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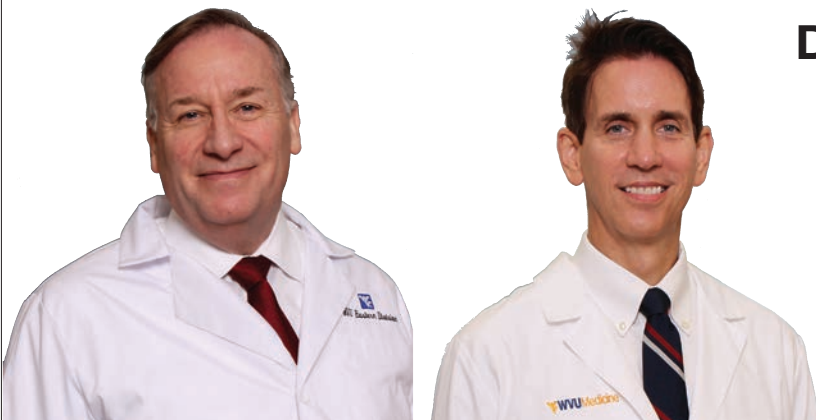
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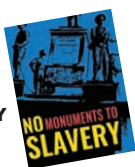
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COMMUNITY

Local Organization Joins Larger Effort To Confront Confederacy

Katie Quinnelly



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If you were to move to Puerto Rico and establish residency there, you'd automatically lose the right to vote in the presidential elections. Now, you would be exempt of paying federal income tax, but don't worry, the Jones Act imposes taxes on all goods that arrive to the island from the mainland.

— A.T. Aponte, pg. 17

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QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Russell Brand is an English comedian, actor, radio host, author, and activist. Since guest editing an edition of the British political weekly *New Statesman* in 2013, Brand has become known as a public activist and campaigner, and has spoken on a wide range of political and cultural issues, including wealth inequality, addiction, corporate capitalism, climate change, and media bias. To that end, his quips and one-liners have practically become a movement on their own. Here's a sampling.

Be led by your talent, not by your self-loathing; those other things you just have to manage.

The mentality and behavior of drug addicts and alcoholics is wholly irrational until you understand that they are completely powerless over their addiction, and unless they have structured help, they have no hope.

My life is just a series of embarrassing incidents strung together by telling people about those embarrassing incidents.

Life's never a postcard of life, is it? It never feels like how you'd want it to look.

What I've learned—to my cost—on several occasions in my life, is that people will put up with all manner of bad behavior so long as you're giving them what they want.

All penguins are the same below the surface, which I think is as perfect an analogy as we're likely to get for the futility of racism.

Of all the consumer products, chewing gum is perhaps the most ridiculous: it literally has no nourishment—you just chew it to give yourself something to do with your stupid Western mouth. Half the world is starving, and the other's going, I don't actually need any nutrition, but it would be good to masticate, just to keep my mind off things.

I think many of the boundaries that convention has placed upon us are arbitrary, so we can fiddle with them if we fancy. Gravity's hard to dispute, and breathing, but a lot of things we instinctively obey are a lot of old tosh.

When I was poor and complained about inequality, they said I was bitter; now that I'm rich and I complain about inequality, they say I'm a hypocrite. I'm beginning to think they just don't want to talk about inequality.

If you want to understand what's most important to a society, don't examine its art or literature, simply look at its biggest buildings.



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Softening Up the Soil

AS THIS ISSUE hits the streets and mailboxes, the question hovers: by November 7, will we be discussing a Blue Wave or a Red Tide?

As usual, West Virginia finds itself lodged dubiously at the center of this question—with key positions up for grabs around every turn, statewide and locally—while also playing host to perhaps no greater example of the modern dilemma of voting *against* someone versus *for* someone else: incumbent Senator Joe Manchin versus rival and current WV Attorney General Patrick Morrisey.

Manchin's inability to take any type of believable partisan stance on important issues was on perfect display during the Kavanaugh hearings—enough said. But while he navigates his own predicament—i.e., how to win reelection in red West Virginia as a Democrat and somehow maintain both personal dignity and/or political credibility—Morrisey's position is clear: nonsensical politics, and loyalty to Trump.

If his used-car-salesman campaign commercials didn't have you immediately scratching him off your list, then perhaps his bio will: A former Big Pharma lobbyist who, as Attorney General, watched millions of pills being dumped on West Virginia in recent years as the opioid epidemic reached a fever pitch, and seemed to do nothing. He also joined a lawsuit designed to allow insurance companies to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions for West Virginians (and denies it). And how can West Virginia teachers forget his vehement opposition to their strike earlier this year? The list goes on.

This one's a no-brainer. Manchin's not ideal, without a doubt. But his most redeemable quality going into the midterms at this point is simple: he's not Morrisey. And that works for me, for now.

Another headline for the Mountain State is West Virginia Amendment 1—the No Right to Abortion in Constitution Measure—on the ballot as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment set for November 6.

In a nutshell, the WV Legislature has put this initiative on the ballot in the hopes of effectively banning the right to abortion in the state constitution, while simultaneously opening the door to eliminating Medicaid funding for abortions for poor people.

I'm reminded of a quote: *There are two types of people you should never trust—a religious leader who tells you how to vote, and a politician who tells you how to pray.* As if West Virginia needed another reason to be ashamed of itself as of late—nice: let's contradict our alleged hatred of big government and simultaneously rob women of their natural right to control their own bodies and decide for themselves what's good for their lives and their futures. And let's keep trying to ram religion into politics—an act abhorred by the very founding fathers whom supposed constitutionalists reference so frequently when it fits their narrative.

Which also brings to mind the words of Barack Obama: “No, you can't deny women their basic rights and pretend it's about your religious freedom. If you don't like birth control, don't use it. If you don't like abortion, don't have one. Religious freedom doesn't mean you can force others to live by your own beliefs.”

(You can almost hear the echo from within the halls of the gun lobby: *If you don't like guns, don't buy one.*)

Because there's no such thing as outlawing abortion; all you're doing is eliminating *safe* abortion. What it really boils down to is women's rights—and the continuation of a disgusting and archaic American tradition of controlling people because of the color of their skin, gender, sexuality, or religious preference (or non-preference).

And for those who would defend WV Amendment 1, and/or the larger aim that it undeniably represents—abolishing Roe v. Wade—I can't help but entertain a few additional questions: Would you be as passionate to eradicate abortion if you knew for sure that this baby would become a die-hard liberal? A Muslim? A homosexual? Or the next atheist, lesbian, Mexican-American president? Something tells me you'd waver. Something tells me you're already softening up the soil around the goalpost.

Michael Chalmers
EDITOR IN CHIEF

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Legal Aid of West Virginia

Legal Aid of WV is the state's primary provider of civil legal aid and advocacy services throughout the state. Their mission is to ensure that the most vulnerable among us—low-income families, seniors, victims of domestic violence, the disabled—have an equal shot at justice, in the courtroom *and* in their communities.

Find out more at:
LAWV.NET

BY THE NUMBERS

Greenland loses close to

100 million

Olympic-size swimming pools of ice-melt per year.

NASA (via @FocalPointShow)

Generation Z will comprise

32%

of the global population of 7.7 billion in 2019, which means nearly 1/3 of the world's current population was born after 2001.

Bloomberg

More than

37,000

young people currently participate in high school sports in WV.

WV Athletic Directors Association

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// FEATURE



RENOVATIONS TAKE *Bavarian Inn* TO NEXT LEVEL

Early November will witness the launch of a new chapter at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. Dubbed Bavarian Brothers Brewing, the fresh dimension to the established services will go hand in hand to create even more dining options for locals and vacationers alike.

ARTICLE BY: H.S. Leigh Koonce

Renovations include additional dining space and an onsite brewery.

“FOR FORTY-TWO YEARS, we have run a fine-dining country inn,” said Christian Asam, who runs the Bavarian along with his brother David. “We’re looking to expand our offerings to our guests and transition into our new vision, a European-inspired boutique resort.”

Bavarian Brothers Brewing has brought several changes to the Greystone Building. A new lounge bar is open daily. A brew pub space will debut in early November, with eight beers on tap once operations are up to full

“

... HOW DO WE CAPTURE THIS ENERGY YEAR-ROUND, AND NOT JUST THE FIVE MONTHS THE POOL IS OPEN? ...

”

speed. Asam pointed out that five of those beers will be brewed on site. Additionally, a refreshed and expanded outdoor patio seating area, with firepit, is the final component of the renovations.

Asam explained that the brew pub will have its own menu of “intelligent yet casual small bites,” adding that the Bavarian has always been “... careful to have a sense of ‘place’ with our food, menus, and décor. It will be European themed or based off of local Appalachian inspirations.”



A refreshed and expanded outdoor patio seating area, with firepit, is the final component of the renovations.

He’s also quick to point out that these changes certainly don’t mean the unique elements of the Bavarian, a hallmark of Shepherdstown for the past four decades, will disappear. “If you’ve been a visitor for the past forty-two years, you can still have the same experience,” he assured. “Fine dining will still

be in the Potomac Room; the Rathskeller will remain the same. We’re not changing all the offerings, but instead, adding dining options and amenities to appeal to our long-term guests, while introducing a next generation of travelers to the Inn.”

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// FEATURE CONT.



The new lounge offers locals and visitors alike a sophisticated new option by day or night in Shepherdstown.

Future Forward

The name Bavarian Brothers Brewing is a nod to the present owners' believed ancestors, the Asam brothers, who were architects and church builders in Bavaria during the 1700s.

Erwin Asam, the father of Christian and David, who established the Bavarian Inn in 1976, is set to be the namesake of one of the on-tap beers—"Erwin's Angry Ale"—as is their mother—"Carol's Royal Stout."

"The beers will give us a unique opportunity to have some fun and be whimsical with our product and names," said Asam, indicating the beer named for his father is an acknowledgment of his seriousness, and the one for his mother, a nod to her formal manner.

And while patrons are enjoying the new amenities, they'll likely notice some additional renovations that aren't necessarily dining-centric, but more with an eye towards the environment.

"In the past five years, we've really looked to see how we, as an organization, can be environmentally conscious," Asam indicated. "We installed solar panels on our Black Forest Building to offset energy needs. We also installed four solar-powered car chargers—two for electric cars and two for Tesla. Guests are using these and are thankful for our efforts."


Moreover, the Bavarian's tennis court has received a refurbishment, and a bocce court has been added for guests. To that end, guest-room renovations have begun, and with the impetus for many of the changes being the addition of the ever-popular infinity pool in recent years, which overlooks the Potomac River, Asam indicated there is more on the horizon.

"We still have lots of ideas and upgrades that we want to do. We instantly noticed that we were getting a younger clientele and a few more families. And most importantly, guests were staying longer. Instead of a typical one-night stay, people were beginning to look at us as a summer vacation spot where guests now stayed three or four nights, or even longer."

Asam and his brother thought to themselves, "... how do we capture this energy year-round, and not just the five months the pool is open?"

And so here they are, leading the Bavarian into the future, following four decades of success, while remaining true to the original formula—a notion that Asam guarantees. "We promise to stay true to our European heritage throughout the process." 📷

Find out more at www.bavarianinnwv.com.



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// COMMUNITY

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Advocate Insurance Group, established in November of 2008, isn't like most agencies that begin with an existing client base. Advocate started from scratch. The first policy was written for the founder of the company, Michelle Cuthrell Sadat, and from that point on, Advocate took off.

"When I started the company, I knew I wanted to offer the best insurance products available, and in my opinion, that started with Erie Insurance," she said. "Ten years later, the agency has grown to servicing over two thousand families and businesses in our area."

Kaveh Sadat, an agent at Advocate, and Michelle's husband, explained how they offer a wide range of products from home, auto, business, life, and health insurance. When a customer comes to them, they can look at their entire picture and offer a wide range of options to meet their needs.

"Something that our customers really love right now is the new auto security endorsement offered by Erie Insurance," he explained. "Following a covered total loss, we will pay to replace a vehicle with a vehicle of the same make, model, and equipment that is two model years



Michelle Cuthrell Sadat and Kaveh Sadat of Advocate Insurance Group

newer and with up to fifteen percent less mileage than the mileage on the totaled vehicle. What it means for customers is more money at claim time to be able to buy a replacement, which makes for a happy customer."

Key Priority

Erie Insurance is currently the number one insurance company in the state of West Virginia for commercial auto and commercial multi-peril insurance, and number two in the state for home and auto insurance. A Fortune 500 company, Erie got its start in 1925, and has proven itself in the industry with nearly a century of success to back it up.

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and localized service customers enjoy when they interact with Advocate's staff. The team goes above and beyond to learn about what matters most to their clients, and then designs a plan of protection to fit those needs. After that, Advocate is with the client every step of the way.

"We began this journey with an insurance company and a product we believed in and with a vision of empowering our clients with knowledge and being advocates for their financial security," shared Michelle. "Over the years, we have been able to stand by many clients in their times of need, and that's what insurance is all about."

Additionally, Michelle has served on the board for Main Street Martinsburg for 12 years, and is a past president of the organization. Advocate is also involved with the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Eastern Panhandle Home Builders Association, and various other local organizations.

"Being actively involved in the community we live and work in is a key priority for us," she added.

Advocate is conveniently located at 111 South Queen St., in Martinsburg (WV), and can be found by phone at 304-596-2429 and on Facebook at Advocate Insurance Group.

Team members include: Michelle Cuthrell Sadat—Agency owner/Agent, Kaveh Sadat—Agent, Carrie Jordan—Customer Service Advocate, Shannon Roberts—Inside Sale Agent, Jodi Forrest Pope—Agent, and Keyonda Florence—Administrative Assistant.

Find out more at www.advocate-ins.com.

ARTICLE BY: Robin Murphy

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// COMMUNITY

CONFRONTING THE CONFEDERACY, AGAIN. AND AGAIN.



