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Community Calendar A3



Inside a marriage at CATF B1



'Alice' arrives Thursday B1



Wage rage A6 and A7

New direction for parking in Charles Town?

By ZACH CUMBERLAND
sports@spiritofjefferson.com

CHARLES TOWN – Just 11 miles separate Charles Town from Shepherdstown, but when it comes to parking, the cities are a world apart.

While Charles Town has no parking meters along Washington Street – its main thoroughfare – and meters elsewhere in the city accept only nickels and dimes, Shepherdstown's thoroughly modern approach to parking includes Parkmobile, a smartphone app.

"People who travel to Shepherdstown will find the Parkmobile app to be much more convenient," explained Amber Hodges, Shepherdstown Parking enforcement officer. "If they stop in town to eat or shop, instead of getting up to refill the meter, they will get an alert on their mobile devices and can instantly pay from wherever they are."

Charles Town leaders are weighing updating the city's parking policy. One possibility would be to move toward modern meters that allow drivers to pay via smart phone.

For drivers who prefer to pay the old-fashioned way, Shepherdstown's

◆ See PARK Page A4

Walk this way

Hospice's labyrinth workshop offers a path through grief

By BONNIE WILLIAMSON
Special to the Spirit

KEARNEYSVILLE – Grief experts from Hospice of the Panhandle will hold a workshop next week to teach those dealing with loss how a labyrinth can help.

Walking a labyrinth is a contemplative practice that helps people work through the process of grief, explains Daniel Speis, a clinical social worker and coordinator of grief support and spiritual care at the Kearneysville-based hospice.

Larry Crawley-Woods, a grief counselor at hospice since 1994, said he was first exposed to a labyrinth at the Chartres Cathedral in France when he wandered into the building in 1994.

◆ See GRIEF Page A9

MARKING A HALF-CENTURY OF DESEGREGATION



ROBERT SNYDER

Dolores Foster, president of the Page-Jackson High School Alumni Association and a 1955 graduate of the school, will welcome more than 125 to a schoolwide reunion this weekend – 50 years after Charles Town's all-black school shut its doors.

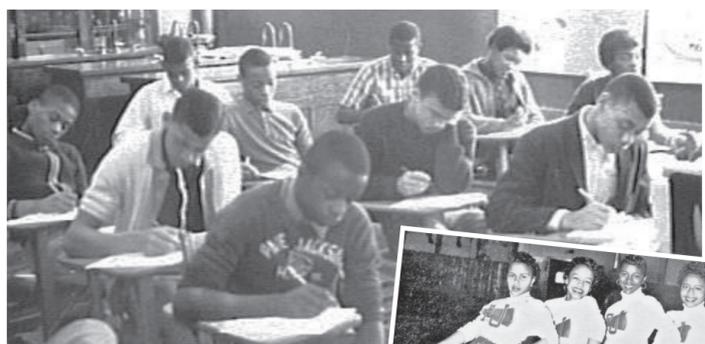
For Page-Jackson alums, 'pride' is the watchword

By CHRISTINE SNYDER
christine@spiritofjefferson.com

CHARLES TOWN – Graduates of Page-Jackson High School and others with ties to the school look forward to each summer's reunion, but this year's meetup looks to be something special.

It's been 50 years since Charles Town's blacks-only high school closed its doors, finally bringing an end to school segregation in Jefferson County.

Starting Friday evening, the Page-Jackson High School Alumni Association will host its annual reunion – a particularly special event this year, the 50th anniversary of the



closing of Charles Town's all-black school. "There's so much excitement as we come together for this," explains Dolores Foster, the president of the schoolwide alumni association and a 1955 graduate of Page-Jackson.

The reunion – which will include the

◆ See REUNION Page A5



ABOVE: Graduates, former teachers and others with ties to Page-Jackson will attend this week's reunion.



Terry Walker
of Shepherdstown
Thank you for reading!
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JEFFERSON HIGH PRINCIPAL SEARCH

Survey: 'Relationships with students matter

CHARLES TOWN – Hundreds of parents and community members have completed an online survey on the qualities they want in Jefferson High's new principal, and many say they want someone who can build relationships with students.

Some 440 community members cited that as the most important characteristic, schools spokeswoman Sandy Sponaule said Tuesday.

Nearly 80 percent of survey responders cited "building relationships with students" as key. "Leadership" and "effectively building relationships with faculty and

◆ See PRINCIPAL Page A4



Way to wine down

Veronica Fields greets visitors at the Charles Street wine garden, a new Third Thursday feature. Last week's event in downtown Charles Town also included a scavenger hunt. Fields, who works at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, plans to be part of the next Third Thursday in September. The event won't be held in August because it falls the same week as the Jefferson County Fair.

