

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

MARCH 2021

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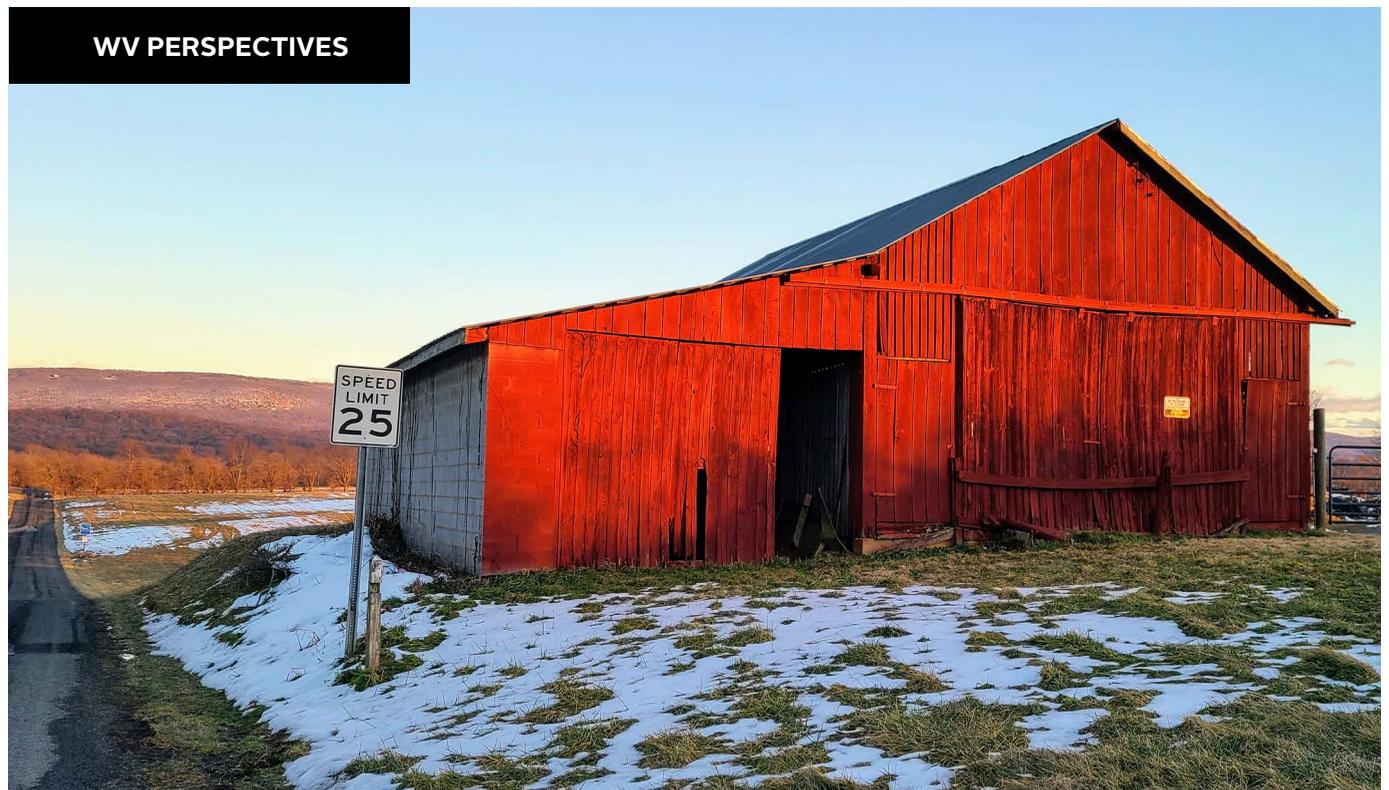
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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 

WV PERSPECTIVES



It's a timeless view, looking east to the Blue Ridge from Meyerstown, in southern Jefferson County. This general vicinity is also the birthplace of Robert Page Sims (1872-1944). The son of a local farmer, Sims graduated from Storer College in Harpers Ferry in 1893, earned a graduate degree in science, and worked as a teacher before he became president of Bluefield State College (Mercer County, WV) in 1906. During his 30 year tenure there, he instituted a "normal curriculum" to educate Black teachers. In 1901 Sims married Stella James, who also attended Storer College and then graduated in 1897 from Bates College in Maine, the first Black woman to receive a degree (in physics) from that institution. Despite their long successful careers elsewhere, the couple apparently maintained a connection to Jefferson County and are buried in the Cedar Hill Cemetery in Bolivar.

TO OUR READERS

RED BARNs (such as the one in Meyerstown, above) are an iconic symbol of the rural landscape across the country — testaments to the effort of the individuals who built them, who used them, who maintained them. Preserved seems an odd word to apply to these structures, intended originally to be working components of agricultural operations. Perhaps a better descriptor would be echoes of the past, presenting a glimpse of a time when life for many was lived more closely to the land, both at work and at home. Still standing, sometimes barely so, they also remind us that time moves on, as does our relationship to the land and our priorities for its use.

In this month's issue, *The Observer* continues to track the community discussion of land use as it relates to large-scale solar developments in Jefferson County. At the heart of this issue is how solar fits into both the visual, environmental, and economic landscape of Jefferson County, particularly in the context of providing options for family-owned agricultural enterprises to remain viable.

A similar conversation about balancing development and environmental stewardship is also happening this month at the American Conservation Film Festival. Several of this year's films focus on the management of public lands and the importance of allowing all voices to the table when decisions are made about conservation. This year also marks the ACFF's official jump into the virtual landscape — for the first time all films can now be viewed online for free during the days of the festival.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

// ENVIRONMENT

TRAINING THE LENS INTO THE FUTURE

2021 American Conservation Film Festival



THE AMERICAN CONSERVATION Film Festival (ACFF), now in its eighteenth year, is presenting 48 contemporary films in an online festival format for 2021. Aside from the obvious shift away from in-person venues at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) and Shepherd University, the biggest change to this year's format is the flexibility of watching any (or all) of the films at any time during the festival dates (March 24-28).

Jennifer Lee, the Executive Director of ACFF, recounted the history of the organization. "It started out as a small group of volunteers at NCTC in 2003 and the lineup of the first festival was filled out by video tapes from some of the volunteers' personal collections. Until 2010 it was an all-volunteer organization. Now we have several of us who work year round and two selection teams that review 300 potential films for each year's festival."