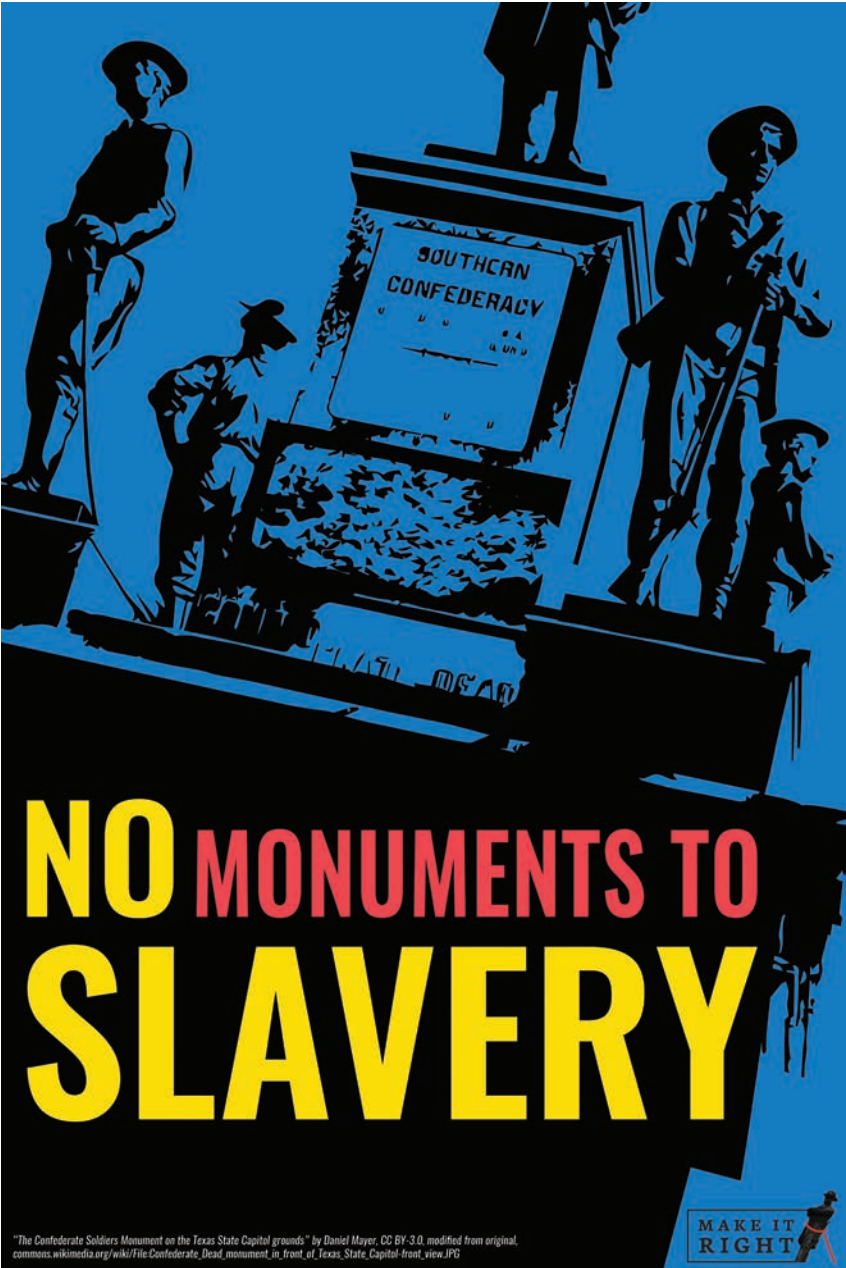
OVER A YEAR AGO, four local women contacted the Jefferson County Commission to request the removal of a plaque by the front door of the Jefferson County Courthouse honoring Confederate soldiers. Placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1986 to commemorate their ancestors, the plaque reads: *1861-1865 In honor and memory of the Confederate soldiers of Jefferson County, who served in the War Between the States. Erected by the Leetown Chapter #231 United Daughters of the Confederacy. Erected May 25, 1986.*

Though the Leetown Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has since dissolved, surviving member Polly Wharton has stated she is in favor of removing the plaque, as the original intention was to honor, not offend, and if taking down the plaque would end the controversy, then she is supportive. Regardless, the plaque remains, and the debate continues.

To that end, the courthouse plaque is not the only marker under scrutiny in Jefferson County. The Heyward Shepherd Memorial in Harpers Ferry is on the list of ten targeted monuments of the Make it Right Project (www.independentmediainstitute.org/make-it-right)—a group "committed to taking down Confederate monuments and addressing American historical truths." Kali Holloway, the project's senior director, said the project isn't about starting a national dialogue or raising awareness. Instead, Holloway wants to see an end outcome; she wants to make visible, measurable change.

"I don't want to keep talking ad nauseam about these ideas—making it seem like a lost cause," Holloway emphasized. "We need to get beyond just talking. Part of the visible change involves the installation of billboards that address the need to remove monuments—so far, one in Chapel Hill (NC) and one in Charlottesville (VA).

Located in Harpers Ferry (WV), the Heyward Shepherd Memorial is considered by the Make It Right Project to be a "loyal slave monument"—one which was "erected to propagate the fallacious idea that black men



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and women had lived most contentedly when they were enslaved."

According to the Make It Right website, the memorial, dedicated to Heyward Shepherd—a free black man accidentally killed in abolitionist John Brown's failed uprising—"corrupts history to laud the 'faithfulness of thousands of negroes' who did not take up arms against their oppressors."

A placard at the site notes that in 1905, the United Daughters of the Confederacy said the memorial would "prove that the people of the South who owned slaves valued and respected their good qualities as no one else ever did or will do." The Make It Right Project is dedicated not just to removing the Confederate monuments, but also to developing post-removal protocols to properly contextualize these markers.

As for the Heyward Shepherd Memorial, Holloway stated the end goal would be a museum onsite or in West Virginia that could properly historicize the monument. To those who believe relocating the monument would erase history, Holloway maintained that this argument "holds no water." She argued instead that the opposite is true: "Monuments were put up to erase history." She assured that to relocate these markers that obfuscate the past would be to *correct* the historical record.

Furthermore, Holloway noted, "If it were genuinely about history, there would be monuments to Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, or John Brown." But, she added, "... history isn't in monuments; it's in television, media, and libraries." Thus, the notion to relocate the landmark to a more fitting context rather than keeping them in places inapt for their intent.



Local activists gathered last month to continue the protest against the Confederate plaque still attached to the front of the Jefferson County Courthouse in downtown Charles Town.

Not Going Away

Of the Jefferson County plaque debate, and those fighting to have it removed, Holloway expressed, "I know that we [Make It Right] have a very specific target that we are working toward, and the plaque isn't on our list, but even though we have different targets, the mission is the same. I would be happy to support their mission where I can."

During a meeting in January of this year, Jefferson County Commissioner Peter Onoszko said of the plaque debate that it was pretty much dead, but members of Women's March West Virginia continue sitting in on nearly every Jefferson County Commission meeting, holding signs that read, simply, "Remove the plaque."

Susan Pipes, an outreach captain of Women's March West Virginia, said, "That's all we do—sit there. We don't address them anymore—just remind them that we're going to keep reminding them ... that this isn't an issue that will die."

Pipes revealed that Commission President Josh Compton told the group, "I admire you for using your First Amendment right, but I really thought this issue with the plaque would go away."

Pipes pointed out that the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission removed a rock from the courthouse lawn as well as a sign that talked about John Brown. She explained that these were removed when the commission redid the grounds in an attempt to remove anything from structured grounds that wasn't original or necessary. There are postcards of the courthouse for sale at the Visitor Center in Harpers Ferry on which you can see the sign in the lawn. Pipes urged, "They are about to paint the courthouse. It is a perfect time to *keep* the plaque off. It has to be taken off, anyway."

In regards to those who resist the plaque's relocating, Pipes believes these people feel history will be changed. With multiple instances across the country where statues are being destroyed or taken down in the middle of the night, Pipes feels those opposed to removing the plaque imagine Women's March, and others in favor, are only adding to the issues and possible violence.

"I also feel they believe their part [of history] is being destroyed," she said, "but nobody is denying that they fought in the war—those are their families." But she underscored that the mission is about more than that. "I have to be able to be one of those people on the right side of history. That's what this is about—making it right."

ARTICLE BY: Katie Quinnelly

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// ENVIRONMENT / POLITICS / OP-ED

SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN DENMARK

IN WEST VIRGINIA, we’ve learned the hard way that Shakespeare was right: There is, indeed, something very rotten in Denmark.

At Climate Week events in New York City in September, Denmark’s Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen appeared alongside the CEO of the Danish manufacturing company Rockwool to tout the country’s commitment to the green economy. However, the glitzy Manhattan gathering was juxtaposed against rising tensions in rural West Virginia, where my neighbors and I are battling the very same Danish manufacturer to preserve our air quality and way of life.

In 2017, Rockwool announced that it would build an insulation factory in Jefferson County (WV), a pastoral community of 55,000 residents in the northern Shenandoah Valley with an economy largely based on agriculture, tourism,



Protesters gather in downtown Charles Town this past July in opposition to Rockwool.

and a beneficial proximity to the D.C.-Baltimore region. As details of the Rockwool project emerged, opposition to the factory boiled over, with more than 12,000 residents signing an online petition in a matter of weeks and hundreds of citizens appearing at local hearings to express

their disapproval. Hand-painted anti-Rockwool signs have cropped up in farm fields and front yards, dotting the countryside as a silent but powerful symbol of the community’s fierce objections and deepening anxieties.

Rockwool’s proposed half-million-square-



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foot factory with 210-foot smokestacks would melt industrial slag and rock at a temperature of nearly 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit to produce mineral wool insulation fibers. The company’s air quality permit application indicates that the plant would be a significant source of at least nine different categories of air pollution, including several known carcinogens. According to the EPA’s National Emissions Inventory, the facility is projected to be one of the two worst emitters of volatile organic compounds in West Virginia and among the top ten in the state for particulate matter. Most alarmingly, the proposed factory with its round-the-clock operations is being built across the street from an existing elementary school and within a two-mile radius of three other public schools and two daycare centers where one-third of the county’s children spend their days.

Trust Runs Thin

Beyond the significant environmental concerns, the community is also reeling from an approval process that seems designed to limit public input. The Rockwool property had previously been announced as the ideal location for sustainable transit-oriented development with proposed residential and commercial facilities surrounding a newly imagined commuter rail station. However, with the Danish company’s arrival, a handful of municipal officials swiftly rezoned the land for heavy industry with little notice.

Jefferson County residents now feel trapped between a powerful multinational manufacturing company on the one hand, and lax regulators on the other. The West Virginia

Department of Environmental Protection issued Rockwool’s air quality permit this spring without holding a single public hearing. Only a year ago, Governor Jim Justice announced that businesses would stop hearing “no” from the WVDEP, and he appointed a former coal executive to head the agency. But West Virginians still remember our numerous environmental disasters, most recently a massive chemical spill in the Kanawha Valley that poisoned the water supply for 300,000 people. Trust in our regulatory bodies runs thin.

Incidentally, Rockwool’s only other U.S. factory is in Byhalia, Mississippi. It seems anything but coincidental that the company would locate its plants in the two poorest states in the country that also rank near the bottom in stringency of environmental policies. This paints an undesirable picture of a company from one of the greenest countries in the world creating environmental challenges in places that are least prepared to manage them. The timing also coincides with the Trump administration’s efforts to weaken air-quality regulations, which could ease compliance burdens for companies like Rockwool while making residents of manufacturing towns more vulnerable.

Up in Smoke

As community pressure continues to build, Rockwool’s posture and tactics have become more aggressive. At a municipal hearing in early September, Bjorn Andersen, the company’s senior vice president, said Rockwool will never leave, not even if every public official in our county asks, unequivocally, for them to go. The company also refused a request from the

president of the county board of education to pause construction on the factory until an independent human health risk assessment could be conducted. Most recently, the county commission received a menacing letter from attorneys representing Rockwool threatening a \$100 million lawsuit if local agencies don’t follow through on tax incentives and necessary infrastructure for the plant.

During Climate Week, Danish political and business leaders celebrated their country’s commitment to sustainable development and its progress on greenhouse gas emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Accord. On the other hand, it’s a sad reality that my home state of West Virginia, with its extractive economy, longtime dependence on fossil fuels, and poor economic and health outcomes, isn’t invited to these kinds of international gatherings.

But for Denmark, there’s a special kind of hypocrisy in a country that purports to be an environmental leader while its corporations force pollution on communities fighting for something better. The Danes’ moral authority is eroded when they offer a small town in West Virginia the same Faustian bargain our state has seen countless times before—carcinogens and degraded air quality in exchange for a handful of jobs. Meanwhile, Jefferson County’s dreams of sustainable development go up a Danish smokestack.

ARTICLE BY: Rod Snyder

Rod is a lifelong West Virginian, living in Shenandoah Junction. This piece is a reprint of an article Rod wrote for Medium.com in late October.



“The urge to individuate is the strongest of all human urges and will manifest itself in a negative form if we refuse to attune to it consciously.”
— C.G. Jung

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// DRUGS & ADDICTION



AS FAR AS RECOVERY IS CONCERNED—YOU'RE EITHER ON THE TEAM OR YOU'RE NOT

SOME OF THE MOST RECENT opioid numbers reveal approximately 72,000 yearly drug overdose deaths in the U.S. (2017)—around 30,000 of those directly related to opioids. Depending on the study, and particularly, the state, the average (for opioid deaths) comes out to somewhere between 80–115 deaths per day—currently—around the country.

For perspective, 72,000 people is about the average seating capacity of an NFL stadium—every single year. Attached to each and every one of those 72,000 lives is a family, a mother, a brother, sisters, grandparents, children, aunts, uncles, friends, husbands, wives, co-workers, and inevitably, the long and twisted journey that is addiction—from first use to final moments.

And very rarely, if ever, is it a journey that only exhausts the life of the user. It may snuff that single life out, but there are many other lives, and piles of debris, lying in its wake. I only have to think of my own brother to see it all laid out in my mind—the entire narrative arc of his more than 20 years addicted to drugs—most of those years on some type of opioid—though all roads led to heroin, as they often do. When I think of the enormity of his mess, and the mess it made for my mother, for our family, my mind drifts to that number, and how it's even possible that such a mess can be happening similarly to 72,000 other families every single year around the country.

