wearetheobserver.com)



3D Mammography CLINIC

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
To celebrate, WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center and Jefferson Medical Center are offering 3D Tomo Digital Mammogram Screening Clinics to women age 40 and older.

October 8, 15, 22

SPRING MILLS **Women's Imaging Center**

A Department of Berkeley Medical Center
Spring Mills Medical Office Building
61 Campus Drive, Martinsburg

JEFFERSON **Women's Imaging Center**

Across from Jefferson Medical Center
207 S Preston Street
Ranson, WV

**Early
Detection**
IS THE KEY!
\$60

Discounted Screening Fee

Cash, Check, Credit Card

A physician's order is not required, but patients must register by phone. Any patient without a physician will be assigned one to receive test results.

WVUMedicine.org

CALL
1.844.802.2734, opt #2
to schedule your appointment
at the Women's Imaging Center

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

CONTACT US

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. 



Descendants of Joe Burns were among those gathered to unveil a state historical marker near the site of his 1886 lynching near Martinsburg.

TO OUR READERS — Evangelist Jessie Ambush, Assistant Pastor at New Beginning Apostolic Church in Martinsburg, recalls a childhood memory of driving past the Hartwood Mansion south of the city and telling her mother “that would be a beautiful place to live.” It wasn’t until Ambush was in her 30s that her mother shared the story of her great-great uncle Joe Burns, who had been lynched nearby. As she spoke after the unveiling of the new historical marker (above), Ambush remarked on the need to tell “his story over and over, so that an honest remedy and repair may someday be a reality.”

Sometimes history lessons come from buried artifacts or a preserved battle ground (page 11). Or they come from resurrecting a long-neglected building (page 4). Sometimes we think of history in terms of ghosts, whether they haunt our basements or our minds (page 15). Ambush herself had a haunting story to share. As I asked her about growing up in Darkesville (in Berkeley County), she recounted her most vivid memory — as a 10 year old child in the late 1960s — looking out across the street to her grandmother’s front yard and seeing a burning cross in the middle of the night.

When what we might think of as history is still present in the minds of the living, the need for an emphatic rejection of groups that seek to instigate race-based fear and political violence seems to be self-evident — so that “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” are secured as rights of our common future, not just hollow words left behind, buried by the burden of a hidden past.

 **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.

// COMMUNITY

BUSHEL & PECK CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

Plans To Support and Expand A Local Food Network



By Steve Pearson

IT WAS THE CHARLES TOWN FARMERS MARKET that came first, before Bushel & Peck. Both the market and the grocery store are managed by the Jefferson Growers, Artisans, and Producers Coalition (Jefferson G.A.P.). In 2011, a group of

local residents, including Fiona Harrison, Chip Ogden, Brian Bircher, and Todd Coyle, were thinking about how to improve the existing farmers market. Some of the concerns were simple — the former location was on a slight incline, which made it uncomfortable for both vendors and patrons. Some were more



fundamental — a lack of variety. The committee held a public meeting and surveyed residents to ask “what do you want?” The responses, the follow-up planning and organization, and lots of support from the City of Charles Town — particularly the installation of electrical power — led to the current market that has been running successfully for 11 years (Saturday mornings, April to October, 100 block of South Samuel Street).

Todd Coyle, the chief executive of Jefferson G.A.P., recalls that the group learned a lot in the first few years. “People want the market to be a community gathering, not just a place for transactions. Having food you can consume right there, with live music, makes it more of an event every weekend. For the vendors, they want it to run like a business, with rules of conduct and accountability.” Coyle also remembered looking around the state to get ideas and being frustrated with the lack of data and support for farmers markets.

While the G.A.P. was revitalizing the farmers market, the City of Charles Town was debating what to do with the nearby Charles Washington Hall. The ground floor of the

The resin used to create this jewelry is entirely eco-friendly and non-toxic. We believe that there is no better chemist than Mother Nature. Our eco-resin jewelry collections are handmade and created from bio-based resins, co-products of waste products. This means that the resins are made from upcycled or recycled materials that have been discarded. One example is pine bark that is stripped from pine trees when they are made into lumber.

Tenfold
fair trade collection
sustainable home • gifts • wear
High St, Harpers Ferry, WV

OPEN DAILY 10 ~ 6

Meet our new Botanical Jewelry Collection
Moss, Lichen & Mushrooms

Also find us @The Shepherdstown Fairy Festival
@ Sam Michael's Park on October 15th & 16th

SHOP LOCAL | CHOOSE WELL | SHOP FAIR | @tenfoldfairtrade.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

building had functioned as a market house when it was rebuilt in 1874 following the destruction of a prior structure during the Civil War. Over the course of the next 100 years, the building was heavily remodeled to house restaurants on the ground level and offices on the upper level. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the building had fallen into such a state of disrepair that demolition looked to be the best option.

After more than a decade of discussions, Charles Town figured out a more creative path that would enable it to rehabilitate the historic structure. When the project team approached G.A.P. about running a year-round market in the building, it offered a small, narrow space in the center of the ground floor. As the group worked through the details, they came to realize that that the market would need to be much larger to have a hope of being financially feasible. The original plans were heavily re-worked to configure the entire first floor as an open space, split between a restaurant (currently Ortega's Taco Shop) in one third of the space and the grocery store filling the rest.

Coyle described Bushel & Peck when it opened in October 2017 as a "sustainable, locally focused grocery store in the heart of downtown Charles Town." In a more recent conversation, he described a larger vision, with the grocery store as a "business incubator — the hub of a network of local businesses that need a way to connect with local consumers." He recalls his own childhood, growing up locally and "having six markets in walking distance and eating food that grew right here. I see what we're doing here as bringing back something that was almost forgotten, that you can have a local food system. The pandemic really brought that home — we kept the store open, we always had food, and we helped keep the local economy going."

Asked about what's next, Coyle noted that last year Jefferson G.A.P. had received a HFFI grant (Healthy Food Financing Initiative) from the United States Department of Agriculture and had used that money to start work on a plan for expanding the operation. "Our goal is to bring local foods to local people."



Todd Coyle, chief executive of Jefferson G.A.P. Coalition

There are a lot of people in Jefferson County we don't reach and there is a lot of room to grow. Getting bigger will also help us to be more self-sustaining and bring more producers into the network." He continued, "In contrast to ten years ago, the government is taking local food systems seriously, but we need a business plan before we can tap into that support." The City directed \$32,500 of federally-provided pandemic recovery funds to Jefferson G.A.P. to continue the plan development and Coyle indicates that he hopes to have a roadmap completed by the spring of 2023 — but whether it's another location, a distribution facility, community gardens, or some other combination of facilities is still open for discussion.

Coyle also emphasized that he wants the community to participate in the next steps of the Jefferson G.A.P. "I'd welcome anyone who wants to join the board, especially with business planning and marketing expertise, to make this into something bigger. Particularly younger people, who might be inspired to build something special right here at home in Jefferson County."

Bushel & Peck is located at 100 W Washington Street, in downtown Charles Town.



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

LOCAL EVENTS AND ART
>>> PAGES 16-18 <<<

**"West Virginia...
Like You've Never
Imagined!"**



Fun and Professional Transportation

Wine Tours
Distillery and Brewery Tours
Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties
Airport and Rail Transport
Concerts and Sporting Events
Weddings

*Servicing Visitors and Residents of the
Eastern Panhandle and Beyond!*

304-410-4511

Info@EliteExcursionsWV.com
EliteExcursionsWV.com



623 Willow Spring Drive
Charles Town, VA 25414

// ELECTIONS

COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATES

JEFFERSON COUNTY RESIDENTS will vote to fill two seats on the County Commission in November. All voters can cast a ballot for both seats, but the candidates are required to reside in a specific magisterial district. Two candidates are running as residents of the Shepherdstown district – John Doyle & Jennifer Krouse. Three candidates are running as residents of the Charles Town

district – Clare Anne Ath, Dale Manuel & David Tabb (next pages). The Commission is responsible for overseeing the budget of all county offices (except judges) and setting property tax rates. The Commission also appoints members of various commissions and boards, including the Planning and Zoning Commission which has jurisdiction over land use and development in the county.

