

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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“EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION” —EDWARD R. MURROW

AUGUST 2023

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Davis lays out ambitious Mayoral agenda

Frank Davis reluctantly chose not to run for Mayor three years ago, because, at the time, he was still trying to get a feel for the town government. But after four years of being on the inside of town affairs, he's ready to take over the helm of the Town and move it in a completely different direction.

“Things have been status quo for too long and its time to start thinking outside the box and do things differently.

“I feel that planning for the future should be a priority,” said Davis, “I want to prioritize what is needed in Emmitsburg, ahead of items of lesser importance. I understand that the appearance of the Town is important; however there are issues that are more imperative that need to be addressed.

“We need to get the Town Council involved in town projects early on. Right now we only hear about them when we are asked to vote on them. This will end if I get elected. Commissioners need to be involved in setting priorities and goals and be held accountable to seeing them through.”

Davis said that if elected Mayor

in September, he will revisit the recent water rate increase. “Now that we know we can transfer money between the general fund and the water fund, why not do it? The Town has been running a \$300,000/year surplus. Why not transfer some or all of that to the water fund and eliminate, or at least reduce, the proposed series of 36% rate increases?”

Davis also wants to explore joining the Maryland Main Street Program. “Both Thurmont and Taneytown are part of it, and their programs put on monthly concerts and community events. These programs are a great asset to not only the residents of those towns, but the businesses as well. Why we haven't applied to join is beyond me. We need to think ‘outside the box’ to attract new businesses and jobs to Emmitsburg.

“We need to review fees that are being assessed on us, and find ways to lessen the burden. For example, the Town spends a massive amount of money administering the Maryland Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System program. Why not ask the County to administer it for



Frank Davis, President of probably the most efficient and effective fire company in the County, has finally made the long anticipated bid to become Emmitsburg's next Mayor.

us? We'll still pay our fees, but we can shed the administrative cost of managing the program, and in doing so, save the taxpayers of Emmitsburg some money.

“I think it's high time we reach out to all the surrounding towns and see what resources we can share. Does it really make any sense for every town around to have a \$500,000 sewer suction truck? Can we join together to share support contractors such as street sweeping services? And by doing so, get a reduced rate?”

“But first and foremost I want

to build a better working relationship between the town office and the citizens to solve problems. ‘No’ should not always be the answer. We need to have a ‘reset’ in how we treat residents. There are a lot of citizens with exceptional expertise that we can, and should tap into to help solve the problems we are struggling with. My door is going to be open to anyone with a good idea.

“It's time to make the people think that Emmitsburg is their town again. I will work every day to achieve that goal,” said Davis.

Strawberry Hill plans for the future

Strawberry Hill is branching out into the wider community with its new programs and goals, offering play-based approaches to the study of animals and the environment through crafts, outdoor activities, and volunteer-based lessons. Their summer program called Wild Strawberries, which aims to engage kids' hearts and minds in a fun and unique way, displays the fruit of the new staff's efforts. The acreage of Strawberry Hill has been downsized from over 600 acres to 35 acres now, helping the team cultivate a more focused environmental education experience.

Wild Strawberries is a part of the larger vision for the future of Strawberry Hill, which is now under the direction of Dan Brannen. He has been the Executive Director since 2021, and shared insight to the long-term goals he and his team are bringing to Strawberry Hill. The team is small but strong, with the only additional management member being Amanda Markel, and seven part-time naturalists. Together, they are creating opportunities for the wider community to encounter and learn about nature in new and engaging ways.

The team has put a lot of focus on environmental education, and putting together a comprehensive

curriculum focused largely on elementary and middle school age ranges. Dan explained, “our goal is to get back on track after COVID, as it paused us [a bit]. Our goal is to reach out and... partner with 4-H groups, Boys and Girls Scouts,” and other groups. They are going to be hosting book clubs for adults, as well as a PA Master Nationalist program, which will be a 10-week program hosted every Wednesday in 2 and a half hour sessions. This will give attendees the opportunity to become nationalist volunteers around local regions.

Another goal is to offer fun programs such as painting outside, after having a 30-minute lecture about what attendees are getting ready to look at and paint. Strawberry Hill also hopes to host hikes, and to continue running a program called Timbers, hosted on Fridays so parents can come with their kids.

It is also important to the leaders of Strawberry Hill to extend partnership to homeschool associations. Dan explained that he wants Strawberry Hill to be a resource for homeschooling families and homeschool groups, especially to supplement subjects that are more science-focused. The expertise of the naturalist volunteers offers a



Strawberry Hill's focus is on environmental education primarily for elementary and middle school age ranges.

dependable and family-friendly option that groups can reach out to.

Dan said that they are “looking at how much we can work with non-profits, public schools and private schools, [and] working with homeschool programs also.” Further, they aim to collaborate more with youth in Gettysburg, and as well as partner with elderly and retirement communities. Strawberry Hill has a goal to be the “go-to, best-in-class environmental educator in the county.” With this reputation, various co-ops and associations can know that Straw-

berry Hill is the organization they can look to for science strength and to provide more expertise in a way that keeps kids engaged.

Dan stated, “it's been great to get the programs ramping back up,” and he wants “to stretch out and bring more wellness” by engaging with local communities. The future of Strawberry Hill is just starting to bloom!

To learn more about Strawberry Hill, visit them on line at www.strawberryhill.org, or better yet, stop by the preserve!

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Water funding options explored

Following last month's meeting and discussion regarding what exactly was being charged to the water fund that necessitated the decision to raise water rates 36% a year for the next five years, Commissioner Amy Pollitt continued to question the necessity and legitimacy of the charges to the town water fund.

Commissioner Amy Pollitt said her issue was that Emmitsburg just raised water rates significantly and only last month found out that approximately 15 of 17 town employees charge a portion of their salary to the water fund, as opposed to her prior belief that only those who work in the actual water plant charged to the water fund. Pollitt said she was concerned the charges by administrative staff to the water fund would dip into "money that would help bring us back up into the black."

Pollitt was not against giving a cost of living raise to town staff, but said that on the heels of raising the water rates "a potential seven percent increase in salaries, the cost of which will be funded in part by the water fund" was a little hard for several residents to swallow. "I would like to see checks and balances put in place to ensure the percentage of staff time being charged to the water

fund is accurate and not an estimation.

"I would also like to see if there is a way to shift where the money is coming from so the Town was not draining the water fund," she said. "Where is the line between what is charged to the water fund and what is charged to the general fund?" she asked.

In response to Pollitt's questions, the town's auditor, Michele Mills, who had been brought in to answer questions about how costs are accounted for in the water fund, startled both the staff and the Town Council by admitting that it was possible to transfer funds from the general fund to the water fund. "It's not really preferred, but it's not disallowed," said Mills.

"I was under the understanding that the loan from the general fund to, say, the water fund, it had to be project specific, or is that not the case?" Willets asked the auditors. Mills told Willets that subsidized funds do not have to be specific to a project or paid back.

Pollitt questioned why that information had not been brought to the attention of the council before and Ritz and Willets said while the question has come up, they had been told it was not an option.

According to the town staff, the


Town's accountant and the state environmental department told them that the Town's water fund must be self-sufficient or they would not be eligible for grant funding, and the water fund must be self-sufficient. And it was based upon this understanding that the recent water rate increases were pushed through.

Pollitt questioned the necessity of raising water rates when the Town was sitting on approximately \$9 million in a rainy-day fund.

Commissioner Frank Davis agreed that the council should explore options to alleviate water fund struggles from residents. Davis pointed out that the current town budget has \$80,000 in the general fund that has not been allocated to any project yet, and given the news that money can be shifted between town fund, suggested it be transferred over to water fund, which would equal half of the expected revenue the recent rate increase will bring in, implying that the Council may reconsider the rate increases.

Council President Tim O'Donnell said he was against transferring money between the two funds, insisting that the water fund be self-sufficient and backing the recent round of rate increases.

Pollitt said she will continue



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water rate discussion at the Town's August meeting to ensure trans-

parency for the public as to where all water fund monies are going.

Comprehensive plan update begins

The Planning Commission has begun the process of creating the 2025 update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. "We are reviewing in detail the existing 2015 plan and update it accordingly," said Planning Commission Chairman Mark Long. The plan is reviewed and updated every ten years and will guide the Town through the year 2040.

According to Long, "a comprehensive plan is defined as 'a process that determines community goals

and aspirations in terms of community development.' The outcome of comprehensive planning is the Comprehensive Plan itself, which sets forth the Town's policies in the areas of land use and community development, natural resources, transportation, utilities, recreation, and housing."

Over the years town officials have worked at creating a walkable community, a prosperous economy, an exciting village center, and a sustainable environment.

The State requires that each community's Comprehensive Plan contain 12 Visions. They are: Quality of Life and Sustainability, Housing, Public Participation, Economic Development, Growth Areas, Environment Protection, Community Design, Resource Conservation, Infrastructure, Stewardship, Transportation and Implementation.

Anything in the Plan can be changed including zoning, the designated growth areas which are areas that potentially could be annexed,

plans for economic development, infrastructure improvement, sidewalks, bike paths, and trails. "Basically anything within the 12 Visions can be changed," Long said.

The process of updating the plan is lengthy and can take up to two years to complete, with the last plan adopted in November of 2015.

Long encouraged residents to become involved with the process as it directly impacts their future living in the Town of Emmitsburg. There are multiple ways and opportunities for

residents to learn about the Plan and offer their input by visiting the town's website, attending public workshops, or attending Planning Commission meetings on the last Monday of each month. Comments on the draft Plan can also be submitted to the Town Planner, Najila Ahsan, 301-600-6309, NAhsan@emmitsburgmd.gov.

Although residents can share their input about goals for the Town and the direction they would like to see their Town head at any time, a workshop is tentatively planned for this fall that will be geared toward the comprehensive plan.

News Briefs...

Rules of procedures adopted for town meetings

The Town Council approved rules of procedures for the Board of Commissioners meetings.

Rules of procedures are adopted as a guide to assist commissioners in the orderly and efficient conduct of all matters that come

before them, such as agenda items, public hearings, and meetings.

These rules of procedures serve as a guide to assist commissioners in the orderly and efficient conduct of all matters that come before them, such as agenda items, public hearings, and meetings.

A small modification was

approved to clarify language pertaining to commissioner majority vote.

The procedures were written by the town's legal counsel and the documentation establishes continuity of structure moving forward in the event of the town manager's absence or a new board, Willets said.

The town did not previously have procedures in place, and it

is something that should be had, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

Grants Sought For New Parking Meters

The Town Council approved a resolution authorizing town staff to apply for federal assistance with the USDA Rural Development to bring in updated parking meters to Main Street.

The proposed project would replace the 125 existing meters with approximately 80 new dual payment meters that accept both coin and credit card payments. New parking meters are needed as the existing coin-only meters are over 20 years old, according to Grants Administrator Madeline Shaw. Several of the current meters in place are also out of service with parts that can no longer be found for repair. The new meters will be able to declutter Main Street by reducing the number of meters from 125 to 80 due to the ability to purchase double space meters.

If approved, the anticipated total cost of the project is \$65,000, of which the town is requesting \$35,750 or 55 percent of the total project in community facility grant funding.

The board approved the required match as part of the FY 24 budget.



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TOWN ELECTIONS: SEPTEMBER 26

Tuesday, September 26 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

22 East Main Street, Emmitsburg

Mayor Donald N. Briggs and Commissioner Ritz III seats are up for election. To vote you must register with Frederick County by August 25. Anyone wanting to run for election must file their application candidacy and financial disclosure with the Town Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on August 25.

*Unable to vote in-person on election day? Contact the Town Office to get an absentee ballot request form.

FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Liberty seeks to improve employment packages

Liberty Township Board of Supervisors Chair Walter “Mickey” Barlow is busy preparing for the future.

Barlow, who has been a supervisor since 2015, also serves as the township’s roadmaster. Barring a successful write-in campaign, Barlow will likely maintain that position after November’s General Election since he is the only person on the ballot. Johnny Gereny and Adams Sanders unsuccessfully attempted to wrangle the Republican nomination for supervisor from Barlow during May’s Primary

Election. No Democrats sought the seat, but Barlow also captured that party’s nomination through a write-in campaign.

Barlow is also the township’s paid roadmaster, a position he has held for several years. The 61-year-old Liberty native wishes to pass the garage keys to someone else.

“Being on call every night of the week, seven days a week is not a place I want to be,” he said.

Barlow fears no one else will want the job.

“Employee retention, not only here in Liberty Township, but

across the state has become a very problematic issue,” Barlow said.

Barlow is often called at all hours of the day and night to plow snow, clear storm damage, and respond to other emergencies. He coordinates the road paving schedule and reviews bids from contractors.

In an effort to attract and retain a quality roadmaster, Barlow told his fellow supervisors in July he plans to soon present a new health insurance and benefits package for review and eventual approval. Township Administrative Assistant Hannah Beckett has been research-

ing other municipalities’ wage scales and benefits packages, Barlow said. The proposed changes will affect all township departments, Barlow said.

“Trying to retain key police officers has almost become an impossibility,” Barlow said.

In August 2022, Police Chief Sherri Hansen resigned from her full-time position to become Bonneauville’s chief of police. At the time, Hansen agreed to remain in the role part-time until another chief was hired. A year later, Hansen remains the part-time police chief.

In February of this year, Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz criticized township auditors for paying Barlow the same hourly wage for his job as roadmaster as the wage of his employees. Keilhotz noted Barlow is required to hold many more certifications than others on the road crew.

Six months later, the auditors have yet to acknowledge Keilhotz’s concern. By law, the township auditors set the pay for working supervisors. If the next roadmaster is not a working supervisor, that power will return to the board of supervisors.

Carroll Valley passes long-discussed trailer ordinance

Carroll Valley Borough Council closed one longstanding issue during its July meeting and extended discussion on another.

By a vote of 6-1, the council unanimously approved an ordinance that dictates the number of vehicles that can be placed on a property. Even though residents have flocked to meetings in recent months to deliver fervent public comment on the matter, the law’s final approval came with few remarks from the council and no input from the public.

Richard Mathews, Michael

Wight, Jessica Kraft, David Lillard, John Schubring, and Kari Buterbaugh supported the ordinance revision; Bruce Carr opposed it.

The new regulations state residents can have up to three travel trailers, boats, or trailers on their property as long as they do not block a public sideway or easement. If a lot is larger than two acres, the property owner may keep a fourth such vehicle. Property owners must trim vegetation near the items, maintain valid registration on them, and prevent fuels from leaking into the ground.

In January, the borough council rejected a planning commission proposal that limited residents to two items, one in the front of the property and one elsewhere in the land.

Borough-owned lots

For several months, the borough council has discussed selling some of the many lots the government owns throughout the municipality. At their July meeting, they accepted another one.

The previous owner of 3 Crestview Trail, a one-acre wooded par-

cel, died recently and willed the land to the borough.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said the council had the right to reject the property but he feared it would linger in the legal system, preventing the borough from collecting taxes on it. Hazlett believes the borough can quickly sell the lot and ensure its financial profitability for the government.

Council voted 6-1 to accept the gift, with Carr dissenting.

Hazlett told the council and those in attendance that he would only recommend the borough

sell five to ten of the many borough-owned lots. He plans on discussing the matter further at a future meeting.

Hazlett said he recently paid on behalf of the borough 2021 Adams County property taxes totaling \$3,651.63 for five borough-owned lots. In a letter, Adams County Tax Services Director Daryl Crum acknowledged the county and borough are in discussions on whether the properties should be taxed. If the matter is resolved in the borough’s favor, Crum wrote, the county will refund the payment.

Carroll Valley residents support illegal chickens

Six of Carroll Valley’s newest residents are extremely popular outlaws.

Katlyn Weimer and Adam Colson recently added six chickens to their property at 8 Fawn Trail. They pluck around the couple’s yard all day, greet neighbors, and bother no one.

The animals have added joy to the community, according to neighbors. However, the fowl are running afoul of the law.

The law of the land in Carroll Valley states chickens must reside in the backyard of a property. That’s not possible for Weimer and Colson, whose house

aligns with the rear of their half-acre lot.

The Weimer/Colson chickens flaunt their desperado lifestyle and the neighbors do not mind. In fact, four of them pleaded with the borough council in July to legitimize the chickens’ residency.

“Every time I go down the street, I smile when I pass that yard,” Edie Jardine of 49 Fawn Trail said. “Please let them keep their chickens. I really feel that if you take them away, they will not be the only ones who will be losing something.”

Lilly Gallmeister said the chickens are not only fun but hard workers who

add to the quality of life on Fawn Trail.

“Chickens eat ticks, fun fact,” she said.

Kelly Gordon, 2 Fawn Trail, commended Weimer and Colson for keeping their coop clean and property attractive.

“They run over to me every morning and night when I walk my dog, it is a joy to have them there,” she said.

Council heard the residents’ concerns but did not rule on the matter because doing so would break a law much more serious than the Carroll Valley chicken ordinance – the Penn-

sylvania Sunshine Law. State law mandates government bodies may not alter a public meeting agenda less than 24 hours before the session commences. Weimer and Colson had just informed the borough of its dilemma the day of the meeting.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council it may choose to relax the chicken rules at its August meeting. Council concurred the item will be placed on the meeting’s agenda.

Carroll Valley chickens have been a popular topic in recent years. A previous law stated the animals were only allowed on properties zoned for agri-

cultural use. Citizens protested and the council held numerous meetings that included countless hours of discussion on the matter. The hens exited the legislative process as victors, as long as they remained in the backyard.

Hazlett listened to Weimer and Colson’s appeal, even though doing so broke one of his personal goals.

“I’m still sitting here, and I swore I wouldn’t be sitting here with a chicken conversation going on,” he said.

Hazlett confirmed he will be at the August 15 meeting of the council, during which he will hear more bird talk.

Hamiltonban plans tougher driveway, campground laws

Hamiltonban Township supervisors wish to tighten rules on driveway construction and campgrounds, but first, the public will be given the opportunity to share its thoughts.

The supervisors will hold public hearings beginning at 6:45 p.m., Aug. 1.

Supervisor Coleen Reamer said property owners are constructing driveways in the township without giving concern about water runoff. Reamer said the Adams County Conservation District should be sharing input on every proposed driveway, but there is no legal vehicle for enforcement.

“They were things that needed to be done but they weren’t written in the ordinance,” Reamer said.

If enacted as proposed, the Ham-

iltonban Township driveway ordinance will require property owners to seek township permission before construction. The township roadmaster and engineer will review the plans to ensure they pass muster, Reamer said.

The proposed driveway ordinance also sets rules for temporary roads, such as those used by loggers. Hamiltonban Township is a heavily wooded municipality that includes parts of the Michaux State Forest.

“Every once in a while, we look out and wonder ‘how did that truck get up the mountain,’” Reamer said.

Reamer said temporary driveways constructed for logging will need a permit if the ordinance is passed as proposed. Once the project is complete, property owners will

be required to restore the land to its original state.

The township’s rural character is also attractive to campers, Reamer said, and those wishing to profit from their land. Campgrounds are allowed in the township, but supervisors believe the municipality needs more rules governing them.

The proposal states Hamiltonban property owners who wish to host campers must provide a plan for water and sewage disposal.

“It is one thing to put a camper out there and tell people they can stay, it is another thing if they are dumping their sewage on the land,” Reamer said.

The property owner or a designee must also be nearby in case of emergency, the proposal states.

“Everyone wants to go out into the

woods and rent a cabin, especially with the growing popularity of glamping,” Reamer said, referring to the form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping. “We need to make sure we are protecting the renters and the neighboring property owners.”

Reamer said the proposal also lim-

its the number of campsites that can be located on a property based on the lot’s total acreage.

If the zoning change is proposed, hopeful campsite owners will be required to seek a permit for their business. Like the driveway ordinance, township officials will then review the plans to ensure landowners follow the rules.

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THURMONT NEWS

Council mulls restrictions on legal marijuana use

With recreational marijuana now legal in Maryland, the Thurmont Town Council discussed the ramifications at the July 25 Town Meeting. The Town Council and other commissions had already been in contact with Town Attorney Leslie Powell to discuss their rights as town leaders.

As of July 1, Maryland law now allows individuals over the age of 21 may possess and use cannabis in small amounts. According to the State website, the law limits individuals to 1.5 ounces of cannabis flower, 12 grams of concentrated cannabis or a total amount of edible cannabis product

that does not exceed 750 mg THC.

At the July 25 meeting, the mayor and commissioners discussed possible idea for regulating the sale of cannabis in Thurmont without restricting citizens' rights given by the new State law. However, Powell had previously told the Council that they can't "burden" a cannabis dispensary in any way that they wouldn't any other business.

Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Randy Cubbedge used part of public comment to discuss ideas for the town commissions to work together to regulate cannabis. "We do have some zoning regulations that

we could work into an ordinance," he said. Cubbedge had also contact Powell prior to the meeting and found that the town "does have some say." Cannabis users and dispensaries, for example, need to follow laws already in place for all other public places.

One of these laws is distance restrictions, requiring dispensaries to be a certain distance from buildings such as elementary schools. According to Commissioner Wayne Hooper, dispensaries are required to be 500 feet from any primary or secondary school.

Cubbedge suggested the Town looks into areas of the law that the State or

other entities haven't decided yet. One example he used was school bus stops, as they could be considered extensions of the schools themselves.

Cubbedge also provided a different viewpoint. Even though he is a former police officer, he said, "For someone with a spouse on the medical side, it's working."

The new law permits individuals to possess the "personal use amount" but not the "civil use amount." According to Thurmont Chief of Police Greg Eyer, those in possession of more than 1.5 ounces of cannabis can be fined \$150 for a "civil citation." According to the State

website, possession of more than 2.5 ounces may result in criminal penalties.

The issue presented, however, is that the police force can no longer search an individual for cannabis to determine how much they have, and if they are in violation of the State law. Those driving under the influence can still be pulled over but it's difficult for an officer to determine if the driver is high on cannabis without a blood test.

"It is here. There's nothing we can do about it in that regard. Let's make it the best we possibly can for anyone who is on the outside looking in," Cubbedge said.

Funding received for Program Open Space projects

At the June 13 meeting, Mayor Jim Kinnaird announced that Thurmont has received full funding for three of the five potential Program Open Space Projects submitted to Frederick County for the annual grant funding.

Program Open Space Project funds open space projects through grants that Frederick County receives from the State of Maryland. Frederick County splits the grant 50-50 with the municipalities. They keep half and then split the other half amongst the municipalities for new equipment, to maintain parks or to buy new park land area.

According to Town Manager Jim Humerick, Frederick County allo-

cated \$2,592,988 million dollars for funding, which leaves \$1,296,494 to be split amongst the municipalities. Humerick explained that the latter amount is then divided further: 75% or \$972,370.50 for development and 25% or \$325,123.50 for acquisition. The acquisition fund is what goes to the municipalities for Program Open Space.