But we already know it's horrible—it's a national epidemic, after all. We only need to look within our own circles to see it. It's everywhere—everyone has someone within reach, addicted to something. Which leads me to a point I touched on recently during a speech for a group looking to get involved and help out in some way.

I brought up the notion of being on the “recovery team.” And with that—I actually mean *Team Recovery*—i.e., signing up to be

in recovery with your loved one as they fight their way back to some type of normalcy—and hopefully productivity.

It's actually pretty simple—though it's also pretty amazing how many people screw it up. Of that 72,000 each year, I imagine there are quite a few screw ups. But here's the thing: if your loved one is fresh into recovery and you let them use your car to go “check in on some friends,” you're not on Team Recovery. If you're watching a game with your loved one, and you have a few drinks while they only have one (plus, they're the designated driver for assurance), you're not on Team Recovery. If you watch them fall into familiar habits with familiar people, without much resistance, you're not on Team Recovery.

If you and your friends or family are out celebrating your loved one's year or two or ten of sobriety—and that loved one absent-mindedly goes up to the bar to get a round of drinks for the table—even though he/she is only drinking water ... you're not on Team Recovery.

I can do this all day. I've done it in my head quite a bit over the years since my brother passed—realizing how many times I wasn't on his team ... no matter how innocent or simple the situation seemed.

It's another layer to the epidemic that often gets lost in translation—because we associate so much of the “mess” with the addict's decisions. Which is what makes the decisions *we* can control so utterly important in the long run—and so equally vital to our loved one's recovery.



ARTICLE BY: Mike Chalmers



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Helping Those Who Hurt

FOR NEARLY A DECADE, Colleen Kradel (left in above picture) has been a clinical social worker, practicing mostly cognitive behavioral therapy in the Eastern Panhandle. For the past three years, her practice—**be well / Betterment Counseling Services**—has been conveniently located within The HUB (126 E. Burke St., Suite 4, Martinsburg), where she has seen her client list grow, mostly by word of mouth.

Recently certified as a Certified Daring Way Facilitator (CDWF), Kradel has the ability to work with her clients using renowned social worker/researcher Brené Brown's curriculum on vulnerability and courage. Clients who use this curriculum open themselves up to learn about their barriers to living a full and whole-hearted life.

"Many of my clients are dealing with some type of anxiety—panic attacks, OCD, and more—and I provide individual counseling for them," she noted. Kradel's practice offers therapeutic services covering adult, adolescent, and family counseling, as well as areas of specialty that cover anxiety, depression, panic attacks, OCD, life transitions, troubled relationships, and self-esteem/self-worth. "I began as a school social worker, so I worked with a lot of kids, but as my business has grown, I've been seeing more adults—especially with the anxiety piece."

Because of that growth, Kradel has added group sessions, retreats, and intensives. In the group sessions, attendees run through much of the curriculum developed by Brown. It runs on Tuesdays and comprises eight weeks, and attendees aren't required to be in therapy to take part.

And because she has been working more with adults, she began to look for a solution that circled back towards young people. Enter Ellie Johnson, who recently interned with Kradel for 22 weeks, and then came on board after receiving her master's in social work and passing her licensure exam. "I'm filling in the kids part—ages 5-18 is typically my ideal age," indicated Johnson, "but I also take on adults—though I steer more towards younger people."

Johnson will also be going into local schools soon via a partnership with Project Aware—a grant program designed to help state and local education agencies work with young people and families struggling with mental and behavioral health issues. She's looking to do some partnership work with local DHHR as well. "We want to help people to understand that they matter, regardless of age," she assured. "They're important, and when they understand that, they feel safe, empowered, and validated. It helps them heal."

Kradel sees Johnson as a perfect addition to the *be well* endeavor, and emphasizes that the goal of her practice is to meet the client where they are—helping them problem solve, and providing a safe place where they can tell their story in confidence, with no judgement.

"And if needed, we refer out to resources in the community," she said. "We look at the whole picture of the person, to uncover the best solution. At the end of the day, it's really about sitting with someone in their pain, holding space with them, and listening. I spend my days and weeks with people who are hurting—helping them work through it—and for that, I'm extremely grateful."

HEALTH

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BY: Evan Benhamu

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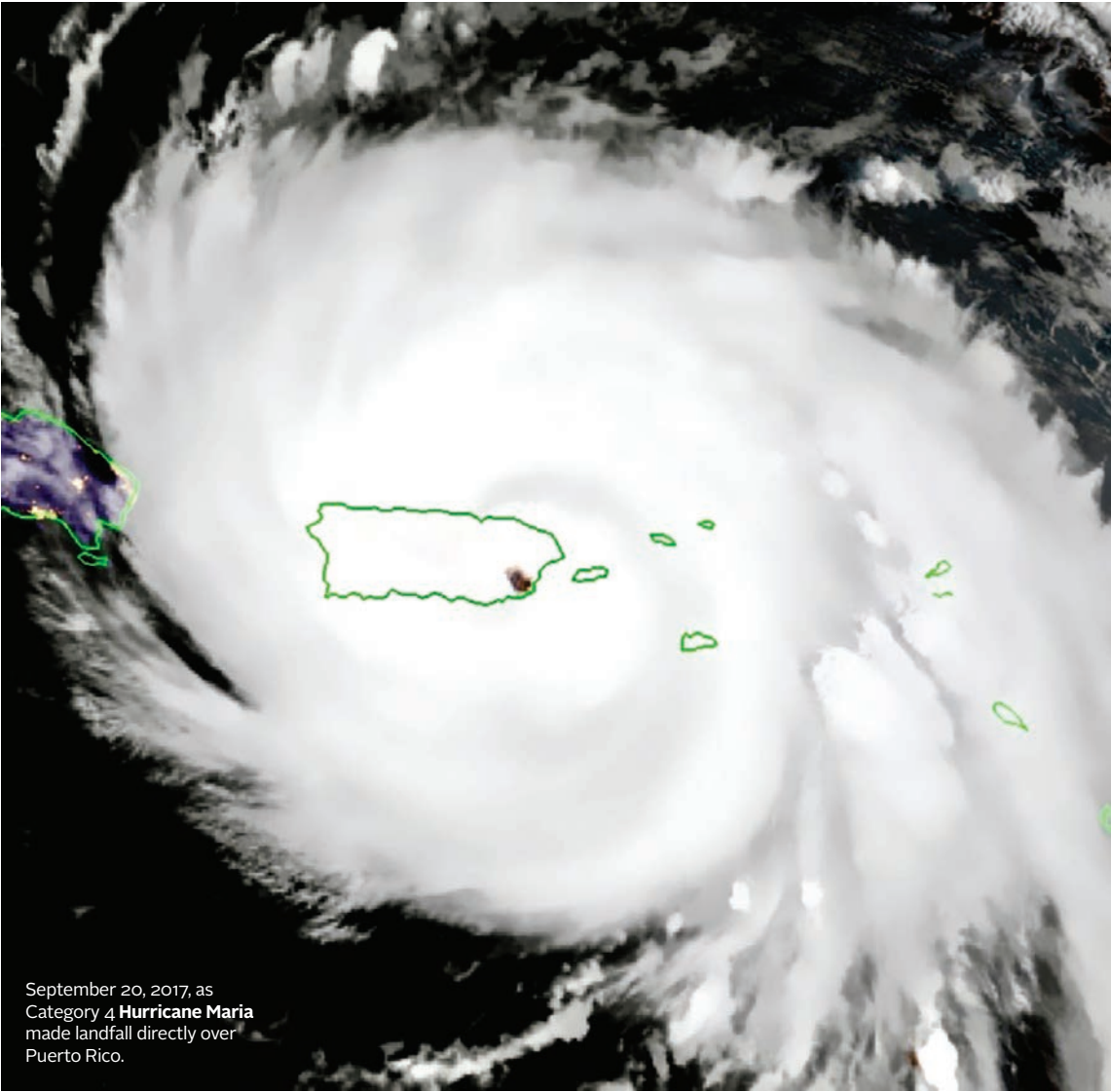
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// SOCIETY

JUST OVER A YEAR AFTER MARIA: WHY PUERTO RICO SHOULD MATTER TO US



September 20, 2017, as Category 4 Hurricane Maria made landfall directly over Puerto Rico.

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria changed Puerto Rico and its people forever. It also changed the lives of us who live outside the island. Many people have seen the news, which limits their knowledge of Puerto Rico—that it is a small island in the Caribbean—a territory of the U.S. where Puerto Ricans are American citizens and fiscal problems were exacerbated due to Maria. The news also describes a debate about how appropriate federal response has been to this natural disaster. That said, for some in Puerto Rico, and Puerto Ricans in the mainland, Maria could have been a “blessing in disguise.” I’m not saying that a disaster of this magnitude is a good thing. What I

am saying is that now Puerto Rico is in the collective conscience of the U.S.—our history is now America’s history. But I am saddened at how little the average American knows or cares about Puerto Rico, and yet opinions about the island thrive within the current polarized political environment. I personally believe that Puerto Rico should be a state of the Union. However, I don’t think statehood should be requested, it should be demanded. Puerto Rico was taken by the U.S. because of the Spanish-American War of 1898. To be clear, Puerto Ricans did not ask to be part of the U.S. Yet now, it’s a “commonwealth” that lives outside of the Union, yet part of it. There

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“
... Puerto Rico should matter to us.
Because next time, it could be us ...
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is an autonomous government with a local constitution, just like a state. But it is not a state. Puerto Rico does not have membership in the U.S. Senate. The only representative in Congress is one delegate with limited participation. All federal laws are applicable in Puerto Rico, but not all federal funding is available in Puerto Rico.

If you were to move to Puerto Rico and establish residency there, you'd automatically lose the right to vote in the presidential elections. Now, you would be exempt of paying federal income tax, but don't worry, the Jones Act imposes taxes on all goods that arrive to the island from the mainland. And a huge majority of goods that arrive in Puerto Rico come from the mainland—mostly Jacksonville (FL).

This and other disparities between Puerto Rico and the states make the cost of living on the island very difficult. Federal law in the past granted corporate tax exemptions to manufacturing businesses operating in Puerto Rico. This was known as Section 936. Then in the '90s, Section 936 expired and no alternative was offered. This caused industries to leave the island, and unemployment skyrocketed. After all, manufacturing was the main source of employment in Puerto Rico. Yet the local government was not prepared for this change. Sound familiar, West. Virginia? A main source of employment taken, then high unemployment. The local administration in Puerto Rico began funding the government by issuing utility bonds. Quick cash. Various administrations, both left and right of the aisle, continued this issuance of these bonds. But also, corruption and mismanagement of these administrations, plus the indifference of the federal government, made it worse.

High unemployment and stagnant wages held down the Puerto Rican economy even after the rest of America was bouncing back from 2008. So then, even before Maria, Puerto Rico was bankrupt. Yet they couldn't request bankruptcy protection. As a territory, they weren't allowed. A compromise reached between the Obama administration and the Republican Congress was a law that gave Puerto Rico some protections, but imposed an unelected board to conduct the fiscal business of the island. And then, Maria hit.

Consider the Facts

Now that we've reached (and slightly surpassed) the one-year mark since Maria, has Puerto Rico's landscape changed? What have we learned? Let's consider these facts provided by CBS's David Begnaud. After Maria hit, 50 percent of FEMA personnel assigned to Puerto Rico was not trained in community-level emergency management. FEMA usually provides resources to state and local governments, and these local entities provide and distribute the resources. After all, they know their community best.

Now, I grew up in Puerto Rico. Under normal circumstances, emergency management agencies are organized and well coordinated. But Maria was something else. This was a Category 4 hurricane and a direct hit to the island. Local response collapsed. And the island's condition as a colony of the U.S. made many say: "Well, the island collapsed due to the strength of the storm, the feds should step up." This in turn revealed something Puerto Ricans have always known: we are second-class citizens.

Close to 200,000 people have left the island since Maria. The average federal storm assistance

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// SOCIETY CONT.



An aerial shot of some of the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Maria.

received per household in Puerto Rico is \$1,800. The average for victims of Hurricane Harvey (Houston, TX) is \$9,000. Add to that the remarks of our current president, not accepting the death toll and dismissing the suffering of the people of Puerto Rico. As citizens, it is our responsibility to hold our elected officials accountable for their lack of action in this disaster.

The silver lining, if any, is that those of us on the mainland have an even tighter affinity to Puerto Rico. I feel that Puerto Rico has earned their right to be a state. Puerto Rico shouldn't ask; Puerto Rico should demand. The Jones Act should be amended to allow lower taxation of

goods. A Marshall Plan should be implemented to help rebuild the island. Additionally, all debt to the vulture hedge funds preying on Puerto Rico should be dismissed. And if our current congresspersons don't support this, then I will vote for those who will.

As far as those still living in Puerto Rico, I saw in my last trip to the island a resurgence in small businesses—mostly in food and hospitality. Tourism has become Puerto Rico's best natural resource. Yet they still struggle. If you visit the island, you still see areas in rubble. You will experience rolling blackouts. However, I believe the best way to help Puerto

Rico and its people is by planning your next vacation there.

No need for passport or money exchange. It is still U.S. soil. The people are very welcoming and willing to help visitors. And the beaches are the best in the world. Puerto Rico should matter to us. Because next time, it could be us.

ARTICLE BY: A.T. Aponte

Raised in Puerto Rico, A.T. is a federal employee and resident of Harpers Ferry (WV).

// COMMUNITY

HANDMADE CHRISTMAS IN SHEPHERDSTOWN KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON



LOOKING FOR A GIFT for someone special, something unique for your home, or just want to reward yourself? Mark your calendar for November 24 (Small Business Saturday) and December 15 for *A Handmade Christmas in Shepherdstown*—now in its fourth year.