The Observer invited candidates to introduce themselves in their own words. Responses edited for format and length only. Complete responses online at WeAreTheObserver.com

JOHN DOYLE
COUNTY COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS
Web: DoyleForCommission.org
Facebook: Doyle for Commissioner
Email: RJohnDoyle@comcast.net
Tel: 304-876-1648



Candidate Snapshot
80 years old; Jefferson County resident since 1946; Currently represents Jefferson County in WV House of Delegates; Democratic Party candidate

Community service — Board Member & President of Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA), Board Member of Shenandoah Women's Center (now Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center).

Experience & Education — Work experience in college textbook sales, computer sales, real estate sales. Graduate of Charles Town High School (1960); Received a BS (Political Science/History) from Shepherd College. Served in the US Army 1968-1970, Lieutenant of Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division), deployed in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam, 1969-1970.

What made you decide to run for County Commissioner?
The current County Commission seems to have lost its way. The plan for emergency services has not been well thought out, possibly the result of too little input from citizens. Planning and zoning is not being done properly (particularly regarding solar arrays and event centers), possibly because some of the Commission's appointments are of people who don't sufficiently understand planning. Overall, there is too little openness and accountability with the Commission's decision-making.

What experience and expertise do you bring to the role of County Commissioner?
My 26 years in the state Legislature have provided me with the opportunity to understand how county government works within the West Virginia constitution, and with an understanding of what the people of our county want our county's future to be.

How do you plan to engage with county residents to ensure that the decisions of the Commission reflect the interests and concerns of all residents?
I will advocate that the Commission hold periodic special meetings (other than business meetings) at various locations around the county, and invite the public to come and speak. I will also personally engage with any citizen who wishes to engage me, as I have done as a state legislator.

What are the most important issues you expect the Commission will need to address in the next few years?
The Commission will need to focus on Planning and Zoning (solar arrays and event centers as examples), Impact Fees, Emergency Services, and Economic Development. Recent decisions made in all of these topical areas should be revisited.

What changes would you make to how the Commission conducts its business?
The entire process needs to be more open to public scrutiny. Appointments to boards and commissions need to be more clearly advertised in advance, as do special meetings.

At the end of your term, what is the one thing that you would hope people remember most about your service on the Commission?
That I was open to citizen input.

The County's comprehensive plan will need to be reviewed and updated during your term. How would you suggest the Commission approach this review process?
With as much openness and advance notice as possible, and with as much input as possible (from citizens and experts).

Register today!

Freedom's Run Race Series

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

October 22nd, 2022

www.freedomrun.org

Register today!

JENNIFER KROUSE COUNTY COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Web: KrouseForJCC.wixsite.com/home
Facebook: Jennifer Krouse for County Commission
Email: KrouseForJCC@gmail.com
Tel: 304-404-7878



Candidate Snapshot

48 years old; I grew up in suburban Maryland but moved to West Virginia in 2014 to escape the destructive hard-left policies destroying that state; Republican Party candidate

Community service — I've volunteered, and put on fundraisers for, various organizations such as Birthright, Samaritan's Purse, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and Quilts for Kids.

Experience & Education — I have been a wife and stay-at-home mom since I was 20. I have five children ranging from 6 to 27, a one-year-old granddaughter, and I'm a Sunday School teacher at my church.

What made you decide to run for County Commissioner?

Over the years, I've been increasingly dismayed by America's steady leftward march. When COVID hit, that leftward march became an all-out sprint. Over-regulation, poor economic policy, political correctness, and cancel-culture are destroying people's lives. That's not the America I grew up in or the one I want for my children. These problems were a long time in the making, and we must fix them from the bottom-up. I'm running for County Commission to be an elected official who supports the vision of our Founding Fathers: Faith, Family, and Freedom. If we return to these bedrock principles, we will get Jefferson County, and our country, back on the track to freedom and prosperity.

What experience and expertise do you bring to the role of County Commissioner?

Thankfully, I'm not a career politician. I'm simply a mother of 5 who's endured enough "managed decline" to stand up and fight for what I believe. My core principles are Faith, Family, and Freedom, and my votes will ALWAYS reflect that. Unlike many in politics today, my principles are non-

negotiable. I'm happy to work towards consensus, but I will NEVER bow to pressure to abandon my core beliefs, regardless of whether that pressure comes from the other side or from within my own party. And I won't accept "it's always been done that way" as an excuse for bad policies.

How do you plan to engage with county residents to ensure that the decisions of the Commission reflect the interests and concerns of all residents?

My faith has taught me that a true leader serves those they lead, not the other way around. I'm running to be a servant to the residents of Jefferson County. During this campaign, I've knocked on thousands of doors to find out what's important to them. As Commissioner, I will continue to make myself available to hear their needs and concerns. I want every citizen of Jefferson County to know that, even if we disagree on an issue, I'm here to listen to them and give them the respect they deserve.

What are the most important issues you expect the Commission will need to address in the next few years?

The top issues facing Jefferson County are determining the future structure of the EMS, encouraging smart growth, and ensuring that taxpayer money isn't wasted.

What changes would you make to how the Commission conducts its business?

Governmental bodies must be open and transparent to the citizens they serve. The people's business should not be conducted behind closed doors. Executive session should be the EXTREME exception, not the rule. Second, the Commission needs to reduce the number of "special sessions" they conduct. Residents need to know when the Commission is conducting business. Whenever meetings occur outside of the set schedule, it increases the odds that interested citizens may be left out. Finally, I believe the Commission should hold its meetings in a larger venue. If every citizen who wishes to attend in person cannot, it is not truly an "open" meeting.

At the end of your term, what is the one thing that you would hope people remember most about your service on the Commission?

I want to make Jefferson County an even better place to raise a family, and would love for people to remember that I helped make that happen. But what will truly make my term a success is if I'm remembered as a leader who was a genuine servant of the citizens of this county.

The County's comprehensive plan will need to be reviewed and updated during your term. How would you suggest the Commission approach this review process?

Though it carries no legal weight, I believe the comprehensive plan can be used as a blueprint to manage that growth in a well-thought-out fashion. Using a smart-growth mentality, we can make the county an even better place for our families.

KEY ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 18

Deadline to Register to Vote

OCTOBER 26

Early Voting (In Person) Begins

NOVEMBER 2

Deadline for Absentee Ballot Applications

NOVEMBER 5

Early Voting (In Person) Ends

NOVEMBER 7

Deadline to Hand-Deliver Absentee Ballots to Clerk's Office

NOVEMBER 8

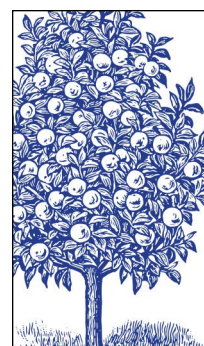
Election Day

Visit **GoVoteWV.com** to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and for general election information

What's in Your Water?



Schedule a Free Water Test
681-389-0600



HOXTON
PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

- (304) 876-2619
- 8530 SHEPHERDSTOWN PIKE
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV 25443
- HOXTONPM.COM

Nothing contained herein should be construed as a solicitation to buy or sell any security or as an offer to provide investment advice. Hoxton Planning & Management LLC is a registered investment adviser. For additional information about Hoxton Planning & Management LLC, including its services and fees, send for the firm's disclosure brochure using the contact information contained herein or visit advisorinfo.sec.gov.