This year, Thurmont submitted five projects to the program: Hunting Creek Pedestrian Bridge, a new parking area at the Eyler Road Park, expanding the East End Dog Park, the Mountain Gate Trail and additional pickle ball courts. In April, the Parks Commission and Town Council

agreed that the Hunting Creek Pedestrian Bridge and a new parking area at the Eyler Road Park are the top two priorities for this grant funding.

The town received full funding for Hunting Creek Pedestrian Bridge, Eyler Road parking area and the Mountain Gate Trail.

Humerick said that total funding requested was about \$40,000 over the acquisition budget. To lower the requested amount, Kinnaird rescinded the request for \$99,000 to complete the additional pickle ball courts while at the negotiation meeting with the other mayors. The project will be set aside until funding is available.

The town asked for \$255,000 to fund the new parking area at Eyler Road Park, but only received \$35,000 for that project. At the town meeting, Kinnaird suggested returning the money for another municipality to use since it covered so little of the cost, to which the other commissioners agreed. "This will come back and benefit us because it shows that we are concerned and considerate about other municipalities' projects," Kinnaird said.

Humerick said that the town has

the opportunity to apply for Community Parks and Playgrounds Program through the State of Maryland to fund the Eyler Road Park and pickle ball projects. "My intention is to apply for both of these projects that weren't funded through Program Open Space through Community Parks and Playgrounds," he said. "There's no guarantee we'll get it, but it's certainly our intention to get funding elsewhere." The application for Community Parks and Playgrounds is due in August.

Amendments to ordinances pass

The Town Council passed amendments to two pieces of town code, effective August 1, regarding Chapter 43, entitled "Animals" and Chapter 90, entitled "Parks." Both ordinances passed unanimously and with no discussion at the July 25 town meeting.

The ordinance added one sentence to Section 90-26 "Ponies, horses and the like" to the town code. The Commissioners added "Ponies and horses are prohibited in the Town Parks, Ball Fields, and Trolley Trail, unless a permit has been granted" to number one of this section. The following sentence will remain the same in this chapter.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird said this was the "main" update to this chapter when reviewing the ordinances at the July 25 meeting. "It was just created for clarity," Thurmont Lieutenant P. Allen Droneburg said. The ordinance also

updated the page numbers.

"I think this is an issue that we have had trouble with over the last few years, to keep horses from trampling our parks, whether it's our play areas or playing fields," Kinnaird said. Commissioner Wes Hamrick added that it is an issue with all pets and their owners.

The town also approved multiple amendments to Chapter 43 of the town code entitled "Animals". On the index page, the word "Domestic" was removed from Article II so that it is now entitled "Animals," a change Droneburg called a correction at the June 20 meeting. "Domestic" was also removed under Section 43-10 Definitions and in Article II to leave "Animals."

The Town also removed 43-10.4 Livestock from the code under definitions. "Basically, everything is referred to as animals," Droneburg said. "We're not

giving them a different definition for clarity of the chapter."

At the June 20 meeting, Hamrick suggested updating the language in Section 43-22.C from masculine pronouns to their and they. The new language was approved at the July 25 meeting. Other amendments involved change in language, whether deleting or adding words.

Article III was also amended to remove "Livestock," it will now be titled "Enclosures. The requirements for secure enclosures was also updated to require at least a quarter of an acre to house animals, except for dogs and cats.

The commissioners hope these amendments will prevent issues such as the complaints of a house with excessive animal feces described during public comment. This code will not be grandfathered in and those who were are not in compliance as of August 1 can be fined.

Thurmont Main Street
plein air
paint-a-town

Saturday, Sept. 9 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

This fun event brings artists of all levels together to paint a subject matter outside that brings all levels to interact with other artists and pick up some painting tips. The subject for this year's event is "Buildings of Thurmont Main Street".

International artist Yemi Fagohun will be back again this year to judge our artists paintings.

- 1st Place - \$200
- 2nd Place - \$100
- 3rd Place - \$50

Go to thurmontmainstreet.com to download an application

<p>TWISTED TEA SWEET TEA WHISKEY 750 ML Available</p>	<p>SCOTTY'S — handcrafted — VODKA 750 ML or 1.75 L Available</p>	<p>DAILY'S COCKTAILS FROZEN 10 Flavors POUCHES Available</p>	<p>HIGH NOON HARD SELTZER 12 PAK Variety Available</p>
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<p>HIGH NOON TEQUILLA SELTZER 8 PAK VARIETY AVAILABLE</p>	<p>Paul's Pit Stop DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262 Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		<p>SUNNY D VODKA SELTZERS 4 PAK</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

Term limit proposal causes rift in Council

Mayor Chris Miller broached the topic of term limits at the June City Council Workshop. Miller considers the change to be a fair compromise in the prevention of entrenchment, which is when a person becomes firmly established in a position and it is very hard to remove them. A traditional term is four years. However, he would like to apply term limits: twelve years, or 3 terms, for a council person and eight years, 2 terms, for the mayor.

Mayor Miller's reasoning for the term limits is an attempt to get the public more active in their government. By placing a limit on terms served, he hopes the public will have more opportunity to join the Council and have more input into the Town's future. Councilwoman Judith Fuller was adamantly against placing term limits, commenting that if people

want to run for an office they would. "This is not a birthday party where we send out invitations, this is a government and if you want to be involved, you will show up," she stated. "It takes initiative to get on a council and it takes longer than one term to get things done and can take a full term to even learn the job," she said.

Councilman Chris Tillman agreed with Fuller that term limits should not be implemented because no one would run. Once someone has been placed in office they tend to stick around because no one wants to take their place. When he and Councilman James McCarron ran they were both unopposed for open seats.

Fuller also mentioned that there would be issues with inconsistent policies. Currently there are complaints about the existing charter and ordinances with regard to consistency.

"There's too much input and not enough follow through," she said. "Governments such as Taneytown are so small that it is difficult to fill vacant positions and as Fuller pointed out, term limits remove accountability because many projects can take more than one term to come to completion and when you put someone new into office you lose progress on projects. Some projects may even fail and unfortunately the failure will be blamed on the people that have left."

Miller also spoke of his own experience when running for mayor. He ran against people that had held office for a long time, a term called 'old school or old guard' and worked very hard to win his nomination. Tillman pointed out that Miller proved that with hard work it was possible to beat an entrenched councilperson and that Taneytown has seen few mem-

bers stay in office past their term to be called entrenched. Fuller wondered why it was necessary to implement legislation to prevent entrenchment for these reasons. He also pushed back at the Mayor, stating that the reason he had to work so hard was because he was never involved prior to running and was virtually unknown.

Miller's second reason for wanting term limits was because he had heard from other potential candidates that they didn't feel comfortable running against those that had been in office for a long time. They were afraid of retaliation from the 'old guard' and chose instead not to run. In response, Councilwoman Diane Foster mirrored Fuller by stating that people do not run for office because they simply do not want to and it has nothing to do with people being afraid.

Along with implementing term limits, Miller would like to lower the residential requirement for Mayor in Taneytown from five years to two, stating that towns such as Union Bridge only require one year and with so many new residents he wants people to be able to qualify if they want to run.

Resident Jim Thomas said that until the Mayor and Council could learn to work together it would be a challenge to get residents to come to meetings, and if they are not coming to meetings there is no way they will want to be on the council themselves. Longtime resident Kenyetta Brooks commented that the meetings sound uninviting and in the past she thought the public was unwelcome. She suggested the council do their own legwork and knock on doors to get the public into meetings. As of now the term limit discussion has been tabled for a future time.

Police Chief search begins again

The search for the City's police chief has officially begun again and as of the July 5th City Council meeting there have been two applications.

In their June meeting, the Council directed Mayor Miller to put together a plan to seek outside applicants for the position after declining his promotion of current acting Police Chief Mitchell to Police Chief.

The process previously utilized resulted in fifteen resumes being sent to the City, which included

several police chiefs from surrounding communities, of which six were interviewed by representatives from the City Government.

Mayor Chris Miller came to the July meeting with a new plan for hiring the police chief that included questionnaires, scenario-based situations, background and reference checks as well as a final interview. The goal is to weed out unqualified applicants and Mayor Miller is hoping for four excellent candidates at the final interview. Depending on how many applications are

received, the process is likely to take a few months.

The last suitable candidate, Jeffrey Partridge, was sworn in at the April 10th council meeting after a 3-month vetting process and unanimous approval by the last City Council just prior to the election in May. However, Partridge resigned almost immediately "due to a personal matter."

At its June meeting, the new City Council began deliberations on its options to select a permanent Chief, as well as the roles and responsibilities

of the current acting Chief. Unfortunately the deliberations quickly degenerated into a debate between the Mayor and senior members of the Council on the roles and responsibilities of the Council in overseeing the police department.

Commissioner James McCarron cautioned the Mayor and the Council, given the track record of past chiefs, that the City Council not delegate full responsibility to Mitchell, saying, "I think we put ourselves in jeopardy if we give the powers of Chief to an acting Chief." The Council needs to be advised of the needs of the police department

before action is taken so they can weigh in if necessary. McCarron said that the "Council needed to proceed with extreme caution and make sure the new Chief of Police is the right one for the Town."

Commissioner Fuller concurred with McCarron and said that we need to know what Mitchell is doing because, "if he fails, it will come back on us ... We don't want to be police officers, we just need to make sure everything is operating properly, and we don't end up like we have in the past with things going on at the police department we don't know about."

City revises Community Village's zoning rules

Recent Planning and Zoning meetings brought to light issues discovered during the development of Meade's Crossing. Insights from these issues have resulted in the City staff suggesting new rules and regulations for future 'community villages', which have been approved by the City's Planning Commission and submitted to the City Council for their review and approval.

Meade's Crossing was built during the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused long delays and raised costs dramatically. At the time, the Planning Commission decided not to require alleys. The original purpose of alleys in the 'Community Village' ordinance was to allow for cars to be parked in the back of units – the intent being to give the front of homes a cleaner and neater facade.

Without the alleys however, owners were forced to park their cars in the front of their homes. City staff noted that the decision to drop the alleys should have also resulted in the streets being widened to allow cars to park. Unfortunately the impact of not widening the streets wasn't noticed until after the building process had begun, the staff stated.

In the draft of the new Community Village Regulation, the Council has decided to require alleys for townhomes but waive them for single-family homes, because unlike townhomes, single-family homes typically have more space to allow parking either in a driveway or in

front of the homes, where townhomes offer neither option.

Staff noted that Meade's Crossing auxiliary parking lot had a lot of empty spaces on evenings and weekends so the number of required auxiliary parking lot spaces was reduced in the draft.

Under the revised regulation, owners of lots in a Community Village that are less than 10,000 square feet may have two vehicles on site and one off site in the auxiliary parking, limiting each residence to three total. The staff is also encouraging developers of future developments to provide a central location that larger vehicles such as campers, RVs and boats can be parked, instead of at homes.

In other proposed changes, home businesses, i.e., businesses where customers would visit the home for a service, such as daycares, which had been prohibited, would now be allowed. While the Planning Commission

accepted the staff's recommendation, applicants will still be required to get approval from the City's Board of Appeals first. Since the parking limit at the community villages is three vehicles, any customers to home based business would need to use the auxiliary parking spaces.

The biggest issue brought on by the Meade's Crossing development was private sheds in people's yards. Town Manager Jim Wieprecht explained that due to the many years' wait between the original approval for Meade's Crossing and the actual start of construction, sheds were advertised as being allowed even though City code prohibited them.

Because the allowance of sheds was a selling point for some current residents, and the forced removal of them would create an unnecessary burden on the on owners, the Council chose to allow Meade's Crossing residents

to have individual sheds that are 120 square feet or less, but the siding and roofing must match the home.

However, the Planning Commission voted to include language in the new community village regulations prohibiting sheds in any future development done under the new rules. Instead developers will be required to build appropriate storage in homes, such as garages or central storage locations.

Resident Jim Thomas expressed concern over the issues identified as a result of the development of Meade's Crossing and the future community village zoning regulations within the City. The community village zoning guide should be used, he said, as a tool by the planning commission to encourage creative design solutions and to advert the issues of Meade's Crossing. Commission members and City staff should all receive proper training on how to use it. He also requested an easier way to view the changes made to the guide.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Congressman David Trone

Although our children are grown (and one of them even has a child of her own), the back-to-school season remains an important part of the year. It's a time to reflect on memories of my childhood and that of my kids and a reminder of just how valuable a good education can be. My education has been a critical part of the success I've had. Now, it's my mission in government to ensure that opportunity is available to every student.

Growing up the son of a public school teacher, it was instilled in me early on that the path to success is through education. I saw the dedication and passion that my mother had for teaching and learning. If you ever drive through East Berlin, Pennsylvania, you'll see a library there with her name on it. It's just one of the many

reminders of her lifelong commitment to her commitment to education.

I've always said how much I love to learn — even as I've gotten older. It's why I made school a priority when I was growing up, even as my family faced the hardships of bankruptcy and divorce. I took out student loans to attend the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania for an MBA. It was hard work, especially since I was working almost full time while I was a student, but I knew all along that I was incredibly lucky to have those opportunities.

Sadly, too many students are not able to enjoy those opportunities today. This is true across the country and in Maryland. Nearly half of all students in America began this school year behind grade level in at least one subject. Cur-

rently, only 1 in 4 students graduate high school ready for college in the four core subjects. 40 million students nationwide don't have access to high-speed internet in school.

I'll be blunt: these statistics are unacceptable. And most of them can be attributed to a simple fact: American schools are underfunded. At last estimate, there was an education funding gap of nearly \$85 billion across the country. This will continue to increase year after year without action.

These shortfalls also highlight the inequities of education funding in America — in that low-income students, particularly those in communities of color, are shortchanged the most. And when we don't properly fund our schools, it's not just our students and teachers who suffer. Our economy suffers as well.

Critics of education funding, especially those who advocate for additional cuts to our schools, are fundamentally misguided on why these investments matter. We shouldn't primarily look at this as an opportunity to make a profit. That's not the purpose of government. Education is a right. And it is the government's responsibility to ensure that right is afforded to everyone.

But even those who DO look at education funding as an investment must admit that the return on the investment is astounding. For every dollar that the government invests in a college student, for example, we see an average of \$7.46 returned. A nearly 750% return on investment is a deal that even the most greedy investor would take in a heartbeat. So why isn't the government making it a priority?

Here in Maryland, we are. We finally passed the Blueprint for Mary-

land's Future, making historic changes to our education system and fulfilling our commitment to leave no one behind. Working with Senator Cardin, I've taken steps to make this program a reality nationwide. If we pass the True EQUITY Act, we'll invest \$1.4 billion in school districts nationwide — a first step in our efforts to close the funding gaps and give our students, teachers, and communities the support they deserve.

Ultimately, none of these efforts will matter if we don't all commit ourselves to doing better for our students. This back-to-school season, I encourage you to join me in reflecting on how education has impacted your life. When you see a school bus drive by, or see first day pictures on social media, remember that the power to make a difference in the lives of those children lies in our hands.

County Council President Brad Young

I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on two pending pieces of legislation that I have introduced to the Council.

The first bill, titled Amend Public Schools in the ORI Zone. This bill would allow public schools in the ORI with planning site approval. Schools can provide programs for students and their families to build bonding and bridging social capital, and they act as stabilizing institutions that provide supportive social networks for families.

Allowing more children, the opportunity for other education is important to the Frederick County community. By allowing schools to be placed in the ORI, we are effectively giving more children the opportunity for access to more schools.

The Council had a worksession on this bill back on Tuesday, June 13. It was then formally introduced on Tuesday, June 20, and then had a public hearing at 7 p.m. on July 11. This bill is scheduled to be voted on for final adoption on

August 8, at 5:30 p.m..

I have also a second bill on this same timeline titled, Amending the Zoning Code to add Woodworking to the County Code. The bill would define and allow for review and approval of a Woodworking Use in the Agricultural District. To be clear, the bill does not address woodworking in a commercial or industrial district.

The current County Code provides for many uses to be permitted as a Home-Based Business per § 1-19-8.240 that effectively allow for business and personal service uses to occur in any zoning district as they are regulated and severely limited in a manner via significant provisions to reduce impacts. Beyond that, most uses, regardless of their intensity or impact are either not explicitly permitted or permitted as a typical business/personal service use and are not permitted in all zones but more often designated only within the commercial or industrial districts. In addition, the Code has not been comprehensively modernized to address 'emerging' or 'non-traditional' uses that are now more typical and/or not specifically identified. This leaves individual text amendments as the opportunity to clarify or provide for some missing component.

The latter use ("Limited Landscape Contractor") is a good example of a commercial business personal service use that can range in intensity based on the size of a business and is one example of entrepreneurship and a small-based business that needed to be addressed without treating all uses the same.

A constituent currently operating a 'Woodworking' business finds themselves in a similar situation, stuck between the very strict provisions of a "home-based business" and perhaps other 'proximate/similar uses' that would only be permit in commercial districts. As noted above, certain uses can and should continue to be permitted in other districts beyond commercial districts to encourage and facilitate small businesses and entrepreneurship within the County, but certainly with some level of enhanced regulations.

In discussing the current and foreseeable future operations of their Woodworking use, it was acknowledged that many of the requirements of the existing Limited Landscape Contractor Use can also be applied to other 'small business type uses' such as Woodworking. In fact, Woodworking likely has even less of an impact do to the significantly reduced vehicular/truck traffic that you may experience with a contractor use.

It was further discussed that that the best approach was to attempt to utilize the existing regulations within the code to acknowledge there may be other similarly situated small-based businesses/operations that may also want to take advantage of such an amendment, and we did not want to create provisions that were specifically for one particular property owner with one specific set of circumstances.

The existing provisions of § 1-19-8.441 already provide for: minimum lot size, height, and setbacks; impervious surface provisions, maximum num-

ber of employees; and equipment and materials screening requirements to maintain compatibility in the agricultural district.

To that end this text amendment proposes the following:

1. Utilize the provisions of § 1-19-8.441 as the basis of permitting a Woodworking use; and
2. Clarifies and defines a use for Woodworking (as it is different from a carpenter, sawmill, artisanal craft shop or anything else that is within the current code); and
3. Permit Woodworking as a use in the Ag District by amending § 1-19-8.441 and § 1-19-5.310; and
4. Clarify that a caretaker/owner residence in conjunction with the permitted use does not count against certain square footage provisions; and
5. Clarify and provide for certain screening provisions to be met by existing natural features on site.

Like my previously cited educational bill, this legislation has followed a similar public path. The Council had a worksession on this bill back on Tuesday, June 13. It was also formally introduced on Tuesday, June 20, and then had a public hearing at 7:00 pm on July 11. This bill is also scheduled to be voted on for final adoption on August 8, at 5:30 p.m.

I am happy that I can give you an update on my current pending legislation. If there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

MELISSA M. WETZEL
CPA, PC

— Certified Public Accountant —



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Summer is flying by! August brings the last few carnivals of the season, camps for children, and the start of a new school year. This summer, for the first time, the county's Parks & Recreation division hosted a series of programs especially for children with disabilities at the adaptive Rock Creek Recreation Center in Walkersville. Students of all ages packed the rec center last month for a special play day as we celebrated National Disability Pride Month. Frederick County's adaptive rec program is a truly amazing resource. The center gives every child a chance to play!

Homegrown Frederick Turns 10

This summer we also celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Homegrown Frederick program, which supports our agricultural community. Homegrown Frederick serves farmers and residents by promoting local agriculture and business online at www.HomegrownFrederick.com and in a special printed publication. You can buy local produce or craft beverages, find

a farmers market near you, or line up family-friendly activities like creamery visits or pick-your-own berries or flowers.

This year's Homegrown publication includes articles that provide a look back on producer stories from the past 10 years, with updates on where they are today. You can read about the discovery of the Monocacy Hop, which is genetically unique to Frederick County. The issue also includes a glimpse into the county's largest agricultural classroom at The Great Frederick Fair and a feature about the County's award-winning Agricultural Innovation Grant program.

Agriculture is an important part of Frederick County's economy. Farming has changed substantially over the years. But our laws and regulations have not. They need to be updated so we have a firm foundation to support innovation in the years to come. My Administration's Transition Team called for the County to support Frederick County's diversifying agricultural economy. That is why I appointed an Agritourism

Workgroup, which is reviewing our laws, regulations, and existing programs to support agritourism. The Agritourism Workgroup held its first meeting on July 26th. You can follow their progress online at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Agritourism.

We need to modernize our system so our farms, and our farmers, can continue to thrive. The goal is to promote agritourism while also protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of Frederick County residents.

Rural Historic Preservation Grants

Another program we are using to preserve Frederick County's rich heritage is our Rural Historic Preservation Grants. In the third year of this program, the County awarded grants to preserve important structures that reflect our past. For instance, funds will help to restore iron workers' housing in Thurmont, a historic farmstead in Woodsboro, and one of the county's oldest known houses, located south of Walkersville. Half of the grants this year went

to properties located within the Catocin and Walkersville high school feeder districts. They include the 18th-century Beatty Cramer House in Ceresville, two iron worker housing sites – Beverly Hoke and Reed Stitely houses on Catocin Furnace Road – and the Steiner Wolfe Smith Farm's bank barn in Woodsboro. The other sites are on Clemsonville Road, Linganore Road, Albaugh Road, and Stottlemeyer Road.

The Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program offers one-time grants of up to \$50,000 to property owners and nonprofit organizations to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore or preserve the exterior of a historic property. When I was a member of the County Council, I proudly supported legislation that dedicates funds to this program. By preserving these buildings, we can connect new generations to our community's rich history. You can learn more about the program by visiting www.frederick-countymd.gov/ruralgrants.

Property Taxes

You may have noticed that property tax bills arrived in mailboxes a few days later than usual

last month. Changes in the State Department of Taxation and Assessments led to Frederick County's data arriving later than in past years. As a result, the Treasury Department has extended the deadline to receive a 1% discount, which is typically offered when bills are paid in full in July. This year, taxpayers who pay their real property tax bill no later than Monday, August 7, will receive the July discount of 1%.

There are three ways to pay: in person, online, or by mail. If you choose to pay in person, you will have until 4 p.m. on August 7th to deliver your check. Online payments can be made at the discounted rate until 11:59 p.m. that day. Checks sent by mail must be postmarked no later than August 7th to receive the discount. If you have any questions about your property tax bill, our great Treasury staff can help you. You can reach them at 301-600-1111.

With only a few short weeks left of summer, I hope everyone takes time to enjoy the season. Stop by a farmers market, hike a trail, or relax at one of our fabulous parks. Frederick County offers something for everyone!