A Mission For Action

Lee explained the mission of ACFF, noting, "we serve a local and regional audience, to provide visibility and access to the issues raised by these films. Our role is to curate for this audience, and also to serve as a platform for filmmakers and an opportunity for them to network. Our mission is defined by the intent to engage, inform, and inspire. To engage, we bring filmmakers, audiences, and communities together around an issue. The films themselves are obviously how we inform, but it also includes

“
**We help these individuals
 become storytellers and
 ambassadors for the
 environment.**
 ”

the supplemental programs and workshops that are part of each festival. We hope that all of this inspires individuals to take action, whether it's by volunteering, recycling, or political engagement. As we present our films we'll provide links to organizations and help individuals understand what's the next step."

Encouraging The Next Generation

The filmmaker workshops have become an important component of the festival. Lee commented that most of the filmmakers showcased by the festival come from a science

background. "We see a lot of our filmmakers who were working as scientists or researchers in ecology, environmental science, climate change, habitat loss, and they had a story that needed to be told. We help these individuals become storytellers and ambassadors for the environment. Our festival is about supporting this storytelling and approaching conservation and environmental themes through the lens of film. To tell those stories in film, it's not a textbook process, you just need to do it. That's the value of the workshops that we offer, they can hear and learn from other filmmakers who took a similar path. It's a way to offer both instruction and encouragement. Particularly for younger filmmakers, it's an opportunity to connect with experience."

A View to the Future

Even before the pandemic, ACFF had planned to skip the full festival program in the fall of 2020 as part of a plan to shift the schedule to the spring, beginning in 2021. An unintended harbinger, the events created for 2020 provided the ACFF team the opportunity to explore online presentation. It also gave them insights into the level of interest for virtual access compared to the in-person-only formats of prior years. Lee noted that "we did an event online last year that typically would attract 50 attendees in person and we had 300 online. We can see that we can make connections and build communities virtually. But we also see the loss of the direct interaction and energy. You can only get to a certain level of depth, especially in a conversation, without being there in person."

Beyond the event timing and format, Lee said ACFF has also been looking at how the organization transforms itself. "We ask ourselves how we expand our diversity, on our board, in our festival audience, in the film community. What outreach do we need to do? For the film submissions, how do we expand, in subject matter, in geography, in hearing different voices? We'll definitely be taking stock of a lot of things after this year's festival."

BY: Steve Pearson

Additional information on the web at ConservationFilmFest.org. For tickets, pre-register at 2021festival.eventive.org/welcome. Films will be available for on-demand streaming during the festival dates only (March 24-28). Register for free for each film or purchase the \$48 all-access pass for yourself or a friend to help support ACFF. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Email questions to info@ConservationFilmFest.org.

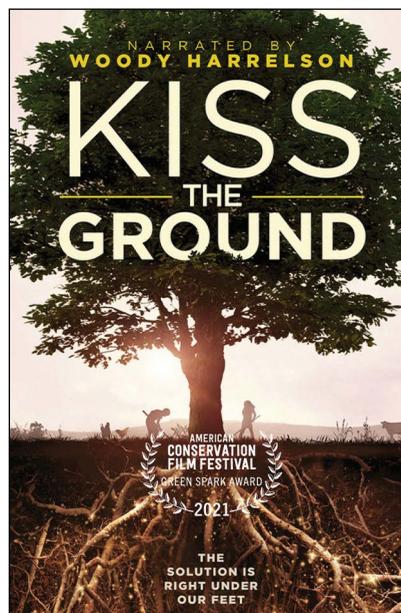
This year's ACFF presents 48 films focusing on a diverse set of topics. Shown here are some of the 2021 award winners (with summary by ACFF). For the full list, visit ConservationFilmFest.org.



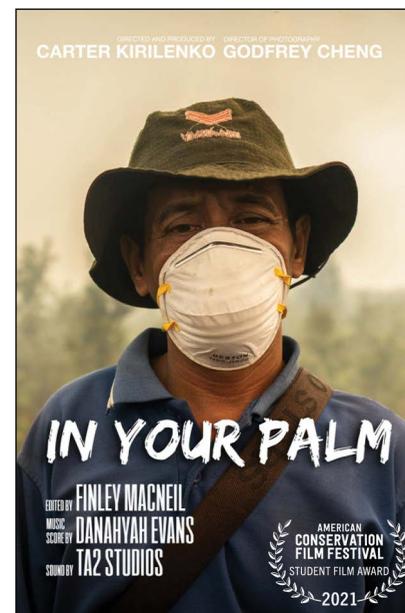
Josphine Ekiru, a peacekeeper in Northern Kenya, has risked her life spearheading the battle against ivory poaching and defusing conflict between pastoralists. (3 min.)



In a time of growing income inequality in America, there is one asset that remains in the hands of the American people: the 640 million acres of America's Public Lands. Given its status as the last large-scale public asset in the world, powerful forces have aligned to attempt the biggest land grab in modern history, rob Americans of their unique birthright, and make modern day vassals of the American people. (96 min.)



By regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, this film illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. (85 min.)



The growing global demand for palm oil has created devastating effects, including peatland fires across Indonesia. Stories of hardship are shared through the lens of local families living next to large scale palm oil plantations, while solutions are revealed from activists and industry experts on how individual action can result in a more sustainable industry. (student film, 24 min.)

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// COMMUNITY

CONSIDERING RURAL LAND USE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Tracking Solar Projects & Evaluating Use Permits

The Jefferson County Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on February 23 (the day this newspaper is printed) to discuss the proposed ZTA19-03 text amendment to the county zoning ordinance. As written, the amendment would allow commercial solar projects as a permitted use in rural and residential-growth zones (and other zones as well). The Observer will post an update on that discussion and any decisions on the Solar Sightline page on our website (WeAreTheObserver.com/solar-in-jefferson).

LOOKING AT THE MAP of Jefferson County (see next page), it's clear that the rural land use designation covers the majority of the landscape even if much of the economic activity is concentrated around the various cities, towns and villages. Conversely, areas planned for residential growth are clustered around the existing concentrations, but in practice residential development dots the landscape well beyond the designated growth areas.

While it's common to think of land designated with rural zoning as reserved for agriculture, it's really a category with many allowed uses, not all directly related to agriculture — but the intent of the zoning ordinance is that they be compatible with continuing agricultural use. The uses allowed in the residential growth zone are mostly the same as those allowed in the rural zone (of the 100+ uses allowed in rural, only a few, such as airports and shooting ranges, are not allowed

in residential growth). The difference is in the allowed density, driven by the general lack of public water and sewer in the rural zone.

The ordinance also distinguishes between “permitted use” (requiring planning staff approval only) and “conditional use,” which adds review by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to the staff process. The “conditional use” designation allows for site-specific considerations to be addressed by the BZA. There are general standards the BZA can consider in reviewing a project, including compatibility with the county’s Comprehensive Plan, the effect on public safety, and buffering from the adjoining properties, but otherwise the BZA is limited to imposing reasonable conditions and restrictions that are directly related to the conditional use and the specific requirements defined in the ordinance.