Organizer Michelle Kwiatkowski, owner of the Wild Rose Soap Company, founded the event with a mission—to encourage people to buy locally and keep money in the community. She stressed that handmade items by local artisans are just as good or better (and more thoughtful) than the mass-produced items found in big retail stores at comparable prices.

“We’ll have a great variety of stuff for men, women, and children that people will want to buy, and it’s affordable,” she noted. “There will be returning artists and some fresh artists. Most don’t do other shows, so this will be an opportunity to see artists you won’t otherwise see. Most live in West Virginia or within about an hour drive.”

“
... Most don’t do other
shows, so this will be an
opportunity to see artists
you won’t otherwise see ...
”

Kwiatkowski herself is a third-generation soap maker with a line of handcrafted natural soaps and lotions. *A Handmade Christmas* will boast something for everyone, with jewelry, knit and crochet items, art glass, wood crafts, practical and decorative ceramics, handmade children’s clothing, candles, stuffed animals, and fine art.

Three local authors will be on hand with their books. Especially for Christmas, visitors can shop for wreaths, unique stockings, home decorations, and ornaments for the tree.

Attendees will want to meet (and be inspired by) two local young entrepreneurs, both teenagers, who will be selling their wares. Gage Shepherd, author of four children’s books, published his first book at age 10. Berkley Simmons, owner of For the Birds, makes hand-crafted bird-seed wreaths and other bird treats with natural ingredients.

The event will be held at the Town Run Tap House and Community Pub (202 E. Washington St., Shepherdstown), with food and drink available for shoppers. There will be a play area for children to give parents a break, and massage therapist Tiffany Miller will offer free chair massages to tired shoppers. Santa and Mrs. Claus will spring a surprise visit, and Mrs. West Virginia will read a Christmas story. Mountaineer Popcorn, a business partner of the event, will donate free bags of their famous popcorn to the first 20 people entering.

Additionally, everyone who comes in gets a ticket for door prizes donated by local businesses and artists, and shoppers spending at least \$10 with a vendor get an extra ticket. Extra tickets will be given to anyone donating an item for charity. Also, an important addition this year will be the presence of non-profit partners who will collect items for charity.

A featured charity is JJ Bags, who provides children in foster care with new, high-quality duffle bags filled with comfort items. These children are often shuffled from home to home with all their belongings in trash bags. Items needed include duffle bags, small blankets, stuffed animals, toys, single-player games, and pajamas of all sizes. The JJ Bags Facebook page includes a link to their Wish List.

A tourism grant from Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau has helped to advertise the event. See a full lineup of the artisans on *A Handmade Christmas in Shepherdstown’s* Facebook page.

ARTICLE BY: Claire Stuart

// SOCIETY

BACKCOUNTRY MOTORCYCLE ROUTE EXPLORES WEST VIRGINIA'S "COUNTRY ROADS"



The MABDR led to Shepherdstown (WV) for two riders earlier this year. ©Alfonse Palaima

THE MID-ATLANTIC BACKCOUNTRY DISCOVERY ROUTE (MABDR), a scenic motorcycle tour, is bringing motorcycle travelers through several historic towns in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Released earlier this year, the route also known as the MABDR is a 1,080-mile journey through the gravel, dirt, and paved country roads of Appalachia.

Starting in the trail-town of Damascus (VA), near the Tennessee border, the MABDR winds through rural Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania before finishing at the New York state line. The route was developed by the non-profit organization Backcountry Discovery Routes, whose goal is to develop and protect forest and desert off-road routes through the public lands and back roads of North America.

"Since we felt the route was going to be on the easier end of the BDR spectrum, we chose to include locations of historical significance," commented Kevin Woody, route architect—who pointed out that, although many of the BDR can be accessed by most off-road-capable vehicles, they've been designed with adventure motorcycle travel in mind.

Adventure motorcycles are quickly becoming one of the motorcycle industry's top segments, with industry titan Harley Davidson even recently announcing plans to begin selling an adventure bike in 2020. Adventure riders are more like the backcountry hikers of the motorcycle world—trading stylish chrome and leather for camping gear and off-road tires. Outfitted to overcome any challenges they may encounter, their motorcycles are more closely related to a dirt bike than a chopper.

Of the nine current routes, the MABDR is the first Eastern route, with all previous routes being in Western States such as Nevada, Colorado, and Washington. "The organization has been getting requests for an East Coast BDR for many years," said BDR President Paul Guillien. "With the Western routes being so far away, they just weren't practical for most people living in the east. Our team desperately wanted to deliver a route for our fans out east.

Woody added, "We experienced many good remote and isolated dirt sections, but often the road would come out in a heavily populated area, which

we try to avoid. This made it very difficult to stitch those segments together in a way that kept the rider having a backcountry experience.

But despite the challenges, and years in the making, the MABDR has become one of the organization's most popular routes, with hundreds of riders completing the journey thus far. The route has also quickly met another BDR goal by facilitating an economic boost for many of the locally owned hotels, restaurants, and country stores in the rural communities along its path.

On the local level, the addition of MABDR has brought this spirit of adventure to our community and spotlights our renowned "Country Roads." As many more make plans to ride the route and enjoy our region's beautiful fall colors, the BDR team is hard at work developing their next release, the long-awaited Southern California Backcountry Discovery Route.

For more information, visit www.ridebdr.com.

ARTICLE BY: Kenneth Fisher

// POLITICS / OP-ED



ROCKWOOL DEAL REALLY GOOD, FOR ROCKWOOL

WEST VIRGINIA TAXPAYERS are subsidizing a highly profitable \$7.4 billion Danish multinational corporation to build a factory in Jefferson County. Rockwool, which earned nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in 2017, is set to receive millions of dollars in direct and indirect subsidies by local and state taxpayers. The company will receive a ten-year free pass on real property and personal property taxes on its \$150 million plant. And with a reported \$22 million of infrastructure and direct investment from the state, it will be one of the most expensive tax giveaways ever in Jefferson County. It should not be a surprise that Rockwool's profit margins are high. The promised benefit is 120 jobs, plus some "payments-in-lieu."

Which begs the question: why pay companies to locate in West Virginia? Are we really better off? What is the long-term effect? What's the likelihood a company will leave or fail at the end of their tax incentives like Norm Thompson or STaSiS Engineering? It's time that the Legislature put controls in place to answer basic questions in a systematic way about the costs and benefits of subsidies before throwing more money at luring companies.

Unfortunately, West Virginia has few ways to examine the impacts of these investments. More importantly, the state has never accounted for the externalities of industries that pollute. Here in Jefferson County, there has been no economic analysis of the impact of Rockwool's emissions. This would require both an understanding of science and the economics of pollution. What we do know is that Rockwool will not be paying for it. The people and land who will receive the emissions—primarily in Jefferson County—will

strategically sprinkling funds around the county by donating to nonprofits like Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. Rockwool likes to claim it is a "good neighbor," but no one should forget that Rockwool's "donations" to Jefferson County are less than its tax breaks.

The solution is, at a minimum, to require cost-benefit analyses of all public monies spent on private projects like Rockwool. The Legislature should require that a full analysis of the public funds involved be revealed along with a public comment period prior to the approval by any governmental body that needs to approve the tax breaks and subsidies. A few years ago, we were promised real tax reform when the Legislature changed hands. Today, small businesses continue to pay business and inventory taxes while large businesses like Rockwool won't. For too long, the economic development game has ignored the costs of bringing in new businesses and forgotten that small businesses cannot fairly compete when we are forced to subsidize companies like Rockwool.



ARTICLE BY: Stephen Skinner

“

**... Like the cost of the tax subsidies,
the state should also begin to address
all of the costs of pollution ...**

”

be paying for it with increased health costs, lower property values, and future cleanup. These kinds of externalities are simply ignored. Like the cost of the tax subsidies, the state should also begin to address all of the costs of pollution.

Of course, the joke here is on Jefferson County: rather than being paid to absorb the pollution from the Rockwool plant—the taxpayers of Jefferson County will be paying Rockwool for the “privilege” of receiving the pollution. Rather than pay its fair share of the tax burden for schools, Rockwool seeks tens of millions of dollars in cash from the taxpayers to pollute the very people who are writing the checks. Even worse is that Rockwool—seemingly realizing that it is not as popular as it assumed it would be—has started



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWS Fundraisers in November



The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County is participating in **Applebee's Dining to Donate** program throughout November. Dine at Applebee's in Charles Town the first Thursday of the month, from 11am-close, and Applebee's will donate 20 percent of your bill to AWSJC. Additionally, every time you dine at **Glory Days Grill** in Ranson, the restaurant will contribute 10 percent of your total food purchases to AWSJC.

Info: www.awsjc.org

SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Throughout November: The Library's popular children's programs continue weekly through December 5 (no registration is required). **"Lap Babies"** for children birth through 18 months is on Tuesdays from 10:15-11am. **"Time for Twos"** (19 months to 3 years) meets from 11:15am-12pm on Tuesdays. The **"Three to Fives"** program is Wednesdays from 11:15am-12pm (but will not meet on November 21). 11/6: Library open 10am-7pm on Election Day. 11/10: **LEGO Club** (ages 4+), 11am in Children's Dept. 11/12: Library Open on Veterans Day, 10am-7pm. 11/14: Library Board to meet at 7pm (open to the public). 11/17: Free performance by humorist **Lyn Widmyer** on topic of aging, 2-4pm at Shepherdstown Train Station (100 Audrey Egle Dr.). 11/21: Library open from 10am-1pm. 11/23: Library open 10am. 11/24: Stories about animals that hibernate, 11am, Children's Dept.—with songs and craft. 11/29: LEGO Club (ages 4+), 4:30pm, Children's Dept.

Info: 304-264-4783



3

Medieval Carnival – First "4 Dignity" Capital Campaign Fundraiser

All proceeds will benefit the construction of a larger shelter for victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Human Trafficking in the Eastern Panhandle. All tickets purchased include 10 game tickets to this Medieval Carnival, which includes a silent auction, volunteer recognition, live auction, music, food, cocktails, and more. Set for November 3, at 6pm, at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center (233 Lowe Drive, Shepherdstown).

Info: Google "4 Dignity Gala Tickets" – Eventbrite

3

Footin' for Animals 5K & 10K Walk/Run

The Footin' for Animals 5K & 10K Walk/Run lands at Blandy Farm (400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA) on November 3, beginning at 11am. Walk or run by yourself, or bring along your canine companion to join the fun. Attendees will also interact with dogs that are available for adoption at the start line and on the race course. All proceeds benefit the Briggs Animal Adoption Center in Charles Town.

Info: www.baacs.org/footin

3-4

SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMUNITY CLUB 1ST WEEKEND HANDMADE MARKET

The Handmade Market is a unique pop-up boutique-makers. Join them in celebrating local talent, meet the home decor, accessories, gifts, and much more. Open November 4, 9am-4pm, at Shepherdstown's War Memorial.

Info: www.facebook.com/SCCHandmadeMarket

Calendar



HARPERS FERRY EVENT BARN NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

11/2: Beer & Candy—7:30pm 8:30pm—pair your **Halloween candy** with a favorite drink. Fifteen bucks gets you a flight & candy combination, along with education from Matt on how they pair together. 11/3: **Stars that Shine Gala**—first annual fundraising event for local nonprofit promoting self-growth and discovery for girls ages 12-20 in Jefferson County. Tickets \$40. 11/9: **Paint night**, 7-9pm. Chasing the Sun art will walk painters through their own creation of the Maryland Heights overlook. Tickets \$40. 11/10: Chili Cook-Off returns, 4pm-midnight. Ten bucks to enter and winner takes the pot. Also ten bucks to judge, with proceeds going to **Change 4 Vets**. 11/16: **Appalachian Trail Trivia Night**—winner gets \$30 bar tab and specialty prizes. 11/21: Prep your Thanksgiving meals and unwind with live music. 11/24: Post-Thanksgiving **night out** with craft beer, local wines, and good times.

Info: www.harpersferryeventbarn.com

EVENTS

2

First Firday Coffeehouse Features Canadian Balladeer

Scott Cook, a well-traveled and highly acclaimed singer-songwriter, lands at the First Friday Coffeehouse (4599 Shepherdstown Road [Route 45], Martinsburg) on November 2. Doors open for social time and open-mic sign-up at 7pm. Open-mic starts at 7:30pm and is on a first-come/first-serve basis. Performers have the opportunity to showcase their talent in an eight-minute segment. Cook (scottcook.net) will go on at 9pm. A \$10 donation is requested.

Info: First Friday Coffeehouse on Facebook



4 Cellist Rene Schiffer to Perform Bach Concert at Happy Retreat

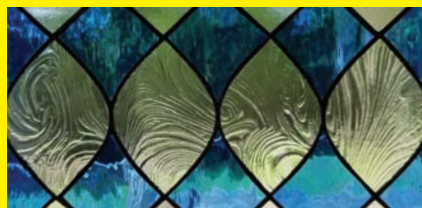
The Charles Washington Chamber Music Society will present internationally acclaimed cellist Rene Schiffer in concert at Happy Retreat (600 Mordington Avenue in Charles Town) on Sunday, November 4, at 2pm. The program will include Bach's cello suites Nos. 1, 3, and 4. Tickets are \$30. Seating is limited and advance-ticket purchase is recommended.

Info: www.happyretreat.org

5 Jackson Katz Speaking on Community Alternatives to Violence

Community Alternatives to Violence is hosting renowned speaker and author Jackson Katz at the Martinsburg Holiday Inn on November 5, from 10am-2:30pm. Katz has long been a major figure and thought leader in the growing global movement of men working to promote gender equality and prevent gender violence.

Info: www.comnav.org/ 304-262-4424



like arts and crafts market featuring local artists and e artists, and shop for fine handcrafted art, jewelry, Saturday, November 3, 10am-7pm, and Sunday, memorial Building (102 E. German St.).

9 Spaghetti Dinner at New Street United Methodist Church

Set for New Street United Methodist Church (corner of New and Church Streets, Shepherdstown) on Friday, November 9, from 5-7pm, this all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner features choice of three sauces, salad, roll, beverages, and homemade desserts. Adults: \$8 / children 4-12: \$5. Handicap accessibility.