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

It's hard to believe we are already more than half way through 2023! Summer has been great so far but it looks like the temps are going to be hitting into the mid 90s for the beginning of August. When the temperatures rise be sure to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, limit your time outdoors, wear a hat, and do not over exert yourselves.

Heat Exhaustion or Heat Stroke can come on quickly and are life threatening with symptoms that can include a throbbing headache, confusion, nausea, dizziness, body temps over 103F, red, hot, dry or damp skin, rapid pulse, fainting, and loss of consciousness. Be aware of your own situation and watch out for others exhibiting these symptoms. If you, or someone you know is experiencing Heat Exhaustion or Heat Stroke symptoms call 911 and get medical assistance immediately.

The Frederick Road upgrades are completed and the roadway is much improved. We appreciated everyone's patience as the work was under way. Frederick Road was one of several paving projects we have in our pipeline, improvements will be made to other roadways as funds become available.

The new softball field is under construction at East End Park. The mass grading is complete and the conduit has been installed for the lighting system. The field should be ready for play by summer 2024. We are also installing a new loud-speaker system in Community Park, and the new tennis courts will be installed next spring.

Planning has started on the pedestrian bridge over Hunting

Creek that will provide a connection between Community Park and West Main Street. This bridge will provide an access point to Community Park for residents along West Main Street. It is also an integral part of the Gateway Trail and will allow hikers and bikers easier access to the State and Federal Park trails, and will bring addition pedestrian and bike users to our downtown and Community Trail system.

The North Church Street project will be getting underway in late September. This project will include the replacement or upgrading of the water lines and wastewater mains

that serve all the homes and businesses on North Church Street from the railroad bridge to past Sheetz. The work will require one lane of traffic be closed, with flangers directing traffic flow.

Consideration will be given for school traffic during the length of the project. You will be encouraged to find alternate routes to bypass the construction if possible. This will be a months long project that will bring improved dependability to the critical water and waste water systems to a large part of our community. Once this infrastructure work has been com-

pleted, the Maryland Department of Transportation - State Highway Administration will be repaving North Church Street.

Question, comments, or concerns? I can be reached by cell phone at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Wow! Once again, the Carroll Valley July 4th Celebration was a tremendous success, with over 5,000 attendees. The Reagan Years band entertainment was outstanding. The band recreated the sounds of the 1980s. The band's talented musicians with remarkably diverse vocal abilities replicated the MTV era's pop, rock, and new wave hits. The crowd of people danced in place while respecting each other's space. The celebration ended with the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner by the band's lead singer, followed by a spectacular 20-minute fireworks display on top of Ski Liberty Mountain.

Many people were involved: Dave Hazlett, Gayle Marthers, Amanda Bell, Jayden Bell, Mike Olinger, Sarah Ginn, Brad Sanders, Makenzie Taylor, Doug Laptook, Littlestown Girl BSA Troop and Cub Scout Pack, the Borough's Municipal Services crew, the Council, the Carroll Valley Police Department, and Constable Steven Beans. Also, appreciation goes to the Liberty Mountain Resort for paying for half of the fireworks, the use of their park lots, three golf carts, and barricades used in the stage area.

Others involved Shealer's Septic for the Porta-Johns, Parks Garbage, and the Fairfield and Fountaindale Fire Departments watching over the fireworks with their Brush Trucks on Liberty Mountain.

Last but not least, a special thanks to Jeff Richards of JDR Unlimited, the Metal Roof Specialist, for displaying the 50-foot United States flag from atop his 13-story ladder truck. Thank you all. Visit the Carroll Valley Borough website or ronspictures.net to see the pictures.

Our Carroll Valley Police are participating with Pennsylvania State Police and over 300 municipal agencies in conducting targeted aggressive-driving enforcement that started on July 5th and will end on August 20th. The goal of the targeted enforcement is to reduce the number of aggressive driving-related crashes, injuries, and deaths on roadways throughout the state. Any aggressive driver stopped by police will receive a ticket.

The enforcement wave will focus on heavy truck violations, pedestrian safety, red light running, and tailgating. Motorists exhibiting unsafe behaviors such as driving too fast

for conditions, following too closely, or other aggressive actions will also be cited. The enforcement is part of Pennsylvania's Highway Safety Program and is funded by part of PennDOT's investment of federal funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). For more information on aggressive driving, visit PennDOT.gov/Safety.

In August, the Borough will start preparing the budget for 2024. The Borough Manager reviews the draft 2024 budget during the Finance Committee on October 9th. On the following night, it is delivered to the Borough Council. A detailed review by the Borough Council is scheduled for October 17th and again on October 24th, if needed. These meetings are brought to your attention because these are the times you can participate and voice your opinion on how you believe your tax dollars should be spent.

Also, be aware that when reviewing the Borough's budget, we only address approximately 13.41% of the total taxes we pay. Of the 13 boroughs in Adams County, Carroll Valley ranks 4th in total millage assessed, indicating that Carroll Valley is one of the least

expensive Boroughs to live in Adams County. It would be best if you also considered voicing your opinion to the Fairfield Area School District (60.92%) and Adams County (24.30%) on how they should spend your tax dollars. Check their websites.

August is usually the month that many of us go on vacation. But please do not overlook making sure your home is safe when you are away. There are several things you should consider to protect the homestead. According to the FBI, more than half (53%) of home burglaries happen during the day.

Here are a few tips: (1) Lock your doors and windows if you leave your house; (2) Do not share the details of your vacation with everyone and especially on social media like Facebook; (3) Make the house look as if someone is home by using light timers throughout the house; (4) Go to the Post Office and delay mail delivery; (5) Do not post pictures on social media indicating how much you are enjoying yourself – remember, if you are there I know where you are not; and (6) Contract with a security company and when selecting one, check out their references by going to the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org.

org. And, by the way, have a great, safe, and relaxing vacation.

Fairfield Community Fire Company is holding a gated outdoor event on Saturday, August 12th. Gates will open at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served from noon until 2 p.m. Soda, water, and adult beverages will be available. You can bring your canopy and lawn chairs. Small games of Chance and Gun Jars will be available to purchase. Ticket admission for two people is \$40. No one under 18 years of age will be admitted. Beginning at noon, an admission ticket number will be drawn for a cash prize of \$100 every 15 minutes until the \$5,000 jackpot prize is awarded at 4:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting fcfc-thecompanystore.com or calling 717-642-8842, extension 2. Consider coming out and supporting our local Fairfield Community Fire Company.

The Borough meetings for August are Planning Commission (August 7th), Borough Council (August 15th), and the Public Sewer Advisory Committee (August 28th). If you have any questions, call me at (301) 606-2021 or MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Please slow down when driving in the Valley, and be sure you use your seat belt.

State Notes...

Expanding Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Legislation that would make more Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities eligible for property tax or rent relief was recently approved by the House. House Bill 1100 would

increase income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for homeowners and renters to \$45,000. The bill would also raise the maximum amount each homeowner or renter can receive from \$650 to \$1,000. The bill would help expand the reach of

property tax and rent relief to more than 150,000 additional individuals and help make Pennsylvania a more affordable place to live. The measure is pending the governor's signature to become law. The rebate program benefits eligible residents 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. Currently, the income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. Contact my office for additional information or assistance with filing an application.

House Passes Bill to Relieve Teacher Shortages

By a unanimous vote, the House advanced legislation to address teacher shortages in Pennsylvania. House Bill 27 would extend a law passed during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving Pennsylvania schools flexibility in the

hiring of substitute teachers. The bill would permit retired educators and staff to work in our public schools for more than 20 days without any impact on their pension. It would also remove the sunset provision in the law for certain provisions, enabling schools to continue securing substitute teacher coverage permanently. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Fee Reduction to Help PA Families Save for Future Education Expenses

Pennsylvanians looking to save for their child's future education expenses will see a reduction in operational fees for the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program Investment Plan (IP). The reduction will save PA 529 IP account owners an estimated \$579,000 over the next year. The PA 529 IP offers a variety of portfolios for families to choose from, including target enrollment date options

that automatically reallocate assets as a child approaches their anticipated date of enrollment. PA 529 accounts are designed to help Pennsylvania families steadily and strategically save for future educational expenses – including costs associated with universities, community colleges, trade schools, apprenticeships and K-12 education – all with significant state and federal tax advantages. For more information about saving for education with PA 529, visit pa529.com or call 800-440-4000.

Low-Income Water Assistance Program Opens

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) has begun accepting applications to help low-income Pennsylvanians maintain access to drinking and wastewater services. Under this federally funded program, eligible households can receive one crisis grant for drink-

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

July has been a busy month for broadband activity in the Pennsylvania and Adams County and it foretells any even business remainder to 2023. The first large item is that county staff and our broadband taskforce analyzed and came to a final decision on a federal Capital Projects Fund grant. Additionally, there have been a few conferences in Pennsylvania, where we were able to make our case for why rural outreach is critical in developing a broadband plan and applying for grants.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) just released their five-year plan for the federal BEAD program grants. Meanwhile, the Broadband Taskforce is close to receiving our final Broadband Feasibility Study report, which, along with the state plan, will enable us to begin our own strategic planning efforts. It's been a busy month and now the hard work begins for the task force, county staff and hopefully for some dedicated residents and businesses in Adams County.

Since April the Adams County Broadband Task Force has been focused on a specific broadband grant. On April 10th Senator Bob Casey came to Gettysburg to announce the release of \$200 million for broadband expansion. The Capital Projects Fund had been on the top of our list, as these funds specifically target rural communities that lack access to affordable

broadband. As the task force was working with staff and consultants to create a county application for \$10 million, we were approached by three separate companies to support their projects.

Knowing that the state is unlikely to fund multiple projects in one county, the taskforce began reviewing these other applications. At their July 18th meeting the task force determined that it was in the interest of county residents and businesses that they recommend the county support Comcast's application for Capital Project Funds. While I did not see this coming, after seeing the details of the Comcast proposal, I had to agree with the taskforce. The county commissioners followed up on July 26th to formally accept the recommendation and approved a letter of support for Comcast's application.

Quite simply, the Comcast application served more locations and underserved residents, than the county proposal did. The board of commissioner agreed that they should support whichever entity had the best application. We and our staff all accepted that the Comcast proposal did that better than our own proposal. Supporting the Comcast application also allowed the county to preserve Covid Relief Act funds, which we had set aside for our local match. These funds can now be applied to future broadband grant applications. Fingers crossed that the state looks favorably on this application.

Meanwhile, I had the privilege of being asked to serve on two separate panels highlighting rural public outreach efforts. On July 13th the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration hosted a broadband summit at Penn State University. In attendance were telecommunication companies, state and local elected officials, and businesses interested in broadband expansion. That panel was followed up a week later with a panel hosted by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank on how local input is critical to developing a solid funding plan for broadband expansion. These panels stressed the importance of obtaining information about the needs of rural communities. I stressed the importance of creating a local broadband taskforce, as we have here, to make sure the right industries and population segments are at the table to discuss their concerns.

I honestly have to say that these were my first real professional panels and it was worth the stress to draw attention to our efforts and make a huge amount of contacts in the broadband field. There is so much more to learn than at these two events, I look forward to more.

On July 26th the PBDA released their long anticipated five-year action plan for the BEAD program (Broadband, Equity, Access, and

Deployment). This action plan will serve as a blueprint for the state's use of \$1.16 billion in grants. These grants will again be focused on rural Pennsylvania counties, such as Adams.

The taskforce and county staff will quickly review this document and provide comment to the state prior to its final release. The taskforce also expects to receive our own Broadband Feasibility study from Design Nine, one of our broadband consultants, in the coming weeks. The taskforce will have plenty of reading before their September meeting. These two documents are a huge step forward for the state and the county, as we plan how best to apply for BEAD funds.

The next step for the task force is the development of a county-wide broadband strategic plan. Our vision, as outlined in the county resolution, which created the broadband task force is that every Adams County resident and business has access to affordable hi-speed internet services. Currently, funding sources are focused on under or unserved residents, but our vision is larger than just bringing everyone up to an acceptable level. Our vision is for everyone to have it. The three pillars that support this goal are, access, affordability, and digital literacy. Basically, what is access worth, if it isn't affordable or someone doesn't know how to use the internet. Sort of like hav-

ing a racetrack, but not owning a sports car or a drivers license. We need all three to create a community where success becomes the inevitable outcome.

In order to learn the issues on the ground in Adams County, the taskforce is creating subcommittees to help with the effort. There should be committees focused on access, affordability, and digital literacy, but with enough community volunteers we could also expand that list. I envision committees focused on specific industries, such as agriculture and tourism, as well as, committees focused on specific user groups, such as the unserved populations, small businesses, education, medical needs, large data consumers, etc... In order to do this, we need your help.

It is critical that the task force learn about the issues that locals are facing. It will take local information AND following commonly held best practices for this project and future grant applications to be successful. With over a billion dollars on the table, we must add more people to our effort. Every rural county is at a digital crossroads. We have an unprecedented amount of funding set aside for rural broadband. I hope Adams County residents and businesses embrace this opportunity and we use it to move forward as a community.

To that end, if any readers want to learn more about the task force and how you can help, let me know. I am available at mqually@adamscountypa.gov or you can give me a call at 717-339-6514.

continued from previous page

ing water service and one crisis grant for wastewater service of up to \$2,500 each. Crisis situations can include past-due water bills, termination of utility service or the threat of termination within 60 days. Receiving utility assistance through another program like the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) does not prevent a household from receiving assistance through LIHWAP if the applicant meets program eligibil-

ity criteria. If a household previously received a LIHWAP grant for either a water bill or a sewer bill, they cannot receive another for the same service. Households may qualify if they rent or own their home, have an overdue water or wastewater bill that they are responsible to pay, and if the household is within the income limit for their household size. Grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements. Please visit www.media.pa.gov for more information.

PGC Seeks Help Counting Turkeys

The Pennsylvania Game Commission again is seeking input from the public in surveying wild turkeys this summer. The Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Sighting Survey

is open now through Aug. 31. Participation is important for turkey population management. Survey data allow the agency to determine total wild turkey productivity and compare long-term reproductive success within Pennsylvania

and across states, as this is a standard methodology used across the country. Data also are used in the turkey population model to track population trends. Turkey sightings can be reported through the Game Commission's website.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Beyond the “Twilight Zone”

Shannon Bohrer

Our diversity of beliefs in our political environment can at times appear incompatible and often antagonistic. Describing these differences as confusing is an understatement. The old science fiction television show, “The Twilight Zone,” was more understandable. The use of words like “Woke” and “Antifa,” with different meanings, rather than the normally ascribed meanings, does not make sense. Who decided the unconventional meanings that seems nonsensical, and why? Each side is entrenched with the belief that they are correct in their actions and beliefs while the other side – is incorrect and/or maybe just uninformed.

Any attempt to inform and educate the other side about one’s beliefs is hindered before it starts. For communication to exist, there needs to be some common understanding of words and facts. If one does not believe in science and the advocacy and benefits of inoculations that can save lives, how can a conversation exist around the science of a pandemic? Global warming is real, but only if you believe in science. There was and is only one side to the WWII holocaust.

Of importance, to communicate there needs to be an understanding of the definition of words. Even the term “alternative facts” which

now has a place in our vocabulary, is confusing. Words that were in use with common definitions are now questionable. The word “Woke” is a good example. Woke, when used as an adjective means “alert to and concerned about social injustice and discrimination.” According to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, woke is “aware of social and political issues, especially racism.” Another meaning would be that if one is woke – they are awake and aware.

However, the word Woke, is often used in a derogatory, or disparaging manner, describing people that “are too easily upset about these issues, or talk too much about them in a way that does not change anything.” Governor Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, signed into law the “Individual Freedom Act,” which forbids the teaching of racism, discrimination, or even white male privilege. Accordingly in Florida, the act is often referred to as the “Stop Woke Act,” because woke has a connotation of “Wrong to our Kids and Employees.” I could not find that definition in any acceptable references.

When Governor DeSantis signed the “Individual Freedom Act,” into law, the law did not add or even protect any freedoms, instead the law limited freedoms in education. The use of the word “Freedom” in a law that imposes regulation on what can

be taught, is an oxymoron. The governor also wrote a book entitled “The Courage to be Free.” In the book, he talks about a “post constitutional order,” because of overreach by the government. What is a post constitutional order? Does he want to do away with our constitution? Maybe we could agree that the “Individual Freedom Act” and the “Courage to be Free” are contradictions of the word “freedom.” The Individual Freedom Act seems like an overreach of government. Of course, to understand this one must be aware, or woke.

Another confusing word is “Antifa.” For many the connotation of antifa is that groups of individuals that lean far left and have anarchist tendencies. When the insurrection took place at the Capital, many described the insurrections as members of Antifa. The right leaning news outlets, conveyed the theme that undercover members of the FBI, fomented the insurrection with the help of Antifa. The premise that the insurrection was the work of FBI informants and people that identify as Antifa, was short lived. With the numerous investigations, the congressional hearing and with over one thousand individuals charged, none were reported as antifa.

The real definition of Antifa is “a person or group actively opposing fascism.” The word antifa is an abbreviation of the German word “antifascist.” There were Germans and

others that opposed Hitler’s fascist government. Fascist governments limit the freedoms of the populace and are run by dictators and autocrats. Fascism was and continues to be an enemy of Democracy.

My father-in-law was in Paton’s third army in WWII, fighting fascism. He was in an infantry unit and marched into Germany. My father was flying B-25’s in the 5th United States Army Air Force in WWII, also fighting fascism. Both men were not just fighting fascism, they were defending our democracy, and they were antifascist. Why would anyone disparage someone that identifies as antifa, someone that is against fascism and believes in democracy? That is confusing, unless they believe a dictatorial government is preferable to a democracy?

Back to the January 6th insurrection when it was reported that many of the insurrections were Antifa and were led by FBI undercover officers. With this belief, the insurrection was vilified by segments of the national media, and the insurrection was a crime. However, after it was determined, that the FBI did not plan the insurrection and none of the over one thousand persons charged in the insurrection identified as antifa, the perception of the event changed. Now the same radical news casts are portraying it as a normal tourist visit, with just a few radicals causing minor trouble.

A disturbing fact, the new-portrayed image of the non-antifa persons charged with their involvement

in the January 6th insurrection has morphed into patriotism. Many of the same media outlets that vilified the insurrections, when it was believed they were antifa, now refer the those charged as patriots. Many current and former elected officials have called for pardons for many of those convicted. There are even a few presidential candidates that have indicated that they may issue pardons if elected. It does not make sense that if the insurrections were members of Antifa, they should be charged with crimes. But if they were not Antifa, they magically become patriots. Again, the “The Twilight Zone,” was more sensical.

When laws are passed and the word free or freedom is used, it often denotes some limitations on our freedoms. Educational freedoms have been curtailed, as to what courses can be taught. Books have been banned, limiting what people can read and women’s health has been limited. In some states, doctors are hesitant to even perform accepted medical procedures on women, for fear of being arrested. And yet, many of the procedures are needed to save a life.

Ask yourself, why would anyone want to pass laws that reduce or even eliminate our freedoms? Of course, why would anyone not want to be woke, or aware, that democracy is preferred to fascism. These are confusing times.

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Bulwark

The GOP is not taking Trump’s indictment well

Bill Lueders

Donald Trump is the victim of his own success.

At least, that’s the take House Speaker Kevin McCarthy offered in response to news that the former and would-be next president faces a third criminal indictment, this time for trying to end American democracy by plotting to steal an election and stirring up a mob to assist.

“If you noticed recently, President Trump went up in the polls and was actually surpassing President Biden for reelection,” McCarthy told reporters on Tuesday as the news broke that Special Counsel Jack Smith had notified Trump he was a target of possible criminal prosecution. “So what do they do now? Weaponize government to go after their number-one opponent.”

McCarthy claimed this was something that has been happening “time and time again” and “the American public is tired of this. They want to have, see equal justice and the idea that they utilize this to go after those who politically disagree with him is wrong.”

Think about that for a moment. The man who said, in the immediate aftermath of the events of January 6, 2021, that “The president bears responsibility for Wednesday’s attack on Congress by mob rioters,” now dismisses an effort to hold him responsible as a purely political act driven by a focus on the latest poll numbers.

Others within the GOP are singing from the same hymnal.

“It’s absolute bullshit,” said Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia. “That’s my reaction. This is the only way that the Democrats have to beat President Trump—is to arrest him, smear him, charge him with ridiculous charges, all in a cover-up of Joe Biden’s crimes, Hunter Biden’s crimes.”

It’s important to keep tabs on what’s going on in the crazy MAGA world. We learned that on January 6. Share this article with someone who keeps an eye out.

Greene added, unnecessarily, that from this ignoble moment forward, “I’ll be standing with President Trump the entire way.” She didn’t specify the ultimate destination, but pretty clearly it will involve retribution. As Greene’s sometimes-contentious comrade in crazy, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, expressed it (after genuflecting at the altar of “DOJ is weaponized”), “President Trump will be re-elected in 2024 and I look forward to helping him gut the Deep State.”

Rep. Ronny Jackson of Texas tweeted a similar sentiment, with lots of exclamation points: “STAND WITH TRUMP!! STAND WITH TRUMP!! Democrats KNOW they can’t beat Trump in 2024, so they’ve weaponized the FBI YET AGAIN to try to take him down. These people will deeply regret this when Trump is BACK in the White House!!” Will they ever!!

Meanwhile, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida signaled that he has no intention of waiting for the next election to bring out the long knives. “BREAKING: I will be introducing legislation to DEFUND Jack Smith’s witch hunt against President Trump,” Gaetz declared in a tweet. “They are attacking our democracy and engaging in election interference right now. The United States Congress has the capability to stop this election interference, and we must act immediately!”

There is nothing unusual about these reactions. The MAGA crowd flecks to them reflexively. The filing of criminal charges against Trump—for falsifying business records, mishandling classified documents, attempting a coup and, to come, pressuring officials in Georgia to fabricate election results—corroborates their warped perception of Trump as a victim. It draws them to him even more.

Chris Lehmann, writing in the Nation, put it well: “Far from being defeated by subpoenas and indictments, the Trump movement draws an endlessly renewable sense of righteous retribution from the fable of its own persecution.”

As this maelstrom raged, the responses to the impending charges from Trump’s rivals for the Republican nomination for president ran the gamut from stern finger-shaking to outright boot-licking.

The harshest reaction so far seems to come from former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, who declared: “I have said from the beginning that Donald Trump’s actions on January 6 should disqualify him from ever being

president again.” Hutchinson, who in the latest Morning Consult poll was weighing in at 0 percent, found it “disappointing” that the former president “refused” to abandon his campaign.

That’s telling him.

Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley brushed off the matter as a “distraction” while drawing the notice of the New York Times for not repeating what she said last month when Trump was indicted for hoarding top secret docs about “prosecutorial overreach, double standards and vendetta politics.” That apparently represents a sea change in her willingness to go after Trump.

Know someone who may have forgotten how nutty the MAGA right is? Why not remind them?

Meanwhile, the intrepid Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida, straddled the fence, saying any charges would be “an attempt to criminalize politics and to try to criminalize differences,” while also clucking that Trump should have “come out more forcefully” to stop the supporters he incited into attacking the Capitol.

And Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey who has positioned himself as the one GOP candidate in the race willing to say an unkind word about Trump, tweeted that he was waiting to see the indictment before commenting on the case, but said it wanted to be clear that “his conduct on January 6th proves he doesn’t care about our country & our Constitution.”

This prompted a commenter on Truth Social to write: “Go away fat boy! No one can stand your false bra-

vado! You have no chance of ever being elected president! Your lack of interest in the rigged election proves that you don’t care about our Republic and our Constitution.”

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, in turn, used the opportunity to remind the nation of just how vast that totalitarian police state has become under Joe “Das Boot” Biden. “It doesn’t stop there,” Scott told Fox News, referring to Trump’s likely indictment. “It also includes parents who show up at school board meetings. They’re labeled domestic terrorists. We see folks who are pro-life activists, SWAT teams come into their homes guns drawn.” He promised to make this constant crushing government repression go away.

But the award for pusillanimity goes, as it so often the case, to former Vice President Mike Pence, whom Trump targeted for execution on January 6. “I believe that history will hold him to account for his actions that day,” Pence told NewsNation, adding that the judgment should be delivered by voters and not prosecutors.

“I hope it doesn’t come to that,” Pence said about a possible indictment. “I’m not convinced that the president acting on bad advice of a group of crank lawyers that came into the White House in the days before January 6 is actually criminal.”

And so the party of Lincoln slithers onward, terrified of the power of Donald Trump.

To read past editions of the Bulwark, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Triad

It's the economy, stupid

Jonathan V. Last

We got the inflation numbers last week and—spoiler—they continue to be encouraging. Inflation is down to the lowest rate in two years and the pace of deceleration is slightly faster than was expected.

So we've got inflation waning, strong employment, the Dow very strong—everything suggests a soft landing.

And yet, sure as I'm sitting here, I know that we'll spend the next 6 months hearing voters talk about how out of control inflation is, and how bad the economy is, and why they're open to Trump 2024. Because the economy was so good under Trump!

I have given up trying to argue with these people. Their feelings don't care about your facts.

But there is a fundamental asymmetry that I want to talk about. Not because we can fix it. No. This is a pure rant. I need to get it off my chest.

So buckle your chin strap and let's go.

How many times have you heard people talk about how "good" "the economy" was under Donald Trump? If my "best friend forever" Sarah Longwell had a nickel for every time she's heard that from voters in her focus groups, she'd own a boat.

But what do people mean by that? The economy certainly wasn't good in November of 2020, the Dow was at 28,323; today, it's at 34,347—a 21% increase. Meanwhile unemployment in November 2020 was 6.7%, today it is at 4%, a

drop of 40%.

For both of those metrics, the situation today is much better than it was on Election Day 2020.

So the reality is that the economy was good under Trump—until it wasn't. The last year of his administration was an economic horror show.

Yet somehow voters give him a pass for that. They only consider "the economy under Trump" to be the nice parts. How does that work?

The conventional wisdom in politics is that voters only care about the last thing they saw. Americans are a "what have you done for me lately" people.

Yet when it comes to Trump's economy, that iron law doesn't hold. They give Trump a pass on the last thing they saw from him. Why?

The answer, I suppose, is that voters have a sophisticated view of causality? They recognize that the final year of Trump's presidency involved a global pandemic and that this event created economic havoc.

But this doesn't quite scan either—because they aren't sophisticated enough to also assign blame to Trump for the extent to which his very bad handling of the pandemic contributed to the economic crisis.

Sigh.

Then we get to Joe Biden's tenure and during his first year in office, the economy was great. It was only in year two that inflation took off and overtook wage growth, creating some real hardships for people. But so far in year three, things are looking good. Inflation is waning. Real wage growth is positive again—and the biggest gains are at the lower income levels—meaning that income inequality is down.

As Eric Levitz puts it:

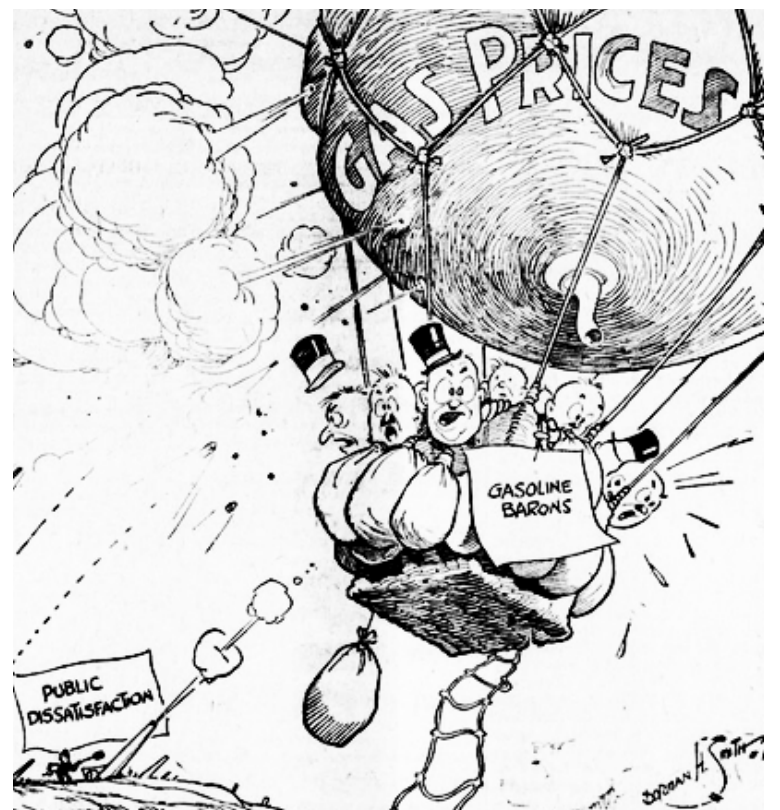
"America's unemployment rate is hovering at historic lows. The percentage of prime-age Americans in the labor force is higher than it's been since the 2008 financial crisis. Thanks to an abundance of employment opportunities, lower-income workers have recovered roughly 25 percent of the increase in wage inequality that accrued between Ronald Reagan's election and Joe Biden's. Inflation is falling. A gallon of gasoline costs roughly 30 percent less than it did one year ago.

"One popular gauge of the economy's strength is the "misery index," which simply adds together the unemployment and inflation rates. That index is lower now than it's been during 83 percent of all months since 1978.

"Meanwhile, Joe Biden's plans for increasing manufacturing employment and investment in the United States are going swimmingly. Manufacturing-plant construction has doubled since the end of 2021, and real spending on the forms of manufacturing most incentivized by the president's CHIPS law and Inflation Reduction Act — computer, electronics, and electrical production — has nearly quadrupled over the past year. To no small extent, Biden has delivered what Trump only promised: Foreign leaders are fuming as the president's subsidies persuade overseas firms to shift production to the United States.

"At the same time, the president's policies have lowered prescription-drug costs for seniors and health-insurance premiums for those who purchase coverage over the individual market."

In sum: Voters think that the "real" Trump economy was only the time period when things



were good, from 2017 to 2019. They have a nuanced understanding of why the economy got bad in 2020. And instead of judging Trump by "what have you done for me lately," they are willing to judge him by his best days rather than his most recent days.

Yet these same voters also think that the "real" Biden economy was 2022. They ignore the very good economy of 2021 and the pretty good economy that we are in right now. Instead, they focus exclusively on the period of his administration where inflation was a problem. And all of that sophistication which allows them to alibi Trump's 2020 disappears when it comes to Biden's 2022. These people have no earthly idea where the inflation came from—they simply blame Biden for it. And then they act as though that limited period is still reality, even

though all of the objective indicators are pointing the other way.

And not only the indicators! These same people are seeing a good economy in their own lived experiences.

How do we know that? Look at all the Republican governors won reelection in 2022 by bragging about how great the economies were in their states!

These Republicans ran—successfully!

On how Joe Biden's economy was treating their constituents!

In the real world!

Look, I don't know what to do about any of this. I just had to share my pain.

People are the worst.

To read past editions of *The Triad*, visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.

Good Day, Neighbor

2023 storm of confusion

Dorothea Mordan

"Dorothea we have a problem." said the voice of Beloved Family Member on the phone at 8:30 p.m. on a Thursday. He and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. B, were in a state.

That morning a pulsing image appeared on Mrs. B's computer warning that there were attacks on their network. All files, photos and identity were at risk. If you close this window all is at risk. Every word chosen for maximum urgency. You must call Our Super Duper Support Team immediately! A Toll Free phone number was displayed.

Nameless Scammer had a way to connect with their fears and pull their human strings of responsibility. Now they would Make. That. Call. Instantly, they were in conversation over the phone and internet. Recognizing a fish on the hook Nameless Scammer revealed a name. Jennifer. Jennifer would save them from certain doom, financial ruin and identity theft. If they helped her maybe they could save some other people too.

It's us and them. I alone am on your side...believe me. Scammer

explained to Mr. B that the FBI and Federal Trade Commission were working with the Scammer's team to catch and prosecute the band of internet thieves who were threatening Internet users all over America.

But we need your help Mr. B! Our work can only succeed with personal funds. We can't use public, government funds for this very important work.

"This is the problem, Dorothea." Mr. B said. "I sent a big cashier's check overnight by FedEx."

Seconds pass while my dropped jaw and sunken heart get back into position.

"Do you have a tracking number?" I ask.

"Yes, it's..." Mr. B, retired from a career as an attorney, had lifelong habits of collecting information.

My husband called FedEx on his phone, and was told the delivery could be stopped. Eureka! We all said goodnight, and I would go to Mr. and Mrs. B's home the next morning.

I arrived by 10 checked the tracking number online, only to find that the package had been delivered at 9:41 a.m.

Another call to Fedex. While on that call, since there is always another

cell phone in the room, I directed Mr. B to call his bank to stop the cashier's check he had so diligently procured the day before. This was accomplished and confirmed by the end of that day, a Friday.

For whatever reason—a lifetime of mental discipline, trust in me, the FedEx manager who asked him if he really wanted to send that package (yes there are people with good intentions and instincts around us everyday)—the storm clouds parted just enough for Mr. B to call me on that Thursday night. Just in time to stop a check before the weekend.

This event was a near disaster that came in a series of bad turns at the right moments. Both of this couple use a computer daily, as almost everyone on planet Earth seems to do. Both of them have limited understanding of the power and connectivity of all the computers that we use. Each of them has one or more health issues that can increase the likelihood of user error at the computer. This exact fake warning message had flashed on their computer months ago, and Mr. B had stopped Mrs. B in the middle of that phone call. They hung up, called me, and we discussed such scams at length. The short version, which every tech savvy person tells to their not-tech-savvy loved ones, is don't click on

anything, and don't call any number that pops up on your computer. Get help from someone you know. These warnings don't make sense to some people because of the way they think/process information, or have had a change in cognitive ability.

On this day Mr. B had urinary tract infection, and didn't know it yet. He was on the verge of going to his doctor, but scammer got his attention first. In Mr. B's condition, he probably had enough toxins backed up in his system that he was near or actually hallucinating. Scammer got lucky because their mission became real to Mr. B.

A perfect Storm of Confusion.

Scammers depend on finding a muddled mind. When our clarity kicks in, Scammers work on our human nature, reminding us to be too embarrassed to tell anyone. Fear and embarrassment are human reactions that con artists bank on. Literally.

It's the same when our loved ones are preyed upon by conspiracy theorists. The flimflammers and web scammers.

Our loved ones can be taken for a theory ride by anyone with an agenda and the right tone of voice. It's hard enough for us who are mostly paying attention, most of our lives. Imagine the fog of being medicated, stressed,

or in cognitive decline. The fear of what might happen is just as real as an immediate threat.

The thing about getting a hook into our brain is that the fear inspired by believable maybes is a real emotion. It can be internet danger or political rivals. There's not a lot of distance between believing a conspiracy theory, and loving the hunt for the kernel of truth in tall tales told around a campfire. The operative word in conspiracy theory is theory, not conspiracy. A theory is just a guess that it could be true, just believable enough that you prepare for the worst. History is full of people trying to scam for money or power, nibbling away at our reason, hoping to gain our confidence with barely believable conspiracies.

My takeaway from this is gratitude for being a person that Mr. and Mrs. B trust. I'll listen even more carefully regarding their health and online safety. Now is a great time to remember the buddy system we all learned as kids. Listen to each other, watch out for each other, and work as a team with family, friends and neighbors. A great life lesson for weathering any of life's storms.

To learn more about Woodsboro's own Dorothea, visit her site at chandlerdesignslimited.com.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

A tale of two Marys

Fr. Timothy Barkley
St. James Orthodox
Christian Church

Long ago, two women were born into this sin-filled and fallen world. Both were named "Mary," and both entered the Kingdom of God, but their roads to the heavenly kingdom were radically different.

One, born as an answer to her barren parents' prayers, was raised in a devout Jewish household until the age of three, when she was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem and given to God, the fullest flowering of faithful Israel. She grew up in the Holy of Holies, and never deviated from her devotion to the God whom she loved and served. Although bearing and struggling against the same sin nature as all of us, she never once debased herself to fulfill her animal appetites. Her love for God blazed in her white-hot, and because of that love she found the disorder of the passions revolting.

As a young teen, she was given to Joseph, a God-fearing widower with children, to be protected in her virginity and chastity. Joseph, an old man, gave Mary a home and supported her. His love for her was strong, but pure and godly. She was beautiful beyond telling, and gracious and good, but never once did he give in to temptation to have his way with her. His strength was her earthly anchor as she grew into a young woman.

In her mid-teens, the angel Gabriel, who had brought her the words of God and sustained her during her life in the Temple, came to her in the home of Joseph to bring her a new word of God, the Word of God incarnate. His annunciation to her of the saving love of God to take flesh in her was welcomed by her: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." And the Holy Spirit descended on her: the Word of God became flesh in her womb, the eternal becoming in time, the uncircumscribable being circumscribed in her womb, the transcendent God becoming immanent, the unknowable God being known to mankind, the divine life taking human life from her.

Without suffering the sin-borne pain of childbirth, Mary bore the eternal God as a newborn babe, suckled the God who feeds all flesh, gazing into the eyes of the One on whom the angels dare not gaze, providing intimate earthly infant necessities to the one who provides for all things. And yet, in her humility, sharing nothing of what she knew: that she was the mother of God. She held these things in her heart and pondered them before the God whom she held in her arms. Hers is the divine life lived by God's grace through the gift of faith, in a fallen world. She is not an exception; she is our example.

The other Mary was born in

Egypt, the place of slavery to sin, and ran away from home in her early teens to live a life of unrestrained sexual immorality. She delighted in every form of debauchery and perversion. She went out of her way to ensnare the virtuous and use them for her sin-filled pleasure. She lived this way for seventeen years, "a fire of public debauch [with] an insatiable desire and an irrepressible passion for lying in filth," as she related. She traveled to Jerusalem to continue her life of riotous sensuality, seducing and corrupting all in her path.

It was there that she came face to face with the other Mary. The passions collided with purity, and repentance flowered. On the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, Mary of the passions sought to join the throng venerating the precious and life-giving Cross, seeking to enter the Church where the Cross was held up for the people to see and for them to offer relative worship – not the absolute worship due only to God himself, but the veneration due the revelation of his self-giving.

In the mercy of God, the Mary of the passions found herself unable to enter the church where the precious wood of the Cross was being venerated. Try as she might, she was prevented from crossing the threshold by an invisible force. She found herself standing on the porch of the Church, exhausted from exertion, and "the word of salvation gently touched the eyes of my heart," as she related, "and revealed to me that it was my unclean life which barred the entrance to me." She wept. She lifted her eyes, and her eyes met the eyes of the mother of God present in her holy icon; she began the long process of repentance, changing her mind and changing her ways. She asked for the intercession of the Mary of purity, vowing to do whatever she was commanded after worshiping the Holy Cross. Her nascent repentance unbarred the door of the Church to her. She was allowed to enter the Church, venerate the Cross, and kiss the very earth that was the floor of the Church.

Leaving the Church, she stood before the mother of God and



heard these words: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest." Mary fulfilled her vow. Leaving Jerusalem and crossing the Jordan River, she lived in the desert in repentance for forty-seven arduous years. Deep-rooted passions require drastic countermeasures. Her repentance was radical and complete. She gave no consideration to the demands of her flesh, refusing to pander to her passions. She sought only to lay a foundation of new-found purity and on that foundation build herself into a temple for the Holy Spirit.

God accepted the repentance of the passionate one, as she uprooted the passions and passionately pursued the divine life. Her profound prayers inscribed on her soul the image of God, and so filled her with the divine, ineffable and uncreate Light that she walked on the waters of the Jordan and was lifted in the air as she interceded for the world. From darkness she was translated into God's marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9) and became a creature of light. This Mary is also our example.

God's grace does not extend only to the pure and perfect. God extends his energy – his love – to all, at every time and in every place, in every circumstance. You do not need to earn God's love – you cannot – and you needn't – you can't – perfect yourself before he will give himself to you. He is calling you, as he called Mary on the porch of the Church. He didn't wait for her to repent. His grace barred the door

of the Church to her not out of condemnation, but out of mercy, that she should hear his voice; his word of salvation filled her heart before she repented and led to her repentance.

Wherever you find yourself, right now, God's word of salvation is entering your heart. Will all of us answer the call to repent, to change our way of life, to repent radically and completely, to stop pandering to the passions, to give our flesh – that part of us that is in rebellion against God – no respite and no mercy? Will we build ourselves into a temple of the Holy Spirit? Will we venerate the precious and life-giving Cross of Christ, and follow the footsteps of both Marys into the Kingdom of heaven?

Each of them, like each of us, was free to choose. Will we choose life or death, the Kingdom of Heaven or the kingdom of darkness? There is no middle way, no tertium quid, no escaping this choice. This day, this instant, choose which kingdom you will enter and in which kingdom you will remain. If we do not daily, moment by moment, choose the Kingdom of God, we remain in the kingdom of darkness. The way of life and the way of death lie before us. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ..."

To learn more about St. James Orthodox Christian Church visit them on-line at www.stjamesorthodoxchurch.org or better yet, join them for Sunday service!

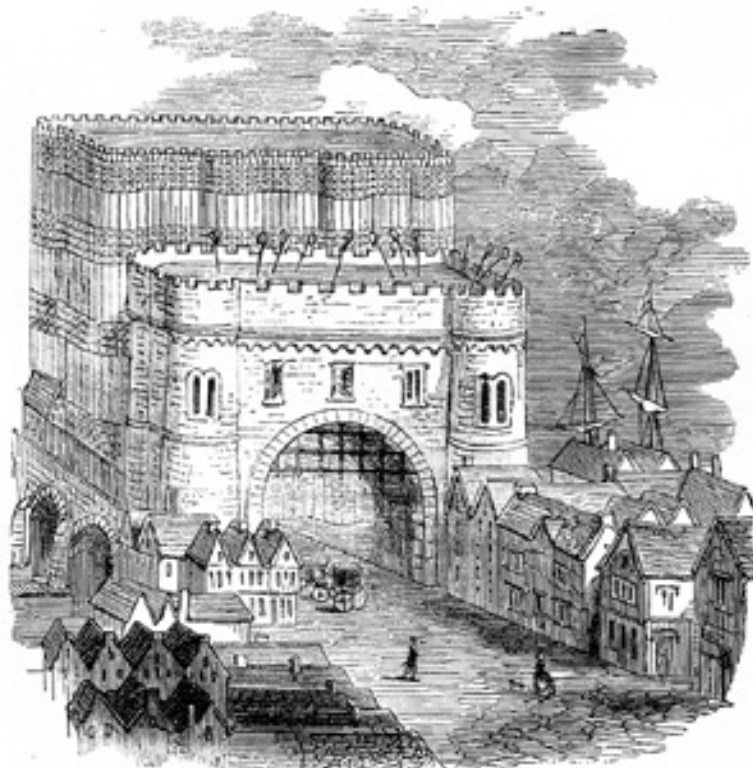
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

London Bridge



TRAITORS' GATE, OLD LONDON BRIDGE.

On the day when William IV and Queen Adelaide opened New London Bridge (August 1, 1831), the vitality of the old bridge may be said to have ceased; a bridge which had had more commerce under and over it perhaps than any other in the world. Eight centuries at least had elapsed since the commencement of that bridge-traffic.

There were three or four bridges of wood successively built at this spot before 1176 A.D., in which year the stone structure was commenced; and this was the veritable 'Old London Bridge,' which served the citizens for more than six hundred and fifty years. A curious fabric it was, containing an immense quantity of stone arches of various shapes and sizes, piers so bulky as to render the navigation between them very dangerous, and (until 1754) a row of buildings a-top.

The bridge suffered by fire in 1212, again in 1666, and again in 1683. So many were the evils which accumulated upon, around, and under it, that a new bridge was resolved upon in 1823—against strong opposition on the part of the corporation. John Rennie furnished the plans, and his son, Sir John, carried them out. The foundation-stone was laid in 1825 by the Duke of York and the lord mayor; and the bridge took six years in building. The cost, with the approaches at both ends, was not less than two millions sterling, and was defrayed by a particular application of the coal-tax. The ceremonial attending the opening, on the 1st of August 1831, comprised the usual routine of flags, music, procession, addresses, speeches, &c. The old bridge finally disappeared towards the end of 1832; and then began in earnest the career of that noble structure, the new bridge, which is now crossed every day by a number of persons equal to the whole population of some of our largest manufacturing towns.

Strictly, the Old London Bridge, for a water-way of 900 feet, had eighteen solid stone piers, varying from 25 to 34 feet in thickness; thus confining the flow of the river within less than half its natural channel. That this arose simply from bad engineering, is very probable; but it admitted of huge blocks of building being placed on the bridge, with only a few inter-spaces, from one end to the other.

These formed houses of four stories in height, spanning across the passage-way for traffic, most of which was, of course, as dark as a railway-tunnel. Nestling about the basement-floors of these buildings were shops, some of which, as we learn from old title-pages, were devoted to the business of bookselling and publishing. It is obvious that the inhabitants of these dwellings must have been sadly pent up and confined; it would be, above all, a miserable field for infant life; yet nothing can be more certain than that they were packed with people as full as they could hold. About the centre, on a pier larger than the rest, was reared a chapel, of Gothic architecture of

the twelfth century, 60 feet by 20, and of two floors, dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, and styled St. Peter's of the Bridge; a strange site, one would think, for an edifice of that sacred character, and yet we are assured that to rear religious houses upon bridges was by no means an uncommon practice in medieval times.