Single-family housing is an example of a “permitted use” in both rural and residential growth zones, with specific requirements in the ordinance. In residential growth 100% of a parcel can be used for building lots, whereas in rural only 50% of a parcel can be used for building lots. Artist studio is an example of a “conditional use” allowed in either zone, but with no specific requirements to guide the BZA other than the general density and setback requirements. If the proposed ZTA19-03 amendment were to be adopted as allowing solar generation facilities as conditional use, that text could serve as the general reference conditions for the permit while still allowing the BZA to address site-specific concerns related to buffering, setbacks, and density. 📍



The Cloverdale Heights subdivision abuts the first proposed solar development. The site-specific concerns of residents here (and adjacent to future solar developments) could be addressed through the conditional use permit process.



Housing and solar developments have similar siting criteria with the exception of proximity to transmission lines, which is considered a benefit only for solar projects.



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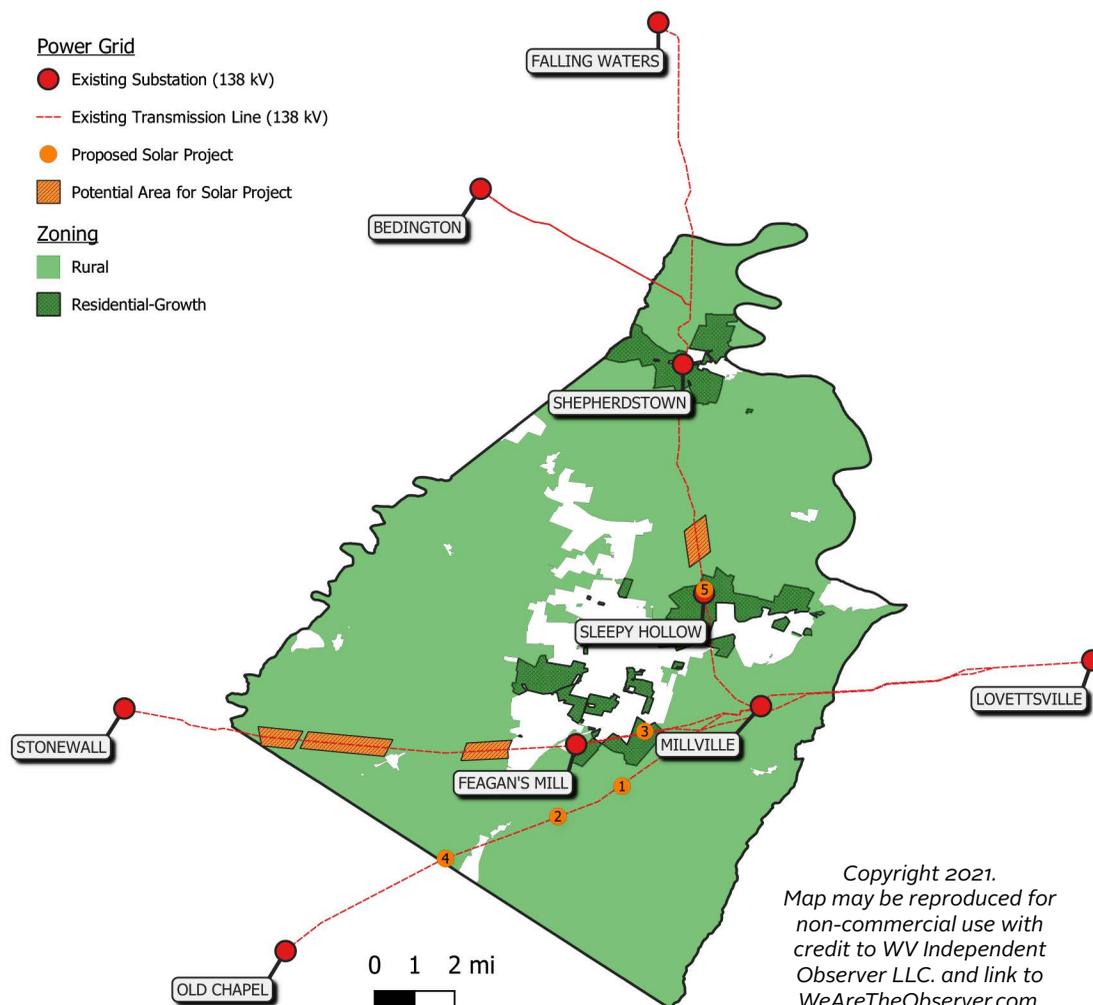
PUTTING SOLAR ON THE MAP IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

To provide context for the community discussions about constructing commercial-scale solar generation facilities in Jefferson County, *The Observer* created this map, referencing public information from the US Department of Homeland Security, PJM (Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland) Interconnection, the Jefferson County Commission, and the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board.

THE FIVE currently proposed solar facilities (shown as orange circles) would connect to existing 138,000 volt transmission lines (shown as dashed red lines). Transmission line segments are referenced by the names of the substations (shown as red circles) along the line (e.g. the Millville - Feagan's Mill line). PJM Interconnection reviews all new projects to determine the feasibility and requirements for connecting to this grid. Each project is evaluated individually, but according to individuals familiar with the transmission grid, there is a limit on how much generation capacity can be connected to a line (think of the overloaded extension cord for your Christmas tree). It would be unlikely for PJM to allow more than 300 MW (megawatt) of energy to be connected to a single line segment. This constraint would limit the number of projects at the current scale to 3 or fewer on each transmission line segment.

Direct access to a transmission line is the key criteria for locating these types of projects, based on conversations with multiple solar developers. Private developers (unlike public utility companies) cannot rely on eminent domain to place towers and lines across lands they do not own (or lease) and the cost of building lines is on the order of a million dollars per mile. This criteria narrows the potential areas for solar projects to parcels (or groups of adjacent parcels) that are located under an existing transmission line.

The financial feasibility of a project is directly related to its size - at a cost of \$7 to \$9



million to build a new substation to connect into the transmission line, the minimum viable project size would be in the neighborhood of 70 MW of energy to justify that investment, given current land costs, panel costs, and current market rates for electricity generation. The current tracker panel technology requires 6 acres per MW, which suggests a minimum parcel

grouping of 500 acres for the project footprint (assuming setbacks and buffers).

The orange boxes represent areas in Jefferson County that seem to meet the criteria above and are not either wetlands, densely wooded, in farmland protection, or already developed with housing.

There are currently five commercial solar generation projects that have been submitted to PJM Interconnection for evaluation to connect to the grid in Jefferson County. The numbered orange circles on the map above indicate the approximate location of each project.