Info: New Street United Methodist Church on Facebook



10 Jefferson County Museum Hosts "Behind-the-Scenes" Tours

The Jefferson County Museum is hosting free "Behind-the-Scenes" tours on Saturday, November 10, between 1-4pm. Visitors will see items from the museum's collection that are rarely exhibited and learn how the museum protects and stores valuable objects and papers. The museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11am-4pm, through mid-December. Admission is \$4, while children under 18, students, and members of the Charles Town Library are free.

Info: www.jeffcomuseumwv.org

10 Poetry in the Cabin

Set for November 10, from 10am-3pm, at Friends Wilderness (305 Friends Way Harpers Ferry, WV), published poet and co-leader of prior FWC poetry programs, Tom Donlon, will lead this program that will explore the power of poetry to enrich our lives. No prior experience in reading or writing poetry is necessary. A \$10 donation is suggested and indicate whether you'd like a home-cooked lunch (additional \$10).

OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR

Set for November 10-11, from 10am-5pm, the Over the Mountain studio tour is a self-guided tour of nine studios hosting 24 artists in Jefferson County (WV) where visitors can meet the artists, see the studios, and buy their latest works. It's the oldest of its kind in West Virginia. Anne Bowers, a founding member, and basket weaver, has been taking it to another level the last few years. She offers guests the opportunity to delve into her weaving world while helping to create large installation weaving that she pre-fabricates on her studio property. Additionally, there will be live demonstrations at all stops, including metal and wood working, ceramics, drawing, painting, and more.

Info: www.overthemountainstudiotour.com



11 Veterans Day Commemorated in Shepherdstown



A short program at 1pm within Shepherdstown's War Memorial Building (102 E. German St.) will be preceded by a tolling of the bells and a moment of silence at 11am in honor of the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Sponsored by the Shepherdstown Visitors Center, and led by SVC volunteer and Army veteran Pam Donato, the event will include music, speakers, Four Seasons Books on sale, and information for vets seeking help and community members seeking a way to help. All is free, and all are welcome.

Info: www.shepherdstown.info

13-14 CRAFT OF BUSINESS SUMMIT IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

The Timber Framers Guild of North America has chosen Shepherdstown as one of the venues for their "Craft of Business Summits." This year, the popular ZingTrain program "Servant Leadership & Managing Ourselves" is being offered—November 13-14 at Wild Goose Farm (2935 Shepherd Grade Rd., Shepherdstown). Registration is open.

Info: www.tfguild.org/event



13

Speak Story Series Presents Megan Wells



Speak Story Series, part of Shepherd University's Appalachian Studies Program, presents Megan Wells on November 13, at 7:30pm, at Reynolds Hall (109 N. King St., Shepherdstown). Admission is \$12 at the door, express entry for *Speak* season ticket holders, free to full-time Shepherd University students with ID. *Speak* is for adult audiences. Mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion.

Info: info@speakstoryseries.com

20

Transient Lodging Taskforce Meeting About Airbnb in Shepherdstown

Shepherdstown's Transient Lodging Task Force will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30pm, at Town Hall (104 S. King St.). The task force, which has been looking at the topic of short-term rentals, such as Airbnb, within town limits, would like to get input from the community. All interested parties are invited to attend and share their thoughts.

20

Shepherdstown Community Club Dinner

Starting at 6:30pm with drinks and appetizers, bring your family and friends to the War Memorial Building (102 E. German St., Shepherdstown) for SCC's before-Thanksgiving dinner, prepared by Carol Ann Sanders—which comprises a Chinese menu that includes Master Sauce Chicken, Glass Noodles and Spinach, Red Bell Peppers with Garlic Rice, Pan Fried Scallion Bread, and Dessert. The evening's entertainment will feature Sam Jannotta, owner of Shepherdstown School of Music. Sam will introduce a few of his talented students, and they will showcase a variety of musical instruments. Cost for members is \$15 / non-members \$20.

Info: Shepherdstown Community Club on Facebook



17

ORCHESTRA CONCERT IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

The Friends of Music will celebrate the tenth anniversary of their Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra with a concert in Shepherdstown on Saturday, November 17, at 7:30pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church (Corner of Church and German Streets). Entitled "Nostalgia and Longing," it will feature four works: "Salut d'amour," by Edward Elgar; Mozart's Overture to "Don Giovanni"; a guitar concerto entitled "Concierto de Arsanjuez," by Joaquin Rodrigo; and Bizet's Symphony in C. To help celebrate the anniversary occasion, Dr. Mark McCoy, the former head of Shepherd University's Music Department and the Orchestra's founding music director, is returning to guest conduct the Mozart overture. The Orchestra's current music director, Jed Gaylin, will conduct the rest of the concert program. Admission is FREE for Friends of Music members / \$30 per non-member (\$27.50 before November 4).

Info: www.friendswv.org

23-25

HO HO HO-LIDAY HANDMADE MARKET



The Shepherdstown Community Club will host local/regional artists, artisans, and designers at the War Memorial Building (102 E. German St.) November 23+24, 10am-7pm, and November 25, 9am-4pm ... continuing each Saturday/Sunday of the month through December 23. Discover artful items and meaningful gifts such as fine art, pottery, home & garden decor, specialty foods, jewelry, wearables and accessories, sweet treats, and so much more.

Info: www.facebook.com/SCCHandmadeMarket

24

Annual Cold Turkey Family Hike

Set for November 24, 11am-3pm, join the Benson Family from Annapolis Meeting for the annual Cold Turkey Hike. Bring your leftover food from Thanksgiving and make some new friends at Friends Wilderness (305 Friends Way, Harpers Ferry, WV).

Info: www.friendswilderness.org



30

Christmas Tree Lighting in Martinsburg

Christmas Seasons kicks off November 30, at 6pm, for the Martinsburg tree lighting and an evening full of festivities. The town is lit up top to bottom with lights—from the streetlight snowflakes decorations to outlined buildings and a tree fully loaded with sparkling lights. The shops are open and play host to the community lighting. Carolers walk the street and the church bells peal holiday tunes. The town turns out for that magic moment when the switch is thrown, the tree lights are lit, and the season begins. Santa will make an appearance—giving all good boys and girls goody bags. The next day, Saturday, December 1, at 5:45pm, Martinsburg will host its annual Christmas Parade downtown.

30

Annual Harpers Ferry Olde Tyme Christmas

Set for November 30–December 2, and December 8-9, from 10am-9pm, in Lower Town Harpers Ferry, the 48th-Annual Olde Tyme Christmas Festival kicks off the holiday season and also brings in Harpers Ferry's 1st-Annual Winterfest Celebration, which will run every weekend in December, providing special deals and options for gift shopping and eating in Harpers Ferry. To that end, Olde Tyme Christmas offers performances meant to capture the spirit of a historic Christmas celebration, where quaintly decorated streets come alive for the holiday season. Additionally, the festival includes the Bolivar Christmas Parade, breakfast with Santa, free horse-drawn wagon rides, and much more.

Info: www.historicharpersferry.com

—
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events to:

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wearetheobserver.com

The

HOLIDAY

guide

Local shopping and events

SPONSORED BY: THE BAVARIAN INN

The
Observer
WeAreTheObserver.com

Hello, and Welcome to our *Holiday Guide*



As part of an ongoing effort to showcase the many valued businesses and events that make up Jefferson and Berkeley County, we want to take time here to not only shine a light on some genuine area treasures, but to give them an opportunity to promote themselves, and/or any specials they might be offering during the holidays.

Inside this Holiday Guide, you'll find local businesses and events distinguished by a photograph and a summary of who they are and why you should take some time to get to know them this holiday season.

Epitomized by a yearlong mix of history, heritage, and outdoor adventure, Jefferson and Berkeley Counties are also known for an eclectic listing of buzz-worthy shopping and culinary options.

Though it's been said before, there truly is something for everyone around here—and there's no better time to find out than now.

Grab the family, a friend, or make a day of it on your own. However you choose, spend some time with some of the Panhandle's many wonderful businesses. It's certainly that time of year.

We hope you enjoy our Holiday Guide, and we wish you a wonderful season!!

Michael Chalmers
EDITOR IN CHIEF

OUR HOLIDAY GUIDE SPONSOR:



Bavarian Inn

The Bavarian Inn Shepherdstown is the perfect place to celebrate the holidays with family, friends, and co-workers. Private rooms are available. Open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Consider giving the gift of good taste this year. Purchase Bavarian Inn Gift Cards online at bavarianinnwv.com. Valid for dining or lodging.

Address: 164 Shepherd Grade Road,
Shepherdstown, WV
bavarianinnwv.com



FOOD



Abolitionist Ale Works

The only brewery and brew pub in Jefferson County will have lots of holiday gift packs for sale including Abolitionist Ale hoodies, logo glasses, t-shirts, gift cards, and growlers. A special limited-edition holiday bottle release will happen on Small Business Saturday. The brewery hosts a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 22, and will have open-mic every Tuesday, stand up comedy every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, and live music every Friday.

Store hours:

Monday-Thursday: 3-10pm
Friday & Saturday: Noon-11pm
Sunday: Noon-8pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Address: 129 W. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

abolitionistaleworks.com

SHOPPING



B.Vintage

Shop local at B.Vintage, a boutique in downtown Charles Town, whose modern farmhouse decor and unique gift selection will help you cross off all of the names on your shopping list this holiday season. Want to update a piece of furniture before your holiday guests arrive? B.Vintage also stocks Chalk Paint® decorative paint by Annie Sloan—known for its ease of use and beautiful finish. Stop by their Holiday Open House on November 10, 9am-5pm, for your first chance to scoop up their holiday items!

Store hours:

Tuesday–Friday: 11am–5pm
Saturday: 10am–5pm
Sunday: 11am–3pm

Address: 304 W. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

shopbvintage.com

FOOD



Bushel & Peck

At the historic four corners of George and Washington Streets given to the City for public use by the Washington family, we embrace the vision of Charles Town's founder, Charles Washington. The recently renovated Charles Washington Hall brings back the original community gathering place to serve the residents of Charles Town and our greater community.

Bushel & Peck restores the original intent of the first floor by reestablishing the downtown presence of a local market and regional market/grocery to serve the diverse population of Charles Town. We offer local and regional produce, meats, eggs, honey, milk, cheese, and general grocery needs.

Ask about our weekly meal deals and special events.

Hours:

Tuesday-Sunday: 10am-6pm

Address: 100 W. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

Phone: 304-885-8133

SHOPPING



Cooper Captures Gallery

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."
- Keats

A wildlife and scenic gallery, Cooper Captures is the perfect place to find those beautiful gifts for those you love. You may find canvases, prints, cards, ornaments, and many smaller items, all with the peaceful beauty of nature to brighten any home. All images are captured locally and produced with the highest-quality products, so you can count on your object of beauty being a joy in your life forever.

Make your holidays bright and beautiful with gifts from Cooper Captures Gallery.

Store hours:

Wednesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: 10am-2pm

Address: 107 East German St., Shepherdstown, WV

coopercaptures.net

Phone: 304-263-3100

SHOPPING



The Design Center,
Sue Marks
Room Refresh
Holiday Special

Give yourself, and your space, the gift of renewal! Everyone’s space needs refreshing from time to time. I will work with existing furniture and decor in offices, single rooms, or whole living areas to help with feel, function, and style. If you choose to bring in new items, I have access to anything you may need and can advise on the perfect pieces and their placement. No project too big or too small. Pricing starts at \$75. Call me for a consult today.

Store hours:

By appointment,
Monday–Sunday

Address: Your home or office–
I’ll come to you.

Phone: 304-260-8810

thedesigncenterllc.com

FOOD



Heritage Smoked

Heritage Smoked hand-crafted small-batch BBQ is available for holiday parties for both businesses and families. We smoke only the finest cuts of meat from Crestview Meats. Brisket, pork, ribs, turkey, pulled pork, and chicken (whole and quarters) are a few of the meats we offer.

We smoke every Tuesday and Wednesday, starting at 5pm, at the Mecklenburg Inn, and Friday thru Sunday at 4849 Scrabble Road.

Call or text us your orders
or questions.

Read our reviews on facebook!

Phone: 304-886-6371

facebook.com/heritagesmoked

FOOD



Mountaineer
Popcorn Company

Popcorn makes the perfect present for friends, family, clients, and teachers!

Our kernels are non-GMO and locally grown by Bob and Nancy Tabb of Town and Country Nursery in Kearneysville, WV, just minutes from the shop. With more than 40 gourmet flavors on a weekly rotation, and seasonal specialties popping up, you’re sure to find the perfect gift. We offer bulk orders for your upcoming parties, as well as popcorn fundraisers and spirit nights! The deadline for bulk orders and Christmas shipping is Friday, December 7.

Text MOPOP to 51660 for our text promotions and updates!

Store hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:
11am–6pm; Friday: 11am–7pm;
Saturday: 10am–7pm; Sunday:
10am–5pm

Address: 102 E. German Street,
Shepherdstown, WV

Phone: 410-937-4612

mountaineerpopcorn.com

SHOPPING



Ricco Gallery

Ricco Gallery celebrates the holiday season with “The Art and Culture of Coins,” a show and sale of original coins and replicas from antiquity to contemporary times. The coins come from a range of historical and geographic sources, including ancient Greece and Rome and the 19th Century U.S.A. They are presented in hand-fabricated jewelry settings by Ricco. Join us for the show opening, reception, and gallery talk on the messages that are portrayed by the art on coins throughout the ages. Saturday, December 1, 4:30-6pm.

Store hours:

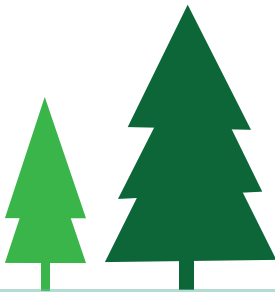
Thursday-Sunday, 11am to 5pm,
and by appointment

Address:

125 W. German St.,
Shepherdstown, WV

Phone: 304-350-0268

riccogallery.com



SHOPPING

FOOD

FOOD

SHOPPING



Sacred Roots

Herbal Holiday Fair

Featuring all local dried herbs, herbal products, jewelry, henna painting, live music, seated massage, and a clothes swap!