// ELECTIONS — CONTINUED

Jefferson County residents will vote to fill two seats on the County Commission in November. All voters can cast a ballot for both seats, but the candidates themselves are required to reside in a specific magisterial district. Three candidates are running as residents of the Charles Town district – Clare Anne Ath, Dale Manuel & David Tabb.

The Observer invited candidates to introduce themselves in their own words. Responses edited for format and length only. Complete responses online at [WeAreTheObserver.com](https://www.wvobserver.com)

CLARE ANNE ATH COUNTY COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Web: [ClareAnneAth.com](https://www.clareanneath.com)
Facebook: Clare Ann Ath for WV
Email: ClareAth.wv@gmail.com
Tel: 304-620-7161



Candidate Snapshot
 26 years old; Moved to Charles Town with husband in 2019; Republican Party candidate

Community service
 — With an infant and a toddler I unfortunately don't have as much time to participate in community service as I'd like. Although, I am a commission

liaison for the Parks and Rec Board and I am also a member of the Telamon Board where we work to bring affordable housing in the Eastern Panhandle.

Experience & Education — While in college I interned for Young America's Foundation (YAF) and Senator Ted Cruz. After college I worked at National Review and held various fellowships with the Heritage Foundation, First Liberty Institute, and Charles Koch Institute. I graduated with a Bachelors in Political Science from Saint Mary's College and a supplementary major in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame in 2018. I completed a masters in public policy from Liberty University in 2021 and am currently working on my PhD in Public Policy at Liberty University.

What made you decide to run for County Commissioner?

As the daughter of an immigrant I grew up with a great appreciation and indebtedness to our country. I decided to run for commissioner because I wanted to give back to the community and being a mom to two young boys I wanted to make sure Jefferson County is a family-friendly place.

What experience and expertise do you bring to the role of County Commissioner?

I was appointed to the Commission in May 2021 [to fill a seat vacated by the resignation of Josh Compton] and have spent the past year and a half serving in the position. Prior to the Commission I worked for National Review where I was responsible for coordinating events and coalition building. I worked alongside members of the White House, Congress and media to host important policy-related events, round tables and briefings. These experiences gave me the ability to build relationships and work with a variety of stakeholders and I can apply that here in Jefferson County.

How do you plan to engage with county residents to ensure that the decisions of the Commission reflect the interests and concerns of all residents?

I'm two things, a mom, and a PhD student. That means that I know how to put others' interests before my own and also how to objectively look

at all angles of something to determine the best outcome.

What are the most important issues you expect the Commission will need to address in the next few years?

Over the coming years I see the Commission having to address the issue of balanced growth. I want to make sure that Jefferson County is a place full of opportunity, so that our families don't have to cross into other states for recreation, and our children can not just grow up here but find jobs and stay here! While doing this it is essential we preserve our rural character and agricultural heritage.

What changes would you make to how the Commission conducts its business?

One change I would like to see is for the Commission to adopt more evening meetings. While we do record our meetings and allow virtual attendance I know that many members of the public would like to attend in person but cannot due to work conflicts.

At the end of your term, what is the one thing that you would hope people remember most about your service on the Commission?

I believe in term limits and that we need true citizen representatives, for that reason I am only going to run for one term. At the end of my service to the community I hope that people remember me as someone who genuinely wanted to help and make Jefferson County a better place for the next generation.

The County's comprehensive plan will need to be reviewed and updated during your term. How would you suggest the Commission approach this review process?

I believe that community input will be paramount when it comes to reviewing the comprehensive plan. We need to be as transparent as possible and make sure that our meetings are being posted, and posted again!



GIANT BOOK SALE

New Schedule for 2022

Two weekends!

Oct 7, 8 & 9 (Fri-Sun)

Oct 14, 15 & 16 (Fri-Sun)

10 am to 6 pm each day

(Oct 16 is Super Discount Day - \$5/basket!)

at the War Memorial Building

102 East German Street,
Shepherdstown

Opening Night

Oct 6, from 6 pm to 9 pm

\$20 entry fee

(free for SCC members)

Proceeds to support maintenance of the War Memorial Building & Morgan's Grove Park



**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**

DALE MANUEL COUNTY COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Facebook: Dale Manuel for Jefferson County
Email: DaleManuel49@gmail.com
Tel: 304-671-7820



Candidate Snapshot

73 years old; Lifelong resident of Jefferson County; Democratic Party candidate

Community service — Chairperson, Day Report Board; Chairperson, Teen Court; Vice Chair, Kiwanis; Vice Chair, African-American Community Association; Board Member, Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society; Board Member, Jefferson County Parks and Recreation

Experience & Education — I worked 33 years as an elementary school teacher in Jefferson County. I previously served for 16 years [8 terms, 1988 - 2004] as a representative in the West Virginia House of Delegates and 12 years [2 terms, 2005 - 2016] as a member of the Jefferson County Commission. Received a BA degree from Shepherdstown College and MS degree from Shippensburg University.

What made you decide to run for County Commissioner?

I see a need to restore open and transparent government to our County Commission. Citizens need to be given the opportunity to be a part of the deliberations on issues that impact them. We need to provide public hearings on the budget, establishing and nullifying ordinances, and other matters of importance. I would like to push to make a greater effort to notify the public of upcoming action by the Commission and provide shareholders the opportunity to be involved in studies from the beginning. Most importantly, I will listen to the citizens and remember that democracy depends on citizens' participation.

What experience and expertise do you bring to the role of County Commissioner?

I served in the West Virginia House of Delegates for 16 years and served 12 years on the Jefferson County Commission, which provided me with a wealth of knowledge on state and county government and how they work. Further, my involvement in the Jefferson County community

through leadership roles in the Day Report Center, The Council on Aging, Teen Court, and Kiwanis has provided insight on the needs of our county's citizens.

How do you plan to engage with county residents to ensure that the decisions of the Commission reflect the interests and concerns of all residents?

I have been committed to listening to the citizens of our county throughout my years of public service. I will continue to hold public hearings, town hall meetings in rural areas, and will strive to listen to the voices of our community and transform their ideas into actions.

What are the most important issues you expect the Commission will need to address in the next few years?

The ambulance crisis is the most important issue and could have been handled more effectively from the beginning. Firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and the public needed to be involved in the process from the outset. The underlying problem is the need to finance the fire service, and this problem will persist until resolved. The Commission will need to provide a revenue stream to finance our firehouses.

Building maintenance and additional space for county services is another problem that is currently facing the commission. Commissioners will need to consider bringing a bond before the people for vote to gain support to meet these needs.

Lastly, when appointments are made for county boards and commissions, we need to reach out to all of our county residents for input. We need to recognize that we have a huge amount of knowledge and expertise within many residents of our community.

What changes would you make to how the Commission conducts its business?

Commission agenda items that require a vote will be on the agenda for more than one meeting giving citizens additional opportunities to have their voices heard. Commissioners need to show greater respect to the citizens of our county and listen to what they have to say.

At the end of your term, what is the one thing that you would hope people remember most about your service on the Commission?

I hope that the public would remember that I advocated for them to be involved in their government and that I served with honesty and integrity.

The County's comprehensive plan will need to be reviewed and updated during your term. How would you suggest the Commission approach this review process?

This process should allow for citizen participation. The commission should set up public meetings at each magisterial district with a great deal of prior public notification. As the plan progresses, it should be made accessible to the public for review and comment.