Project #1 (92.5 MW, new Wheatland substation): PJM Queue numbers AD2-158, AF2-114, and AG1-097 (feasibility & impact studies are complete). The WV Public Service Commission (PSC)

issued a siting certificate to Wind Hill Solar (a subsidiary of EDF-Renewables) on February 11, 2021. Estimated project footprint is 550 acres (the project documents indicate that the project footprint will encompass approximately 50% of the designated parcels; public comments from landowners indicate that the remaining acreage will continue in agricultural use).

Project #2 (99 MW, new Kabletown substation): PJM Queue number AE2-226 (feasibility & impact studies completed). WV PSC application not yet filed. Estimated project footprint is 600 acres.

Project #3 (80 MW, new Mechanicstown substation): PJM Queue number AF1-290 (feasibility & impact studies are complete). WV PSC application not yet filed. Estimated project footprint is 500 acres.

Project #4 (80 MW + storage, new Franklinton substation): PJM Queue number AG1-307 (feasibility study complete). Estimated project footprint is 500 acres.

Project #5 (125 MW + storage, co-located at existing Sleepy Hollow substation): PJM Queue number AG1-416 (feasibility study complete). Estimated project footprint is 750 acres.

// NATURE

AFLUTTER IN LATE WINTER

Feeling The Heartbeat Of Spring Emerging

By Doug Pifer

Doug Pifer is an artist, naturalist, and writer. He has a Master's Degree in Journalism from Penn State and has been an editor and art educator. His illustrations have appeared in various books and magazines and he has been a contributor to *The Observer* for several years. He lives with his wife and assorted animals on 5.7 acres in a historic farmhouse near Shepherdstown.

DURING MY SIXTY-ODD YEARS as a naturalist, I've learned spring actually starts long before the first of March. I write this in mid-February as it seems winter has yet to loosen its grip, until you listen and look closely.

In the first light of day, a cardinal tunes up his whistle. As I walk outside to pick up the morning paper, two bright red males are sparring in the old mulberry tree. They chase each other into the big forsythia bush beside the driveway, then back out again. They crash land in the snow almost at my feet, a thrashing ball of red feathers. They fight as if determined to kill each other until, suddenly aware of me, they fly off in different directions.

The Shepherdstown eagle lays her first egg. The timing is crucial. The hatching must coincide with the spring runs of fish that migrate up the rivers to spawn. Fish provide high-protein food for young eaglets, allowing them to grow feathers and muscles strong enough to launch into flight by June.

In the front yard the yellow flowering winter aconite and white blooming snowdrops are now sprouting from hazelnut-sized bulbs we planted a few inches underground. In a few warm days, their blossoms will brighten the yard. Yet these won't be the first flowers to bloom. I look skyward at elms and maples in bud. Some may be already blooming, depending on how much sun they get. On warm winter days, pollinator insects visit these treetop blossoms, unnoticed by most humans who keep our eyes closer to the ground.

Maple syrup makers aren't the only sap collectors in the woods. The yellow-bellied sapsucker, a common winter woodpecker, has busied itself drilling parallel rows of small holes across the trunk of the big tulip tree in front of our house. Today I see drips oozing from some of these sap wells. The woodpecker periodically returns to lap sap. The sweet liquid is also a treat for other winter birds. And during spring migration, orioles, warblers, and hummingbirds may visit these sap wells for a high energy snack,

even after the sapsucker departs to his northern nesting grounds.

Sap flow often attracts birds to limbs broken off by late winter storms. Years ago I watched two chickadees take turns drinking drips from the end of a frozen "popsicle" hanging from a winter-damaged silver maple branch.

Now I hear the song of a bluebird. A pair of them inspects the nest box in the front yard. These first tentative visits last only through the sunny morning hours as the cerulean blue males compete and jostle for the best nesting place. I wax anthropomorphic for a moment and set their gentle song into words, "dear, dear territory."

Bird housing reminds me it's almost time to put the martin houses back up on their poles, although we probably won't see purple martins here until April. I smiled the other day at an email that said, in Florida, the purple martins are already inspecting local real estate. Although the actual vernal equinox remains in the future, I can feel the heartbeat of spring.



Credit: Doug Pifer. Black capped chickadees enjoy drinking from a maple tree "popsicle."

VOLUNTEER

Spring Clean In The Parks



Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) needs help to clean up its nature preserves for spring. Three upcoming events: **Friday, March 5**, Noon - 3 pm at Yankauer Preserve (Berkeley County). **Friday, March 12**, Noon - 3 pm at Cool Spring Preserve (Charles Town). **Friday, April 2** at 9 am - Noon at Broomgrass (Gerrardstown, Berkeley County). The number of participants is limited (for pandemic restrictions) & pre-registration required. Details at PotomacAudubon.org (calendar > all events).

ONLINE PROGRAM

Fireflies!

Do you wonder how many firefly species are there? Why do fireflies flash? What do fireflies eat? Are firefly populations declining? These amazing creatures bring magic to our summer evenings, entertaining and bringing joy to all ages. Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement at Blandy Experimental Farm will enlighten and educate about fireflies during a Zoom presentation, **Wednesday, March 10**, 7 pm. Details at PotomacAudubon.org (calendar > all events).



NATURE WALKS



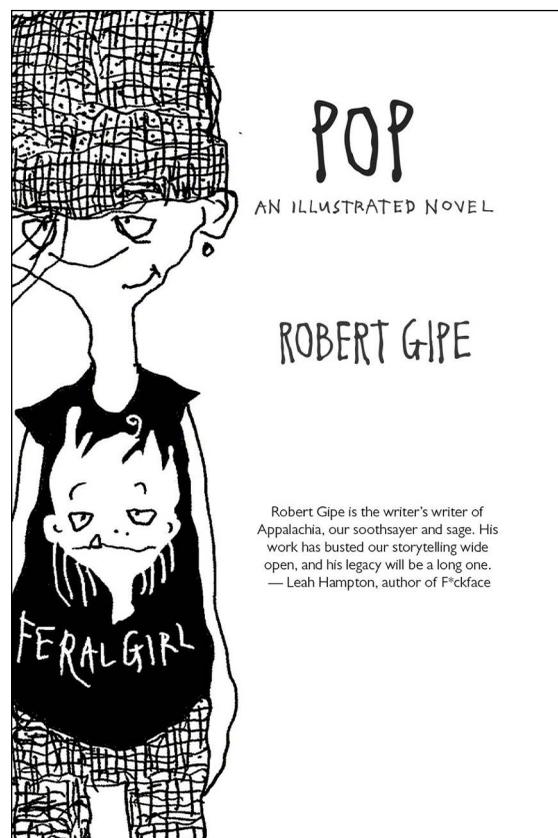
Bird Walk at Fish Lab

The expert birders of PVAS are offering regular walks at the Fish Health Lab. The property has a mix of open ponds, woods, and high-quality wetlands so the bird species found at this location are diverse. The walking route is generally flat with some gradual hills. Children are welcome to attend with an adult. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes and bring along drinking water. **March 13**, 7 am - 10 am. Details at PotomacAudubon.org (calendar > all events).

