

CALLING ALL THE HEROEES!

City National Bank has a special checking account - our **COMMUNITY HERO CHECKING**, designed to honor our teachers, fire/rescue, police, military veterans and medical professionals! And it comes with an added bonus, we'll throw \$50 to your account if you sign up for direct deposit!

- ✓ NO minimum balance
- ✓ NO monthly service fee
- ✓ Unlimited free boxes of City signature checks and MORE!

BANKatCITY.COM

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY
 Charles Town, 1104 S. George Street
 Ranson, .75 West Virginia Way/Potomac Marketplace



Community HERO
 AT City NATIONAL BANK

CALL MICHELE IN SHEPHERDSTOWN!



304-876-0822

Michele & Tom Maiden's
INSURANCE OUTFITTERS®
 Locally Inspired Insurance® Since March 3, 1989



7866 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 • InsuranceOutfitters.com®

SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK

Jefferson High's Feb 4 **16**



A history of service **2**



Community Calendar **13**



Spirit

The week from
**February 27 to
 March 5, 2019**

95¢ (+ tax)
 18 pages in an
 easy-to-read single section

! SINCE 1844 !

ROCKWOOL CONTROVERSY

City sewer line financing vote comes Monday

By **TIM COOK**
 Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN – For seven months the Charles Town City Council has debated whether to accept state funding of up to \$10.5 million for a sewer line for Rockwool and other projects.

Approving the state bond financing would pay for the six miles of new public sewer infrastructure to serve not only for the Rockwool factory but also other current and future businesses and homes, Charles Town Utility Board officials say.

As Kristen Stolipher, CTUB assistant manager, summarized this month in a response to City Council ques-

(See **SEWER** Page 4)

WANT TO GO?

The Charles Town City Council will vote on state funding for a sewer line for Rockwool and other projects at 7 p.m. Monday at Charles Washington Hall. The meeting will be streamed live from the city's website, charlestownwv.us

JCDA hopeful called 'untrustworthy'

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

CHARLES TOWN – A Michigan-based electrical contractor has a warning for county leaders considering naming Shepherdstown's David Levine to the Jefferson County Development Authority.

Jeremy Zinn, the project manager and master electrician at Oak Electric Service Inc. in Waterford Township, located about 50 miles north of Ann Arbor, got to know Levine when Levine's now-shuttered company Geostellar began working to bring solar projects to that area.

Levine – the brilliant, Yale-educated entrepreneur who

(See **LEVINE** Page 5)



David Levine

Merchants' message: Build the Hill Top now



A deadline to get the town's approval for rights of way for the new Hill Top (shown in a SWaN rendering) comes on Thursday.

While Harpers Ferry Town Council member Hardwick Johnson has said he fears a new Hill Top House Hotel would create a "self-contained environment" with restaurants and amenities that would deter people from shopping and patronizing eateries in historic Lower Town, business owners in Harpers Ferry and Bolivar have come out in support of the project.

Supporters of the project say Johnson's statements are just the latest in a list of tactics designed to frustrate SWaN, the owners of the historic hotel site since 2007, into abandoning the high-end, 130-room hotel and conference center.

SWaN's economic impact study predicts that the Hill Top will generate more than \$2 million

(See **HILL TOP** Page 6)

Story by *Tim Cook*



"The people who oppose [the Hill Top] are only standing in the way of something good. This project is only going to bring something good to the town." **SONDRA KELLEY**, restaurant owner

"I think [the new Hill Top] is a really wonderful thing." **SUSAN BENJAMIN**, owner of True Treats Historic Candies on High Street in Harpers Ferry



"Having been there when the hotel has been open in the past, what I am envisioning is it will increase business for the town substantially." **RICHARD SCHAFFER**, commercial building owner

Connecting SU, the community

New Lectures & Libations series continues Sunday

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

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Community members will have a chance to connect with Shepherd University professors this weekend as the new Lectures & Libations series continues at Town Run Tap House and Community Pub.

Matthew Kushin, who teaches strategic communications and social media at Shepherd, came up with the series "to serve as a bridge between Shepherd University and the community, to get

RIGHT: Shepherd University's Matthew Kushin says the new Lectures and Libations series breaks down the walls of academia in a "fun, welcoming, casual atmosphere."

our professors off the campus and into places where the community hangs out."