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

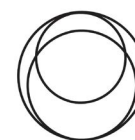
130 E German Street, Suite 100
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

P 304-263-9447 ext. 4

oll-cpas.com

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

>>> PAGE 20 <<<



WAUGH

— LAW & MEDIATION —

Brenda Waugh, Lawyer & Mediator

waugh@brendawaugh.com

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

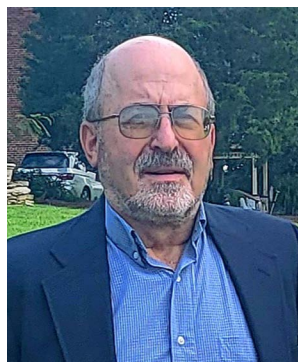
Schedule your free initial consultation online-
www.brendawaugh.com

// ELECTIONS — CONTINUED

DAVID TABB COUNTY COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Facebook: David Tabb
Email: DavidTabb195@gmail.com
Tel: 304-725-0423



Candidate Snapshot
67 years old; Life-long resident of Jefferson County; Mountain Party candidate

Community service: 4-H and FFA, as a member and State Officer; Past Board member for the Jefferson County Fair; past Advisor for the Jefferson County Vocational

Agriculture School. Currently an Associate District Supervisor for the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District; I have volunteered my professional services to several local volunteer fire companies, and also the Cities of Charles Town, Ranson and Harpers Ferry. I was also involved with the 340-corridor planning.

Experience & Education — A life-long farmer, working all aspects to include production, management and financial. Businesses created and operated (i.e., doing everything from HR, government contracting and cleaning the floor): Shenandoah Sales & Service, Big A, Car Quest, and a Cummings and Bricker dealer. Jefferson County High School graduate; FFA -American Farmer Degree; Complete two-year program at James Rumsey. (Agriculture, auto and machine shop); Nashville Auto Diesel School – Associate Degree

What made you decide to run for County Commissioner?

I want to give the voters a voice in making decisions,

within the county, to include policy. A choice between a bigger government with more taxes versus the voters making decisions for themselves and not just on election day.

What experience and expertise do you bring to the role of County Commissioner?

I am a lifelong resident, volunteer, business owner and taxpayer. I have been engaged in government policies my whole life: both county, state, and federal (e.g., ARPA, Rockwool and grants). My experiences in farming and as a business owner, gives me the qualifications to operate the county as a business, leaving policy changes to the voter.

How do you plan to engage with county residents to ensure that the decisions of the Commission reflect the interests and concerns of all residents?

I plan to engage the county's residents by making the agenda packet more transparent by requiring the agenda request form be complete when filed. Policy changes cannot be hidden as an agenda item. Policy changes will not be limited to the decisions of only five Commissioners.

What are the most important issues you expect the Commission will need to address in the next few years?

Number 1 – Emergency services. Ensuring we can hire qualified personnel and provide them with a living wage, better training and transparency. Ensuring the County's support of all organizations; to include volunteers.

Number 2 – How to pay for services in the 21st century. As J.B. McCuskey, State Auditor stated, in part, this County Commission's under budgeting, (by some 40%), is at an end. This means the current County Commission has hidden tens of millions of dollars from the county's departments, including the public.

Number 3 – Jefferson County Volunteer Fire Company Services. The volunteer companies have provided the stations, the equipment and trained the personnel. They have responded to the

emergency needs of the county for over 180 years, with little to no help from the past and present Commission. The Emergency Services should be managed by those who have already provided those services and own the stations and the equipment. All the volunteer companies need is support for their station staffing.

What changes would you make to how the Commission conducts its business?

I will provide transparency in all interaction with the public to include notice of all operations of the county. i.e., contracts, bids, pilot programs (examples: Rockwool and American Public University). I believe the current Commission does not properly conduct business or adequately include the public. The Commission is to manage the county's affairs, not to make policy. I have already challenged the Commission over the years regarding the taxes, public hearings, and comments to include Special meetings.

At the end of your term, what is the one thing that you would hope people remember most about your service on the Commission?

That I have held a professional manner of management through transparency. That I have been a voice for the people and resolved the emergency services issues to preserve the volunteer fire companies.

The County's comprehensive plan will need to be reviewed and updated during your term. How would you suggest the Commission approach this review process?

I will include the residents, within the review of the comprehensive plan, with the final version to be voted on by the public. The Commissioners making policy changes needs to come to an end.

Read our election coverage online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections

for House Of Delegates District 100

Our District, which includes communities from the Blue Ridge Mountain to Bolivar and Harpers Ferry to Shepherdstown, are wonderful places to live. We do, however, have issues that must be resolved.

I support:

- Reliable and affordable high speed internet
- Clean water for drinking, business, agriculture, and tourism
- Locality pay to our teachers and school staff

Send me to Charleston to make sure your voice is heard and legislative action taken when needed.

SusanForJefferson.com
@SusanForJefferson

I'll work with you to represent you.

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

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

PERSPECTIVE // HISTORY

BATTLEFIELD ADVANCES ON PRESERVATION



The Osborn House at Far Away Farm bears the scars of battle – visitors can still see a cannonball lodged in the wall.

THE GROUND AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY is littered with history. Literally. “I got a call a few weeks ago from a kayaker who was paddling along the shore in front of the cement kiln along the Potomac River downstream from Shepherdstown. He told me he spotted a 19th-century hammer sticking out of the mud,” said Mike Nickerson, president of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (SBPA). The cement kiln marks the riverside edge of the ground that was contested for two days following the larger battle in Antietam in September 1862. As wounded Confederate soldiers still lingered in Shepherdstown, Union regiments chased a rear guard of Confederates across the Potomac and fought over the bluffs above.

The kiln ruins sit on land previously preserved with the assistance of the SBPA, which has coordinated locally with the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission and the Farmland Protection Board to work with the American Battlefield Trust, the National Park Service, and the US Department of Agriculture to preserve multiple parcels covering 500 acres on and around the battle site. The battlefield preservation area is set to enlarge to 622 acres later this year, with the completion of the pending conservation easement on the Far Away Farm — a key parcel that lies at the center of the battlefield area and was previously targeted as a development site for 150 houses.

The American Battlefield Trust is scheduled to sign the contract on the Far Away Farm on November 30. To date, the SBPA has raised \$30,000 of a \$100,000 goal

required as a local contribution to the farm purchase, and West Virginia has also provided a \$300,000 Outdoor Heritage Grant to the effort. Fundraising efforts are ongoing and once the local target is met, the land can be transferred to the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, then to the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission.

The Shepherdstown Battlefield Protection Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The SBPA can arrange tour guides for the extended battlefield site and welcomes new members and donations to support ongoing efforts to preserve the battlefield site and provide public education about the battle. More info at ShepherdstownBattlefield.org. Visitors can also view a map and information on display at the new Shepherdstown Library.



The Battlefield Preservation Association is active in the community to educate, fundraise, and raise awareness of this important part of Jefferson County's history.

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

A WWII ADVENTURE
>>> PAGE 15 <<<



VIKING
TREE SERVICE, LLC
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV

THE EASTERN PANHANDLE'S
FIRST CHOICE FOR PRECISION TREE CARE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Tree Removal
Expert Tree Pruning
Tree Trimming
Stump Removal

Tree Cabling
Tree Risk Assessment
Crane Services
Emergency Services

OUR SERVICE AREA COVERS
WEST VIRGINIA'S EASTERN PANHANDLE INCLUDING
SHEPHERDSTOWN, MARTINSBURG, HARPERS FERRY & MORE!

LICENSED • INSURED • VETERAN OWNED • FREE ESTIMATES

304-988-5557 • VIKINGTREEWV.COM

 @VikingTreeWV | Erik@VikingTreeWV.com

// ART & CULTURE

DANIELLE CORSETTO & ELEPHANT TOWN**Cartoonist Draws On Everyday Life In Shepherdstown For Inspiration**

This article is excerpted from a longer interview — read more online at [WeAreTheObserver.com](https://www.wereobserver.com).

WHAT DOES IT SAY when your career path was shaped by Dilbert? Or more specifically, Scott Adams, the cartoonist who created Dilbert. Daniell Corsetto recalls emailing Adams when she was in middle school to ask what advice he'd give to an aspiring young cartoonist. "He suggested joining the school's journalism club. The following year, at Urbana High School (Ijamsville, MD), I did sign up for journalism

club, and was crestfallen to realize that "journalism" was NEWSPAPERS — I'd assumed that it was about journaling! I was completely divorced from current events as a kid and found the comics page to be the only redeeming thing about newspapers [Ed. note – no offense taken]. But I stuck with it, and of course I'm glad I did."