Bird Walk at Cool Spring

Beth Poole celebrates St. Patrick's day on her regular 'Third Wednesday' bird walk at the Cool Spring Preserve. Species likely to be seen in March include Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Brown Thrasher, and Gray Catbird. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of birding skills. Children ages 12 and up welcome with an adult. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water. Binoculars will be available. **March 7**, 7 am - 10 am. Details at PotomacAudubon.org (calendar > all events).

// BOOK REVIEW



Pop, by Robert Gipe

Publisher: Ohio University Press (2021)

Review by: Gonzalo Baeza — Born in Texas, raised in Chile, and currently living in Shepherdstown, Gonzalo is a fiction writer with books published in Spain, Italy, and Chile. His stories have appeared in Boulevard, Goliad, and The Texas Review.

A NOVEL THAT THREADS SKILLFULLY between humor and the stark realities of an impoverished rural community, Robert Gipe’s *Pop* is a compulsively readable story of a motley crew of feisty misfits and a modern day generational saga of a working class family.

Although this story is the third installment in a trilogy set in the fictional Canard County in eastern Kentucky — preceded by *Trampoline* (2015) and *Weedeater* (2018) — it is a standalone tale told by three distinct, well-delineated characters: Dawn Jewell, a middle aged woman who is worn out by years of activism against the opioid epidemic and poverty, and who now spends her days on the internet and drinking a local soda (or “pop”) called Yellow Dog; Dawn’s uncle Hubert, an unorthodox businessman with a shady past who is trying to make money off a movie crew filming in the area; and Nicolette, Dawn’s 17-year-old daughter, who drops out of high school and launches her own craft soda business.

Living to Tell The Tale

A sprawling novel, both thematically and in terms of story, *Pop* is comprised of multiple subplots and vignettes. These range from serious, “ripped from the headlines” storylines such as West Virginia poet Sam Haney’s crusade against a company that spills a toxic chemical into the Elk River in Kanawha County, to more outlandish secondary yarns like the shooting of a movie about rural Kentuckians fighting space aliens and a government that sells off its citizens to the invaders in a not-so-thinly-veiled allegory of extractive industry’s role in Appalachia.

Throughout *Pop*, Gipe’s lively, naturalistic dialogue, full of deadpan humor and playful turns of phrase — where someone is serious as “a bad car wreck” and the affluent representatives of a toxic chemical plant are described as “shiny-chrome-truck-bumper doll babies” — propels the narrative and eases the transitions from the comedic to the tragic and vice versa. It is not a coincidence that Gipe is known not only for his novels, but for creating *Higher Ground*, a series of plays performed and developed by community members in Harlan, Kentucky that draw on the participants’ experiences.

The Power of Stories

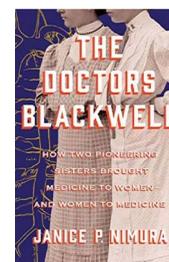
Given the novel’s ample cast of characters and episodic nature, readers may find themselves wondering where the story is ultimately heading. Gipe eventually ties up all the threads adroitly as the three main characters come to their own reckoning. Hubert, by coming to terms with his checkered history and his relationship with his beloved partner Tildy; Nicolette, by continuing to find her place in the world and recovering from sexual assault; and Dawn, by figuring out her relationship with her daughter and what inspires her activism.

Much like the title of Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez’s memoirs, *Living to Tell the Tale*, Gipe’s characters draw strength from their lived experience and lift themselves up through the power of their personal stories. As Nicolette tells her mother: “Telling might be how the heart starts to mend. If the right person is there to listen.”

Gipe tells their compelling stories both with a keen ear for the little nuances that shape unique characters and his ability to create distinct voices. In this, Gipe is aided by his own James Thurber-like blend of words and images, as the story is accompanied by the author’s cartoon depictions of its main characters, who often break the fourth wall and seem to directly address the reader.

Unsentimental but emotive, both whimsical and realistic, *Pop* is a powerful brew.

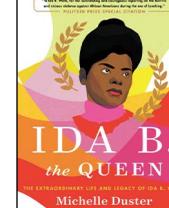
THE FRONT SHELF



The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine, by Janice P. Nimura
W. W. Norton & Company (2021)

In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in America to receive an M.D. She was soon joined in her achievement by her younger sister, Emily. Exploring the sisters’ allies, enemies, and enduring partnership, Nimura presents a story of trial and triumph. Both sisters were tenacious and visionary, but their convictions did not always align with the emergence of women’s rights, or with each other. This richly researched biography celebrates two complicated pioneers who exploded the limits of possibility for women in medicine.

Ida B. The Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells, by



Michelle Duster
Simon and Schuster (2021)

Ida B. the Queen tells the awe-inspiring story of an pioneering woman who was often overlooked and underestimated — a woman who refused to exit a train car meant for white passengers; a woman who brought to light the horrors of lynching in America; a woman who co-founded the NAACP. Written by Wells’s great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, this “warm remembrance of a civil rights icon” (Kirkus Reviews) is a unique visual celebration of both Wells’s life and the Black experience.



We Run The Tides, by Vendela Vida
HarperCollins (2021)

Suspenseful and poignant, *We Run the Tides* is Vendela Vida’s masterful portrait of an inimitable place on the brink of radical transformation. San Francisco, before the tech boom, is mirrored in the changing lives of the teenage girls at the center of this story of innocence lost, the pain of too much freedom, and the struggle to find one’s authentic self. Told with a gimlet eye and great warmth, *We Run the Tides* is both a gripping mystery and a tribute to the wonders of youth, in all their beauty and confusion.

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GUIDE // KIDS ACTIVITY & CAMP GUIDE



KIDS WANT TO PLAY!

Especially this year, we hope *The Observer's* annual activity & camp guide will provide ideas for fun and exciting adventures this summer (and spring) in and around Jefferson County. Email us at Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com if you have a camp or activity you would like us to include on our website or in future print issues. Details and dates may change, so please check with each organization directly as you make plans.

ATHLETICS

Vision Futsal Academy



Kearneysville • Day Camp
Ages 4-14 • June - August

Learn futsal/soccer skills and play games with professional coaches who focus on joy and learning.

Web: VisionFutsalAcademy.com

EPIC Soccer

Jefferson County • Day Camp
Ages 5-19 • June - August

Develop your soccer skills with quality coaches who will balance training with a fun and positive attitude.