Kushin, who came to Shepherd in the fall of 2012 after working as an assistant professor at Utah Valley University, said faculty members at the school are doing "interesting and exciting"

(See **SHEPHERD** Page 11)



RICHARD F. BELISLE



Dr. Rajia Sebbahi
 RS Ortho of Charles Town
 Thanks for subscribing!

The Jefferson Publishing Co. Inc.
 Established 1844 | Published weekly



Honored for General Excellence by the West Virginia Press Association in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

www.GuysGMC.com

www.GuysBuick.com

GUY'S

Buick • GMC Trucks

SAVE OVER \$10,000!

Financing Available!



NEW 2018 GMC DENALI GMC SIERRA 1500 Crew Cab, Short Box, 4WD
 \$60,015
 -\$3,769

\$56,246 Special Value Price
 - 2,000 Customer Cash
 -\$2,250 Purchase Bonus Cash
 -\$2,000 When you finance through GM Financial

\$49,996 Guys Price

304-725-3448 Toll Free 800-401-5459 GuysGMSales@frontiernet.net
 1316 N. Mildred St., Ranson, WV Corner of Mildred & Old Leetown Rd.

After teachers picket, school board weighs resolution

By **BONNIE WILLIAMSON**
Special to the Spirit

CHARLES TOWN — Jefferson County school board members discussed the statewide teachers walk-out and the controversial SB 451 Omnibus Education bill at a meeting on Feb. 19.

The evening meeting of the board was held because snow forced the Feb. 11 meeting to be canceled.

Schools in Jefferson County were closed Feb. 20 and 21 because of the weather. Schools were shut

down Feb. 19 after union leaders announced a statewide walkout in response to the Legislature's actions on the Omnibus Education bill, also known as Senate Bill 451.

Before the meeting, Grant Prillaman — a teacher at Washington High and a member of the board of the Jefferson County American Federation of Teachers — gave board members a resolution to consider.

Earlier that day, in response to teachers hitting the picket lines for the second time in two years, the House of Delegates voted to indefinitely

table the bill.

The bill would have included pay raises for educators but also would have established charter schools, allowed tax dollars to pay for private school tuition and introduced other changes. Educators testified repeatedly to legislators that public tax dollars should go to fund West Virginia's public, not private schools.

During the public comment time of the meeting, Prillaman told board members: "We're not out of the woods yet. Each section of SB 451 could be considered individually."

Prillaman said the resolution he presented to Jefferson school board members is being used by other counties in the state.

It says: "WHEREAS: West Virginia's entire Public Education system continues to be underfunded, leading to shortages in teachers, service personnel, nurses, librarians, psychologists, counselors and special education staff; and

WHEREAS: County Boards of Education budgets are already severely strained; and

WHEREAS: Public schools are at the heart of community well-being; and

WHEREAS: Reduction in State financial support will negatively impact our ability to serve the children and families of our community; and

WHEREAS: Research and experience across the country have not shown privatization of public education to be fiscally or educationally effective;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (See **RESOLUTION** Page 8)

Sewer FROM PAGE 1

tions: "The true value of the state financing option is an opportunity to take advantage of the zero-risk, 100 percent funding package addressing significant capacity issues that have existed for many years.

"Additionally, the CTUB now has an opportunity with this funding to provide for future capacity and avoid the patchwork of small overlapping utility projects that have limited growth and expansion in Jefferson County."

Tonight the City Council

plans to hold a special workshop to discuss the sewer line before taking a vote at 7 p.m. on Monday. The council moved Monday's regular meeting from City Hall to the larger Charles Washington Hall.

Critics of Rockwool on the City Council include Mike Brittingham and Mayor Scott Rogers. In a post earlier this month on the mayor's official Facebook page, Rogers called the factory "immoral and wrong." He added: "Don't sicken our children with your pollution!"

Opponents of Rockwool say the City Council's rejection

of state funding for the sewer project would be a major political victory for their cause.

If the City Council rejects the state funding for the pipeline, Stolipher has said, the decision would lead to a sewer service rate increase for CTUB's 7,700 current sewer customers.

"A major component of the project funded 100 percent by the West Virginia Development Office was to provide an infrastructure that would create the space for developer connections at no cost to the ratepayers," she wrote to the council.

How big the rate increase would be is difficult to predict, Stolipher said.

Charles Town could turn down the state financing for the sewer pipeline, but state law requires CTUB to construct a line to serve the Rockwool factory.