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Reunion FROM PAGE A1

presentation of five \$1,000 scholarships to young people with ties to the school, a dinner dance, the burying of a time capsule, a picnic, a gospel fest and a memorial breakfast – seeks to ensure that Page-Jackson's proud past doesn't fade in anyone's memory.

Foster, who earned a degree in business from then-Shepherd College and went on to Jersey City, N.J., where she spent decades in schools first as a business teacher and later as a guidance counselor and principal.

The scholarships handed out by the alumni association illustrate how much Page-Jackson means to those who studied there, Foster said.

"We're able to help so many because people associated with the school are so faithful in giving to the scholarship fund," explains Larry Togans, a banker and former member of the Jefferson County Board of Education who graduated in 1965 along with nine others in the final class at the school on Mordington Avenue.

"The word is 'pride,'" said Foster, who grew up in Harpers Ferry. "People want to continue their connection to the school."

The alumni association also supports the Jefferson County elementary school that bears the name Page Jackson. "We give money every year to provide teachers with a stipend they can use for supplies," Foster said.

Page-Jackson's roots date to 1938 when Storer College, the integrated school founded after the Civil War in Harpers Ferry, stopped providing high school classes – leaving it to the state of West Virginia to educate older black students.

In 1951, Charles Town's high school for black students got a

RIGHT: Larry Togans is one of the organizers of this weekend's Page-Jackson High School Alumni Association reunion, which will include an awards program, a dinner dance, the burying of a time capsule, an indoor picnic, a gospel fest and a memorial breakfast. He posed in the Page-Jackson room at the Jefferson County Board of Education office at 110 Mordington Ave. in Charles Town. The building originally housed Page-Jackson High School.

new home at 110 Mordington Ave., a building that today houses the county's school administrators as well as a room dedicated to Page-Jackson's history where Foster, Togans and other members of the alumni association hold their quarterly meetings.

The new building – with a cafeteria, auditorium/gym, a library, administrative offices, and special space for home ec, industrial arts and agriculture classes – marked a major upgrade for students, according to Togans.

The school took its name from Littleton L. Page and Philip Jackson, educators who'd spent decades teaching in the county's segregated schools.

E.M. Dandridge served as Page-Jackson's first football coach starting in 1946 and became principal in 1950, a job he held until the school's closure.

After the Supreme Court handed down its Brown v. Board of Education decision on May 17, 1954, ordering an end to "separate but equal" education for young black Americans, a number of historically black institutions, including Storer College, closed their doors.

In the fall of 1955, Foster, who'd planned on attending Storer where her two older sisters were already enrolled, found herself instead at Shepherd. She and her sisters all started at Shepherd in the fall of 1955.



ROBERT SNYDER

"There were only a handful of black students then," Foster said.

While many white students at the school welcomed her and other black students, she remembered that others were not so friendly.

When she and other black students first tried to eat lunch on campus in the Lion's Den, they found white students spread out to take up every table. "We were commuters and so we just ate in our car," she said.

Finally, a complaint was made to Shepherd's president, Oliver S. Ikenberry, and the practice stopped, Foster said.

Meanwhile, Jefferson school officials began slowly integrating the county's public schools, siphoning off students from Page-Jackson.

Just weeks after the Brown decision, West Virginia's state school superintendent W.W. Trent sent letters to all county public school superintendents, suggesting proper methods of school integration:

"As segregation is unconstitutional, boards of education, in my opinion, should begin immediately to reorganize and readjust their schools to comply with the Supreme Court's decision," he wrote according to "A Time-

line of African-Americans in West Virginia," put together by the West Virginia Archives and History website.

But Trent also seemed to provide school systems with a way to drag their feet.

"In some instances where there are but few Negro pupils, and where all buildings at this time are accommodating a maximum number of pupils, and in some instances a number too large for convenient accommodation, considerable time may be required before segregation is entirely eliminated," Trent wrote.

Togans remembers seeing his older brothers enroll at Charles Town High School. "I know, for them, it wasn't easy being one of only three black students in an all-white school," he said.

As he grew older, Togans found Page-Jackson's doors still open. The school's enrollment made it one of the smallest high schools in the state, he said, and its basketball team had to travel to Virginia, D.C. and other areas to go up against other all-black schools, but Togans said he never questioned why full desegregation was taking so long in Jefferson County.