What was your career path into professional cartooning?

"I enrolled at Shepherd College as a photography/digital imagery major, and stayed for five years so that I could also take all the illustration,

printmaking, painting, and drawing classes available. I was (willingly) roped into working on *The Picket* while I was at Shepherd. That experience led to my first job out of college, as a photographer and digital photo processor at *The Martinsburg Journal*."

What's your process for creating your work?

"Digital drawing tools are fantastic, but I still love working traditionally on paper, so I use a hybrid approach. I brainstorm ideas and sketch out facial expressions and body gestures and page composition in a regular old spiral-bound notebook in pencil, which is also where I work out the final dialogue. Then I'll take photos of the pencil sketches — called "thumbnails" — and drop them into a template I made on my iPad with the Procreate app, and maneuver and resize and fine-tune them there. Once I have a readable page on the iPad — the pencils stage — including the text and word balloons and panel borders, I print the digital pencils BACKWARDS on the back of a sheet of Bristol board."

"From there, I'll set up my light table and place the printouts, print-side-down, over the light, so that I can see the printout in the correct direction through the front of the paper. I'll use those digital pencils as a guide for inking. The inking stage always goes disappointingly fast, because I enjoy it so much I won't stop until it's done!"

"Then it goes back to digital; I'll scan the page and drag it into another template I built in Photoshop on my desktop computer, and work at coloring the page there. I tend to second-guess the entire process up until the minute before it needs to be finished, when I throw my hands up and decide that DONE is better than perfect!"

**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.

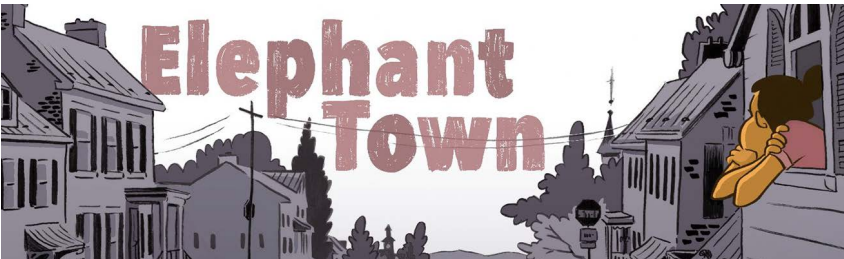
KEEP SENATOR
HANNAH
GEFFERT

A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



www.SenatorGeffert.com

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



Corsetto’s current project is *Elephant Town*, a graphic novel that she updates on a biweekly (ish) schedule on its own website. “It’s a passion project,” she says, about the drama set in Shepherdstown.

Elephant Town tells the separate-yet-intertwined stories of four people who happen to live in the same house, each in their own apartment. The characters are amalgams of real-life people encountered during Corsetto’s 22 years living in the town. But it’s the buildings of *Elephant Town* that are uniquely recognizable — almost carbon copies of Shepherdstown’s. “Drawing buildings is sort of new for me,” reflects Corsetto, “So I’ve been doing a lot of studies of the buildings here. Luckily the old architecture is easier and more fun to draw than the stiff straight lines of newer houses.”

Corsetto estimates that it will take three to four years for her to finish *Elephant Town*. In the meantime, her fans follow along (and financially support) her work online. In real life, Corsetto connects with other local artists by participating in the Over The Mountain Studio Tour whose artists self-organize the popular annual event. Whether online or IRL, Corsetto exemplifies how modern creators pursue their goals.

Danielle Corsetto and her cartoons live online at Elephant.Town. Meet Danielle live at the Over The Mountain Studio Tour, Nov 12-13 (article on page 17).



We look forward to serving Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan counties



Our primary focus is to provide safe, reliable water and wastewater service to our customers, and we’re committed to providing the same level of service to Jefferson Utilities customers once the water and wastewater system sale is final.

Each year, we invest millions in statewide system improvements and we have an exceptional track record when it comes to water quality and drinking water regulatory compliance. All seven of our water treatment plants have been nationally recognized with Directors Awards from the U.S. EPA’s Partnership for Safe Water program. We’re active in communities we serve. We offer payment assistance for customers who qualify, promote wise water use and support environmental programs.



To learn more, scan or visit westvirginiaamwater.com.



ART & CULTURE >>> PAGES 17 & 18



Benjamin Moore®

have summer color year-round!



Panhandle Paints

FINEST PAINT ~ EXPERT ADVICE

304-728-6656

99 CARY LU CIRCLE

HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

WWW.BENJAMINMOORE.COM

Petti

PEST CONTROL

(304)725-9997

NOW OFFERING

Energy-Efficient - Sustainable - Effective

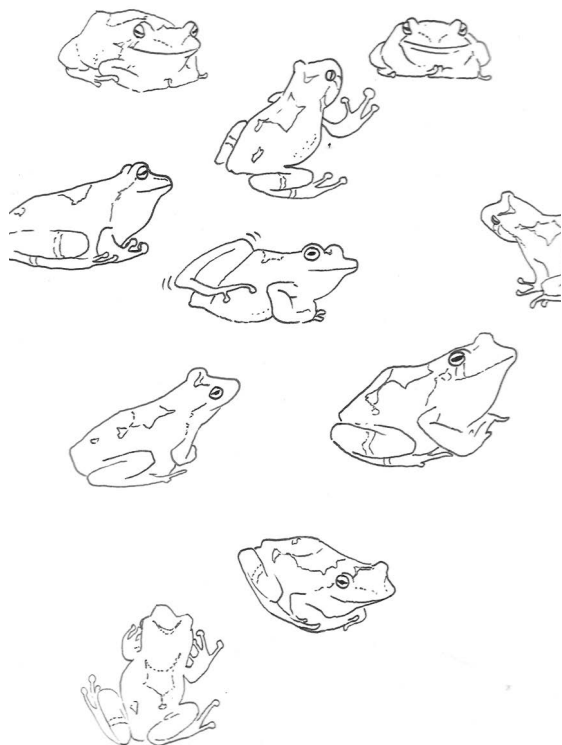
TAP® Insulation

READERS SHARE SOME NATURE TRICKS & TREATS

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.

AS WE SPEND TIME OUTSIDE studying nature, it's reassuring to observe familiar things year after year. And yet there always remains an element of surprise. Two readers shared their most recent nature surprises with me this past month.



Sketches of a gray treefrog dated September, 1969. I brought it to my room, let it roam around while I made dozens of drawings, and then released it where I found it.

Nancy Pippin, who lives in Shenandoah County (Virginia) near Bryce Mountain, contacted me with a question about an evening birdsong that comes from deep within a bush next to her home. In the past, Nancy had recorded the sound and played it for different people, but nobody could tell her what kind of bird it was. A regular reader of my column, she contacted the editor and asked if I would call her so she could play her recording for me to see if I might be able to tell her what bird made the sound.

I called Nancy and she said she and her husband heard the sound every year. It started up just before dark in the evening, but not until the month of July. After she played her recording on the phone for me, I thought for a minute, laughed out loud and then politely explained why. Nobody could ever recognize that birdsong because the singer wasn't a bird at all. It was a frog. Nancy laughed too when I told her. She was delighted to learn she had recorded sounds of gray treefrogs. She wanted to learn more about them and asked me if I would be able to write about them.

Gray treefrogs are among the best camouflaged animals on the planet. Not only do they look exactly like tree bark, but they are able to match the shade and even the color of the leaf, tree trunk or limb they happen to rest upon. Like most frogs, they breed during the spring in ponds and sluggish streams. Then as summer progresses, they wander into the woods. Disk-like pads on the ends of their toes allow them to climb high into trees where they spend their days resting on tree trunks or under leaves.