"Any rate increase from a Rockwool-only line will impact all CTUB customers," Stolipher wrote. "If an analysis shows a Rockwool-only line construction, by itself, won't impact CTUB rates for all customers, the cost of other needed [CTUB utility improvement] projects would increase."

CTUB officials have estimated that rejecting the state financing would imposed about \$2 million in direct additional costs to its ratepayers. That cost would require every CTUB customer to pay 42 to 45 cents more for every 1,000 gallons used, a hike that some factory opponents say would be worthwhile. Many of the Rockwool opponents live in Shepherdstown and wouldn't face higher rates.

Rockwool has already asked CTUB to prepare cost estimates for a line that would only serve the company's Ranson factory. CTUB would have to absorb the en-

gineering planning costs for that Rockwool-only pipeline, Stolipher has said.

Last week the CTUB's board of directors agreed to recommend that the City Council accept the state funding as the most cost-effective option for the city and CTUB customers.

If the City Council does OK the funding, the next step would be for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to approve a CTUB industrial wastewater treatment permit change, a regulatory step that Rockwool opponents are also speaking out against.


If the City Council accepts the funding offer from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, a utility project funding body of the West Virginia Development Office, the proposed six-mile Route 9 Infrastructure Project pipeline would be designed to support new residential and commercial development in northern Jefferson County for the next two decades, according to Charles Town Utility Board officials.

The line also would help CTUB more cost-effectively make system upgrades or fix capacity problems, CTUB officials have said.

One of those pending CTUB projects is the Flowing Springs Sewage Transmission Project. The project, approved by the West Virginia Public Service Commission nearly two years ago, would replace aging sewer infrastructure north of Charles Town, including those in the Breckenridge development.

The project was initially estimated to cost about \$7 million. The Route 9 sewer pipeline to the Rockwool factory could allow CTUB to trim that cost by \$1.5 million or more, CTUB officials and engineers estimate.


Recently Rockwool asked CTUB to provide sewer service to the factory by Oct. 1. However, Stolipher said it would take eight to nine months to construct the Route 9 pipeline as designed. Designing and building a pipeline to serve only the Rockwool would take longer, she said.



HILLSIDE
veterinaryhospital,pllc

(304) 728-2203 ■ 191 Augustine Ave, Suite 100, Charles Town, WV 25414

Is proud to sponsor the
PET OF THE WEEK



Ollie, a young male Rhodesian Ridgeback Mix, is looking for a forever home, preferably one without other animals. He is chestnut in color, neutered, and current on all vaccinations. To visit him or any of the other wonderful dogs and cats waiting for homes, please visit the Animal Welfare Society shelter on Old Leetown Pike Road (just west of the county fairgrounds). Our public hours are Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. AND Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed Mon. & Tues. Visit our website www.awsjc.org, Facebook, or call us at 304-725-0589.

Wellness ■ New Puppy & Kitten Care ■ Soft-Tissue/Orthopedic Surgery ■ Fracture Repair
Dental & Diagnostic Services ■ Microchipping ■ Medical Boarding ■ Veterinary Acupuncture

Citizens Fire Company
Annual Pancake Day
Tuesday, March 5th 6am-7pm
All you can Eat!

Pancakes, Whole Hog Sausage,
Fresh Sausage Gravy, Coffee & Tea
Toppings Bar!

Eggs & OJ Available until 11am

Adults: \$8.00
Kids 6-12: \$4.00
Under 6 EAT FREE!!

There is no direct access off of the 340 Bypass
Please use Route 115 to Citizens Way