Remaining clothing donations given to Shenandoah Women's Shelter.

Event hours:

November 17th, 11am-4pm

Phone: 301-452-2075

sacredrootswv.com



Shepherdstown Farmers Market

The Shepherdstown Farmers Market is open Sundays, 9am-1pm, through December 23.

Shop local vendors for produce, plants, bread, cheeses, meat products, baked goods, gift items, and more. Soon, you will also find wreaths, swag, and greenery for your holiday decorating.

Enjoy live music every week.

Hours: Sundays, 9am-1pm, through December 23

Address:

S. King Street, behind the Library, Shepherdstown, WV

Phone: 304-876-3000

Facebook.com/ShepherdstownFarmersMarket



Shepherdstown Sweet Shop Bakery

Our signature specialty, Holiday Stollen, dates back to 14th-century Germany. Today, stollen continues to be a holiday favorite. Our stollen is made by hand in small batches under the direction of our most experienced bakers. Our unique recipe uses rum-soaked raisins, dates, and pecans added to a dough of sweet butter and specially spiced flour. The mix is cut into rough loaves, hand-shaped and wrapped around a marzipan center, then baked to a golden brown. When cooled, each loaf is brushed with melted butter and rolled in sugar, then placed onto trays to rest. To finish, we roll the stollen in Neu Schnee, or New Snow sugar.

We'll have a limited number of stollen available for sale in our shop for you to carry out during Christmas in Shepherdstown. If you'd like to hand us your Christmas gift list, we'll send out your stollen, with your personal greeting, to arrive on your specified date. Call us for shipping information and ask about our gift baskets!

Store hours: Monday-Saturday: 8am-6pm; Sunday: 8am-4pm

Address: 100 W. German Street, Shepherdstown, WV

wvbakery.com



Tenfold Fair Trade Collection

Visit us at Tenfold and experience an Olde Tyme Christmas in Harpers Ferry while finding an amazing selection of handmade holiday décor, garland, nativities, stockings, and ornaments. Give a gift that gives back tenfold to marginalized artisans from around the world and find that perfect gift for your loved ones.

Come in and see our selection of unique, sustainable, upcycled, handcrafted jewelry, home décor, accessories, puzzles, toys, organic clothing, and more.

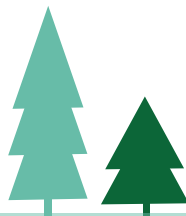
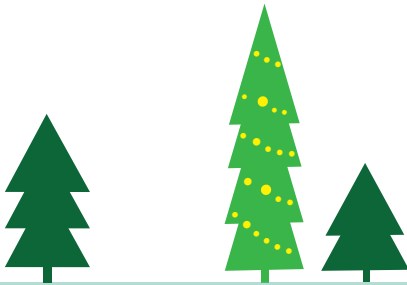
Shop small, shop local, shop fair!

10% off all ornaments during Advent. In Store Only.

Store hours: Daily: 10am-6pm

Address: 180 High Street, Suite 1A, Harpers Ferry, WV

tenfoldfairtrade.com



SHOPPING



The Vintage Lady—featuring the Best of ‘Made in West Virginia’

Our beautiful state is full of amazing artists, so why not give a gift made right here in West Virginia! From handmade jewelry to hand-blown glass—from delicious jams and jellies to delectable sauces for every foodie on your list—we’ve got something for everyone. Romantic gift chocolates, candles, and wine or craft beer—even carved coal figures for the naughty ones on your list—it’s all here. **Mention *The Observer* and get \$5 off purchases over \$20. Give gifts Made in West Virginia this year!**

Store hours: Open daily: 10am-5pm or later. Extended hours during Olde Tyme Christmas: November 30, December 1 & 2, and 8 & 9

Address: 196 High Street, Harpers Ferry, WV

Phone: 304-535-1313

Email: vinjewelry@aol.com

thevintagelady.net

SHOPPING



Two Rivers Treads

At Two Rivers Treads, we're more than just shoes. As the nation's first minimalist footwear store, and flagship store for the Natural Running Center, we're committed to providing the community with education and awareness on healthy living and an active lifestyle. We're your one-stop shop for all run, walk, and health needs. Stop by and check out our stocking stuffers, or if you don't know what to give this holiday season, grab a gift card and let them choose!

Store hours:

Monday–Saturday: 10am–6pm,
Sunday: 12–5pm

Address:

400 South Mildred Street,
Ranson, WV

Phone: 304-885-8843

tworivertreads.com

EVENTS



48th-Annual Olde Tyme Christmas in Harpers Ferry

The Olde Tyme Christmas festival offers performances meant to capture the spirit of a historic Christmas celebration, where quaintly decorated streets come alive for the holiday season!

The shops and restaurants in town will offer extended hours for shopping for those one-of-a-kind gifts. Live performances by musicians and historians, free horse-drawn wagon rides, and family-friendly activities will take place throughout Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, West Virginia.

Consider extending the fun and spending the night in lovely nearby accommodations! Visit www.experienceharpersferry.com to find a list of places to stay or to get updates about this event.

Event Dates:

Friday, November 30: 6-9pm
Saturday, December 1: 10am-9pm
Sunday, December 2: 10am-6pm
Saturday, December 8: 10am-9pm
Sunday, December 9: 10am-6pm

historicharpersferry.com

SHOPPING



Alan Gibson Book Signing at 4 Seasons

Announcing *High Voltage*, the supercharged new thriller by A.B. Gibson. Experience nonstop tension and electric characters, as Strider, an unassuming hiker fresh off the Appalachian Trail, faces unimaginable odds in the race to find his missing fiancée.

Join Gibson at Four Seasons on December 8 to pick up your signed copy. Don't forget, this rollicking read is perfect for almost anyone on your Christmas list.

On sale starting December first, *High Voltage* follows Gibson's other two novels, *Dead of Winter* and *Leave No Trace*, which are also for sale at Four Seasons or through Amazon.

Event Date:

December 8: 5pm

Event Location:

Four Seasons Books,
116 W. German St., Shepherdstown

www.ABGibson.me

www.amazon.com/-/e/B018UG2ASo

SHOPPING



Black Dog Coffee Company

Visit Black Dog Coffee for Holiday events to find the perfect items for Christmas and to enjoy Christmas Cheer! As part of our holiday shopping event, Be Thankful, Shop Local, we bring you our Cash & Carry Sales event. The Saturday after Thanksgiving, in addition to our locally handmade items from our Friday event, Black Dog invites local vendors of national products, such as Pampered Chef, DoTerra, etc., to have a place to showcase their product. We'll also have photos with Santa while you wait, Christmas caroling, holiday drink specials, and complimentary cookies while supplies last.

Events hours:

Be Thankful, Shop Local – Friday, November 23, 10am–6pm

Holiday Cash & Carry Sale – Saturday, 11/24, 10am–6pm

Photo's with Santa, Pet & People – Sunday, 11/25, 1:30pm–5pm & Friday, 11/30, 3pm–7:30pm

Christmas Caroling w/Drink Specials & FREE Cookies – Saturday, December 15, 4–6pm

Address: 8001 Charles Town Road, Shenandoah Junction, WV

blackdogcoffee.net

EVENTS



Old Opera House presents *It's a Wonderful Life*

Musical • Rated G

Join us for “It’s a Wonderful Life,” based on the film by Frank Capra and story by Peter Van Doren Stern.

In our American culture “It’s a Wonderful Life” has become almost as familiar as Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” It’s the saga of George Bailey, the everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls, whose dreams of escape and adventure have been quashed by family obligation and civic duty, whose guardian angel must descend on Christmas Eve to save him from despair and to remind him—by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born—that his has been, after all, a wonderful life.

Showtimes: November 30, and December 1, 2, & 7, 8, 9

Address: 204 N. George Street, Charles Town, WV

Tickets: 304-725-4420
oldoperahouse.org

EVENTS



Ranson CVB

The Ranson Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CVB) is charged with promoting tourism in Ranson and surrounding areas to visitors, near and far. To accomplish this mission, the CVB hosts events throughout the year, such as: The Ranson Festival, The Ranson Car Truck & Motorcycle Show, a Tree Lighting event at Christmas, and other miscellaneous events. Additionally, the CVB can assist visitors with tour plans, itinerary development, dining and lodging recommendations, meeting or special event planning, or simply provide brochures from the Visitor’s Center.

Join us for the **Ranson Tree Lighting** on November 24, 6-8pm, Fairfax Boulevard and Ranson Circle. Santa, Mrs. Claus, Santa’s Elves, Frosty, the Grinch, and Cindy Lou Who will arrive at 6pm. The event also includes horse-drawn wagon rides and photos with Santa.

Event Date: November 24: Ranson Tree Lighting, 6-8pm. See ad for all events and info.

ransonwv.us

EVENTS



The Nutcracker presented by Shepherdstown School of Dance

Celebrate the season with Shepherdstown School of Dance as they present their annual performances of “The Nutcracker” at Shepherd University’s Frank Center for the Performing Arts. Nearly seventy performers from the school, community, and beyond will take the stage to tell the classic tale of a young girl’s Christmas dreams come to life. A Christmas tree that grows, snow that falls, giant mice battling with life-size toy soldiers, and dancing Sugar Plums transport the audience into a beloved magical world that is a treat for all ages. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$22 at the door. Available for purchase by credit card on our website shepherdstownschoolofdance.com, and by cash or check at Encore Apparel in Motion (108 East Washington Street, Shepherdstown).

Event Dates: December 15: 2 & 7pm; December 16: 2pm

Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door. Purchase at Encore Apparel in Motion, or online at:

shepherdstownschoolofdance.com
304-886-8398

Westvirjeni, Jeni Peterson

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Nov. 9, 6-8pm: Fall Succulent Wreath at Esthetics in Martinsburg

Nov. 18: Thanksgiving Centerpieces at Westvirjeni Home Studio

Dec. 8, 1-3pm: Winter Wreaths at Breaux

Custom Workshops: Gather a group of friends and customize a private workshop on a date & time of your choosing.

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... 2018 Program of Excellence award by the National Volunteer Caregivers Network ...

Who We Are

The mission of Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers is to promote independence, security and well-being to elderly residents and disabled people of all ages who are home-based residents of Jefferson County, regardless of income or family circumstances. Some services are available in neighboring counties.

What We Do

Our goal is to provide non-medical, neighborly assistance and companionship through caring volunteers from faith congregations and the wider community – ultimately enriching the lives of all.

Services Provided

- Transportation to and from medical appointments and other trip requests
- Friendly visits and wellness calls
- Dementia education and support
- Fix-it Projects: safer, warmer, and drier
- Medical equipment loans: recycle & reuse

What You Can Do To Help

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Attend our events
- Invite us to speak to your church, social group, or business

For more information find us on Facebook: @GoodShepCare

7311 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443
304-876-3325 • www.gsivc.org • info@gsivc.org



Ranson's Annual TREE LIGHTING



SATURDAY,
NOV. 24TH
6:00-8:00PM
Lancaster Circle



- 6:00pm arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Visit the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who at Whoville along with Frosty the Snowman
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
- Facepainting
- Live Entertainment



// ENVIRONMENT

OTTERS ARE BACK IN OUR RIVERS



ON AUGUST 25, my wife and I saw a road-killed otter on Route 45 (between Martinsburg and Shepherdstown) near where it crosses the Opequon Creek.

We decided this was worth a second look and returned later. The animal was just over four feet long from nose to tail tip. Its fur was short, dense, and glossy. It was a dark, rich brown on the back, shading into silvery tan along the sides to nearly white underneath. The foot-long tail was thick at the base, tapering toward the tip. All four feet were webbed. The head was broad and flat with a broad nose pad and wide muzzle. Short and pointed, its ears were just visible through the fur. It was an adult male river otter.

Once common throughout the United States, river otters were heavily trapped during the nineteenth century when tall hats were in style for classy European and American gentlemen. Beaver and otter felt was the standard material for such hats. Otter became the ultimate standard for durability against which all other furs were compared.

After tall hats fell out of fashion in the 1900s, a new threat came to otters. Acid drainage from coal and other mineral mines polluted the waterways, killing aquatic life and destroying the river otter's food source. By the 1950s, scarcely an otter was to be found except in the most remote mountain streams.

In the mid-1980s, we had begun to clean up our waterways. The native fish returned. State wildlife agencies began an otter reintroduction program. Captured with soft leg-hold traps in areas where otters were plentiful, wild river otters were transported and released into suitable watersheds with good fish populations. Otters started to increase.

Today, river otters hunt for fish and crayfish in the streams of almost every county of Virginia and West Virginia. But they're secretive and elusive. Unless you're lucky enough to encounter one swimming in a river, or killed on a highway as we did, it's hard to tell they're around.

River otters typically mark their territories



with their feces, which are distinctively large and usually contain fish scales or crayfish shells. Such a sign is temporary and usually disappears fast, except for under bridges. This led to the river otter bridge survey technique used by biologists in the U.S., Canada, and Europe to determine the presence of river otters.

Otter bridge-site surveys are typically conducted in January or February. Teams of biologists explore the banks beneath the bridge and along both sides of the watercourse looking for feces, tracks in the mud or snow, and for sites

“
... Today, river otters
hunt for fish and crayfish
in the streams of almost
every county of Virginia
and West Virginia ...
”

where otters repeatedly slide through mud or snow on steep banks. Such surveys can't determine how many otters there are, only their presence or absence.

Saving the river otter from near extinction is another wildlife-management success story. Now it's possible to see a graceful otter gleefully sliding down a riverbank into the water.

ARTICLE BY: Doug Pifer

Doug is an artist, writer, and naturalist living near Shepherdstown. He also submitted the art for this piece.

// FEATURE

SNAP BENEFIT, WORK REQUIREMENTS, & *WEST VIRGINIA'S HISTORY*

WV Governor **Jim Justice** (left).