Another nature surprise comes from Ava Reinstein, who looked out one evening and noticed her cat sitting outside looking at something in the grass. She went out to rescue what the cat had found, picked it up, and brought it inside believing it was a baby bird. "Only when I picked it up and it was soft and I saw little teeth did I figure out it was a bat," Ava said. She brought the bat inside, wrapped in a towel, and got another surprise when she discovered she had not one but two bats. At first, she thought it was

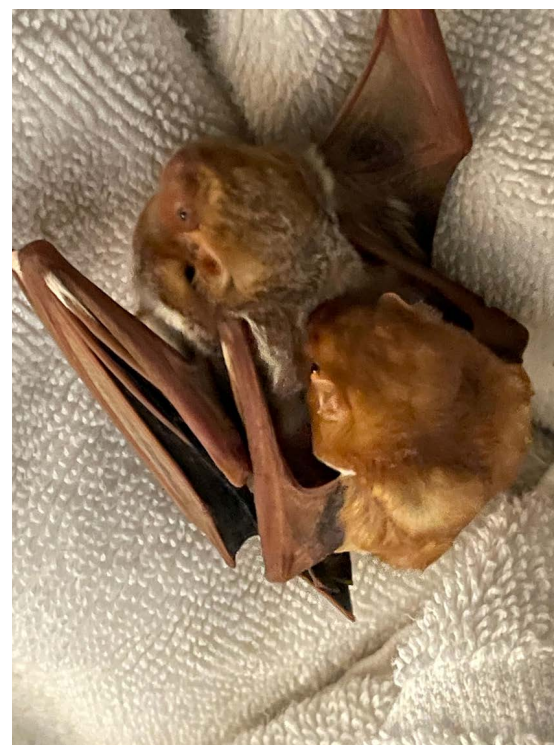


Photo of a pair of red bats taken by Ava Reinstein, who released them after taking their picture.

a mother with a baby until it became evident that it was a mating pair of Eastern red bats. Ava said, "All ended well with the happy couple flying off."

Ava was kind enough to share her photo of the pair of bats with me. Red bats mate in the fall but their young, called pups, are born in summer. This happens because the female carries the fertilized eggs inside her, but they don't implant on the wall of her uterus until spring. In the photo, the male bat's fur is almost carrot-red while the fur of the female is grizzled reddish-brown. Male and female red bats are beautifully marked with two white spots on their wings and shoulders and a white ruff of fur around their necks.

Nature is full of wonderful sights and sounds and as we look closer, things are sometimes different than they seem to be.

Featuring Live Music, a Silent Auction & Food for Purchase!

Get tickets

or at

JeffersonCountyVision.com

PICKIN' ON POLLUTERS V

A FUNDRAISER TO KEEP JEFFERSON COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

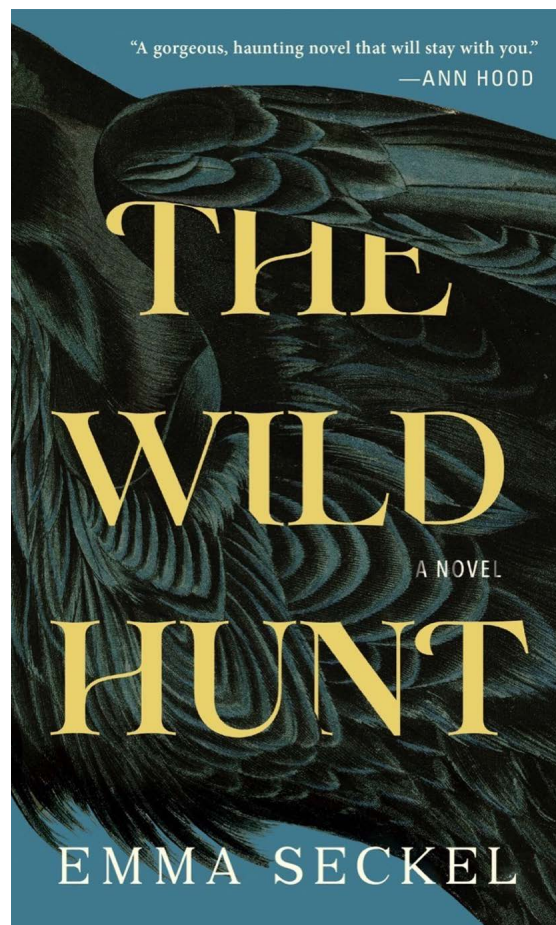
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND | 5-9 PM

AT THE BARN OF HARPERS FERRY

Proceeds Benefit

PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

HAUNTED BY THE UNRESOLVED FALL SHIVERS



The Wild Hunt, by Emma Seckel, Tin House (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.

THE WILD HUNT, A DEBUT NOVEL by Emma Seckel, is a ghost story of the very best kind, reflecting our own experiences in which we never quite know if the ghosts are real or conjured up by ourselves in the throes of our own heartaches.

The novel is set in the aftermath of WWII, on a remote Scottish island “as far north as one could get before there was nothing but sea.” It is intensely atmospheric, with moody prose that sets up the island as a character in itself. Seckel’s writing is deeply evocative and instantly immersive without ever veering into “purple prose.” She is especially adept at describing how the island pushes its human inhabitants away and draws them back in a constant drama, just like people in relationships, or like the always-shifting weight of memories.

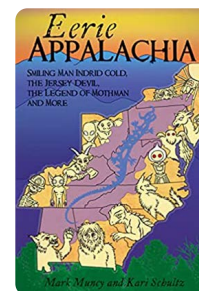
As the novel opens, the seasons are changing. It is a time of liminality, as “the border between this world and the next grew thin each autumn. A doorway opening, easy to fall through accidentally if one wasn’t careful.” More importantly, it is October, the time of the crows — the *sluagh* — rumored to be the lost souls of the dead trying to find the next world. October was different during the war; even more so after. Now, the *sluagh* stalk the island in increasingly large numbers, invading homes and attacking people — sometimes even leaving them for dead. But the question is, why have the *sluagh* changed? Why are none of the old superstitions working to keep them in check? And why now?

While the *sluagh* are impossible to ignore, the same cannot be said of the war. Despite their own personal losses, the islanders refuse to talk about it or erect any kind of memorial. In fact, the windows are still lined with peeling blackout paper and war propaganda posters. Into this collective amnesia steps Leigh Welles, one of the few young people who left the island for something other than the fight against Germany. But her life in Edinburgh has been nothing but a disappointment, and when her father dies, she returns to the empty family farm with seemingly no purpose. She feels alone in the world, except for her once-beloved brother Sam — a man who helped liberate Dachau, but now seems to hate her for reasons she cannot understand — and a widowed RAF pilot named Iain.

Although they had wildly different experiences of the war, all three must reckon with their own ambivalence about it. Because the war was not only universal, but deeply personal. Did how they lived their lives during those years make any difference at all? Should they feel guilty for having survived, or relieved? And what do their choices say about their responsibility to the dead? Leigh, Sam, and Iain are haunted for different reasons, but it is in trying to reckon with the violence of the island’s *sluagh* that they will be forced to exorcize their very own ghosts.

As Leigh soon realizes, they must come to terms with “all the ways the island had been battered and bruised and forced to change since the simple hazy days of childhood, the days when they still had summertime in them.” The *sluagh* reflect the islanders’ own tortured process of growing up, of learning to love and suffer and let go all at the same time. They cannot gain control over the *sluagh* until they make a choice: how to let themselves live, while letting those they have loved and lost finally be dead. A choice about whether or not to be in this world, as it really is.