For more information call 304-728-6428
or go to www.citizensfirecompany.com

Jefferson County Property Transactions

Feb. 18 to Feb. 22, 2019

<p>Drew Holdings LLC to Andrew Wood; LT 42, SEC 4, CT 1.013 acs; MiddleWay District; \$145,000.00</p> <p>William G Deagro and Denise D Deagro to Michael Petrarca and Denise Petrarca; TR 1, CT 10.00 acs, P/O Avon Bend; KableTown District; \$110,000.00</p> <p>MVB Bank Inc to Pensco Trust Company LLC Custodian FBO and Bonnie L Shultz IRA 100%; LTS 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23, BLK 143; Ranson Corporation; \$106,000.00</p> <p>Arthur E Gladstone II to Thomas K Wachtel; LT 4, CT 0.955 acs; Harpers Ferry District; \$285,000.00</p> <p>Colin C Dunbar to Jose L Christian and Tatiana A Christian; PCL A, CT 2.2948 acs; KableTown District; \$22,000.00</p> <p>Stephen A Miller and Barbara J Miller to Joshua T Smith and Tracy L Smith; LT A, BLK II; Charles Town District; \$208,000.00</p>	<p>Pill & Pill PLLC SUB TR, Luella Lee Property, Rosie E Lee Property and Thurman Lee Property to Reverse Mortgage Solutions INC; LT 42, Happy Creep SEC, Part One, CT 1.149 acs; MiddleWay District; \$103,000.00</p> <p>Fay Fitzsimmons Executrix and Mary E RightSell Estate to Clinton R Jackson; LT 159, BLK E, PH II-A; Ranson Corporation; \$180,000.00</p> <p>J & S Investment Enterprises LLC to Jefferson Garcia Rodrigues and Ashlen J Garcia Rodrigues; LT 22, PH I; Charles Town Corporation; \$264,900.00</p> <p>Daria Rainieri Smith to Ashley N Bender; LT 434, PH 3A, SEC 2; Charles Town Corporation; \$169,000.00</p> <p>Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC and Celink AIF to Harry Edward Allen II; LTS 5 & 6, Less 20' Wide Lot; Charles Town Corporation; \$56,650.00</p> <p>Misty S Davidson to Ted Gauckler and Patricia M Gauckler; LT 34; Charles Town Corporation; \$288,000.00</p>	<p>Mary L Schreyer-McDonald FKA, Mary L Schreyer and Mary L Schreyer McDonald to I & K Farm LLC; PCL CT 0.70 ac; MiddleWay District; \$190,000.00</p> <p>Seneca Trustees INC SUB TR, Zachary Veres Property and Lana Veres Property to Thomas L Everhart JR; Trust BK 1862/100; Charles Town District; \$138,500.00</p> <p>Dan Ryan Builders West Virginia LLC to Emmanuel J Spanos; LT 396, PH VI, Sec B; Ranson Corporation; \$200,500.00</p> <p>Adrienne R Tisdale to Travis A Cato; LT 2, Sec 2; MiddleWay District; \$265,000.00</p> <p>Donald J Orser to Freddy Ray Wilson; LTS 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53 & 54 Sec 1M & LTS 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17; KableTown District; \$20,000.00</p> <p>Shenandoah Spring LLC to K Hovnanian Homes at Shenandoah Springs LLC; LT 15, BLK A & LT 18, BLK D, Single Family Sec; Ranson Corporation; \$112,000.00</p>
---	--	---

"The Locked Door"
Lingerie Boutique & Upscale Adult Gift & Novelty Store!

Fun Stores for Adults!

27 Years In Business!

Plus Size Lingerie Too!

Exotic Dancewear and Sexy High Heel Shoes
at Martinsburg location!
Also Beautiful Wigs At Hagerstown Store!
www.lockeddoor.com

SHOW this ad for
15% OFF
your **ENTIRE**
in-store purchase
thru Tues., March 5th!

ALSO
4 DVD's for \$30!
(a few exclusions)

Text the word "LOCK" to
51660 for an instant discount
and to receive Exclusive
Specials by text message!

3 GREAT LOCATIONS:
Martinsburg, WV 304-350-8184
57 Meadow Lane Plaza
Mon-Thurs 10-8, Fri & Sat 10-9, Sun Noon-5
Hagerstown, MD 800-561-7399
Foxshire Plaza, 1423 Dual Hwy
Mon-Thurs 10-8, Fri & Sat 10-9, Sun Noon-6
LaVale, MD 240-362-0001
1227 National Hwy
Mon-Sat 10-8, Closed Sunday

Sponsored by:



same team. same service. new name.

304.885.7645
www.DandridgeRealtyGroup.com

113 W Washington Street \ Charles Town, WV \ 25414
Elizabeth Dandridge McDonald, Broker



Dandridge Realty Group





Nationwide

Let us protect what you value most.

AUTO | BUSINESS | HOME | LIFE | FARM



Contact me today to get started.

THOMAS JONES
Jones Insurance
300 W Washington St
Charles Town, WV 25414
(304) 725-3434
jonest12@nationwide.com

Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and affiliated companies. Columbus, OH. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2017 Nationwide 5162950