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SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK

Mud slinging? B1

Loaves of love B9

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Spirit

The week from
**September 26 to
 October 2, 2018**

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 22 pages,
 2 sections

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Middleway fire house plans bash

MIDDLEWAY – Volunteer firefighters this weekend will formally celebrate their first decade of providing service in Leetown, Summit Point and other areas extending to the Berkeley County line and the Virginia border.

The Middleway Volunteer Fire Co. was formed in September of 2008 and broke ground on its fire house three years later.

On Sunday, an open house will offer the fire company's leaders the chance to thank the community for its support, the event's organizers say, and also meet with citizens who haven't yet connected with the fire company.

Those who come out for the celebration will be treated to refreshments and a raffle.

(See **BASH** Page A10)

Preservation award goes to C.W. Hall

CHARLES TOWN – The stately market building that's stood at the corner of Washington and George streets here since 1874 found itself in the spotlight this weekend – taking home one of the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia's top awards for 2018.

Charles Washington Hall, which reopened in the spring of 2017 after a \$4 million makeover, won the PAWV's Downtown Preservation Award. The honor was presented Saturday at the historic Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg.

Preservation Alliance officials cited the City of Charles Town, the owner of the building, for its role in the restoration.

(See **AWARD** Page A11)

All eyes on him

David Modler, the Shepherd University art professor who's a national expert in visual journals, shows off some of his work Friday during the monthly artist talk at the Charles Town Library.

Some of his creations are on display in the foyer of the library at 200 E. Washington St. Modler, an artist, researcher and professor originally from Baltimore, has art degrees from Towson State University and James Madison University.



ROCKWOOL UPROAR



Jefferson Countians protest outside Climate Week NYC, where Monday's opening ceremony featured a keynote address from Jens Birgersson, CEO of Rockwool Group.

'We are in it for the long run,' Danish officials say

RANSON – Misinformation continues to fly around the community 10 months after Danish insulation manufacturer Rockwool Group announced plans to build a \$150 million factory on former orchard land here.

Last month when the company spent \$500,000 on a series of open house events to allow Eastern Panhandle residents to grill company officials about the factory and the permit process, opponents responded with a boycott, instead protesting outside the event held at the Jefferson County Community Center at Sam Michaels Park.

(See **ANSWERS** Page A4)

JCDA chief says 'hysteria' costing jobs

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

RANSON – The "Toxic Rockwool" campaign by citizens fighting the Danish insulation manufacturer set to open here in 2020 has cost Jefferson County promising business prospects, according to the head of the county's economic development authority.

Nic Diehl, who was appointed executive director of the Jefferson County Economic Development Authority in 2017, said last week that four companies

have pulled out of negotiations with area officials.

"Nobody wants to come to a county where this sort of hysteria is rampant," Diehl said Friday. "Every single prospect has all said thanks, but no thanks."

Rockwool Group is building the facility on the former site of Jefferson Orchards, land that Ranson annexed back in 2004.

Though news that Rockwool was

building a factory in Ranson made front page news in the *Spirit* 10 months ago, Jefferson County residents did not begin to fight the proposal until after a groundbreaking ceremony in June.

The Concerned Citizens Against Rockwool group was created in late July and its leaders say it has more than 10,000 members. In August when Rockwool held a multi-day open house at the community center at Sam Michaels Park hoping to

(See **JOBS** Page A9)



WEST VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT Appointments of Armstead, Jenkins get court approval

CHARLESTON – An appointed panel of Supreme Court justices has ruled that two men appointed to the high court by Gov. Jim Justice can be seated and vie for the seats in a special election Nov. 6.

Monday's decision means Congressman Evan Jenkins, who gave up his seat to try for the Republican nomi-

nation for the U.S. Senate, and former Republican House of Delegates Speaker Tim Armstead will serve as replacement justices on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals until the November vote.

The five-member panel – circuit judges temporarily

(See **COURT** Page A10)

Fiona Harrison
 of Charles Town
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