Traitor's gate, Old London Bridge. In the earlier days of London Bridge, the gate at the end towards the city was that on which the heads of executed traitors were exhibited; but in the reign of Elizabeth, this grisly show was transferred to the gate at the Southwark end, which consequently became recognised as the TRAITORS' GATE. A representation of this gate, with the row of heads above it, is here given, mainly as it appears in Vischer's View of London (seventeenth century).

There was one clear space upon the bridge, of such extent that it was deemed a proper place for joustings or tournaments; and here, on St. George's Day 1390, was performed a tilting of extraordinary character. John de Wells, the English ambassador in Scotland, having boasted of the prowess of his countrymen at the Scottish court, a famous knight of that country, David Lindsay, Earl of Crawford, offered to put all questions on that point to trial by a combat on London Bridge. He was enabled by a royal safe-conduct to travel to London with a retinue of twenty-nine persons. The ground was duly prepared, and a great concourse of spectators took possession of the adjacent houses. To follow the narrative of Hector Baecce:

"The signal being given, tearing their barbed horses with their spurs, they rushed hastily together, with a mighty force, and with square-ground spears, to the conflict. Neither party was moved by the vehement impulse and breaking of the spears; so that the common people affected to cry out that David was bound to the saddle of his horse, contrary to the law of arms, because

he sat unmoved amidst the splintering of the lances on his helmet and visage.

When Earl David heard this, he presently leaped off his charger, and then as quickly vaulted again upon his back without any assistance; and, taking a second hasty course, the spears were a second time shivered by the shock, through their burning desire to conquer.

And now a third time were these valorous enemies stretched out and running together; but then the English knight was cast down breathless to the earth, with great sounds of mourning from his countrymen that he was killed. Earl David, when victory appeared, hastened to leap sud-

denly to the ground; for he had fought without anger, and but for glory, that he might shew himself to be the strongest of the champions, and casting himself upon Lord Wells, tenderly embraced him until he revived, and the surgeon came to attend him. Nor, after this, did he omit one day to visit him in the gentlest manner during his sickness, even like the most courteous companion. He remained in England three months, by the king's desire, and there was not one person of nobility who was not well affected towards him."

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' 1864 *The Book of Days* visit Emmitsburg.net.

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ECOLOGY

If a tree falls in the forest...

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

... should we clean it up?

I awake to thunder. Flashes of lightning light up my room as a powerful thunderstorm rolls in and rain pelts the roof. I count the time between flashes and the rolling booms that follow. Ten seconds; about two miles away. Three seconds; less than a mile now. It's thrilling to listen to; one of my favorite parts of summer. In the back of my mind, however, I'm listening closely to the wind, and the clatter of branches as they begin to fall out of trees, wondering just how much destruction will await outside after this storm.

The next morning, I arrive to work at Strawberry Hill, an environmental education center in Fairfield with over thirty acres of wooded land, and start to assess the damage. An enormous branch from a maple tree next to our office is in the yard but hasn't hit anything. A large fallen branch stuck on top of our bathrooms luckily missed all the windows and is quickly cleaned up. Then it's time to walk the trails. Huge piles of leaf litter and debris lay in snaking lines down the trails. Gravel and small rocks are upturned; all signs that water must have rushed in and washed through quickly, but only a few trees have fallen, and none directly on the trail. A relief: clean-up from this storm will be nothing more than moving a few

branches and cleaning up some leaves, but that's often not the case. Fallen trees and branches are a constant challenge for anyone managing a mature wooded area. Already this summer we've had several large trees fall on our trails, and it will certainly happen again. When the inevitable does happen, what do we do?

Tree falls happen for all sorts of reasons. Dead trees dry and crumble, become riddled with holes from bugs, birds, and animals seeking shelter, and eventually fall away, sometimes in pieces, and sometimes all at once. Ice in the winter can weigh down branches and cause them to snap and moisture in the soil freezing and thawing can make roots unstable. In the spring and summer, trees become top-heavy with leaves. The hot, humid days of summer create rapidly rising warm, moist air, forcing cool air downwards to create powerful wind gusts and thunderstorms. Each leaf on a tree acts as its own windcatcher, creating enormous amounts of pushing force, at times uprooting the entire plant.

There's a certain sense of grief that comes along with a fallen tree. The ones that fall are often the largest and oldest, the ones that have been a part of the landscape for generations, and their sudden absence is jarring. These trees are homes to birds and mammals, and their fall can leave babies abandoned and homeless. And then there is the mess. Fallen trees can take up enormous amounts of space, and for

many people, are a complete eyesore. But as is the case with many things in nature, what looks like a disaster isn't only a loss. Fallen trees are an essential part of any woodland ecosystem, and in most cases, the best thing to do with them is nothing at all.

A fallen tree immediately benefits the forest around it. Tree falls create the perfect shelter and hiding spots for animals like snakes, chipmunks, and birds. Trees that fall into water create shady spots where fish congregate and sunny resting places for turtles to bask. Salamanders and snails find refuge in the moist bark. A tree fall provides not only homes for the creatures of the forest; it's a feast as well. Insects and fungi quickly move in and begin to break down the newly fallen wood. Their presence attracts spiders, and millipedes, who in turn become food for amphibians, birds, and eventually snakes, raccoons, skunks, and other animals. As the tree is slowly eaten away, holes and hollows form, creating niches for nests and dens. Nutrients from the tree are broken down and slowly released back into the soil to be used by other plants.

The presence of a fallen tree can provide a myriad of opportunities to the ecosystem, but the absence of a standing tree is just as advantageous. When a tree falls in a heavily wooded area, it opens up the canopy and brings a flood of sunlight to the forest floor; sometimes for the first time in generations. This sunlight brings a wave of new growth



A fallen tree immediately benefits the forest around it. It creates the perfect shelter and hiding spots for animals and it's a feast for insects as well.

to the understory. Plants unable to survive in the shade flourish in the newly created niche. Flowers and shrubs begin to grow, and new trees have a chance to become established. Plants aren't the only ones that benefit from a gap in the tree cover. The open space creates an easy hunting ground for birds of prey, who now have a clear line of sight to potential meals scurrying about below.

Tree falls are a natural, common, and beneficial occurrence in yards, forests, and any wooded area, and from a naturalist standpoint, it's best to leave them where they fall. In reality, that's not always an option when humans are sharing that natural space. Dead trees and tree falls can cause serious damage and safety hazards when they are near buildings, trails, or heavily trafficked areas. Fallen trees can block trails and make them difficult to navigate. Uprooted trees create holes that can make for tripping and fall hazards and make new spots where erosion quickly deteriorates a trail. And, as much as we might like to see only the beauty of a fallen tree and the new homes and food sources it creates, leaving a fallen tree sprawled across one's yard can be more of a mess than many homeowners (or their neighbors) are willing to tolerate.

Still, there is a balance to be found in dealing with tree falls in spaces where humans are using the

land. When a tree falls in a spot where it blocks our trails, we typically move it to the side rather than clear it out completely, so it can remain beneficial to the ecosystem. Sections of tree trunks or logs from fallen trees in yards can be charming decorative additions to a garden, where they add not only natural visual interest but a convenient home for beneficial insects and welcome garden visitors like toads.

Loss, change, and messiness are inevitable parts of the natural world, but tree falls give us a wonderful opportunity to better understand the growth, opportunity, and renewal they make space for. What seems like a disaster, when looked at more closely, is actually quite beautiful. Tree falls are an important source of shelter and food for animals, plants, and fungi. They create a space for new life to move in and blossom. And, when left alone to let nature take its course, they are an ideal spot for humans to bird watch, roll logs in search of salamanders and bugs, and enjoy some of the forest's prettiest plants. As is the case with so many things in nature, when it comes to dealing with trees that have fallen in our shared natural spaces, the less we interfere with the process, the more we all benefit.

To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Bat chat

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Tons of people think bats are creepy. Others wonder if bats really suck blood. Could one be a caped crusader soaring through the night sky protecting the innocent? Whether you love them or hate them bats are integral and necessary parts of the ecology of any region. They exist within a small niche in the environment, and serve a purpose that most other animals cannot or do not. They provide invaluable services to humanity, but have been vilified throughout literature and film. These remarkable creatures have many adaptations that serve them well, but face many threats that are putting many species into grave danger.

There are a total of 40 different bat species in North America, and over a 1000 worldwide. They can be found on every continent, except Australia, and they account for 20% of all mammal species on the planet. Maryland is home to a total of 10 species of bats. The largest being the Hoary Bat with a wingspan of 16 inches. Our smallest bat is the Eastern Pipistrelle, with a wingspan of about 8 inches. The Philippines hold the record for the largest and smallest bats in the world. The bumblebee bat measures in with a wingspan of 6.5 inches, while the Giant Golden-Crowned Flying Fox has a wingspan of 6 feet!

Bats basically breakdown into two categories: Republi... wait no that's not right. Bats fall into two classifications – mega or micro (these terms do not refer to size). “Mega” bats are frugivores, meaning they eat only fruits, nectars, and pollen. Mega bats are partially responsible for the pollination of many plants, so they're kind of like oversized bees. One endangered species in Mexico is actually partially responsible for the pollination of agave plants, which is what tequila is made from – this bat is endangered so tequila could be as well. “Micro” bats are carnivores and eat mainly insects, although one vampiric species in Central and South America have given the rest of bats a bad name!

The anatomy of a bat is really quite remarkable. Wings have finger-like digits with a leathery membrane in between the fingers. Bats will spread or move these fingers to adjust speed and increase their maneuverability. Contrary to popular belief bats are not blind. “Mega” bats rely solely on vision, while “micro” do have poorly developed eyes they can still see and will use sight for long distance navigation. Some bats can even see in ultra-violet light, which helps them hunt and navigate. The ears of a bat are pointy and shaped with special folds that help pinpoint the position of insects with the use of echolocation.

Echolocation works essentially like sonar for submarines. Bats will produce high pitch frequencies, which can sometimes be heard by humans, that then bounce off objects and return to their ears. Based on the time these sounds take to return and where the sound hits in their ears they know where and how far away the object is. The intensity of the echo indicates the

size of insect (high intensity means a big bug, while low intensity means a small bug). Some insects have developed defenses against echolocation though! The Tiger Moth species emits a frequency back that is the equivalent of “radar jamming”. Owllet Moths can hear the frequencies emitted by bats and begin to fly erratically to perform “evasive maneuvers”.

Being a bat isn't all about crime fighting and making tequila though, sometimes you have to settle down and raise a family. Bats only have one offspring at a time, making population decline difficult to combat. Depending on species they may have one to three litters in a year. Mother bats will nurse their young until they are a full grown adult, which is approximately a month, because the young can't fly and catch their own prey until their wings are fully developed. The lifespan of some bats can be up to 20 – 30 years.

You might also be asking yourself, “What's the deal with sleeping upside anyhow?” Roosting upside down provides security from most other animals, and zero competition from other flighted creatures for these locations. But it's also necessary because their wings can't produce enough lift for takeoff and their legs are underdeveloped so they get enough speed to generate lift. So bats let physics do all the work and use gravity to begin flying by simply falling into flight. It's an adaptation in action, and here's how it works:

Start by clenching your fist. The muscles in your arm contract to pull tendons connected to your fingers which close your fist. Bats tendons are connected to upper body, not the muscles in legs. They will use the claws on their feet to grab onto a surface. Then they simply relax. The weight from upper body pulls the tendons shut – gravity does all the work, so they exert no energy to remain hanging. If a bat dies in this position it will remain hanging because of this! To release its claws from the surface bats will flex their muscles which pull the tendons open and off they go.



Have a mosquito problem where you live? Encourage bats to take up residence. A little brown bat can consume between 600 to 1,000 mosquitoes in a single hour!

If you happen to find a bat that's fallen or been knocked to the ground it will need a high place to take off from. If you're brave enough you can attempt to pick it up and help it to a higher location. Just remember that bats can carry diseases so only do so at your own risk. Wearing a pair of think gloves and long thick shirts or using a shovel to gently place them in a tree would be perfectly acceptable ways to move a grounded bat.

Bats are generally pretty adept creatures though and usually don't require much assistance from people. One recent pandemic though is giving them the fight for their lives though. A new fungus called *Geomyces destructans* infects bats and causes “White Nose Syndrome”. This cold loving fungus was first discovered in 2006. It spreads to hibernating bats and causes erratic behavior. Affected bats will awaken during hibernation with decreased and damaged wing tissue. Flying becomes harder work which depletes energy supplies during times of the year when there is little or no food, which eventually causes starvation and then death.

White Nose Syndrome has been confirmed in 19 states and 4 Canadian provinces. In some species it has a mortality rate of 95%. The Little Brown Bat, which we currently have in Maryland, is estimated to be extirpated (locally extinct) from the eastern US within 20 years! The loss of bats at these numbers is estimated

to cause billions of dollars worth of damage to agri-business and farmers due to increased insect populations and heavier use of pesticides. Both of which will drive food costs up and increase the use of pesticides on produce.

Research is being conducted by the US Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife, National Park Services, and other state agencies, and universities. Researchers are still seeking to understand where it came from, the mode of transmission from cave to cave and bat to bat, and more. One leading theory says that it's most likely spread from cave to cave via human transmission from clothing and shoes. That's has led some state and local officials to enact caving moratoriums in some places. There is no known treatment at the time.

One of the most practical ways to assist bats, no matter where you live, is to provide adequate housing in the form of bat boxes. This can make a real difference in both your community and theirs. You can find excel-

lent plans for bat boxes, information on where to place them, and more at the MD Department of Natural Resources website or at BatCon.org. By providing housing sites you can really make a difference in stabilizing the populations of bats in your area.

These animals are extremely important to the environment. They serve as a valuable pest control service to farmers and agri-business. Some bats even help to pollinate plants, and plant trees! Seeds dropped by bats can account for up to 95% of forest regrowth on cleared land. Yet despite these things and more they still suffer from a bad PR problem, deadly fungal epidemic, and encroachment of necessary resources from man. Through understanding and basic actions we can ensure that we can all see these caped crusaders continue to venture out into the night.

To read other articles by Tim Iverson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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REAL SCIENCE

Fireflies

Michael Rosenthal

I remember growing up in Youngstown, Ohio in the 1950s being fascinated by fireflies, or as we used to call them, lightning bugs. As it turns out there are some 2,000 species of these insects on earth. Bioscience has done a survey of the world's firefly experts, and has identified the most serious threats to the continuing existence of these insects.

A major problem across the globe is habitat loss. Another problem is the presence of artificial light, which disturbs their mating rituals, pesticides, and water pollution affects the species, which has an aquatic phase.

People have been reporting anecdotally over the last decade that they are not seeing fireflies as much as they used to. Living next to a woods, and thus having a visible firefly population in my front yard when the house lights are dimmed, I have noticed as well that I don't see them as often as I used to see them.

The information summarized here is a result of a study published in the journal Bioscience and reported in the Washington Post by Ben Guarino. Much of the research on the world-wide firefly population is anecdotal, with a relatively small research community and little published on the subject. There have been lots of anecdotal observations (like mine) in recent years that the firefly impact isn't what it used to be, due to decreased population.

One of the things one learns as one becomes a scientist is that you often narrow your interest as you move along your career path to more specific interest items. I started out my loving chemistry in high school (thank you Mr. Gillespie, my chemistry teacher), then moving on to a chemistry major in college, studying organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, physical chemistry and other specialties involving the properties and

behavior of atoms and molecules. My journey led me to become a physical inorganic chemist, studying the physical properties of compounds not primarily carbon based.

In 2018 The International Union for Conservation of Nature created the Firefly Specialist Group, co-chaired by Sara M. Lewis, a biologist at Tufts University in Massachusetts. An important part of the study was to determine whether the species should be listed as threatened or as endangered, two classifications common to biological species analysis.

There are more than one species among American fireflies. The big dipper firefly (*Photinus pyralis*) is known for the dipping J-shaped path it makes when it flies, and it is commonly seen at dusk. My guess is that it is the one I see it in my front yard. Due east of Washington, the Bethany Beach Firefly lives only in Delaware's coastal freshwater wetlands. Its existence has been threatened by residential development, and scientists are worried. Not surprisingly artificial lighting can confuse these insects and adversely affect mating rituals. Concerned individuals and groups have taken action on firefly protection and preservation. They have even developed firefly sanctuaries with elevated footpaths. A firefly preserve in New Canaan, Connecticut appears to be the first of its kind in North America. There is a citizen-science project named Firefly Watch managed by The Massachusetts Audubon Society.

I think I have mentioned before that I admire the newsletter entitled Environmental Nutrition, published monthly by the Health Information Network in Big Sandy, Texas. The following information is taken from one of the newsletters. Have you ever heard of arugula? It is a plant, a Mediterranean native that has been eaten for centuries throughout ancient Rome and the Middle East. Its leaves and seeds have also been used medicinally to treat digestive issues, skin problems and infertility. Though I've

never eaten it, it has been established as a restaurant item in both high end restaurants and in family meals at home. It has other names: rocket, roquette, Italian cress, and rucola. The plant is a member of the Brassica family which includes things you are familiar with: broccoli, cabbages, and mustards. A one-cup serving provides 28% daily value (DV) of vitamin K, which is important for blood-clotting and bone health, and 10% of the daily value of eye-healthy vitamin A. It also provides a host of health protective plant compounds, including beta-carotene, lutein, and zeaxanthin. It is classed as a cruciferous vegetable, and it is described as having many of the health-promoting properties of cabbage and broccoli. It is said to have components that promote anti-inflammatory and anticarcinogenic effects, is related to lower incidence of chronic diseases, including some cancers.

Recommended varieties include wild arugula, baby arugula, microarugula, and standard arugula. It mixes well, it is said, with other milder fresh greens, and its spice is a good partner to many other ingredients like goat cheese, citrus, and nuts. Raw arugula is good on sandwiches and blended into a peppery pesto, and is a great ingredient, it is said, in pasta dishes, with eggs or when sautéed with vegetables. Such diet items reduce the risk of stroke versus less healthy plant-based food

Do you remember when growing up how your family urged you to eat plant-based foods, like leafy greens, whole grains, and beans. There is reputable evidence now that such foods may reduce the risk of stroke versus less healthy plant-based foods like refined grains and especially foods with added sugars. The Environmental Nutrition Newsletter even provides recipes for their recommended items.

It is summer, and we are looking for frozen treats on a daily basis. There used to be an ice cream truck in the neighborhood in which I now live in Maryland, but it disappeared, at least from my street, some time ago. I now depend on getting such treats at the local food market, which isn't as much fun.

The same newsletter in its Shopper's Guide feature has an article entitled Frozen Treats on a Stick. The article promotes these frozen treat as a healthy indulgence with a few precautions. Sodium is not



Humans may hate the heat, but the fireflies are loving it! Every night they are putting on better shows than anything one can find on Netflix!

an issue. They are not salty. The main concerns are calories, fat saturated fat, and added sugar. One should avoid the temptation to eat a whole package of such bars at one time. Limit yourself to one bar! Those bars made with real fruit are healthier. Some bars, such as those made with Greek Yogurt, even provide a protein boost. Look out for sugar alcohol content. They are used to lower sugar content, but can cause

bloating and gastric distress to those sensitive to it.

As I have said before I so admire Environmental Nutrition, "The newsletter of food nutrition & health". It has been published for forty-four years. It is available by subscription at PO Box 8544, Big Sandy, Texas 75755-8544 or by phone at 800-829-5384.

To read past editions of Real Science, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Adams County Land Conservancy annual picnic

This year's summer picnic will be held at the home of board member Erica Duffy and her husband, Cory. Their historical property sits along Little Marsh Creek in a gorgeous corner of Adams County.

The Land Conservancy will provide delicious Kennie's Fried Chicken, water, tea, and lemonade. Guests will bring a dish to share! What to attend? Simply join us!

The Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, member-supported land trust ... And when we say "member-supported," we mean it! The support we receive from our members is absolutely crucial not only to our mission of preserving the rural lands and heritage of Adams County—

but also to our survival as an organization. Your contributions help pay our bills (like phone, supplies, salaries, and benefits) and cover the costs associated with land preservation (like title searches, surveys, appraisals, and ongoing easement monitoring) that aren't reimbursed by our outside funding sources.

Annual memberships start at just \$35 for individuals and include our quarterly newsletter, an invitation to all of our events, and the joy of knowing that you're contributing to preserving the beautiful and valuable rural lands of Adams County. To learn more about the Conservancy visit www.preserveadams.org.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

August already?

Jack Deatherage

The editor informed me I'm to be interviewed. This should be interesting. Last time I was interviewed was... twenty-five or so years ago when the offspring came home from school with a list of questions his teacher wanted him to ask his parents. I'm not sure what the objective of the lesson was but it evidently didn't work out the way he or his teacher thought it would.

In spite of him catching flak from his teacher- she thought he'd made up my answers -I thought he got a valuable lesson: Most people can't handle the truth.

While I don't recall the questions exactly, I do recall an answer that probably caused the most disruption.

Offspring: Dad. What were your goals when you got out of school?

Me: To get as drunk as possible, as often as possible.

Offspring: MOM! Is Dad telling me the truth?

DW: Yes.

Offspring: Why did you marry him?

Me: Are we done with the interview?

I suspect it was that interview that caused the offspring to stop doing homework all together and caused him to quit formal schooling after the 6th grade. I hope whoever the editor sends to interview me fares better than the offspring did. Still, I am curious as to how formal interviews are conducted. I'm sure I'll learn something useful. In the meanwhile I've almost important things to ponder and set in motion- the Cedar Ave Community Garden being primary.

Having rushed the building of the new garden so we'd have something going on that might attract busy people's attention, we didn't plan the garden as well as we might have. The occasional thunder storms we had in July played havoc with the heirloom dent corn, bringing to mind the old timers "hilling" their corn. The dent corn's wide-leaved, towering stalks act as sails more so than their modern descendants' puny forms.

Next year we'll hill the corn, if we

plant any. Someone might show up wanting to plant sweet corn and I'll leave off the growing of heirloom varieties so they don't cross pollinate the sweet stuff and turn it starchy. Zea mays (corn) is one of those plants that show cross-pollination the year it's crossed- a yellow sweet corn crossed with a red corn will have red kernels mixed in with the yellow ones in the year it's grown. Sweet corn crossed with a similarly colored dent or flint corn might look as it should, but wouldn't taste sweet. On the other hand, an acorn squash that crosses with a zucchini or mini gourd won't show signs of the cross until the following year when seeds saved from the acorn squash are planted.