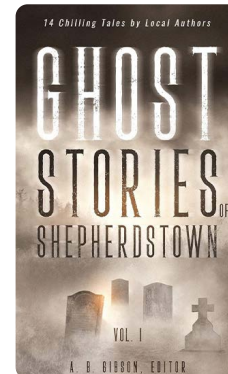
Eerie Appalachia, by Mark Muncy and Kari Schultz



History Press (2022) \$21.99

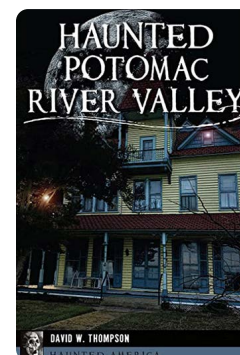
Folk deep within Appalachian hollers lean close to share stories of the inexplicable with hushed awe. Horrible occurrences and bizarre tragedies. Tall tales, you might say (or hope) — the Flatwoods monster in Braxton County, WV, the Goat Man of Louisville, KY, or the apparitions in Mammoth Cave’s Corpse Rock. From metaphysical energy that swirls near the Serpent Mound in Ohio to Point Pleasant’s Mothman legacy, explore the dark history lurking in the shadows of Appalachia.

Ghost Stories of Shepherdstown, Vol 1, Edited by Alan Gibson



Four Seasons Press (2020) \$14.95

A Revolutionary War era house in Wizard’s Clip, the President’s formal residence at Shepherd University, Elmwood Cemetery, the local Presbyterian Church, and the infamous Mecklenburg Inn. These are a few locations where these fourteen stories written by local authors begin. Once you read about these ghosts, they might linger to catch you in the shadows — of the local streets and in your own mind.



Haunted Potomac River Valley, by David W. Thompson

History Press (2021) \$21.99

Before European colonists first dipped their toes in the Potomac River, it succored generations of Native Americans, who often stained its banks with their blood. Revolutionary War ghosts haunt its length, from Shepherdstown to Saint George’s Island. Harpers Ferry is home to more than one 19th-century haunt, and ghosts of Civil War soldiers linger all along the river. Float down an eerie and chilling tour of our local river and ponder — what’s really in the water?

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

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OCT 6 (THU) – JAZZ CONCERT – Presented by Shepherd University Music · 7:30 pm · Frank Center (Shipley Recital Hall), University Drive, Shepherdstown · FREE · web: Shepherd.edu/Music

OCT 7-8-9 (FRI - SUN) – BOOK SALE at Shepherdstown Community Club – 1000s of books on two floors · 10 am - 6 pm each day · Also OCT 14-15-16 · War Memorial Bldg, 102 E German St, Shepherdstown · FB: Shepherdstown Community Club >> [See ad on page 8](#)

OCT 7 (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

OCT 8 (SAT) – MIDDLEWAY DAY – Family-friendly street festival with music, games, exhibits, food, and a little bit of history · 10 am - 3 pm · 112 East St, Middleway · FREE · FB: Middleway Conservancy

OCT 8 (SAT) – ART EXPO 2022 – Demonstrations by local artists, musical performances, family-friendly · 10 am - 4 pm · Martinsburg Roundhouse, 100 East Liberty Street Martinsburg · FREE · FB: Berkeley Arts Council

OCT 8 (SAT) – HANDBELL CONCERT – Four local handbell choirs performing · 1 pm · Asbury United Methodist Church, 110 West North St, Charles Town · Admission: Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to local food banks (Jefferson Community Ministries & Shepherdstown Shares)

OCT 11 (TUE) – ELIZABETH ELLIS – The “Divine Miss E” is a riveting teller of Appalachian & Texan stories of heroic American women · 7:30 pm · Presented by Speak Stories, Online only · \$15 · Web: SpeakStorySeries.com

OCT 14 (THU) – JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT – Presented by Shepherd University Music · 7:30 pm · Frank Center (main auditorium), University Drive, Shepherdstown · FREE · web: Shepherd.edu/Music

OCT 15-16 (SAT-SUN) – SHEPHERDSTOWN FAIRY FESTIVAL · Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Drive, Shenandoah Junction WV · Tickets \$25 (weekend), \$15 (day), admission for kids under 13 FREE · Web: TheFairiesAreComing.org

OCT 22 (SAT) – FREEDOM'S RUN – Features marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K, and kids walk events · Start/Finish on the Shepherdstown University campus · Registration open, volunteers always welcome · web: FreedomsRun.org

OCT 28 (FRI) – CHORAL CONCERT – Presented by Shepherd University Music · 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) – TRICK-OR-TREAT – Charles Town · 5:30 - 7:30 pm · Downtown Charles Town (streets closed) · FB: Charles Town Now

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

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 on page 17](#)

UNTIL OCT 23 (WEEKENDS) – MARYLAND RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL · 1821 Crownsville Rd, Annapolis MD 8566 · Web: RennFest.com

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.

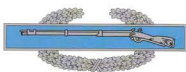
Work to keep our **air and drinking water clean**.

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](https://www.facebook.com/DoyleForCommissioner)

Auth. T. Doyle, Treas.

EXPLORE // ART & CULTURE

LOCAL ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS IN NOVEMBER

THIS YEAR'S OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR is scheduled for November 12 & 13 (Sat & Sun). The tour route includes 8 local studios, with 17 of the Eastern Panhandle's most passionate artisans participating to present (and sell) work that includes gorgeous textiles, vivid alcohol inks, elegant turned wood, sophisticated ceramics,

sinuous and rustic basketry, forged metal, inspired encaustics, thoughtful cartoons, and botanical lovelies.
2022 marks the 33rd year of the tour, and also a goodbye for founding members Ren and Pam Parziale – a final chance for visitors to explore their pottery studio and take home

a piece of their lovely work before they retire. Laurie Monsma, a passionate maker of quilts and textile art and Luke Bauer, maker of charming rustic baskets, both of whom participated last year as emerging artists, have joined the group as regular members. Two new artists are also participating this year – Esther Murphy, an accomplished ceramicist, and Denise Ray, who weaves exciting textiles.
All studios will be open 10 am to 5 pm on both days of the tour. The tour is free and self-guided, an opportunity to explore some delightful hidden places around Jefferson County, interact with the artists in conversation and demonstration, and support the local creative economy. Details on the participating artists and studio locations at OverTheMountainStudioTour.com.



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

WE NEED CLEAN AIR!

WE NEED CLEAN WATER!

Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition
brings to you

FAMILY FEST

October 15 | Evitts Run Park
12:00 - 3:00pm

FOOD (BBQ)

GAMES

PONY RIDES

FREE EVENT!

Voter education, registration and more...

EXPLORE // ART & CULTURE

ON DISPLAY AT LOCAL ART GALLERIES

Annette Gloomis and Mark Muse spent the winter and spring exploring West Virginia. The result is a series of companion oil paintings (Gloomis) and photographs (Muse) that capture shared moments at common locations in each artist's own perspective and medium. Pictured right: School House Ridge in Harpers Ferry, from the north (Muse) and south (Gloomis). Exhibit continues through Oct. 23 at Bridge Gallery (8556 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown. Open Thu & Fri 11-5, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-3. Details at Facebook @TheBridgeGallery.

The 10th Annual Eastern West Virginia Juried Exhibit recognized local artists John Carper, BJ Grandel, Carol Williams, John Walsh, and Leslie Williams as award winners. Exhibit of all entries continues through Oct. 8 at the Berkeley Arts Council (116 N Queen St, Martinsburg). Open Wed-Fri 11-5, Sat 11-4. Details at BerkeleyArtsWV.org.

Firehouse Gallery is the new name of the Washington Street Artists' Cooperative in Charles Town. The name is inspired from their home – the circa 1896 building that housed the Citizens Fire Company for over 100 years. Details on upcoming exhibits at FireHouseGalleryWV.org.





