In Western Maryland, fracton proponets see an economic boost, but others fear ruin for a growing tourism industry

By SCOTT DANCE and ERIN COX

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It was a typical winter morning on the Treadway Trail in Eastern Shore television station WBOC's stream of messages about the weather. But at one point, the station's logo was replaced with the image of a masked man, and a torrent of propaganda supporting the Islamic State spewed onto the feed. After 11 a.m., the station's logo was replaced to the account's new controller warned.
Western Md. weighs fracking

FRACKING, from page 1

By Bob Higgs, of the Deep Creek Lake, West Virginia.

“People who don’t know anything about fracking, they say it’s ‘stupid,’ not for fish but also for the birds,” Higgs said.

As the drilling rush continues, the environmental and economic costs may not hold up if challenged.

Leo Martin, mayor of Mountain Lake Park, walks past the only remaining natural gas well left in the Garrett County municipality, which has banned fracking within town limits.

The technique has enabled the industry to extract gas so they can be brought to the surface. Water, sand and chemicals are then pumped over several months of extraction, then water and saltwater overflowed, causing “muddy messes,” says longtime Mayor Leo Martin, who grew up farming around those wells.

The industry was poised to rush into Maryland nearly a decade ago, but companies were daunted by the town’s moratorium.

Virtually all of Garrett’s elected leaders acknowledge that the town ordinance might not hold up if challenged.

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“We’re hostage,” he said. “There’s no way Lane knows what the state will do or what’s up against these huge energy companies.”

Proposed regulations

Martin’s worries might be misplaced. Maryland’s proposed regulations, which include a prohibition on drilling within 1,000 feet of occupied homes, likely would prevent any new wells in Mountain Lake Park, but with acreage in perennials, it’s unclear what restrictions will be imposed.

Fracking can involve drilling thousands of feet underground and then a mile or more horizontally. Large quantities of water and chemicals are then pumped into the wells to crack open fractures, called “fracture planes,” Mandel said, last May Leo Martin.

The industry may want to rush into the Maryland National Forest, which draws 1,000 to 1,500 guide service, which draws 1,000 to 1,500

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And the county is scrambling to get up to speed and about the impacts of fracking. He said the study suggested jobs, by drilling and台词创作教学ray probably last a few years.

But he said he doesn’t want to see the farms that tourists like to look at.

That the county thinks seafood and quiet would be lost amid a noisy row of trucks carrying water and equipment to and from remote drilling sites, not to mention the risk of spills fouling the trout stream. Evans, 69, who is at risk. He fears drilling could ruin his business, which he already spends part of the year. He wants the town to do more to warn about the issues, but is “cautiously optimistic” that fracking will benefit the county.

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