The 'Titan' sunflowers were supposed to be a serious eye catching foil for the upfront flowerbed. A task they have partially accomplished as they reach eight or ten feet of their potential twelve to fourteen foot mature height. However, they haven't bloomed while the zinnias, marigolds, bachelor buttons, snapdragons and the much smaller, multi-headed sunflowers have been flowering for weeks and in the case of the little sunflowers, are beginning to fade. Worse, from the perspective of drawing attention to the garden, the giant sunflowers have blocked the view of the raised beds the library's children's groups planted.

About the only thing we seem to have gotten right, and that was mostly a matter of luck, is the garden's orientation. Everything we've planted seems to be getting enough sun to reach maturity. At least when we didn't overcrowd a planting- the Three Sisters are an example of what not to do there. The corn stalks are so close together they shade the squash growing in their midst. Having never planted such a grouping before we may yet get something out of the squash. Especially if storms keep blowing the stalks down!

The storms have caused us to rethink the orientation of the taller sunflowers and corn cultivars. Moving both deeper into the lot- closer to the tree/scrub lined ditch -should cause a reduc-

tion in wind damage next year. Should, because nature doesn't much care how we plan. At least keeping the taller plants to the back and side of the garden will open the rest of the garden to public view from the sidewalk, though having people step off the walk and into the garden is also a goal.

If the garden was better organized and funded, we'd have markers identifying each plant and I'd sound somewhat less like an idiot when talking to the garden's visitors. At least with markers I wouldn't have to stumble over names like *Helianthus annuus*, *Solanum lycopersicum*, *Solanum tuberosum*, *Pisum sativum*, *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Phaseolus coccineus*. The visitors could puzzle the pronunciations out they's ownelves. Beyond remembering what varieties and cultivars we've planted when a rare visitor asks about them, I also need to compile a list of sources.

I managed to hang around the July 21st farmers market a bit longer than normal and was able to engage the several shoppers who wandered over to the community garden. Two of those garden visitors spoke with vaguely familiar accents that I wasn't surprised to learn were West Indies Islander. The older of the two recognized the burr gherkins some of the library kidlets had planted. She told me she was growing them in her garden.

I allowed she was the first person I'd met who knew what they were. She said they rubbed the burrs off before eating the cucumbers. I said I hadn't done that and had had my mouth slightly perforated when I ate them last year. She gave me that look that defines the column title I write under.

Having established my bona fides, I was surprised when the younger of the



two asked where I'd gotten the plants we are growing. She thought I shopped the big box stores, which seems to be a thing for many gardeners this year. I surprised her when I said, "Everything is grown from seeds I purchased from online catalogs." Of course, I couldn't tell her the specific names of the plants let alone what seed catalog I'd ordered them from. The DW has the garden map, such as it is, and I have empty seed packets scattered about the house. I said I might be able to cobble together the names of a large portion of what plants we have growing and where we got the seeds from.

Looks like I'll be hanging out at the farmers market with the DW's (hopefully updated) garden map and my seed catalog list for the rest of the summer. As much as I'd rather be napping in the AC under some spy novel, I have to admit

the community garden is beginning to do what I hoped it would- draw people from the market and get them to return to the market so they can see what changes are taking place in the garden. I think that's called synergy?

Interested in the garden? I can be reached via the post office:

Deatherage
PO Box 417
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Ph: 301-447-2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number - speak slowly and clearly.)
Email: jackdeathjr@juno.com

Or check out the Facebook group- "Emmitsburg Youth/Community Garden"

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

A walk in the woods – poison ivy and ticks

Melody Kraus and Kay Hinkle
Adams County Master Gardeners

Now is the time of the year when many of us are venturing outdoors to work in our yards or walk in the woods. To protect ourselves, we need to be wary of various plants, such as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. While we use these three names interchangeably, they are not the same plants.

However, all three of them contain the chemical urushiol, which causes a rash when it touches the skin. It derives its name from urushi, a Japanese word meaning lacquer. The oil containing this chemical resides in the flowers, fruits, leaves, roots, and stems all year, even the fall and winter when these plants are dormant, and can cause a reaction during any season. In fact, according to Susan Post of Center for Economic Entomology, the oil is active for a long time after the plant dies, possibly years.

An amount as small as a nanogram, a billionth of a gram, can cause a rash. However, responses vary greatly among individuals. The American Academy of Dermatology states that 15% of people are not allergic, while the U.S. Department of Health believes that up to 30% of people have no response.

Although there is disagreement with how many people are allergic, the science is still the same. When the oil touches the skin of sensitive individuals, the body tries to remove the irritant by producing histamines in the form of a fluid

in blisters on the skin. The chemical is so strong that it can be contracted by touching a pet that has rubbed against or rolled in a plant, grabbing the part of a tool that was used to cut it, or handling clothing that has brushed up against it. If these plants are burned, the oil becomes air born and can harm the eyes and lungs. Also, a reaction can develop if someone contacts the oil on the skin of another person. However, the rash itself cannot be caught, because the fluid in the blisters does not contain urushiol.

The best protection is to avoid the plants and anyone or anything that has touched them.

Despite its undesirable attributes, poison ivy is an interesting plant. It is native to North America. John Smith was probably the first European to write about it. In 1609, he described it as “the poisonous weed, being in shape but little different from our English ivie; but being touched causeth reddness, itchings, and lastly blysters, the which howsoever, after a while they pass away of themselves without further harme; yet because for the time they are somewhat painefull, and in aspect dangerous, it hath gotten itselfe an ill name.” The name poison ivy may be attributed to him due to his comparison of it to English ivy.

Like many plants, it has a variety of common names. According to the book Just Weeds by Edwin Rollins Spencer, it is also called mercury, picry, poison creeper, poison vine, and three leaved ivy. Despite its name, it is not a true ivy, hed-



With summer in full swing, most of us are wearing shorts - exposing the skin on our legs to the unintended brush with Poison Ivy. Thankfully, unlike in past generations, there are some great over the counter treatment options that will stop the itch dead in its tracks.

era, which is a ground creeper or climber and has only two leaves.

While the saying, “leaves of three, let it be” is a good rule of thumb to avoid poison ivy, it only looks like it has three leaves. Actually, it has a compound leaf, which is defined as two or more leaflets attached directly to the same stem. In this case, poison ivy has three leaf blades in a trifoliate pattern: one leaflet at the end of the stem and two below it that are directly across from each other.

It tends to grow at the edges of where humans live, work and play, sprouting in ground that has been disturbed. Unfortunately for us, it does not have any pests and requires little nutrition or water.

Also, it has three different forms

in which it can grow. As a vine, it attaches itself to a tree, fence, or other lateral surface, by aerial roots, which support, but do not absorb nutrients or water. When the foliage is shed in winter, the roots are easier to see, helping to identify it out of the growing season. As a herbaceous plant, it does not have a permanent wood stem. Many garden and house plants fall into this description. Finally, as an upright shrub, it has a woody stem and can grow quite large.

For more information about poison ivy, visit the website www.poisonivy.us

In addition to poison ivy, ticks are a huge concern. With an increasing number of deer ticks in Pennsylvania, awareness of Lyme and other

tick-borne diseases has become even more important than before. Sources include Penn State Extension, East Stroudsburg University and data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pennsylvania is the #1 state in confirmed Lyme disease cases. Ticks and the risk of Lyme disease exist in every county in Pennsylvania. All 67 counties have residents who have been diagnosed with the disease.

Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (TBD) can be serious but are preventable by avoiding high-risk areas, wearing proper clothing and repellent, carefully examining yourself and pets, and properly removing and disposing of any ticks you find. A study found that people wearing permethrin-treated sneakers and socks were 74 times less likely to have a tick bite. 74 times less likely! Permethrin is a chemical class of insecticide. It is available online and across the counter under several name brands.

Ticks are tiny arachnids that cannot jump or fly. They carry disease they pick up from other animals. They are opportunists that jump on any ride they can get. Deer ticks can survive the winter by riding on the warm body of a deer until spring when they may jump off into the brushy edges of meadows and woodlands and then lay up to 4,000 eggs. Their life cycle is 2 years; the nymph stage is most likely to transmit disease. A nymph is the size of the 12-foot period.

When not traveling through thickets, ticks dwell in grass, leaf matter and on wood. They latch onto your lower legs, crawling upwards on your body, seeking warm, dark areas on which to attach. When hiking, stay in the middle of the path. Urban sprawl has contributed to a growing habitat for ticks. Tick habitat is on the increase in grassy edges of woodlands and fields as land is subdivided, and ticks love it.

Wear light clothing, long pants and shirts, socks and suitable footwear. Ticks will not survive 30 minutes in the dryer when they have attached to clothing, so anytime you have been in tick territory, take extra precautions – even with laun-

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THE MASTER GARDENER



You know you haven't checked your dog frequently enough for ticks if you find a bloated one like this!

dry. Apply insect repellents – both traditional and conventional in nature. Consider purchasing permethrin as recommended above. Check yourself, your children and your dogs.

The deer tick is one of four common ticks in PA – the other three are the American Dog Tick which is probably the most familiar, the Groundhog Tick and the Lone Star Tick which has a white dot (or star) on its back.

While Lyme is the most prevalent tick-borne disease in PA, there are at least 9 others including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified Lyme disease as the fastest growing disease in the US. For more information on Lyme disease, other tick-borne diseases and associated risks, please visit www.palyme.org.

In the unfortunate circumstance of an attached tick on you or anyone else, grasp the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible. Gently pull up slowly. Wait for tick to release. Do not twist.

Clean hands and bite area with

soap and water or antiseptic. Tape tick to an index card and store in sealed bag in the freezer for 2-3 months. If symptoms develop, see your doctor. Otherwise, discard the segregated, frozen specimen. Symptoms can include a bulls-eye rash and flu-like symptoms.

Finally, become familiar with the word DARE to remember how to best stay safe here in tick country:

D – Defend you, your family and your property.

A – Avoid tick habitat.

R – Remember to dry clothes on high heat and shower within 2 hours of possible exposure to flush off a tick before it has an opportunity to attach.

E – Eliminate ticks.

As with any threat to our health and well-being, quality of life is paramount and simply considering what puts us at risk is important. Know what and where to look for ticks and take necessary precautions.

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net.

Small Town Gardener

Plant those trees

As we begin to move late into the summer and approach the fabulous fall planting season, it's time to think about the trees we'd like to see sharing our space. Time flies by quickly and you don't want to find yourself saying "Why on earth didn't we plant that oak thirty years ago?"

Why indeed?

Established shade trees add value to a landscape, and, unlike extensive landscaping, do not scare off potential buyers that don't know phlox from fig and are genuinely frightened by the thought of maintaining your botanical masterpiece. Trees give a sense of permanence... of place. And, unless they're planted over the septic tank, tend to last far beyond the lifespan of a humble gardener.

Let's face a morbid fact: Gardens rarely last. Once you've fallen off your perch, or sold the place to buy that sailboat; or indeed are dragged away kicking and screaming by ungrateful cube-dwelling kids, there will be changes.

Perennial beds will become lawns, prize shrub collections obliterated by wild grape and honeysuckle, deer fences removed to give the place 'that open estate feel' (this actually happened to our current home). The herb bed your grandmother helped you plant just outside the kitchen door will be paved over with a shiny stainless steel outside kitchen (because it's not enough to have just one, completely unused gourmet kitchen these days).

In short, your garden will fade or be forced into the mists.

Deep breath everyone.

Yet through all of this horticultural Armageddon, your trees will no doubt remain to shade the next generation, and the next. And that is why you need to plant them. There is often a fine line between the altruist and the egotist.

What to choose?

Choosing a tree is a bit more complicated than deciding what groundcover will decorate the soil at its feet – particularly if you've got a smaller property.

First you must decide what you need from it. Shade is often at the top of this list, followed by privacy, spring bloom, fall color, structure, impact, fruit, etc. etc.

Write down what you want, why you want it, and how tall and wide you think it should be. Be truthful with yourself on that last point. A tree that has outgrown its position is awkward and rarely suits a home. It is also rarely removed due to cost considerations. And, as it is cheaper to trim than fell, the wrong tree in the wrong place is more likely to be butchered and disfigured in the attempts to live with a very poor choice.

Instead, envision that tree from many angles: from an upstairs bedroom, from the porch, from the back of the property, from the kitchen window. There are a huge amount of fabulous small trees for the home landscape, and they're not all dogwoods. Styrax, yellowwood, redbud, Stewartia, fringe tree, crepe myrtle, etc. . .

If you've got more property, you can indulge in trees you've always wanted to grow, or grow some pretty good substitutes. Cedar of Lebanon aren't super happy with our winters, but deodar and atlas cedars sure are, and this summer I found one of each on a 75% off sale along with a weeping copper beech and

a coral bark Japanese maple.

Perhaps you're wishing to start your own woodland? You'll be looking at a mix of both canopy and under-story trees. Looking for natives? You wouldn't believe the fantastic choices we have from tupelo to tulip poplar.

How to plant?

With few exceptions, trees are often best planted in the fall (hence the timing of this article to get you thinking before the leaves start turning). Fall rains allow roots to take advantage of still-warm soils, and dwindling pest populations ensure you won't lose all the foliage on your sugar maple before it decides to leave of its own accord.

If you are buying your trees from a nursery, tree planting is often included in the price of the tree. If you're shopping sales like Yours Truly, you'll need to provide a good hole (twice as wide as the pot with 4-6 inches of soft soil in which to nestle), and amend the native soil with a small amount of organic material such as leaf mold. Watering halfway through the planting process reduces air pockets in the backfill; and mulching well (please NO mulch volcanos) means roots are set for the winter.

How to care for?

Water. Period. Ensure a weekly dose of the stuff for the first year the tree is with you. After that, water during periods of drought. It's always an excellent idea to lightly stake a tree with cross ties, and for those of us who share our space with deer, a low cage is vital unless you'd like an expensive bit of landscaping broken in half by a rutting buck.

Been there. Twice.

There are other planting considerations of course, and while many of these are important, don't let them send you into analysis paralysis. The sooner you get those trees in the ground, the sooner they will be shading and beautifying your world.

For more resources and help with choosing, planting and caring for your trees Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.com

Marianne Willburn is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, Virginia. Read more at GardenRant.com.

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PETS

Being worthy

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Cats, man. I don't really know where I'd be without them.

I live in an apartment that only allows cats — no dogs. It's probably a good thing or else I have a feeling I'd have quite a circus.

I've been around cats all my life. Growing up, my sister knew the genealogy of just about every cat we ever had — which kittens went to which mom and who was related to whom. She might still know some of them.

I think my sister has cat DNA. The jury's still out on that one.

The really interesting thing about cats is that a lot of them take life on their terms and only their terms.

Yes, I've had cats that were very much like dogs — they'd follow me around the house, sit in my lap, let me do just about anything I wanted to them. But I've also had cats that were, well, like cats. When they wanted some loving, you better be ready. And when they didn't, you better not go near them.

I live with six cats in my apartment. I worry sometimes that I'll end up being the crazy cat lady (if I'm not already), but I just can't imagine my life without them.

My oldest boy, Grayson, is a "dog cat." He is a sweetheart. I can pick him up like a baby, I can bug him whenever I want and he just hollers

a hello. If a need a smooch, I search him out and put my head against his and he'll start purring. No matter what. We might be getting married someday. I'm just saying.

Then there's his brother, Loki. Boy, was he appropriately named. Loki is a "cat cat." When he's feeling affectionate, he'll walk all over you, purr up a storm and shove his head into your hand.

But if he's napping, do not bug him. Or you'll get the Cat Stare of Death (that might need to be trademarked some day). I know cat owners know the one I mean.

I'm telling you, if my cats could actually talk, Loki would need a bleep censor. I imagine it would be like watching an episode of The Osbournes. Good old Ozzy. Kept the censors employed, that's for sure.

I think Loki could do the same.

The thing about Loki is he's smart. Somewhat alarmingly so. He's been known to sit in the window at the back of the house and watch for birds. Nothing unusual there. But when he sees a bird (or maybe a squirrel) he watches to take note of where they're walking. If they head up the sidewalk, which follows the side of the house, he will jump off his perch and literally follow the bird or squirrel from window to window until he gets to the front of the house.

I watched him do this a number

of times and I marvel at the fact that it's gotta take not only pre-planning on his part, but also a knowledge of where the sidewalk actually goes and which window comes first in the progression.

I am convinced if Loki had opposable thumbs, I'd be in a human slave colony ruled by him.

He also seems to know what I want him to do and what I don't want him to do. He typically will do the opposite of whatever I want and he gives me that knowing look that seems to say he is very well aware of exactly what he's doing.

Life with Loki is certainly never boring.

The other four cats in the house are a mama and her three babies who were initially rather feral. I'm just getting to the point (after a few years) where I can pet two of them.

Living with beings that look at you like Attila the Hun really can do a number on your self-esteem. That's all I'm saying.

But that's kind of the thing about cats — you really do have to take them on their own terms.

I'm lucky to live with examples of each "kind" of cat, if you will.

Grayson, the lover. Loki, the affectionate only when he wants to be, and mama and her kids, slowly coming around to dealing with humans.

I had a friend tell me cats were awesome because you have to earn their love — you have to be deemed worthy by them. And once you are, you've got yourself a real triumph.

I have to admit on the rare moments when I can pet those little kittens and they don't run away and they actually rub up against me a little, I feel a real sense of achievement and can understand what my friend meant about "being worthy."

Cats really can be somewhat unique in the animal world.

And once you've known the love of a cat, you really get an idea of what it means to be truly lucky.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org.



Kubo has many great qualities; his next family will be lucky to have him. He is two-years-old and his previous owner indicated he is a Beagle/ Australian Cattle Dog Mix. Kubo enjoys playing with his toys, walks nicely on a leash and seems to like everyone he meets. He is eager to please and already knows a few commands. Unfortunately, Kubo's owner lost her job and felt she could no longer care for him.



Cali's picture really doesn't do her justice, you need to see her in person to appreciate this spunky pooch. Short legged and compact, Cali is a happy-go-lucky girl and loves meeting new people. Her previous owner described her as calm, friendly, playful and indicated she likes other dogs as well as children. Sadly, Cali's owner lost his home and was no longer able to keep her.



At ten-years-old, Silvi likes to relax and watch the world go by. She spent her entire life with the same family until a landlord would not allow her to stay. Silvi has lived with other cats and her previous owner described her as calm, friendly and at times a lap cat. She likes being brushed and has lived her entire life inside. Silvi hopes to find a retirement home that is loving, quiet and calm.w



At thirteen-years-old, Thor and Prince will not be getting into any kitten mischief but will spoil you with their affectionate personalities. The brothers were adopted from the shelter twelve year ago but returned through no fault of their own. Unfortunately, Thor and Prince's owner passed and there was no one to take care of them. Both boys are confident and greet strangers like old friends. They will likely transition to new home with ease and make fabulous companions.

For more information about Kubo, Cali, Silvi, and Thor or Prince call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

- My happy home.
- My bowl & cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.
- The lap, which I loved so much.
- The hand that stroked my fur & the sweet voice which spoke my name.

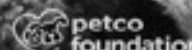
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give...
The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown



Open your heart to a FIV+ cat



Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

A row of blood tests lined up on the counter. It is not an uncommon sight at Frederick County Animal Control. All of our cats and dogs are tested for common illnesses such as heartworm, feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) before being processed for adoption. What is unusual, however, is for one of those tests to show a positive result for FIV, but that is exactly what happened recently with six of our male cats: Barry, Nathaniel, Van Gogh, Patriot, Carson and Leroy.

At first glance, these handsome boys appear to be a perfectly healthy and normal domestic shorthairs and that's because they are. According to the Cornell Feline Health Center, approximately 2.5 to 5 percent of healthy cats in North America are infected with feline immunodeficiency virus or FIV. Much like HIV in humans, FIV attacks and weakens a cat's immune system reducing its ability to respond to infections. With proper management to prevent and treat secondary infections, cats like Barry and his friends can live fulfilling lives with average life spans.

Some may have concerns about welcoming an FIV+ cat into their home, but the risks are small. This virus is only contractible to cats and while it is spread through saliva, it is not spread through acts of casual contact like grooming or sharing bowls. The ASPCA states that "FIV is mainly passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds, the kind that usually occurs outdoors during aggressive fights and territorial disputes." This means that not only could these boys be happy living as only cats, they could also be safely integrated into a multi-cat household with a stable social structure.

Van Gogh was recently adopted and has already earned the nickname Cuddles from his owners due to his constant public displays of affection. Carson and Leroy will be spending some time in foster care after arriving at FCAC with wounds of unknown origin. After their required four-month quarantine, they will make their way to the adoption floor to schmoose visitors into taking them home.

The remaining three FIV+ cats Barry, Nathaniel and Patriot are currently on the adoption floor winning over the hearts of staff and volunteers until the right family comes along. Barry is a confident cat with a personality as big as his chubby cheeks. He's talkative and not shy about letting us humans know when he needs affection, food, or personal space.

Nathaniel is a ball of energy. He's never met a toy especially wand toys. He loves to play, but when he's all tucked out he too enjoys some TLC.

Patriot is more laid back than his counterparts. He's easy to miss as he is often snoozing under his blanket. Once you open the cage, however, he comes out for some pets. He'll sit right next to you happy to receive all the love and affection you have to give.

If any of these boys sound like a cat that you could fall head over heels for, call Frederick County Animal Control at 301-600-1546 for more information on them or adopting an FIV+ pet.



Stansberry came into the shelter as a stray and is an incredibly affectionate boy. He's a medium-haired orange and white boy who is about 2 years old. He will need someone who understands that he will need to be brushed to keep his coat from matting. He is a large guy who has the longest and fluffiest tail you will ever see on a cat! Stansberry doesn't seem to want to share his space with other felines, so he may do best as an only cat. If you have the right spot for this good looking guy, please stop out!



Jade and her sister Josie were brought into the shelter as very small kittens and were raised in foster care until they were old enough to find their loving forever homes! Jade is 4 months old and loves to play! She always wants attention and can often be found climbing a cat tree. Could Jade be the one for you?



Oogy Boogy was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer have him. He is a 2-year-old pitbull mix who can be scared of his own shadow. He will need someone who understands that while he may not be the bravest boy, he is the most lovable! He does know some commands such as sit, stay, and down. Oogy Boogy would love to find his second chance at a loving forever home soon!



Penny came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but this is one happy-go-lucky pup! She is a 3-year-old terrier mix who doesn't seem to realize how big she is when she gets excited. Penny is an active girl who will need someone that can provide her with regular exercise. She loves to play ball! Penny does need some work on her manners but with regular exercise and consistency, Penny will make someone a loving companion! Penny may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Could you be Penny's forever home?