T

he Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the centerpiece of the nation's food security safety net. In FY 2016, SNAP benefits, formerly called food stamps, provided \$500 million in nutrition assistance to low-income West Virginians. On average, 358,000 West Virginians received benefits each month, roughly 20 percent our population. These benefits amount to about \$1.29 per meal. Yet our state government seems determined to cut recipients from the SNAP rolls.

GOVERNOR JUSTICE recently signed a law making it more difficult for under-employed individuals to receive SNAP benefits. This new law (HB 4001) was promoted by Republicans in the Legislature using the old “welfare Cadillac” myth about recipients taking advantage of public benefits. HB 4001 will have the effect of reducing the number of SNAP recipients among the vulnerable low-wage population.

Furthermore, the 2018 federal Farm Bill pending in Congress might do much the same. The U.S. House version of the Farm Bill, which would restrict current SNAP eligibility rules, barely squeaked by in the House on a vote of 213-211. House leadership had to rely entirely on Republican votes, the first farm bill in history to pass either chamber with only one party in support. The Senate, which passed its own version, is willing to be more generous than the House. SNAP eligibility is the most contentious issue facing House and Senate conferees. The harsh House approach was favored by West Virginia Congressman Alex Mooney for the emptiest of reasons.

To receive SNAP benefits, an individual can have gross monthly income of no more than \$1,307 and a family of four no more than \$2,665. These figures are 130 percent of the federal poverty level. In addition, there are work requirements for eligibility, first imposed in 1996. An able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) can only get SNAP benefits for three months in a three-year period unless he or she meets the work requirements. This is called the time limit. An ABAWD must work at least 80 hours per month or participate in a qualifying training activity to avoid the time limit.

Federal law allows states to apply for a waiver of the time limit for ABAWD individuals in areas where it is more difficult to find work than in more prosperous areas of the country. In West Virginia, this has been done broadly on a county by county basis, and many counties have routinely received waivers. The waivers are



Photo © U.S. Department of Agriculture / Lance Cheung

largely responsible for the broad availability of SNAP benefits in the state. But HB 4001 will put a stop to these waivers. No West Virginia county will be allowed a waiver for any reason after October 1, 2022.

Deeper Reasons

I am interested in eliminating fraud as much as the next person. But the waiver elimination in HB 4001 isn't directed at fraud. Instead, it is directed at people who are presumed to be lazy and unwilling to work, and who thereby take advantage of federal benefits. In this way, HB 4001 creates a moral test of personal responsibility to receive assistance irrespective of need. It isn't even a matter of saving West Virginia taxpayers money. SNAP benefits are entirely paid for by federal money, and every dollar in these benefits

results in \$1.80 in total economic activity in the state. So, cutting people from SNAP benefits will actually hurt our economy.

Nevertheless, the lead sponsor of HB 4001, Delegate Tom Fast (R-Fayette) told the *Huntington Herald-Dispatch* that the various features of the bill were designed to weed out “those who do not truly need assistance”:

I have consistently heard people just in conversation make complaints of seeing people purchase things with [a SNAP debit card]—luxury-type items—using the cards and then going out and getting in a luxury SUV. It is something I hear not just in my district but in areas all around the state.

This is certainly not what you would call empirical proof on which public policy should be made. Yet our Jefferson County Delegates—



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// FEATURE CONT.

... THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT WHAT YOU WOULD
CALL EMPIRICAL PROOF ON WHICH PUBLIC
POLICY SHOULD BE MADE ...

all Republican—didn't seem to be bothered by the lack of proof. Delegates Paul Espinosa, Riley Moore, and Jill Upson all voted in favor of HB 4001.

HB 4001 is just one more measure imposed by the conservative “personal responsibility” crowd without inquiring whether there might be some reasons other than lack of responsibility why a SNAP recipient might be unable to work twenty hours per week. Most of these people actually are working, but in jobs with low pay, inconsistent schedules, and unstable futures. The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy adds that lack of access to transportation, undiagnosed mental illness, a criminal record from a past mistake, or living in an economically devastated part of the state are also plausible explanations. Unfortunately, these explanations have also not been empirically validated.

But the Brookings Institution has looked at the question in a serious way in connection with the 2018 federal Farm Bill. Their research found that one in five adults in the ABAWD category switches between working more than 20 hours per week to a different employment status, such as working less than 20 hours per week, seeking employment, or being out of the labor force. For those in the labor force, work-related reasons—not being able to find work, being laid off, or working more than 15 hours for no pay at a family business or farm—were the most frequent explanations. Because only those working more than 20 hours per week every month would be eligible to retain their SNAP benefits, Brookings estimated that nearly 80 percent of ABAWD individuals would be exposed to potential SNAP benefit loss.

Collateral Damage

One other study came to a similar conclusion. In May 2016, the Department of Health and Human Resources did an experiment in the nine West Virginia counties with the lowest unemployment rates. The experiment explored what would happen if there were no possible waivers of the time limit—exactly the effect of HB 4001. In the experiment ABAWD individuals strictly lost SNAP benefits unless they found 80 hours per month of employment or were participating in a work-training or community-service activity. While 5,417 people were cut from the SNAP rolls in the nine counties, DHHR reported that the experiment did not significantly improve employment figures for the ABAWD group. While the results of this experiment were available to the West Virginia Legislature before it adopted HB 4001, the results came to an inconvenient conclusion and were therefore ignored.

In a separate but predictable outcome during the experiment, demand for meal service at private soup kitchens increased 25 percent in Cabell, one of the nine pilot counties. This simply demonstrates that even though many of the hungry won't be assisted by government benefits under HB 4001, they will still be hungry. The burden of feeding them will not disappear but rather will fall to private organizations.

Meanwhile, the drama concerning the 2018 Farm Bill continues. The House version would impose increasing periods of disqualification each time an under-employed person failed to meet the work requirements. This feature and others are predicted to result in 400,000 households losing benefits. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that

by 2028, the House version would lower the SNAP caseload by about 1.2 million people. Congressman Alex Mooney, who has probably never experienced real hunger in his life, said that the “conservative” SNAP reform provisions led to his support for the Farm Bill. In a spectacular *non sequitur*, Mooney said that “... because farmers work long hours to produce food for the nation, so should program recipients.” His analysis on this, as on other matters, is about a quarter-inch deep.

It is certainly time that we stopped blaming the poor for their own misfortune. Hunger and food insecurity are not things people voluntarily choose. Moreover, cutting people off SNAP benefits harms the entire state because we would lose millions in federal benefit dollars that circulate in our economy. Regrettably, however, unsophisticated and uncharitable attitudes toward poverty and hunger dominate the majority party in Charleston and in Washington. ☞

ARTICLE BY: Neal Barkus

Neal is a retired attorney living in Shepherdstown. His writing can be found at www.panprogressive.com.



// DRUGS & ADDICTION

TRINITY OFFERS COMFORT TO THOSE TOUCHED BY ADDICTION



JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, there were no special services in our community for those who had lost a loved one to addiction. Grief and mourning were often expressed in private. The actual cause of the death was hidden because of the shame the family experienced. Friends and acquaintances were unsure how to respond to such a tragedy.

In 2018, increasingly, communities are responding to the overwhelming need to comfort those who are touched by addiction and honor the lives of those whose lives ended so tragically. Trinity Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown held its first vigil for those who have died from addiction on September 15. The Diocese of West Virginia had encouraged churches throughout the Mountain State to hold a “Day of Hope” for all those who have died from an overdose in the opioid crisis that has devastated our state. Trinity will continue to offer this special service to the community on a regular basis.

In addition to the vigil, Trinity also designated Sunday, September 16, as a “Day of Hope,” to educate the congregation about the opioid epidemic. Michael Chalmers, owner and editor of *The Observer*, addressed the congregation with his personal story about losing his brother to addiction and how it led to his dedication to facilitating a community

conversation around drug use and addiction—by dedicating an article or perspective piece in each monthly issue of the paper by a guest contributor with personal or professional experience in addiction.

He made quite an impression on the congregation. People are still telling me, weeks later, how much his words made an impact on them. Afterward, in the parish hall, we had “experts” join us for conversation. Many thanks are offered for the participation of Ardyth Gilbertson, Peggy Humphreys, Shannon Hicks, Annelise Frey, and Hollie Higgs.

What’s next for Trinity and our desire to help ease the suffering of those caught in addiction in our community? We are working to figure out the next step—will it be more opportunities for community education on addiction? Will we find opportunities to directly minister to those people in need? Will we be called to join forces with other faith communities and community organizations to work together to stop this epidemic of suffering? I am confident that we will find our way. We’re in it for the long haul. Join us if you like. Call me at 540-604-6703.

ARTICLE BY: Jan Hafer

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It's a Wonderful Life

Based on the film by Frank Capra and
story by Peter Van Doren Stern

NOV: 30 and
DEC: 1, 2 & 7, 8, 9

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:00PM
SUNDAY MATINEE 2:30PM

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Adults \$22.00 | Students/Children \$15.00
Seniors/Military \$19.00

THE OLD OPERA HOUSE
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// HEALTH .



THIS YEAR, the first-ever West Virginia mountain bike team for teenagers completed its first year of practices and races.

The Eastern Panhandle composite team that includes mostly Berkeley and Jefferson County middle and high school students is affiliated with the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA). NICA has 14,000 student-athletes country wide.

The Eastern Panhandle team currently has

seven student athletes—boys and girls in grades 6-12—plus five coaches. The team had four races this year—the last on October 21 in North Bend State Park (Harrisville, WV)—but hopes to increase that number in the future. Because the races are sometimes spread out across the state, getting to them can cause logistical issues. Teresa Collins, a coach for the Panhandle team, said that next year, hopefully there will be more races on the eastern side of West Virginia.

But despite the team’s relative newness and limited amount of race entries, the Eastern Panhandle squad (open to anyone who wants to participate) has already experienced success. In their first race of the year, rider Ian Purdy took first place in his division, while Seth Painter earned second place.

“Any students from local schools and home schoolers can participate; you don’t need prior experience,” said Collins. “We’re trying



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“
**... We would love
 to host a race in this
 area—it'd be great for
 the community ...**
 ”

to encourage development of the life-long sport. Students in high school play football and baseball, but once they graduate, they don't continue. Mountain biking is a great activity people do throughout their lives. Also, not everybody makes the football team, but everybody can join us.”

The team also boasts two divisions: racing and adventure. “Racing is optional, but adventure is an integral part of mountain biking,” Collins noted. “We encourage both racers and adventure riders—our core values are strong mind, body, and character ... inclusivity and equality.”

Practices consist of character building and values discussion, experiential and mechanical aptitude sessions, bike-handling skills, and single-track course riding for cardiovascular fitness and racing skills.

“The Panhandle team's head coach is Sean Godsey, who is really integral and wonderful in organizing the parents, coaches, and students,” Collins indicated. “He was our rock this year, making sure everything got off the ground.



A front-row seat to mountain bike trail racing.

Another coach, Kevin Roberts, has been doing trail work at Poorhouse Farm Park in Martinsburg, where we practice.”

According to Collins, the surrounding community has also been getting involved.

“The Eastern Panhandle Bicycle Company has been a big supporter this year. They've worked on our students' bikes and have done a lot of trail work. This involves clearing, determining where trails will go, cutting trails into the landscape, and maintaining trails. We're trying to get a grant to build more trails. We didn't have any sponsors this year. We paid for everything ourselves. But we're excited about getting more riders and sponsors.”

Bringing it Home

Trails were built at the Poorhouse Park seven years ago, but have been neglected, Collins pointed out. As of now, the site is not in condition to host races, but this is something she hopes will happen in the near future once the site is approved by NICA.

“We would love to host a race in this area—

it'd be great for the community,” she said. “We're looking at potentially hosting a race at Cacapon State Park next year.”

Collins recently moved back to her native West Virginia from the West Coast. “When I graduated from Portland State, I decided I was going to start a mountain bike and leadership camp for girls in West Virginia. I came back to the state this year and it was too much for me to get the camp organized this year. In July, I heard about a NICA league starting here in the state, so I put out to the groups that I would be interested in coaching and got an opportunity to coach with a team.”

Next year, she said she'll be organizing learn-to-bike weekends for boys and girls, along with a week-long camp for young girls to come and band together and learn leadership skills and biking.

“The Eastern Panhandle bike group was a springboard for me,” she emphasized. “The whole experience has been serendipitous. I wanted to get involved in the community, and mountain biking is my passion. It's the most fun I have all week. I love working with these kids. Everybody has a great time. There's so much joy. I'm excited to see where this goes. In the next few years, the riders will get even better.”

To find out more, visit:
www.facebook.com/EPMTBCOMP

ARTICLE BY: Lisa Troshinsky



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// ENTERTAINMENT

WHERE TO FIND
MUSIC, FILM,
AND THEATRE
THIS MONTH

by: Evan Benhamu



SCHEDULE

SHEPHERDSTOWN

DOMESTIC

wvdomestic.com

Domestic on Facebook

November 18:
4-7pm

Danny Tait Trio

Jazz

Every Tuesday:
6:30-9pm

Acoustic Bluegrass Jam

Every Wednesday:
9pm-midnight

Open-Mic

Every Thursday:
6-8pm

Jazz Jam



O'HURLEY'S

GENERAL STORE

ohurley.com

Thursdays: 7pm

Jam Sessions



TOWN RUN

TAPHOUSE AND

COMMUNITY PUB

Town Run Taphouse and
Community Pub
on Facebook

November 3:
9:30pm

Drag Show

November 10:
9:30pm

Patent Pending

Rock

November 16:
9:30pm

King Salmon

Groove, Soul, R&B, Funk

November 17:
9:30pm

Comic Con

November 24:
9:30pm

Brahman Noodle

Blues, Funk, Jug Band,
Americana

CHARLES TOWN

ABOLITIONIST

ALE WORKS

AbolitionistAleWorks.com

Abolitionist Ale Works
on Facebook

November 2:
8-11pm

Stefan Edward Live

Singer-songwriter

November 7: 8pm

Live Stand-Up

Headliner Jason Weems

November 9:
8-11pm

Sweet Nothing

Jazz

November 16: 8pm

Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan

1/2 of Furnace Mountain

November 21: 7pm

"Funksgiving"

November 30:
8-11pm

Mark Cullinane

Acoustic, singer-songwriter

Every Tuesday:
6:30-9:30pm

Open-Mic

HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT
CHARLES TOWN RACES

HollywoodCasino
CharlesTown.com

Hollywood Casino at Charles
Town Races on Facebook

November 10:
8-10pm

THE TEMPTATIONS
and
THE FOUR TOPS

THE TEMPTATIONS AND
THE FOUR TOPS

R&B, Soul, Doo-Wop

MUSIC

A November to Remember at Frederick's
Weinberg Center for the Arts

USUALLY RESERVED FOR A SPOTLIGHT on one of the entertainment acts listed within the calendar below, we couldn't help but notice this month that the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick (MD) boasts a lineup in November that's a little hard to look away from.