BAVARIAN INN

RESORT & BREWING COMPANY



THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE:
CHEF JEFFREY AULT
NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF &
DIRECTOR OF CULINARY OPERATIONS



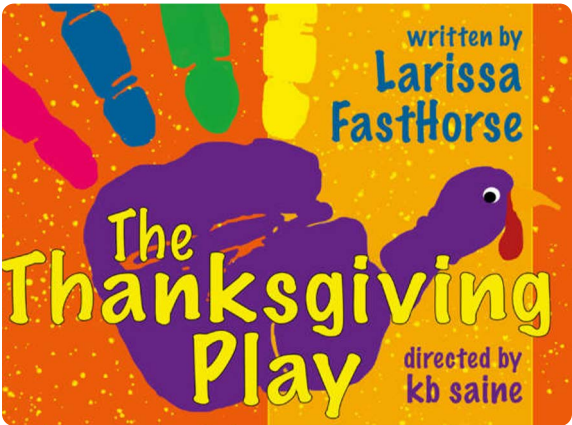
FOR FUN DINING OR FINE DINING
WE ARE YOUR DESTINATION!
BREAKFAST * LUNCH * DINNER
OUTDOOR DINING * BAR & LOUNGE

Shepherdstown WV www.bavarianinnwv.com **304-876-2551**

A TIMELY HOLIDAY SATIRE
AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

The Thanksgiving Play, written by 2020 McArthur Fellow Larissa Fasthose, is intended to be funny, edgy, and serious. A group of terminally “woke” actors struggle to create a play for a local elementary school that presents a balanced history of the first Thanksgiving, trying to include all perspectives but without offending anyone. The playwright has described her previous work as intentionally disruptive – plays that make you ask whether you should laugh or cringe?

Presented by the Contemporary Theater Studies Program, at the Marinoff Theater (92 W Campus Dr, Shepherdstown). Advance ticket reservation at Shepherd.edu/Theater. Tickets also available at the box office (opens 30 minutes prior to show), subject to availability. Price is “pay what you will.” Showtimes: Oct 7 (Fri) 7pm, Oct 8 (Sat 7pm, Oct 9 (Sun) 2pm, Oct 14 (Fri) 7pm, Oct 15 (Sat) 7pm, Oct 16 (Sun) 2pm. Mature themes. Face coverings are strongly encouraged in the theater.



ENGAGE // SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

LOCAL SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD



Demonstrating a math topic to 4th grade students (Seth Gilbertson).

C.W. SHIPLEY, THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY school in Harpers Ferry, was recently recognized by the Blue Ribbon School Program as an Exemplary High-Performing School. Only 297 schools nationwide (including two others in West Virginia) received this recognition in 2022. C.W. Shipley was previously recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2014.

Nomination by the State Superintendent of Schools is the first step in the process of selecting the award-winners. Dr. Brooks Kursey stepped into the role of Principal of Shipley this year, but he was the Assistant Principal last year when the school found out it had been nominated by the state. Kursey recalled, “it was exciting to hear that we were asked to apply. We had a committee of six that went through all of

the things that make Shipley a successful school. It was good to reflect and refresh on the great things that we are doing and bring them to the attention of the community.”

According to Kursey, Shipley Elementary School’s application highlighted the positive learning environment at the school — making all of the children feel safe, supported, and valued. In describing its instructional strategies, the school noted Jefferson County Schools’ decision to provide a Chromebook computer to every student and the change that move has brought to how technology can be integrated into classroom instruction.

Kursey noted that the one-to-one use of technology allows for interactive lessons in a format that seems intuitive for children, who are already experienced with a digital world — and who expect the dynamic stimulation that they are familiar with outside of the classroom. Kursey emphasizes that the most memorable learning experiences are not the tests, but the experiments and the activities. He remarked that the technology doesn’t replace hands-on learning, but it does extend it in new ways and also allows for easier collaboration — and allows teachers to better monitor how engaged each student is in real time. It may seem that everyone is just looking at a screen, but it’s a two-way window into a different world.




A teacher checks on 3rd grade student working interactively (Connie Reed-Davis).




JEFFERSON
COUNTY
ASSESSOR’S
OFFICE

NOTICE OF FILINGS DUE
ASSESSMENT INFO as of JULY 1, 2022
DATES TO FILE:
JEFFERSON COUNTY DOG TAGS
July 1st
—
**PERSONAL PROPERTY and
REAL ESTATE REPORT***
Due by October 1st
*Online filing available!
—
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
Apply by December 1st
—
Charles Town Courthouse
100 East Washington Street
(304) 728-3224 | M - F 9am – 5pm
*Handicapped entrance located at
108 East Washington Street*
JEFFERSON.WVASSESSOR.COM

ELECTION INFO
>>> PAGES 6-10 <<<



In every adult there lurks a child – an eternal child, something that is always becoming, is never completed, and calls for unceasing care, attention and education. That is the part of the personality which wants to develop and become whole.”
—C.G. Jung (Collected Works, vol.17, par. 286)



Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

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

ENGAGE // COMMUNITY MEETINGS

FORUM DISCUSSES AMBULANCES



County Administrator John Nissel (left) and President of Citizens Fire Co. Ronald Fletcher (right) looked to Bob Burner (center), Director of the ESA to answer many of the questions.

MANY QUESTIONS WERE ASKED, some were answered, at a September 21 panel event organized by the League of Women Voters to discuss the County's recent purchase of 10 ambulances from the volunteer fire companies and the in-progress restructuring of Jefferson County's Emergency Services Agency (ESA) into a County department. Commissioner Jane Tabb kicked off the discussion with a summary of why the Commission decided to make changes: "Jefferson County is growing, and with a shift away from local-based jobs [i.e. people commute], the volunteer model is stressed." She noted that most ambulance calls are staffed by [county-paid] personnel from the ESA.

County Administrator John Nissel described the changes as "long overdue" and reiterated Commissioner Tabb's assessment that the County "can't sustain the current volunteer model." Later in the forum, Nissel noted that the ARPA funding [from \$11 million in pandemic-response funds from the federal government] provided a window of opportunity for the county to both afford the change to county-owned ambulances and get it done quickly.

Ronald Fletcher, President of Citizens Fire Company, responded to a question on billing, noting that by law, the County would be required to "hard bill" — a significant shift from the current volunteer companies policies to work with transported patients to "pay what they can" for amounts not covered by insurance. *Read more at WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-2022.*

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

OCT 4 (TUE) – Town Hall with John Doyle & Dale Manuel · 7:00 - 8:30 pm · Morgan Grove Park, Kearneysville Pike, Shepherdstown · Open to all · Both candidates will take questions on any and all topics

OCT 10 (MON) – Candidate Forum hosted by NAACP · 7:00 - 8:30 pm · Charles Town Public Library (lower level meeting room), 200 E Washington St, Charles Town · Open to all · Candidates will respond to pre-submitted questions

OCT 18 (TUE) – Candidate Forum hosted by NAACP · 7:00 - 8:30 pm · Charles Town Public Library (lower level meeting room), 200 E Washington St, Charles Town · Open to all · Candidates for WV Senate and House of Delegates will respond to pre-submitted questions

OCT 26 (WED) – Candidate Forum hosted by League of Women Voters · 7:00 - 8:30 pm · Shepherdstown Public Library, 145 Higbee Ln, Shepherdstown · Open to all · Local candidates will respond to pre-submitted questions



Shepherd
UNIVERSITY



NOW OPEN

Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation at Shepherd University

Photobiomodulation (PBM) therapy is a form of low dose light treatment that has been shown to reduce pain and inflammation and promote healing.

Depending on your needs, your PBM treatment will be your choice of delivery: lying in a light bed, seated under a canopy, or using a handheld device.

Known benefits of PBM include:

- Improved overall wellness
- Enhanced athletic performance
- Temporary relief of pain and soreness
- Reduced joint stiffness
- Increased mobility

BOOK A SESSION TODAY

at the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center at Shepherd University

www.shepherdwellness.com • 304-876-5300



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**