Web: EPICsoccerClub.org



Jefferson County Little League



Spring Season (March - Jun)
Ages 4-16 • boys & girls

A focus on developing strong athletic skills and good sportsmanship behaviors. Registration closes March 5. Season runs March 13 to June 1.

Web: JCLLwv.com

ADVENTURE

Camp River Runners



Shepherdstown • Day Camp
Ages 10-14 • July 7 - 9 session
Ages 14-18 • July 12 - 15 session



Learn the foundations of healthy running performance, injury prevention, improved running skills, muscle endurance, and strength endurance from some of the leading minds and athletes in the running community.

Web: CampRiverRunners.com

Rations Spaceport

Bolivar • Indoor Activity Center
Ages 14+ for VR escape games
Ages 10+ for archery & laser tag

Indoor facility offers Virtual Reality Laser Tag and Escape Rooms in a safe family-friendly environment. Available by reservation for small groups. See website for hours & information.



Web: RationsSpaceport.com

Outdoor Adventure Camp

Harpers Ferry • Day Camp
Ages 9-15 • June 14 - August 23

The team at River Riders offers opportunities for children to enjoy the great outdoors in Harpers Ferry with week-long programs that are fun and educational. A new session each week (registration deadline is Thursday before the start of the week).

Web: OutdoorAdventureCamp.com

Kids Rock! Climbing Camps

Berkeley County • Day Camp
Ages 5-12 • June - August



Climbing New Heights is offering programs to inspire kids to make friends, learn new skills, and gain confidence through rock climbing, games, and engaging lessons. Weekly sessions at its indoor facility (54 GM Access Rd, Martinsburg) run Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Multiple sessions – Week 1: June 7-11; Week 2: June 28-July 3; Week 3: July 19-23; Week 4: August 2-6. Register by the start date of each week (subject to availability) under “summer climbing camps” on the website. Early bird pricing through May 1st.

Web: ClimbingNewHeightsWV.com

KIDS ROCK!
CLIMBING CAMPS

JUNE 7-11
JUNE 28-JULY 3
JULY 19-23
AUGUST 2-6

M-F 9AM-3PM
AGES 5-12
\$250/WEEK

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CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS

GAMES!

FRIENDS!

CLIMBING!

LESSONS!

FUN!

NEW SKILLS!

GUIDE // KIDS ACTIVITY & CAMP GUIDE

PARKS & RECREATION

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation

Charles Town • All Ages
 Spring Programs: March - May
 Summer Programs: June - August



Registration is open now for spring and summer programs. Sports camp themes include basketball, gymnastics, martial arts, volleyball. Activity camp themes include outdoor adventure, circus, crafting, dance, fantasy, farm, LEGO. Play & Learn programs for toddlers. Office and community center facility is located in Sam Michael's Park.

Web: JCPRC.org
Phone: 304-728-3207



Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation

Martinsburg & Inwood • All Ages
 Summer Programs TBD

Programs are open to both residents and non-residents (additional fees may apply for non-residents). Offering a variety of programs in dance, gymnastics, inline hockey, lacrosse, and other sports. Summer camp schedules will be published on the website when finalized.

Web: MBCparks-rec.org
Phone: 304-264-4842 or 304-229-0022



ARTS & LEARNING

Allegro Dance Company

Kearneysville
 All Ages • Year Round

Professional dance instruction for students of all ages and abilities. Styles include Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Jazz, Pointe, Hip Hop.

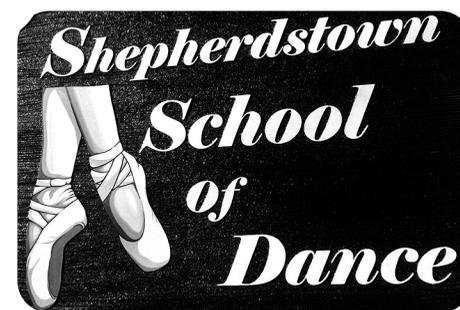
Web: AllegroDanceCompany.com

Shepherdstown School of Dance

Shepherdstown
 All Ages • Year Round

Instruction in Ballet, Jazz/Modern, Tap, Rommett floor-barre for Toddlers to Teens.

Web: ShepherdstownSchoolOfDance.com



Washington County Arts Council

Hagerstown MD

The Arts Council website provides links to various art and discovery programs offered by the Fine Arts Museum, Discovery Center, and Puppet Theater.

Web: WashingtonCountyArts.com/children

Audubon Discovery Camp

Yankauer & Cool Spring • Day Camps
 Ages 5-18 • June & July
 Early registration recommended



Multiple sessions at Cool Spring and Yankauer preserves. Each session focuses on natural and cultural history as kids explore forests and fields, build forts, and play games. Campers gain a better understanding of their role in the natural world by using their senses and exploring with mind and body. Financial assistance available.

Web: PotomacAudubon.org/education/youth/discovercamp

EXPLORE // AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

EXHIBIT INSPIRED BY HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY AT BERKELEY ART WORKS



Credit: *Lives Not Forgotten* (acrylic and acrylic ink on canvas) by Jeanne Marie McClure.

Since 2017, a growing group of local residents has been working to restore the Green Hill Historic African-American Cemetery (GHHAAC) in Martinsburg. The idea for the show at Berkeley Art Works, *Fresh Visions: An Exhibit to Celebrate the Green Hill Historic African-American Cemetery*, was proposed by Berkeley Arts Council member and GHHAAC volunteer Charles Mortensen. His intent is to bring attention to the cemetery and the GHHAAC Committee, a not-for-profit group of volunteers who organized to clean up and care for the cemetery site adjacent to the main Green Hill cemetery. The exhibit is also a fundraiser for the GHHAAC Committee.

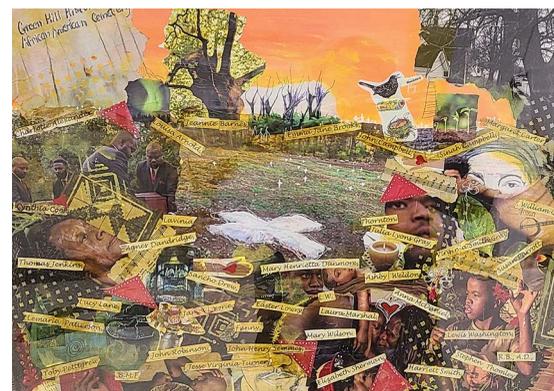
Several themes are represented in this show, including revitalization and

preservation activities at the site; preservation of the history and identity of the cemetery; and commemoration and remembrance of souls buried there. The show includes the work of twelve artists, presenting approximately 20 works of art with a range of media and techniques represented, including drawing, painting, photography, woodworking, stained glass, clay, mixed-media, assemblage, collage, and gravestone rubbing, as well as historical artifacts.