The Weinberg opens up the month with Kaia Kater, whose songs are fueled by rich low tenor vocals, jazz-influenced instrumentation, and beautifully understated banjo. The next day, November 2, at 10am, Mexico Beyond Mariachi presents Sugar Skull! – a colorful musical family adventure that celebrates the rich traditions of Día de los Muertos and the vibrant heart of Mexican culture.

The next evening, November 3, the Portland Cello Project performs Radiohead's OK Computer, and more—from classical pieces and movie themes, to jazz standards, pop-music covers and hip-hop. And at this point, I guess you could say the entertainment flood gates open—with performances throughout the month by Stephen Marley (Reggae), Chinese Warriors of Peking (Acrobat), The Seldom Scene with Maybe April (Bluegrass), Paula Poundstone (Comedy), the U.S. Air Force Concert Band featuring the Singing Sergeants, Aubrey Logan (Jazz), the 2018 Maryland Folk Festival, Fleetwood Mac RUMOURS (Tribute), and comedy legend Louie Anderson.

In addition to some popular annual holiday events great for the family, the Sicilian Tenors do a live taping for PBS later in the month, and two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Famer David Crosby takes the stage to close out November.

—Take a moment to catch your breath, and then hustle over to www.weinbergcenter.org for all additional information.

November 24: 6pm
& 9pm

Jeff Foxworthy

Comedy

OLD OPERA HOUSE

THEATRE

OldOperaHouse.org

Old Opera House Theatre-
Company on Facebook

November 30 &
December 1, 2, 7,
8, 9: 8pm & 2:30pm

"It's a Wonderful Life"

HARPERS FERRY

HARPERS FERRY

EVENT BARN

HarpersFerryEventBarn.com

The Barn of Harpers Ferry
on Facebook

November 6: 6pm

Post-Election
Viewing Party

November 8:
8-10pm

Jim Lewis

Acoustic Country, Classic
Rock, requests

November 15:
8-10pm

Trevor Davis

Acoustic, singer-
songwriter



November 17:
8-10pm

Ragged Company

American Hits

November 29:
8-10pm

Mark Clay

Acoustic, Classic Rock

VIRGINIA

BRIGHT BOX THEATER

brightboxwinchester.com

Bright Box on Facebook

November 4:
2pm & 6pm

Dueling Pianos

November 9: 8pm

The Bridge

Led Zeppelin Tribute

MARYLAND

THE WEINBERG CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

WeinBergCenter.org

Weinberg Center for the
Arts on Facebook

November 4: 7pm

Little Texas and
Keith Anderson

Country

See websites for full schedules.

// COMMUNITY

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

Local endeavor provides community alternatives to violence.

ACCORDING TO THE National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime—and on a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

Once such organization that receives those types of calls is Community Alternatives to Violence (CAV), located at 314 Wilson Street, in Martinsburg (WV). CAV's mission is to help prevent abusive behavior by conducting educational programs for men and women, and to raise awareness of respectful relationships in the community at large.

Established in 1996, CAV is a licensed abuser-intervention program in the Eastern Panhandle that holds nine weekly gender-specific education classes for men and women who are involved in any sort of violence. There is also a youth and fatherhood program. All programs are based on respectful relationships along with strategies to attain that goal. CAV is the only program of its kind in the Panhandle, and within a three-hour radius of Morgantown.

Carolyn Zdziera, Executive Director, shared how CAV helps those who have been a victim of abusive behavior. "Many of the women in our women's classes are victims," she said. "For these, and for others who call us, we refer them to the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, formerly known as Shenandoah Women's Center, for services. Male victims would also be referred there, though we get few of these."

Awareness events are held in all levels of the community courts, churches, civic organizations, schools, as well as the community at large. CAV's latest event will take place on November 11, from 10:30am–2:30pm at the Holiday Inn Martinsburg, with speaker Dr. Jackson Katz, co-founder of Mentors in Violence Prevention. You can register online on the website at the end of this article.

"The Mentors in Violence Prevention program is a worldwide bystander intervention program developed to change the culture in schools, sports, and the military," explained Zdziera. "At CAV, we have been trained to deliver



(L to R): CAV's Amanda Linton, Domestic Violence Project Coordinator; Carolyn Zdziera, Executive Director; and Christine Douglas, Administrative Assistant.

“
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 ”

this program to local high schools, and ran this as a club at Berkeley Springs High School. Students go through a training process to learn intervention techniques, which they use inside and outside of school to intervene in situations involving inappropriate behavior they witness. These students then train others, with the goal of changing the school culture.”

Volunteers looking to work with CAV can fill out an application at the website below, or call 304-262-4424 directly. Volunteer opportunities include group facilitation, board of directors, office tasks, fundraising, and research studies.

Find out more at: www.commay.org.

ARTICLE BY: Robin Murphy

// SOCIETY / OP-ED



HATRED IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A PERFECT STORM



NATIONAL HATE IS part of the human condition. It is one of the terrible flaws of our species. We are warlike too, even though we talk peace all the time. Humans have been at war far more often than at peace for the full history of the world. All the civilizations of the world have known about hate and written about it in various ways. We try to mitigate its worse aspects, with laws, customs, diplomacy, manners, and teaching the common decency of the Golden Rule.

We have asked in many languages at many times in history the same question Rodney King, a black citizen of Los Angeles, asked after he was brutally beaten by white police officers: “Can we all get along?”

While hate is not new, it has a new friend: social media. Never in the history of the world has it been easier to spew hatred than in the digital age. All of us who use social media see it every day. We see it among our friends who post outrageous statements, often couched in too-clever-by-half cynicism. We use extreme language because

ordinary language doesn’t attract attention. We share memes of ugly caricatures of politicians we don’t like. Many of us who are not part of any hate group have helped spread hate when we share something hateful to point out how hateful it is. But a more serious aspect of this new level of hatred is the thousands upon thousands of specialized hate sites within social media, where people go to learn how to hate or to have their hate reinforced. Young impressionable people, largely white men of all ages, go to these sites and find them exciting. They learn how to hate in more focused ways, and in doing so, find acceptance in the group.

These sites are easy to identify, and they specialize in hating government, or particular parties, religious and ethnic groups, races, and sexual orientation. They may espouse an ideology; they may take on the style of previous hatemongers like Nazis and the KKK.

Many of these hate groups have existed long before social media came along. But the haters

had a hard time breaking into a large audience. Their pamphlets, flyers, and local demonstrations had a pathetically limited audience, only occasionally magnified by the press, when the group did something that peaked national interest as news. Now, through social media, they can be everywhere in the world, instantly. They can form alliances with hate groups in other countries. They get magnified.

Red Meat

Social media is the best propaganda device ever invented. It makes true the adage that a Lie can spread half way around the world before the Truth can put on its shoes.

We have created a digital monster. Social media is big business run by billionaires to make money gathering data about its users. It has been a wide-open, unregulated frontier of hate, conspiracy theories, false stories, fake news, and massive propaganda, all jumbled together with healthy, positive sites that contain valuable and

useful information, and where truth-seekers can be found. We have not learned how to harness this awful beast. And it is not just social media. It is the proliferation of cable television with niche markets, where you can get news and commentary that suits your own views.

Enter Donald Trump, another new friend of hate, the master self-brander, the most famous Tweeter in the world, the demagogic, deeply flawed president of the United States, who rose to power by smearing, insulting, and degrading his opponents, by saying nasty things about people based on their religion, their ethnicity, their sex, and their race. More specifically the president's anti-immigrant stance, his obvious hatred of Muslims, has fueled a 900 percent increase in hate groups since he began running for president. Most of the new hate groups are against immigration because it spells the end of white power and white supremacy in America. The largest new group of haters focuses on anti-Muslim immigration.

Trump feeds these hate groups a daily dose of red meat. They are an important part of his base supporters. The hate-group graph shot through the roof in 2016, during the Trump campaign. Thousands of new hate groups joined Twitter, the president's social medium of choice, according to a study based on data from the Southern Poverty Law Center that was reported in major newspapers in 2017. One such hate group, with the bland and governmental think-tank name of Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) was the largest single hate group on Twitter with 72,000 followers.

We would be blind to reality to suggest, as the president does, that he does not incite hate. He does not just incite it, he thrives on it. He campaigns on it. His fear campaign is predicated on the big lie that if Democrats get elected, our borders will cease to exist and we will be overrun by alien hordes.

While pipe bombs are sent to prominent Americans by one of Trump's most ardent followers, the president calls this "bomb stuff" a distraction from his campaign, and he points far away in another direction to the "national emergency" of 5,000 men, women, and children who are months away from the U.S.-Mexico border, marching for political asylum.

Thriving on Negatives

The president has issued no plan to combat hate

of the kind expressed by the mail bomber, but he has mobilized U.S. troops to go to the border, as if this marching caravan is the biggest threat to this nation. The president wants us to hate the people in that caravan as a faceless mass before we even know who they are or what story each of them will tell about their plight. The president said there were Middle Eastern types infiltrating the caravan. He had no evidence for this other than to spew more hate, by suggesting there are Muslims trying to sneak into the United States by pretending they are from Honduras.

“
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”

To be this hateful, the president must lie to make his case, and by now there should be no sane American who cannot see how this president has built his entire career on a fabric of lies. I am sure his supporters would deny what I just said as simply another "liberal lie." The official story from the White House is that President Trump has been vilified and criticized more than any other president in our history and that this criticism is unfair and unprecedented.

The official line at the White House is that the unfairness of the assaults on the president are proof that American journalists are purveyors of fake news. The truth is that no president from George Washington to Donald Trump has been

free of constant criticism. The White House statement is just one more lie that depends on the public's ignorance of history for it to be believed.

The president was asked today [Oct. 27] about another hate crime—the killing of eleven people in a Pittsburgh synagogue—by a man armed with an AR-15-type long gun. He expressed dismay at the loss of life, but then focused on the fact that the people in the synagogue should have had an armed guard to stop the shooter. It made me cringe to think he could be so insensitive at such a time to blame the synagogue and not the perpetrator of the crime. Later, in a scripted statement, the president did condemn this heinous crime for what it was and said that mass murderers were bad people.

Trump's lack of compassion and his lack of empathy makes it impossible for him to even recognize how he can hurt people even when he is not trying to. His insensitivity in these areas also contributes mightily to his inability to understand the depth of his hatred for his real or imagined enemies. It means he can never lead us away from hate. He can only lead us toward more of it.

Donald Trump did not invent hatred. He did not invent bigotry or any of the other long-standing ills of humankind. Ironically, he has found ways to thrive on these negatives, and in doing so, with him as the voice of the United States, with him as the leader of the free world, we have a perfect storm for raging hatred in the United States and the world. He is a major hate enabler. He has the loudest hate megaphone on the planet. He stands in the eye of this perfect storm, oblivious to the damage being done all around him.

ARTICLE BY: Dr. Raymond W. Smock

Dr. Smock served as the Historian for the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983-1995 and is the (recently retired) former director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education at Shepherd University. He also recently published a book titled *Trump Tsunami: A Historian's Diary of the Trump Campaign and His First Year in Office*.

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For Delegate **JOHN DOYLE**

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This is the Combat Infantry Badge, awarded by the US Army to those who have been under constant fire as infantry soldiers for long periods. John Doyle was awarded that badge, as well as the Bronze Star for Valor, for his service in the Vietnam war.

John exhibited that same level of dedication during his service in the Legislature. He fought hard for teachers, cooks, custodians, bus drivers, taxi drivers, police officers, nurses, pipefitters, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, office workers, farmers, small business owners and for workers in every other imaginable occupation that lead everyday lives. John Doyle will fight for us all again.

West Virginia's environmental laws are too weak (ex: **ROCKWOOL**). John will fight to make them **STRONGER**.

Our teachers, school service workers and state employees are paid **VERY POORLY**. John will see that they are paid **FAIRLY**.

John Doyle believes that **AFFORDABLE EDUCATION** is the key to an improved economy that works for us all. He has a **RECORD TO PROVE IT**.

What is a **P.I.L.O.T.**?

(Answer: **P**ayment **I**n **L**ieu **O**f **T**axes)

Why is it bad for Jefferson County?

ROCKWOOL INSULATION IS TO BE GIVEN (UNDER A P.I.L.O.T.) A NET REDUCTION OF ITS PROPERTY TAXES OF AT LEAST \$6 MILLION OVER TEN YEARS, TO BRING A MAXIMUM OF 150 JOBS TO JEFFERSON COUNTY. THAT'S \$40,000 PER JOB.

If 150 existing Jefferson County businesses were to add one job each, how much of a tax break would each get? Answer: ZERO! *How is this fair to Jefferson County businesses?*

JOHN DOYLE is running for State Delegate and he opposes P.I.L.O.T.s. He says they constitute "government picking winners and losers in the economy."



John Doyle Stands Against ROCKWOOL.

His Opponent, Delegate Riley Moore, has REFUSED to take a stand.

Auth. Doyle for Delegate, Rod Snyder, Treas.



ONCE READ, THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.