For more information about Stansberry, Jade, Oogy Boogy, and Penny call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.



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HEALTH

Frederick Health announces new provider in Emmitsburg

Natalie Lowrey cares about this community; she was born and raised in Frederick County. After many years of caring for patients in other parts of the state, she recently returned to her home area to provide quality, award-winning care. As the newest provider at Frederick Health's Emmitsburg location, Natalie is answering her long-established goal to treat and heal those around her.

"Since I was in high school, I've known that I wanted to work in the medical field, specifically public health and patient care," Lowrey stated. "I've always wanted to work in this community, and, honestly, I've always wanted to work for Frederick Health."

Spending her life in the county, Lowrey has seen the area and Frederick Health change quite a

bit. While the county has seen steady growth in population, Frederick Health has worked to expand its services, specialties, and facilities.

According to the 2020 census, Frederick County is one of the fastest-growing areas in the state. Since 2000, the population has increased by 41%. Yet, as Lowrey says, it's essential to ensure that the services expand to the entire population, especially rural areas.

"I love the people of Emmitsburg and the surrounding area," Lowrey says.

"Bringing treatment options to this area is important, and we are seeing people that just do not go to the doctor or have a Primary Care provider. That could be distance or access related. Sometimes, it's a big barrier, driving even 15-20 minutes to be seen. This facility helps eliminate that

barrier by bringing us closer to our patients, regardless of their needs," she added.

To improve access to high-quality care, Frederick Health opened its newest Emmitsburg facility in the autumn of 2022. This location helped to bring Primary Care, Urgent Care, Laboratory, Imaging, Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab to northern Frederick County. The healthcare system will open a Brunswick facility later this year, continuing its expansion efforts. These efforts are part of an ongoing process to expand the healthcare system's network of coverage and to bring care options to areas that may be facing issues to access.

The Emmitsburg location, built on land donated by Mount St. Mary's University, is managed, and run by Frederick Health. While it serves as a stu-

dent health center for the university, it is also intended to be a go-to resource for residents in the area. Frederick Health undertook a similar partnership with Hood College several years ago with the healthcare systems' Toll House location serving both community members and students of the college.

Lowrey aims to bring her passion to Emmitsburg as a Certified Nurse Practitioner. As a trained expert in several areas, she can treat most conditions and concerns, ranging from routine to severe. But what exactly does a Nurse Practitioner do?

Certified Nurse Practitioners fill a vital role in healthcare systems across the nation. As a Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP), Lowrey is an advanced practice nurse with clinical education and training at higher levels. CNPs

share and handle many responsibilities as doctors or other providers. They are skilled at performing physical exams, diagnosing, and treating diseases and other health conditions, and prescribing medication. A nurse practitioner must have a graduate-level education degree and spend several years in training before working with patients.

When a patient sees a CNP for Primary Care, the experience is very similar to seeing a doctor or other provider.

"I like to think of my work as the glue," Lowrey added. "Primary Care puts together the pieces and holds everything else together for the other specialty areas."

Bringing her energy, positivity, and desire to care for her community, Lowrey knew working hands-on with patients was her real passion. In the earliest days of her professional journey involved with patient care, she found it difficult to treat someone at their bedside, but then once they had made it through that health issue, she'd often never see or hear from them again. Establishing a connection is vital to healing, according to Lowrey.

"Sometimes the unfortunate reality of hospital care is that that person is there when they need treatment the most. I wanted to be on the other end, establishing a relationship with patients and working on preventative care so that they could avoid being hospitalized or falling sick," she stated.

And she means what she says. Lowrey quickly encourages patients to visit the Frederick Health Emmitsburg location and get the care they need and deserve. She is available and trained to treat all patients and specializes in the care of a wide range of age groups, from infants to older adults, understanding that each has unique healthcare needs. She currently accepts new patients at the Emmitsburg location and looks forward to treating the people she calls her neighbors.

"Everyone deserves to be healthy and to work with someone that understands where they are," added Lowrey.

In her free time, Lowrey describes herself as very family-oriented and active in her church community. She enjoys reading and being around people whom she cares for.

Lowrey had some final words for the residents of northern Frederick County.

"Regardless of where you are health-wise, don't be discouraged. We are here to get you the care you deserve."

To learn more about Frederick Health Emmitsburg or to schedule an appointment with Natalie, visit www.frederickhealth.org/locations or call 240-215-6310.



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Frederick
Health

COMMUNITY NOTES

Wastewater Operations

Randy Eyler,
Wastewater Plant Superintendent.

Editor's Note: This is part three of a four part series on the nature and operations of Thurmont's utility infrastructure. Next month – Thurmont's electrical system

June's article provided an overview of sewer collection systems in the Town of Thurmont. It detailed the three types of sewer systems: sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and combined (sanitary and storm) sewers. It discussed the challenges a combined sewer system faces when experiencing increased sewage volume during rain events. The article also touched on the networking of the sewer systems to transport sewage from your home, the town streets, and the runoff from the land to the wastewater treatment plant. The differing materials sewer pipes can be made from such as cast iron, steel, concrete/bricks, clay, or PVC. Information about the issue of inflow and infiltration, which refers to groundwater entering sewer mains through cracks or joints was presented. Finally, the concept of sewer cleanouts was discussed, which are access points for clearing clogs in the sewer system. This article will focus on the treatment processes water undergoes once it travels through the sewer pipes and reaches a wastewater treatment plant.

Wastewater Treatment

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water in your toilet after you flush it? We learned how the water gets from your pipes to the treatment plant in the previous issue, but what happens once it gets to the plant? Historically, the majority of wastewater was left untreated and dumped into waterways where natural processes purified and diluted it over several weeks. As populations increased and cities grew this turned out to be unsustainable and this natural purification process needed to be increased. This is where wastewater treatment comes in. Wastewater treatment dates back a long time; there is evidence from ancient civilizations such as the Indus and the Greeks using rudimentary treatment techniques as far back as 2500 B.C.E. Wastewater treatment did not become common, however, until around the 1900s when industrialization, population growth, and increased agriculture introduced a considerable need for wastewater to be treated. This is also when many more modern treatment techniques (such as the activated sludge process) were introduced. Throughout the 20th century and leading into today, there have been many improvements made to handle the increasing regulations enforced on wastewater plants. Harmful chemicals are increasingly tested for and new techniques have been developed to treat them such as reverse osmosis, UV purification, and many others. These new techniques allow modern plants to remove up to 99% of all pollutants in wastewater. The Town of Thurmont has a wastewater plant that sits near Big Hunting Creek where it releases its treated water. We will look at this plant and how it operates.

Thurmont's Wastewater Plant

Thurmont's wastewater is treated by a plant located at 96 East Moser Road in

Thurmont. It is situated next to Big Hunting Creek, a class III-P stream with a rich history known for its stock of trout. The plant serves a community of over 6,000 people and is headed by superintendent Randy Eyler who has over 40 years of experience at the plant. The plant treats anywhere from 400,000 to 5,000,000 gallons of water per day. The amount of water flowing through the plant depends on many factors including time of year, time of day (morning and afternoon peaks) and weather (stormwater). All water entering this plant undergoes a rigorous process of treatment before it is released into Big Hunting Creek.

Primary Treatment

There are three different stages in the treatment of wastewater, though it is common for a plant to only perform the first two. These stages are referred to as (1) primary treatment, (2) secondary treatment, and (3) tertiary treatment. The primary treatment stage deals with solids that are mixed in with waste and rainwater. As rainwater moves through streets, sidewalks, dirt, or grass it picks up solids such as rocks, chunks of brick, asphalt, loose debris, etc. These solids are typically removed early in the treatment process. The Thurmont plant uses a bar screen as the first step to removing the largest solids from the water. It is a large screen that uses a conveyor system that picks up the solids and deposits them in another container where they get disposed. After the bar screen, the wastewater moves into a grit chamber; this chamber is designed to remove smaller solids such as sand, small gravel, or any other solids that make it through the screen. The Thurmont chamber works by introducing the screened influent (water flowing into the plant) tangentially into a vortex grit chamber at a slow velocity, rotating paddles help create a vortex that pulls the grit towards the center, where it is emptied into a grit filter bed. These processes remove the solids that settle to the bottom of the water, but there are other solids known as suspended solids. As the name implies, these are lighter solids that stay suspended in water rather than settling to the bottom. To remove these solids, the water moves into the primary clarification stage. The clarifier is a large circular tank with scrapers on the top and bottom that slowly rotate to remove solids that settle to the bottom, and fats/oils/grease that rise to the top. The water flow velocity in the clarifier is very slow at this point to help small solids settle. Flocculants or coagulants can also be added to the water, they cause the solids to clump together and sink to the bottom of the clarifier where they are collected. The solids collected at the bottom of the clarifier are known as sludge. Sludge can be collected and reused as return-activated sludge after it has undergone sludge treatment, for example by anaerobic digestion. The clear water at the top of the clarifier spills over a weir where it enters the next stage of treatment. It is now largely free of any solids, but still not considered clean enough to release back into waterways. This is where secondary treatment comes in.



Thurmont's waste water treatment facility.

Secondary Treatment

To the naked eye, the water would look largely clean after primary treatment, but there are still many pollutants in the water at this stage, mainly organic matter. There are different ways to reduce organic matter in water but we will focus on the way practiced by the Thurmont plant, the activated sludge process. The water enters an aeration tank where it is mixed with return-activated sludge. Air gets pumped into the tank, increasing the dissolved oxygen (DO) content of the water which facilitates the growth of bacteria within the sludge. These bacteria break down the organic matter in the water and turn it into harmless byproducts. The water moves through multiple aeration tanks with strategically chosen DO content, the low DO (anoxic) tanks allow the bacteria to take in nitrates and produce nitrogen gas which is released into the atmosphere. The water stays in these aeration tanks for multiple hours giving the bacteria time to properly break down the organic matter. After the aeration tanks, water moves into a secondary clarifier to remove any final solids that have made their way through this process. The final step in the treatment plant is disinfection. Disinfection can be done in multiple ways: chlorine, UV light, and ozone are three of the most popular. The Thurmont plant uses UV light purification. This method uses UV light to sterilize bacteria, viruses, and protozoa present in the water and is the final step in the treatment process. After UV disinfection, the treated water is finally ready to release its effluent (water leaving the plant) into Big Hunting Creek. There is, however, an added tertiary step prior to the UV light employed by the Thurmont plant.

Tertiary Treatment

While many plants are finished with the process after secondary treatment, certain plants that discharge into public water supplies or sensitive aquatic ecosystems such as estuaries or coral reefs treat their water further with tertiary treatment. Tertiary treatment can use a combination of physical processes such as filters and/or chemical processes such as further disinfection using chlorine, UV light, or ozone. Thurmont's plant releases into a trout stream and must comply with the enhanced nutrient removal standards. Enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) is achieved by using a sand filter that aids in nitrogen and phosphorus removal. The ENR program requires nitrogen levels no higher than 3 mg/l and phosphorus levels no

higher than 0.3 mg/l. This is done to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Treated Water

You may be wondering how clean the final effluent is. There are many federal and state regulations designed to ensure the water released from treatment plants is sufficiently clean. The process of wastewater treatment takes at least 24 hours from entering the plant to leaving, and there are many probes and monitoring stations along the way to ensure proper treatment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is authorized by Congress to develop regulations and the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) helps implement them in Maryland. Regulations are made on the limits of various factors of the effluent. These factors include Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), which is the amount of oxygen consumed by microorganisms under aerobic conditions, suspended solids, coliforms (such as E. Coli.), pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and turbidity, among others. The specific amounts required in the effluent depend on where it is released. This is all to say that the effluent leaving a treatment plant is very clean. There are even examples of recycling treated wastewater into drinkable tap water in a practice referred to as "toilet-to-tap". California has plans for this recycling method to help combat water shortages faced by the state. It may sound gross to hear toi-

let water being turned to drinking water, but hopefully after learning the rigorous process the water goes through you feel more assured that the water is safe for consumption.

How to Help the Plant Run Smoothly

There are a few things that impede the treatment process at a plant. An increasingly large problem are "flushable" wipes. While these wipes technically flush down the toilet, sewer systems and treatment plants are not designed for them. These wipes do not break down in sewer pipes like toilet paper does and often end up clogging the sewers. If the wipes do make it through the sewer pipes, they can end up clogging equipment at the plant and causing expensive repairs. Another large problem faced by treatment plants are fats, oils, and grease (FOG). FOG is not typically water soluble which means it instead clings to surfaces and causes buildup. If it makes it to a treatment plant it takes more time and energy to manage compared to other wastes. FOG can clog pumps and other devices and cause a huge headache for operators. Wipes and FOG can combine and form something known as a "fatberg" which is a large clump of waste matter. Fatbergs can get very large and cause blockages in sewer systems.

If you have any questions about the operation of the wastewater treatment plant, contact the town office at 301-271-7313. We'll be happy to answer any question you might have.

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CONGRESSMAN **DAVID TRONE**



My Mother Was a Public School Teacher

My mother was a public school teacher. While I was growing up, I saw her dedication and passion for teaching and learning, and it guided me my whole life. That's why I'm working hard in Congress to increase pay for Maryland students and teachers and to give all children more opportunities.

Creating More Opportunities for Our Young People

I succeeded in business because I had a great education. But these days, too many students do not enjoy that same opportunity. Nearly half of all students in America began this school year below their grade level in at least one subject. Currently, only 1 in 4 students graduate high school ready for college in the four core subjects. Twelve million students nationwide don't have access to high-speed internet at home. This is unacceptable in America, and it's why education will be a top priority for me in the Senate.

Legislation to Help States and Local Communities Improve Schools

The sad fact is we underfund education in America. We need to spend more to give young people the educational tools they need to succeed. Our future depends on it. A few months ago, I introduced the "True Equity Act" in the House of Representatives, joining Senator Ben Cardin, who introduced the same legislation in the Senate. It would provide \$1.4 billion in federal grants to states and local communities to improve education in underserved areas. And I've built a record of taking action to expand broadband in Western Maryland. I'll continue that fight for all children in the U.S. Senate.

If I'm elected to the U.S. Senate

If I'm elected to the U.S. Senate, I'll continue my work to improve education. I will focus on early childhood education and universal pre-K, hiring high-quality, diverse teachers to serve our students and communities, and confronting our student debt crisis head-on.

DAVID TRONE

FOR MARYLAND

Something for everyone at The Great Frederick Fair

Karen Nicklas
General Manager

Celebrating its 161st anniversary September 15th through 23rd, The Great Frederick Fair continues to present itself as a pillar in the celebration of agriculture, education, and community. Founded in May of 1822, it was first known as the Cattle Show and Fair, spanning only two days and has since expanded to include 10-days of agricultural events, competitions, education, carnival rides, delicious food, entertainment, and so much more.

The Great Frederick Fair is committed to its Mission

The Great Frederick Fair was established with a mission "to promote Agriculture and the education of our youth about the industry of Agriculture". The Fair's core activities encompass the exhibition of livestock, farm, garden, and hand-made goods, while fostering and encouraging improvements in techniques of production and the development of better agricultural products.

Exhibiting is open to all Frederick County residents and not only promotes agricultural traditions, but also comes with incentives through awards, prize monies, and tickets to the fair. All participants receive

a Season Strip Pass, which includes an admission ticket for EACH day of the fair with their entry fee. To enter, the cost is \$10 for 1-3 items and \$20 for 4-6 items. Entering items encourages the community to be part of the Fair's 161-year tradition of keeping Frederick County Agriculture thriving! More information can be found at www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/exhibit.

Success at the 2022 Great Frederick Fair

The Great Frederick Fair provides agricultural programming during the Fair. 3,908 exhibitors participated with 17,490 competitive exhibits over the 9 days of the Fair with \$99,621 in Premiums paid to winning exhibitors.

Auctions benefitting the kids directly and GFF Agricultural Education programs:

Youth Livestock Auctions: 310 Lots sold \$797,835 (23% increase). 100% of the proceeds were paid directly to the kids.

Cake & Baked Goods Auction: 180 Lots sold \$56,595 (18% increase). 10% of the proceeds were paid directly to the kids. Remaining funds offset youth programming fees and funded scholarships.

Youth Scholarships: (2) \$2,500 Scholarships awarded – Joe Free Memorial Scholarship Fund & (4)

\$1,000 scholarships awarded to The Great Frederick Fair Royal Ambassadors. New in 2022, the Fair awarded an additional (10) \$1,000 scholarships to GFF Youth participants.

The Mercer Family Vintage Art Contest & Auction: Since 2012, this program has raised over \$100,000 benefitting Ag Ed programming in partnership with Frederick County Public Schools. Each year, over 18,000 FCPS children, pre-K-5th grade receive our Ag in the Classroom curriculum, and 5,000 FCPS children attend chaperoned school tours at the Fair.

Ag Program Improvements

In 2021, The Great Frederick Fair welcomed Carrie Wivell Wolf as Youth Programs Coordinator, a new position created to provide quality agricultural educational opportunities to Frederick County youth participants. In cooperation with other partners and agencies, Carrie coordinates various workshops, weigh-ins and seminars for local agricultural youth participants interested in learning best practices in their breed(s) and/or area of interest throughout the year. Participants of the programs will have the opportunity to learn topics such as: basics of animal feeding and nutrition, grooming, fitting, and showmanship. "These workshops will help bet-



There is no doubt about it - The Great Frederick Fair is all about animals and children!

ter prepare the participant and their animal for greater success in the show and auction rings", said Carrie.

Why do we have a Fair?

The Great Frederick Fair is a vital event in the community. Over \$1,000,000 will go back into Frederick County businesses who provide the services, products, utilities and programs that create The Great Frederick Fair year after year.

The Fair generates resources from admissions, entertainment, carnival attractions, parking, commercial exhibits, memorabilia, sponsorships and non-fair rental of facilities to operate the 60-acre property throughout the year, produce the annual Great Frederick Fair and support educational and agricul-

tural endeavors. The Fair also promotes and hosts a year-round farmers' market.

The Great Frederick Fair is a great venue for promoting agriculture to consumers. Drawing a large audience of over 200,000 people each year, many visitors are not familiar with where their food comes from, or how the products and byproducts of agriculture exist in their lives. Whether guests attend a concert, carnival or the Free Kids Zone, we invite everyone to explore our Agricultural exhibits such as: The Birthing Center, Milking Parlor, Maryland Ag Ed Foundation Mobile Ag Lab, Fiber Tent, City Streets, Country Roads, the Duck Slide, etc. for a complete list; Gffair.com/free.

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Entertainment Lineup

ON THE VISIT FREDERICK STAGE

Buy your tickets and check out our NEW Website: thegreatfrederickfair.com/tickets

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9/15	Gin Blossoms, Sugar Ray, Tonic, & Fastball
9/16	Zach Williams
9/17	Dirt Drag
9/18	Tractor Pull
9/19	Demo Derby - Cars
9/20	Demo Derby - Trucks/Vans/Figure 8
9/21	Elle King with The Red Clay Strays
9/22	Tracy Byrd with Jo Dee Messina
9/23	Walker Hayes

HISTORY

The real history of the Strawberry Daiquiri

Michael Hillman

During a renovations aimed at turning the old summer kitchen in my old farmhouse into a library, it was necessary to tear down one of the original walls. Much to my surprise, the falling plaster revealed a package securely stowed between two beams. Intrigued, I reached down and carefully unwrapped it. Inside was a bundle of hand written stories and a carefully sealed envelope, on which was written the following:

Folklore: The blending of historical and ludicrous facts, often the result of delusions brought about by the fermented juices of sugar cane.

As I carefully open the envelope, the unmistakable smell of summer strawberries knocked me to the floor. When I awoke, I found the content of the packages spread all around me. Dizzy, I picked up the closest story and began to read ...

Back in the days before refrigerators, ice was a precious commodity. Because of its value, ice was harvested all winter long from Tom's Creek and its tributaries. Once the ice had achieved sufficient thickness (usually 6 inches), it was cut into sheets and carted off to ice barns. Ice barns, or ice cellars to be more accurate, were large pits in the ground below normal barns, surrounded by thick layers of straw for insulation. Once the pit was full, another thick layer of straw was placed over the cold treasure. Ice, of sufficient quantity, and properly insulated, would last well into the hot summer months.

For the better part of the

1800's, the Zacharias' family was known for their ice cream. Mathias Zacharias discovered the recipe for ice cream back in 1805 when he was experimenting with methods to improve the time milk could be kept fresh. Well aware that salt was effective in maintaining meats, Mathias took the bold step of mixing salt with crushed ice, and packed the mixture around an old sugar canister which he had filled with cream. Mathias instructed his children Mathias, Christian, John, and Mary, to stir the milk aggressively once an hour and headed off to do his farm chores.

The following day as Mathias loaded his canisters of milk onto the wagon for his daily trip into town; the cap fell off the canister of cream that had been chilled, spilling a thick goo all over the buck board. When Mathias returned with a pail of water to wash the spill away, he discovered his children fighting over the goo. Mathias, always quick on the uptake, realized that he might be onto something.

Over the ensuing year, Mathias fine-tuned his process for making his "ice cream". The most significant advancement, the idea of adding fruits to flavor it, is credited to his wife Ann. Over the years, Ann tried many fruits, with varying degrees of success. Her strawberries however, which she cultivated in a special little patch on the northeast corner of the farm, were renowned for their sweetness and were always a hit when added to Mathias' ice cream.

In 1814, the Zacharias family summer ice cream socials were interrupted by the British inva-

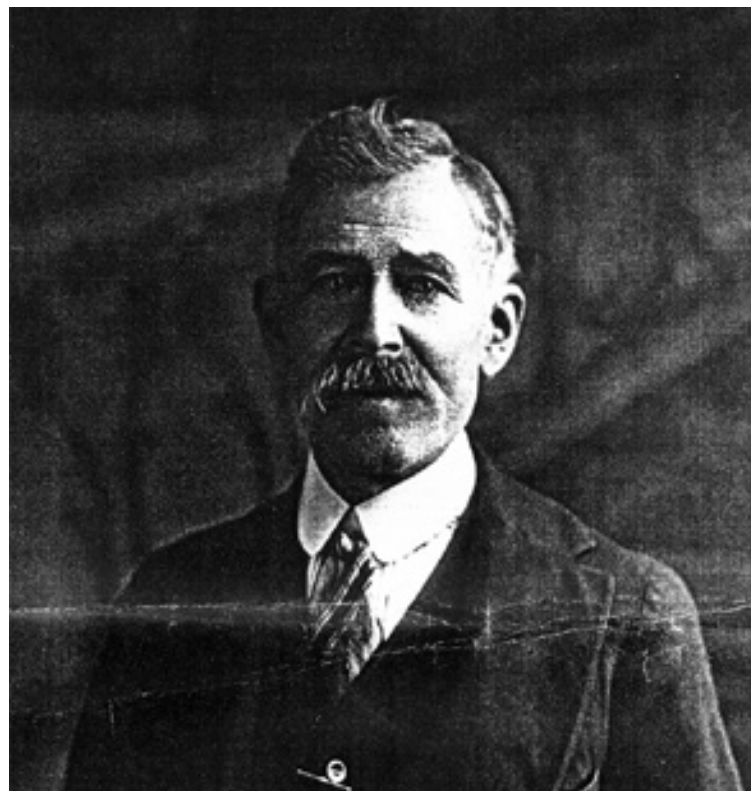
sion of Maryland and the capture of Washington D.C. Having been present at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, Mathias could not restrain himself, and joined in the effort to recapture the capitol. As fate would have it, Mathias arrived just as the British were withdrawing. Being one of the first soldiers on the scene, Mathias was requested to inspect the President's house, which the British had attempted to burn.