The Fresh Visions exhibit runs through March 20. Berkeley Art Works is located at 116 N. Queen Street, Martinsburg. Open Fridays & Saturdays, 11 am - 3 pm. Website: BerkeleyArtsWV.org.

The non-profit Berkeley Arts Council supports local and regional artists, brings quality arts experiences to the community, and provides a wide range of arts learning experiences for local residents, artists and artisans. Email berkeleyartswv@gmail.com or phone 304-620-7277.

The Cemetery Committee welcomes volunteers and financial contributions. Email ghhaac@gmail.com or phone 304-279-5162. Information about the Cemetery can be found on Facebook @ [GreenHillHistoricAfricanAmericanCemetery](https://www.facebook.com/GreenHillHistoricAfricanAmericanCemetery).



Credit: *Remember Us* (mixed media collage) by Jeanne Marie McClure.



The Cemetery Committee adopted the Sankofa Bird as its logo. This symbol has roots in the Akan people of West Africa. Sankofa is expressed as a mythic bird that flies forward while looking backwards with an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth. The Cemetery Committee reflected this symbology in its own motto: "In order to understand our present and ensure our future, we must know our past."

The Cemetery Committee reflected this symbology in its own motto: "In order to understand our present and ensure our future, we must know our past."

CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS

- Indoor Rock Climbing Gym
- Outdoor Guide Services
- Training & Technique Classes
- All Ages & Abilities Welcome

LET'S TALK!
304-240-0587 | ClimbingNewHeightsWV.com
54 General Motors Access Road, Martinsburg

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EXPLORE // AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

STORYTELLING

SPEAK STORIES IN MARCH

Storyteller Chetter Galloway is the guest of the Speak Story Series on March 9 at 7:30 pm. The evening's program is titled "A Storytelling Sampler of Traditional, Personal, and Queer Tales."

Chetter grew up hearing his father tell stories on Sunday road trips. He became interested in the art of storytelling while working as a living history interpreter at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Chetter has performed nationally at venues such as the National Black Arts Festival, The National Association of Black Storytellers Festival, The National Storytelling Summit, The Art of the Story Festival, and the Smithsonian. He is also a contributing storyteller featured on Race Bridges Studio.



Tickets are \$15 (free for season ticket holders). Speak is for adult audiences. Mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion. For info & tickets, visit SpeakStorySeries.com or email info@SpeakStorySeries.com.

ONLINE FUNDRAISER



VIRTUAL WALK IN THE WOODS

Enjoy a virtual visit to local nature preserves from the comfort of your home and help Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) celebrate on the eve of the Spring Equinox with a virtual "Walk in the Woods with Wine." Each ticketed guest will be given a bottle of wine (you may choose red, white or rosé as part of the registration process) and a "goody bag" of delicious savories and sweets, including a treat from DeFluri's Fine Chocolates. During the event, guests will connect through Zoom, then enjoy videos produced for this event to visit special places at Cool Spring, Eidolon, Stauffer's Marsh and Yankauer preserves.

Tickets are \$50 per person. The Zoom event is on March 21 at 4:30 pm. Pre-registration is required by March 10. All registrants must be 21 years of age. Details at PotomacAudubon.org (calendar > all events).

VIRTUAL CONCERT



The Shepherdstown School of Music has been studying current research and best-practices to create safe performance environments (see October 2020 issue of The Observer) as shown here with the plexiglass enclosures around each performer.

A CELTIC CELEBRATION

The Shepherd University Wind Ensemble will perform "A Celtic Celebration" virtual livestream concert from the Frank Center Theater on Friday, March 5 at 7:30 pm. The event is free, with donations suggested. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Hippensteel, the Wind Ensemble will perform "Pentland Hills," a march by Maj. James Howe, "Solas Ané" (Yesterday's Joy) by Samuel Hazo, "A Langford Legend" (three Irish Street Ballads) by Robert Sheldon, "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doone" by Percy Grainger, and "Colloden 3" by Julie Giroux. Joining the wind ensemble will be the City of Winchester Pipes and Drums for "Highland Cathedral," "Scotland the Brave," and "Amazing Grace."

For details of the livestream event, visit Shepherd.edu/music and select "event tickets" in the side menu or [ShepherdUMusic on YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

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Shepherdstown, WV 25443
P 304-263-9447 ext.4

oll-cpas.com

WATCH THE 2021 ACFF ONLINE
>>> PAGE 5 <<<

EXPLORE // SHOPS AND GALLERIES

The locally-owned shops and restaurants across Jefferson County offer a personal touch and small town ambiance. Visit our website WeAreTheObserver.com/shop-local for addresses and other details.

SHEPHERDSTOWN

ADMIRAL ANALOG
Vintage & new vinyl

AZAD'S ORIENTAL RUG EMPORIUM
Handmade rugs

BADGERHOUND STUDIO & GALLERY

BRIDGE GALLERY
Showcase of local artists

COOPER CAPTURES
(Currently online only)

CREATIVE PROCRASTINATIONS
Whimsical art emporium

DICKINSON & WAIT CRAFT GALLERY
American craft products

EVOLVE GALLERY
Pop-up art gallery

FLOWER HAUS
Floral designs for events

FOUR SEASONS BOOKS
New & resale books

GALLERY AT 105
(Currently online only)

GERMAN STREET MARKET
Gifts & delicacies

THE GOOD SHOP
Women's clothing

THE HIVE HOUSE
Beekeeping supply

HONOR D FINE SHOES & HATS
Stylish shoes, hats for all

KIMOPICS GALLERY
Local photographer

MEDITATIVE MEDICINALS
CBD, health & beauty

MOUNTAINEER POPCORN
Sweet & savory treats

O'HURLEY'S GENERAL STORE
Novelties & gifts

ON THE WINGS OF DREAMS
Gifts for spiritual journeyers

REVERSA ROSE
Natural skin-care products

RICCO GALLERY
Artistic Jewelry

THREADS
Fun t-shirts & gifts

TONIC HERB SHOP
Holistic health products

THE VILLAGE FLORIST
Flower arrangements

CHARLES TOWN & RANSON

ART DECO DEKOR
20th Century vintage

B.VINTAGE
Modern farmhouse vintage

BUSHEL & PECK
Specialty grocery store

FAST CASH PAWN
Jewelry, electronics, etc.

FEAGANS JEWELERS
Custom jewelry & repair

FUZZY DOG BOOKS & MUSIC
Used books & vinyl

THE HOBBIES SHOP
Models, RC, kites, etc.

