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SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK

Why we run **A3**



'Tenors' at OOH **B10**



Community Calendar **B3**



Spirit

The week from
September 12 to
September 18, 2018

95¢ (+ tax)
 20 pages,
 2 sections

| SINCE 1844 |

JCC backs delay of Rockwool water bond vote

By **TIM COOK**
 Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – As dozens of residents amassed before the Jefferson County Commission again last week to voice concerns about how a 460,000-square-foot Rockwool stone insulation under construction in Ranson would affect the county, they also urged action.

Residents pressed the JCC to exert its influence over the Jefferson County Development Authority's board of directors, and commissioners ultimately agreed to Commissioner Jane Tabb's suggestion to meet in executive session this week to hear their legal options.

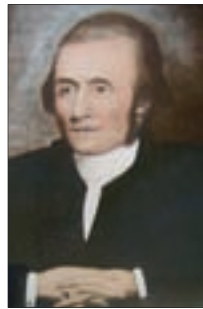
“We need to understand every bit of this and what steps can and cannot be taken or be taken with what risks involved,” Tabb told residents. “I’m looking at everything, and I hope you all are looking at everything too.”

Residents began to express alarm in July – to postpone a Sept. 18 decision on authorization of a \$7 million public utility bond for a four-mile water line extension considered vital to the \$150 million factory. Issuing the water bond through the JCDA was part of a memorandum of understanding the development authority signed last summer with Rockwool and Jefferson Utilities Inc. in Kearneysville.

“It appears to me that the JCDA sought to achieve its version of commercial success by fast-talking its way to quick actions on this proposed plant that did not get the scrutiny that it deserved,” Bruce Appelgren of Charles Town told the JCC last week. “You can fix it by denying the services this industrial project requires.”

Charles's big day
Saturday festivities to put spotlight on city's founder

CHARLES TOWN – This weekend marks the anniversary of Charles Washington's death on Sept. 16, 1799, but a public event happening Saturday will be all about celebrating the man who founded Charles Town.



Charles Washington

The Bee Line chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution along with

(See **FOUNDER** Page A9)

CORNERING THE MARKET



ROBERT SNYDER

Auctioneer Densil L. Nibert poses inside his new office at 100 S. Mildred St. in Ranson, once home to a mom-and-pop corner market. When he prepped the building, he found milk bottles and other relics that he cleaned up and put on display.

Densil Nibert's auction, realty business unveils a new setup in Ranson

By **RICHARD F. BELISLE**
 Special to the Spirit

Shelves in Densil L. Nibert's new storefront at 100 S. Mildred St., hold dozens of bottles, tins and boxes that were part of the inventory at Sager's Grocery, the mom-and-pop corner store that operated in the building starting in the 1930s.

When he hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on Friday, local residents will get a chance to see some of the items that were once sold inside the store, which closed its doors more than a half-century ago.

“I'd like people to see it because they remember when it was a grocery store,” explained Nibert, who learned that Sager's had

(See **NIBERT** Page A7)

Powerful Florence to bring more rain

By **TIM COOK**
 Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – Jefferson County officials have begun bracing for possible wind damage or additional flooding as Hurricane Florence approaches the mid-Atlantic seaboard, only days after heavy rains.

The county sits on the northern edge of Florence's multi-state impact zone, and the storm's effects could

(See **RAIN** Page A7)

Righting a wrong from 1957

Ella P. Stewart faced a high-profile snub – with trademark grace

By **CHRISTINE SNYDER**
 editor@spiritofjefferson.com

CHARLES TOWN – It was a spring day in 1957 when a staffer with the weekly newspaper in Ella Phillips Stewart's Virginia hometown called her in Toledo, Ohio, where she'd lived for decades and was well known as a retired pharmacist and business owner and as a nationally known civic leader whose

work took her all over the world. No, the 64-year-old told the *Clarke Courier*, she had no plans to attend the banquet in Richmond honoring “Distinguished Virginians,” men and women born in Virginia who had made their marks in other states.

The week before, Stewart – the first licensed African-American female pharmacist in Pennsylvania and one of the first African-American women

to work in the field anywhere in the nation – had learned that the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce and Gov. Thomas B. Stanley were formally rescinding her invitation.

Stewart and other prominent African-Americans had been invited through “clerical errors,” according to chamber officials. Organizers said the celebration tied to the 350th

(See **PIONEER** Page A4)



Pharmacy pioneer and civic leader Ella P. Stewart stands beside a bust of herself created in 1961 for the Ohio school named for her. Next month, the former Storer student who died in 1987 will be honored at a daylong event in Berryville, Va., that's open to the public.

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