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SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK

It's a gala, by Charles! **A4**

Still in the running **B2**

'Here to serve the animals' **A7**



Spirit

The week from
**September 19 to
September 25, 2018**

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2 sections

| SINCE 1844 |

Rockwool opponents get bad news

Staff report

CHARLES TOWN — County residents hoping to thwart construction of a Rockwool insulation factory got bad news Tuesday on a number of fronts.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued a statement regarding the Rockwool facility being constructed in Jefferson County, saying the planned facility presents “no

■ **More on Rockwool**, A5, A6, A12

threat” to county residents or to the environment.

“Based on all available information that we have gathered and that we have reviewed, we see no threat to the health of our citizens and no threat to our environment,” DEP Secretary Austin Caperton said in the statement. “Our scientists and engineers with the DEP have

reviewed all available data and have assured me there is virtually no other state in America that would have denied this permit.”

Also on Tuesday, Jefferson County Vision, a citizens group fighting the factory, saw its request to stop a key vote planned for Tuesday afternoon get a thumbs down from Circuit Judge David Hammer of Jefferson County, who wrote the residents failed to show the

“irreparable harm necessary” for an injunction to be issued.

Hammer’s ruling came after the Jefferson County Development Authority tabled plans to vote on whether to publicly fund a \$7 million water line to serve the Ranson facility.

With Trent Ogilvie, the president of Rockwool North American, in attendance, the JCDA tabled the vote for no

(See **ROCKWOOL** Page A7)



Austin Caperton

CHARLES TOWN CITY COUNCIL

Rent bills for 3 nonprofits at Rouss Hall get a hearing

By **TIM COOK**
Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN — Charles Town City Council held a special meeting Monday to again discuss a proposal to require three nonprofits to pay a total of \$450 monthly for space in Rouss Hall, the city’s historic building on North George Street.

The Jefferson Arts Council and the Washington Street Artists Cooperative plan to continue occupying the 1,200-square-foot ground floor, commercial space the two groups have been using since about 2012 without paying rent or utility costs.

Charles Town Now, the group formed several years ago to promote downtown, also plans to share the commercial street-front space

(See **ROUSS** Page A4)



Daryl Hennessy



Volunteers serve a free dinner Monday to about 60 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Charles Town.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Norma Ettinger (not her real name) is sitting at a long table in the auditorium of the Zion Episcopal Church Parish House at 221 E. Washington St. in Charles Town, watching as her husband finishes his lunch. Head bent, he is methodically working his way through a full plate

of meatloaf, pasta salad and rolls.

Norma has finished her meal and sits quietly amid the bustle around her. “He has Alzheimer’s,” the 73-year-old explains, a hint of weariness in her voice. “I am the only person taking care of him.”

Every day in Charles Town and Ranson, 25 to 45 such meals are

served in churches, at Jefferson County Community Ministries just down Washington Street and in other locations. A coalition of over two dozen churches and community organizations under the auspices of JCCM works together to provide to those in need at least one hot meal a day, usually

(See **HUNGER** Page A8)

HARD TIMES

While some in D.C. say War on Poverty is over, many in the Panhandle still struggle

Story by *Pat Hamilton*

Historic Duffields Depot restoration is chugging along



MEAGHAN PAPEIKA

By **BONNIE WILLIAMSON** ■ **Related column**, A11
Special to the Spirit

DUFFIELDS — Work has begun on restoring the historic Duffields Depot. Trees and overgrowth had made it all but impossible to see the depot built in 1839 from Flowing Springs Road.

LEFT: Duffields Depot is no longer hidden from view, thanks to a Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission project. The commission plans to use grant money for work, including stabilizing the land and removing asbestos from the structure.

but the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission is getting the building in shape.

Those helping out include Historic Landmarks Commission chairman Martin Burke and other volunteers. Meaghan Papeika, who has been with the commission only a few weeks, said she is impressed by the speed of the endeavor. “They really got things done fast,” Papeika said.

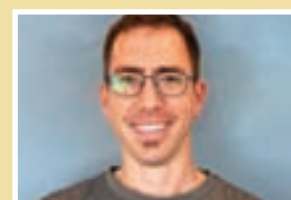
The \$1,000 raised through a July fundraiser went toward the cleanup and tree removal that took place earlier this month.

Papeika said the Historic Landmarks Commission has applied for grants to fund additional work. One grant is to the CSX Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the CSX railroad company, for \$3,500 for general cleanup.

Another is a \$3,000 grant request from the Two Rivers Giving Circle for asbestos remediation and debris removal.

The Two Rivers Giving Circle — named for the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers— is one

(See **DUFFIELDS** Page A10)



Jason Wyatt
of Charles Town

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