LITTLE POTTERY HOUSE
Make & paint pottery

MITIELDA LATINA
Convenience store

NEEDFUL THINGS
Vintage & new items

OP-SHOP
Curated resale clothing

TRADEWINDS FLOORS
Carpet & flooring

TWO CROWS ANTIQUE
50+ antique dealers

TWO RIVERS TREADS
Active & outdoor footwear

WEANT TO PLAY
Sporting equipment

WEAR IT AGAIN KID
Consignment boutique

THE WILLIAMS STORE
Convenience store

THE WOODEN SHOE
Vintage lighting, glass

WASHINGTON STREET ARTISTS COOP
Gallery & exhibits

YARNABILITY
Arts & crafts

HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR

THE GILDED FLEA
Antique & vintage wares

HARPERS FERRY PARK ASSOCIATION BOOKSHOP

THE HODGE PODGE
Gifts, souvenirs & antiques

MAGPIE POTTERY
Ceramics by local artisans

MARY ADAMS ACCESSORIES
Eclectic jewelry

NATURE'S HEALTH & BODY
Health & wellness products

HARPERS FERRY OUTFITTERS
Outdoor gear & bike shop

RIVERS STUDIO & GALLERY
Functional & sculptural art

HB SNALLYGASTER GENERAL STORE
Whimsical goods & cafe

TENFOLD FAIR TRADE COLLECTION
Hand-crafted wares

TESSOTERICA
Hand-crafted bath items

TRUE TREATS HISTORIC CANDY
Retro candy & fun treats

THE VILLAGE SHOP
Souvenirs & novelties

THE VINTAGE LADY
Jewelry & local WV goods

WASHINGTON STREET STUDIOS
Ceramic studio and classes

ART CLASSES ONLINE



ART CLASSES ONLINE

The Berkeley Arts Council is offering two virtual art classes in March with instructor Judith Becker. The **All About Color** class on March 3, 10, 17, and 24 (Wednesdays) from 6-8 pm is a comprehensive study of color and all its attributes necessary to producing outstanding 2-dimensional art. Participants will learn about color theory, rules in using and mixing colors, using the color wheel, triads and tetrads, color in design, and color schemes.

The **Creative Techniques for Painting Landscapes** class on March 4, 11, 18 and 25 (Thursdays) from 2-4 pm will explore interesting and unusual ways to reinterpret a landscape photo. Using the same reference photo for all four class sessions, participants will select exciting color schemes, redesign the composition through cropping and highlighting, eliminate uninteresting elements, change the focal point, and explore how to abstract the subject.

Pre-registration is required. For details & registration visit BerkeleyArtsWV.org (>instruction link in menu), email berkeleyartswv@gmail.com or call 304-620-7277.

“ A group experience takes place on a lower level of consciousness than the experience of an individual ... the psychology of a large crowd inevitably sinks to the level of mob psychology.”
—C.G. Jung
(The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious)



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DEVONSHIRE ARMS CAFÉ & PUB
English-style pub

FARMER'S MARKET
Sunday morning market

GRAPES & GRAINS GOURMET
Wines & craft beers

GREEN PINEAPPLE
Poke, ramen, & bubble tea

KING'S NY PIZZA
Pizza, subs & Italian

KOME THAI & SUSHI BISTRO
Creative Asian fusion

LELLYBELLE CAFÉ
Vegetarian & vegan fare

LILAH RESTAURANT
New American

LOST DOG COFFEE
Coffee, tea & beans

MARIA'S TAQUERIA
Mex/SoCal cuisine

MECKLENBURG INN
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SHEPHERDSTOWN SWEET SHOP
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TOMMY'S PIZZA
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A LA MODE CAFÉ ICE CREAM & DESSERTS

ALMOST HEAVEN PUB & GRILL
Pub food & drinks

ABOLITIONIST ALE WORKS
Craft beer & pub dining

ALFREDO'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILL
Quaint & homey bistro

GINZA
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GRANDMA'S DINER
American & Spanish

INKWELL'S TAVERN
Cocktails, craft beer, food

MAD MONKS BAKERY
Coffee and baked goods

MOUNTAIN VIEW DINER
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ORTEGA'S TACO SHOP
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Inventive craft menu

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Craft brews

HARPERS FERRY ICE CREAM SHOP
Ice cream & milkshakes

KELLEY FARM KITCHEN
Vegetarian & Vegan

LES & ALI'S SEAFOOD
Fresh catch fish market (Weekends only)

MOUNTAIN HOUSE CAFE
Cozy family inn, takeout

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Casual American & drinks

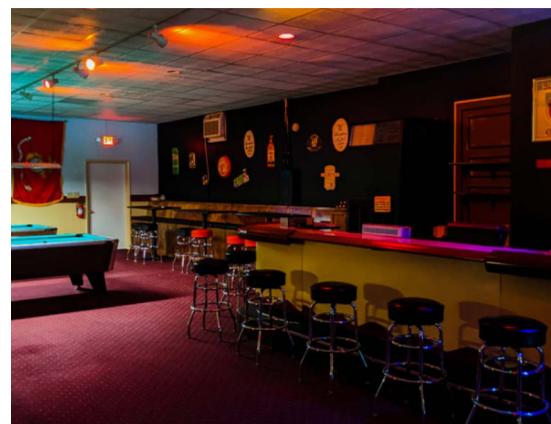
SWEET ALISHA'S PIZZA
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The Press Room in Shepherdstown is open Thursdays through Mondays for dinner. Call 304-876-8777 for reservations.

REOPENING!

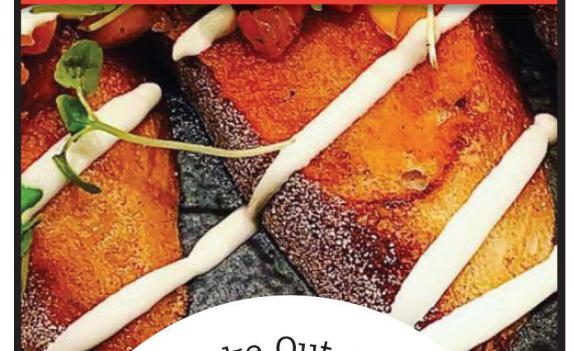


BACK TO LIFE IN CHARLES TOWN

Inkwells Tavern has created its new home at 200 West Washington Street in Charles Town (in the former Bars & Booths store across the street from the former Inkwells location). Serving old menu favorites plus many new fresh items, including Bolivar Bread and Rations Coffee. Visit @InkwellsTavern on Facebook for current hours and menus. They promise live music will be coming soon too!



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March 1-7, 2021

HARPERS FERRY/BOLIVAR
SHEPHERDSTOWN
CHARLES TOWN

Participating restaurants:
discoveritallwv.com/blog

SUMMER CAMPS >>> PAGE 10 <<<

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