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Filed for by Upson For WV, Laura Galvin, Treasurer

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SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK

They're 'Ruthless!' **B1**

Snapping the streak **B12**

Sample ballot for Nov. 6 **B7**



Spirit

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Councilman Tolbert urges Rockwool shift

By **TIM COOK**
Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – This week's Charles Town City Council meeting began like so many public sessions in Jefferson County have since July. First a moment of silence, then the Pledge of Allegiance, then a slew of speakers arguing against the Rockwool Group's insulation factory planned for Ranson.

But Councilman Mike Tolbert soon steered the discussion in a novel direction. He invited others to join him in sit-

ting down with Rockwool officials. "I would welcome some company – from this council and from the public," he said Monday evening. "Please let me know."

Residents fighting Rockwool's 460,000-square-foot factory have rejected opportunities to talk with company officials and instead focused on protests, sending out news releases, applying political pressure ahead of next month's election, filing legal action and taking other steps.

During a period reserved for council member comments, Tolbert asked his

colleagues and the public to begin a discussion with the Danish company building the factory set to open in 2020.

He said he'd met in person with Rockwool representatives to discuss the mineral wool insulation manufacturing facility and the fierce opposition that's arisen since a late June groundbreaking ceremony.

"They shared with me their perspective on how things had gotten to this point," he said, "and they asked me to explain to them why I believe things had gotten to this point."

Tolbert, a native of Charles Town who works for the FDA and was first elected to the council in 2015, described the conversation as "quiet," "civil" and "respectful."

"I did check," he added, "but I detected no wings, no fangs, no sulphur smell. ... They are humans."

He said Monday that he plans to present to the City Council "guidance and recommendations" for City Manager Daryl Hennessy, the city's representa-

(See **ROCKWOOL** Page A11)



Michael Tolbert

■ **More on Rockwool** A2, A6, A7 and A11

Holocaust 'Hole Punch Project' halfway there

By **BONNIE WILLIAMSON**
Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – The Hole Punch Project, the work that's helping Washington High students understand the terrible toll of the Holocaust, is at the halfway mark.

So far, students have created 4.5 million paper holes toward a goal of hole-punched circles to represent all 9 million men, women and children whose lives ended in the Nazi death camps.

Jason Smith, a 10th-grade English teacher at Washington began the Hole Punch Project in 2015 as his students read "Night" by Elie Wiesel, whose book details his experiences with his father in the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

"Most students had been exposed to the Holocaust in fictional accounts," Smith said. "Wiesel's book is a firsthand personal account. It is very powerful."

Smith also showed students the documentary, "Paper Clips," the story of middle school students in Whitehall, Tenn., who cre-

(See **STUDENTS** Page A2)



Jason Smith

Late mayor's tree-mendous legacy

Carolyn Master will mark a 'Doc' milestone, then say bye to a beloved 250-year-old oak

By **BONNIE WILLIAMSON**
Special to the Spirit

BAKERTON – Carolyn Master knows the 250-year-old white oak outside her home on Bakerton Road has become unsafe, and she's found a time that feels right to say goodbye.

Later this month, she'll mark what would have been the 100th birthday of her husband, Dr. Donald Cameron "Doc" Master. The Canadian-born veterinarian who served as Charles Town's mayor from 1968 to 1990 died five years ago.

In November, Master says she'll hire experts to cut down the oak that dates to the 1780s that stands beside Masterpeace, the beautiful country home that Doc Master designed.

"The tree has kept deteriorating over the years and is just too dangerous," she said. "Branches could fall into the road."

Master notes the tree has been an important part of Jefferson County's history

(See **MASTER** Page A5)

Carolyn Master (above right) says she's cutting down the massive white oak that dates to the late 1700s – just after what would have been her husband's 100th birthday. Dr. D.C. "Doc" Master (shown above in 2012) served as Charles Town's mayor for 22 years before his death in 2013. **RIGHT:** An image of the Bakerton Road oak when it was still vibrant.



Protester: 'Moral defibrillator' needed in Confederate plaque issue

Protesters gather outside the Jefferson County Courthouse Friday to call for the removal of a Confederate plaque placed on the historic building in downtown Charles Town in 1986.

TIM COOK



By **TIM COOK**
Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – A minister demonstrating outside the Jefferson County Courthouse Friday explained the small bronze plaque at the historic building's entrance is inappropriate for the working courthouse, calling it a narrow, one-sided view of the complex history of slavery and the Civil War in Jefferson County.



Jeff Berry

"The world needs a moral defibrillator to shock this country back to reality," said the Rev. Jeff Berry of Wainwright Baptist Church. "People don't really know the whole story."

He called the plaque "a slap in the face" which puts the county in the position of "still rooting for the losing team. It's 'Let's keep [the Confederacy]

(See **PLAQUE** Page A8)



Robert Graf
of Charles Town
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