According to the Jefferson County Black History Preservation



Page-Jackson High School was named for Littleton L. Page (above left), an educator born into slavery who escaped to the north during the Civil War, and Philip Jackson, the principal of a Charles Town school for black students from 1887 to 1937.

A Page-Jackson timeline

- Starting after the Civil War, many African-Americans in Jefferson County attend the integrated Storer College – which doubled as a high school for black students in the area
- In 1948, Page-Jackson High School opened in Charles Town. Its name honors Littleton Lorton Page and Philip Jackson, longtime African-American teachers
- The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down school segregation in 1954
- Storer closes its doors in 1955
- In 1957, school officials in Hampshire, Jefferson and Hardy counties finally begin integrating their schools
- Page-Jackson's Class of 1965 graduates and the school shuts its doors. Jefferson's school system is finally desegregated

Society, Jefferson along with Hardy and Hampshire counties didn't begin integrating until 1957 – the last in the state to do so – and more than a decade would pass before Jefferson finally ended segregation. By the spring of 1965, Page-Jackson enrolled just 113.

The Page-Jackson High School Alumni Association formed in 1982, with reunions beginning the next year.

Despite the decades that have passed since desegregation, racism remains a problem to be

wrestled with. Last month's deadly church shooting by a white supremacist who posed with the Confederate flag and the ensuing debate over displays of the flag and schools, roads and statues named for Confederate leaders is a hot topic, but Foster doesn't expect to hear much about that this weekend.

"We're coming together to celebrate the existence of Page-Jackson," she said. "This weekend, that's where all our attention is going to be."

Last day to submit comments about PSD's strategic plan is Friday

By ROBERT SNYDER
editor@spiritofjefferson.com

CHARLES TOWN — County residents who are customers of the Jefferson County Public Service District have until Friday to submit their comments on the proposed Jefferson County Public Service District Strategic Wastewater Plan.

On Monday, district board members hosted a pair of public hearings on the plan, which they must submit for approval to the

state's Public Service Commission by Aug. 24.

The plan recommends the replacement of a number of the district's 28 pump stations and upgrading of sewer lines that serve the PSD's roughly 2,400 water and sewer customers.

District General Manager Susanne Lawton said the plan projects where improvements to the system will need to be made based on where the county's recently completed Envision Jefferson 2035 comprehensive plan

anticipates future growth.

"We have taken that growth and we have asked what do we have to do to provide service for the future," Lawton said.

Dunn Engineers consultant Frederick Hypes said the population projections indicate the county could grow by as much as 50 percent within the next 20 years.

"Even under the most conservative of the population growth estimates there's going to be significant growth that is projected to occur within the bounds of the

Jefferson County Public Service District," Hypes said.

On Monday, district board members voted to set a capital improvement fee amount of \$4,832 to include with a recent sewer rate change application that is expected to be submitted to the PSC in the coming weeks. That increase, revised this week to \$17.45 per 1,000 gallons, follows a law passed by the state Legislature that requires county PSDs to maintain a reserve operating fund.

Lawton said the improvement

fee's amount was based on costs for future upgrades to pump stations and sewer lines as well as expected increases the district will be required to pay to Charles Town and Ranson for treatment and pumping.

In other matters, board members also asked its legal counsel, Jim Kelsh, to confer with county commission staff to consider what changes would need to be made to the Local Powers Act in order for the county to collect a sewer impact fee from developers.

District liaison Jane Tabb said one hurdle to implementing an impact fee for the District stems from its being a distinct service that omits residents who are not

connected to public water or sewer.

"Basically, impact fees under the Local Powers Act is for countywide services in a broad stroke," Tabb said. "Since we have a distinct service areas, we may have to craft it, adjust it in some manner ... I certainly understand the folks who are on wells and septic and are zoned rural who don't see the need for a countywide sewer impact fee."

Comments about the strategic plan can be sent to the District administrative assistant Ashley Stottlemeyer at admasst@jcpd.com.

The board's next scheduled meeting is Aug. 3.

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JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Located in the Charles Town Courthouse
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Monday-Friday 9am-5pm • (304) 728-3224

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION AS OF JULY 1, 2015
DATES TO FILE:

FARM USE VALUATION APPLICATION and FARM STATISTICS REPORT..... July 1st to Sept. 1st

COMMERCIAL BUSINESS REPORT..... July 1st to Sept. 1st
(Corporation & Business Forms)

PERSONAL PROPERTY and REAL ESTATE REPORT..... July 1st to Oct. 1st
(Online filing available!)

JEFFERSON COUNTY DOG TAGS..... Due July 1st

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION..... July 1st to Dec. 1st

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