On completing his assignment, Mathias was greeted by a grateful Dolly Madison, who rewarded his courage with a keg of rum that the British had forgotten. While humble by nature, Mathias was nevertheless flattered at being recognized by an individual of such importance. Feeling the need to return her kindness, Mathias was chagrined that the only thing he thought worth offering was his recipe for ice cream. However, Dolly, who was known for the lavish parties she gave, was always on the lookout for new ways to entertain. She listened attentively and took notes as Mathias told his tale.

When he was finally done, Mathias felt a little embarrassed, as if he had not given enough. Almost as an after thought, Mathias turned to the burnt Presidential house and remarked that a coat of white paint would make it look good as new. Dolly turned to the house, nodded her head and agreed, "Yes, white would look nice."

As he started to leave, Mathias turned one last time, "Up in our parts, we name our houses, you should give it a grand name after you paint it white."

Dolly smiled at Mathias and



Confederate spy James Welty, who went by the code name 'Daiquiri'.

thought for a minute. "How about something grandiose, like um, Thurmont House?"

Mathias caught himself as he was about to laugh. "I'm not sure that would work, how would someone out of town know what to look for?" Mathias looked about him at the many colors that adorned the surrounding houses and after reflecting for a minute proposed: "How about simply calling it the White House. It will be the only white one on the block, so it will be easy to find."

The president's wife shook her head in amazement at his lack of imagination, but wishing not to offend him, agreed to consider his suggestion and take it up with the President.

With Washington safely back in American hands, Mathias returned to his farm. As for his

ice cream recipe, it was a hit in the Washington social scene, and as everyone knows, Dolly Madison was given credit for inventing it.

The story now fast-forwards to June 1863. Christian Zacharias, who had inherited Single Delight, the family farm, was carrying on the family tradition of ice cream socials. With tension high over rumors that the south was planning to invade Maryland, conversations turned to incidents that occurred the last time Maryland was invaded. Christian's rendition of his father's chance meeting with Dolly Madison and his claim that ice cream had been invented by the Zacharias family, met with hoots and hollers from the assembled neighbors and friends.

Taunted with "prove it's, a jury



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HISTORY

of men were selected to view his evidence. After swearing an oath of secrecy, Christian led the group down into the basement of his ice barn. Much to the amazement of the group, Christian pulled away a false wall, behind which sat a keg of rum, stamped with a Royal Navy seal dated 1813. Returning to the social, the jury unanimously voted in front of all that the evidence they had seen proved conclusively that Christian's claim that Zacharias had invented ice cream was indeed true. And true to their oath, the jury refused to divulge the nature of the evidence they had seen.

For the following week, Christian and his neighbors worked feverishly to bring in the year's first cutting of hay, all the while however, their minds were on that keg of rum. With the hay safely put away, Christian and his friends gathered at the appointed hour in the woods next to his mother's old strawberry patch, which his wife Sarah was now tending. The keg of rum was quickly tapped and a portion of its contents passed around to all the celebrants. Being prohibitionists by nature, the rum brought on much coughing, gasping, and throat clearing.

The record gets a little bit fuzzy here but sometime during that evening it was supposedly suggested by someone that fruit should be added to 'smooth' the taste of the rum. All eyes turned in unison, to the well-tended strawberry patch.

'Hey Christian, your wife's strawberries tasted pretty sweet in that ice cream last week, do you think she'll notice if we take any.'

Christian hemmed and hawed. Stealing away and drinking rum with his friends was one thing but plundering his wife's strawberry patch was another, especially if they were going to be added to the rum. The rum however got the better of him, and within minutes of giving his go ahead, the group

descended upon the patch like locust upon a wheat field.

Once securely back in the woods, the strawberries were mashed and mixed with the rum and ice. The addition of the strawberries met with everyone's approval, and over the ensuing evening, the quantity of the various ingredients were altered and tested to produce the 'perfect smoothness'. As the evening progressed, the conversation turned to the war and the talk of Lee's intended invasion of Maryland and the Union's intention to block the advancement at Emmitsburg.

Unbeknownst to the party participants, James Welty had been recruited as a spy for the Confederacy. Because of his handsome appearance, and debonair style, he had drawn the attention of the French officers advising General Lee and was given the code name 'Daiquiri' by them. While James' neighbors fell under the influence of the rum, James sat back and listened, gathering valuable intelligence on local food supplies, foraging conditions, union troop strength, and possible union fortification sites.

It was late in the evening when the last drop of the rum was consumed. Those who could still manage to walk, loaded those unable to, into wagons. Swearing an oath never to reveal the night's debauchery, all headed off in their own direction. The wagon train back to Emmitsburg was long and boisterous, much to the dismay of the other partygoers, who were trying to sneak back into their own houses.

That evening, June 15, 1863, the great Emmitsburg fire occurred, starting in the livery stables of Gunther & Beam, the final destination of the boisterous wagon train. The origins of the fire and its relationship to the first Stony Branch Daiquiri party I'll leave to the reader's imagination. Suffice it to say, the next

day, party participants were universally mum about their activities the night before.

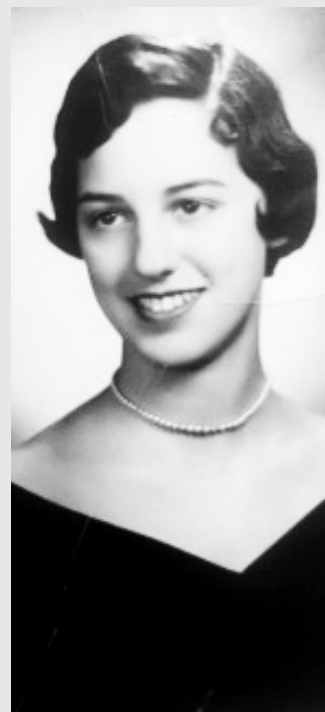
The final recipe for the strawberry rum drink invented that night would have been lost to antiquity if not for the efforts of James Welty. Being the only one sober of mind throughout most of the evening, James recognized a great business when he saw one, or in this case, drank one. James wrote the final recipe down, shoved it into his pocket and then joined the others in polishing off the rum. Unfortunately for James, the rum obliterated his memory of all the intelligence he had gathered on the union positions around Emmitsburg and Gettysburg. Without his vital information, a frustrated Lee proceeded into the North blind, and stumbled into Gettysburg. Following the defeat at Gettysburg, their paths crossed one last time, Lee's only comment to Emmitsburg's Confederate spy was "Gettysburg, the war, all lost because of Strawberries, Daiquiri?"

A disgraced James returned to the south where, to make ends meet, he began marketing the strawberry and rum mixture under his code name: Daiquiri. It became an instant success. The fortune James made however was short lived. The collapse of the southern cause, and with it the Confederate currency, erased all his profits. The Strawberry Daiquiri, however, lived on, and as we know, became the mainstay of many a Southern social party.

Before he died James passed the original recipe for Stony Branch Strawberry Daiquiris onto his niece Mary A. Welty, who in 1888, purchased the windy meadow upon which lay the strawberry patch planted by Mary Zacharias one hundred years before. Before selling her home to James Schealy in 1918, Mary documented for posterity, the above story and sealed it in a wall, along with seeds from the original plot and a treasure trove of other memorable stories and folklore that have graced the pages of this paper over the past 15 years.

To read other articles related to Emmitsburg's history, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

Marlene Barbara Casertano-Hess



lege in 1957. Marlene became an art teacher in Pelham, NY before becoming a full-time mother and housewife. She married Charles S. Hess, Jr. August 18, 1956 and spend the next 65 years together before his death in 2021. During those years Marlene raised her children and grandchildren all the while serving her Lord.

Marlene is survived by her daughter Corinna Matijevic and her husband John and grandchildren Alexandria and Stevi-Ann and her great-grandson, Christian, her son Charles Hess and his wife Jennifer and grandchildren Claire and Gillian, along with her 2 sisters Cynthia Robertson of Cheshire, CT and Phyllis Smith of Milford, CT. Marlene is preceded in death by her husband Charles and brother Nicholas Casertano.

Marlene has touched so many peoples lives and a Mass of Celebration of Life was held will be July 21 at St. Anthony Maronite Church, Danbury, CT.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to Catholic Charities Adoption Services as Marlene and Charles adopted their 2 children. Donations should be sent to Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.

Marlene Barbara Casertano-Hess, age 89 formerly of Rye Brook, NY passed away peacefully July 6, at her daughters home in Newtown, CT. She moved to Emmitsburg in 1998 and then moved to Newtown in 2022.

She was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg and was instrumental in the Rosary Congress in New York. Marlene graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1955 with a BA in Fine Art and a Masters in Art Education from Hunter Col-

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 3

President Harding Dead

President Harding died almost instantly, Thursday night in San Francisco, due to a stroke. He was taken ill on the return journey from Alaska with ptomaine poisoning, which developed into pneumonia, and for nearly a week was critically ill; but his attending physicians were about ready to issue a bulletin saying he was out of danger, when the fatal stroke came.

Mrs. Harding and two nurses were in the room at the time, and Mrs. Harding was reading to the President. Then, without warning, a slight shutter passed through the body of the President, he collapsed and the end came. He was 57 years of age.

President Harding was perhaps the gentlest, kindest man ever occupying the Presidency and has had less harsh criticism than any other. His honesty was above suspicion, and there was nothing of the calculating politician in him. He was a gentleman of the old school.

It is a general expectation that Mr. Coolidge will rush to Washington and be prepared to take the oath of office as President at once, the sixth Vice-President to assume such duties by succession.

Oil Drilling To Start Again In Thurmont

After lying dormant for more than a year, six stockholders of the Annie Laurel Oil and Gas Company, claiming to own the majority of the stock of the corporation, called a meeting of the shareholders in the Town hall.

It seems that the stockholders are anxious for operations to resume. It will be recalled that delays and difficulties have plagued this oil drilling company. The place where the effort to secure oil is on the farm of Caleb Merritt. Machinery was purchased and drilling began. It was claimed that the depth of 1,000 feet was reached and that they were excellent signs of oil.

Geologist have made a study of this section and reported favorably on the prospects for oil. It was a result of the scientific reports

that the effort was undertake. One of the men interested in the company stated that the best option was that no oil could be expected unless a depth of 1,500 feet was reached. One expert oilman says the minimum depth for oil at 2,500 feet.

For a time excitement ran high when it was rumored that oil was near. Should the work be resumed it is expected that interest will be revived in this unusual project.

Heavy Rains Break Drought, Brings Flooding

The rains that began last Saturday and continued through Monday have broken the long drought.

On Sunday afternoon during the heavy rains, while Gordon Smith was returning from Keymar, he found that Big Pipe Creek had risen so that the road was impossible to travel with horse and buggy. He left the buggy at Charlie Willhide's, and started to ride the horse home. As he started to cross the cement bridge, a falling limb frightened the horse, causing her to plunge over the side of the bridge into the deep water.

The horse went under the water, while Smith held onto the reins. As she came up, he threw himself across her back. The horse then swam to a tree on an inland in the creek. With Smith still on the horse, they spent nearly one hour there against the tree.

Fortunately David Harmon and son rescued the man by riding horses in as far as they could to meet the other horse. She then started to swim to meet their horses, and soon they were brought to safety. Neither Smith nor the horse was hurt.

Flooding did much damage along Rock Creek in Harney. We were told that the water was much higher than it was ever known. Harry Heintselman house was partially flooded, the water being up to the doorknobs of the first floor. About 25 bee hives were washed away and all of his large flock of chickens, but 17, were drowned.

At Murray Fuss's, the water covered the porch flooring and was only about 2 inches from running through the kitchen. Further down

the creek, corn was washed flat and fences are all gone. Firewood, logs and lumber of all kinds were taking down the stream. At David Yingling's, a fine lot of black walnut timber was taken away by the water.

Oiling Earth Roads

The State Highway Department will apply in oil treatment to the Gettysburg-Fairfield Road in order to lay the dust for the convenience of the motorist. This is an application of oil, which quickly soaks into an earth road and dries within a few hours, so the cars are not splattered. Oil application has aided very materially in the past and reducing the dust nuisance from both the motorists and for those who live along earth highways.

August 10

Banks & Businesses Close for Harding Funeral

The banks are closed today, and stores and other businesses will be closed either all, or part of the afternoon in respect to the late President Harding. Post Offices in every town had the fronts appropriately draped in morning out of respect for the death of President Harding, a procedure that was no doubt generally observed throughout the country.

Accident In Bridgeport

Frank Chambers is in serious condition as a result of an accident, which occurred on Tuesday morning, on the State Road at Cattail Branch Bridge. A herd of cattle, belonging to Ernest Smith, being driven by Mr. Chambers to the pasture, became frightened by a passing car, throwing him to the ground and rendering him unconscious. Mr. Chambers was at once removed to the hospital, where he was examined and found to have five broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Rocky Ridge Community Picnic

The annual picnic at Mount Tabor Park, Rocky Ridge, will be held, on Saturday, August 11. The people of Rocky Ridge have shown a community spirit

The Hall Mark

Fishermen's Luck on The Pennsylvania of Service

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STONE HARBOR	OCEAN CITY	BAY HEAD
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The people of Rocky Ridge and vicinity are largely thrifty farmers, and many are engaged and working in various capacities for the Western Maryland Railroad. They're always

ready to work together for the common good, and a more moral and law-abiding set of people does not exist anywhere in the country. It is one of the oldest settlements in Frederick County, having been established years before the revolution, more than a century and a half ago.

Annual Church Picnic Held

The largest crowd in history attended the annual picnic of the Saint Joseph's Catholic Church at the Fireman's Field, in Emmitsburg, Wednesday afternoon. This is the first time the picnic has been held at any place other than the rectory grounds. The picnic opened at one o'clock and the grounds were crowded by hundreds of people from Emmitsburg, Taneytown, Rocky Ridge and surrounding sections.

Towards the evening the Emmett Coronet Band gave a concert, which was enjoyed by the large crowd. A new

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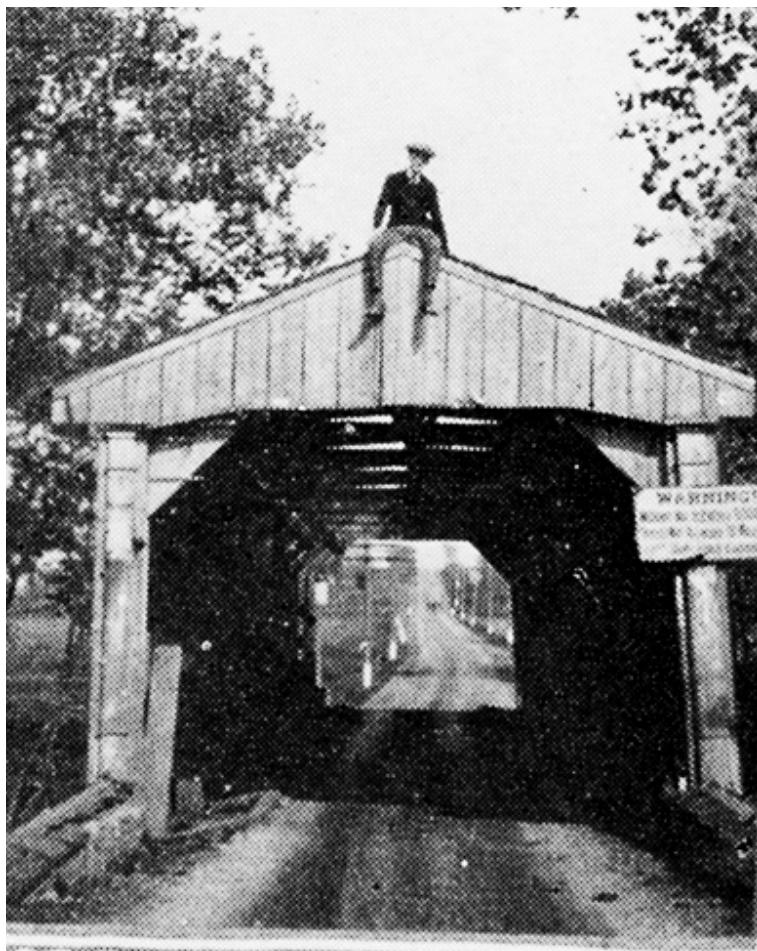
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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH



The old covered bridge over Toms Creek on the old Emmitsburg Pike was torn down 100 years ago this month.

attraction was the baseball game play between the Emmitsburg team and the Fairfield team. The Fairfield team won the game 13 to 5.

August 17

Tolling of Belles for President Harding

The tolling of all the bells in the towns, last Friday afternoon, from four to 5 o'clock, will likely be remembered by the younger generation, for many years. It ought to be remembered, not as a mere fact, but that it represented the countries morning for its beloved President – an expression of universal honor.

Cool Weather Succeeds Heat

Comfortably cool weather settled down upon the area on Monday, but it will be taking its departure quickly, according to the weather sharks. The highest temperature was 74 and the low for the day was 65. A cool breeze prevailed during the greater part of the day. And with the coming of the evening the wind became cooler and at midnight all indications pointed to the coldest night for the month of August,

ensuring all the harassed inhabitants of the County a comfortable nights rest.

Arrest Made In Harris Brothers Break-in

On Tuesday, August 7, night thieves entered Harris Brothers Store in Taneytown, and wearing apparel and a suitcase were stolen, total value about \$75. On Monday of this week the suitcase was found in James Hill's cellar, which afterwards was removed to George Frealing's cellar, and Frealing reported it to Harris Brothers and an investigation was started, with the results that Webster Bartlett was arrested at Samuel Hill's home, and while the handcuffs were being applied, made his getaway from Sheriff Martin and deputies. Several shots were fired, one of which lodged in Bartlett's leg.

On Wednesday morning, another search was made, and Bartlett was located at the Harris' home, on the Emmitsburg Road, about a mile from Taneytown, and he was re-arrested, and placed in jail for action of the grand jury. Bartlett is also wanted in Reading, for assault, also on theft of an auto.

Rush Work On State Road

Work is being rushed to completion on the various state highways in Fred-

erick Counties according to information given out at the office of the district engineer. The work of constructing one mile of concrete highway from the end of the concrete on West Main St., Emmitsburg, to the Pennsylvania state line will be completed next week.

The constructing an 80-foot concrete bridge to replace the old covered Bridge over Toms Creek, south of Emmitsburg, will begin on Monday. It is expected to take only two days to tear down the old dilapidate bridge.

A force of hands have commence to work on constructing one mile of concrete road from Graceham to Rocky Ridge. Since this work is mostly relocation no detour is necessary.

Car Hit by Train

Carroll Lescalet, of Four Points, was driving a truck for Frank Sneeringer of Bruceville, was caught by the Pennsylvania passenger train which is called the short run, coming out from Frederick, last Saturday evening. Mr. Lescalet and his little son were crossing the railroad about one mile south of Taneytown when he was caught by the train. The train stopped and brought him to Keymar station where he was cared for by a nurse and doctor, and then rush to the Frederick City Hospital. The little son escaped with no injuries. The truck was turned upside down and Mr. Lescalet and his son made a very narrow escape from death.

Crop Conditions In Maryland

The bulk of the corn crop is making a quick recovery from the effects of the prolong dry spell. It is now growing rapidly and is earring well. Harvesting of sugar corn continues. But the thrashing of wheat and rye and cutting of oats has been delayed by the showers of last week. Pastures show further improvement, and in general are better than any time since early Spring.

Taking of early potatoes has ended generally, except in the mountain regions. Sweet potatoes are also being dug. Tomatoes are ripening, and are doing well generally and harvesting is becoming general. Tobacco has improved, is in good condition and is nearing a ripening stage. Harvesting of cantaloupes, early varieties of apples, peaches, pears and trunk crops continues. The ground continues well saturated.

August 24

Cold Snap

The cold snap that suddenly develop early this week, has been pretty wide, with near freezing in some sections; and the temperatures were below 50° in the County Wednesday night, and Thursday night, is said to be the lowest record for August since 1896.

Farm Bureau Picnic Held

A picnic was held in Shriver's Woods, near Emmitsburg, on Wednesday, under the auspice is of the Emmitsburg Farm Bureau local. There will be contest including cash prizes and other events of interest are scheduled. A cash prize will be given for the largest pig raised by any member of the pig club of Emmitsburg; prizes will be awarded for draft horses and poultry. The scenic ground, a short distance from Emmitsburg, is an ideal spot to spend a days outing.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

August 31

Creditors Seek Action Against Annans

The Frederick County Grand jury will be asked to investigate the matter of conducting the business of the bankrupt banking firm of Annan & Horner Co. of Emmitsburg, leading towards possible criminal proceedings against members of the firm.

Testimony was taken at the courthouse, last week, after creditors notified the States Attorney that they would appear and submit evidence, which in their opinion justified criminal proceedings against the firm.

Dr. Jamison and others testified to the fact that they had transacted business with the bank at a time when the institution was insolvent, but were assured by Annan Horner, one of the firms members, that the bank was solvent.

The transactions including depositing money which they have not been able to withdraw and making payments to loans which were not credited to their accounts, but instead, the money was

deposited with another bank as collateral security, and upon which judgments were obtained against the original signers.

Depositors claim that practically no assets are available and that they will lose all their savings. They also allege misappropriation of the banks funds and are now seeking to institute a criminal proceeding against its individuals.

Dies After Leg Cut Off

Charles Kelly, age 42, of Thurmont, died shortly after his leg had been cut off at the knee while at work in the Western Maryland Railroad yard. Kelly entered the employ of the railroad company only a few days ago. He was gauging tracks and was standing against a caboose when a shifting rail struck the car, sanding it towards Kelly, who is kneeling. Kelly perceive the danger but was unable to totally extract himself in time to escape the oncoming car, which struck his left leg near the knee and left it hanging by a thread.

He was rushed to the hospital but died soon after his leg was amputated. Death was due to shock and hemorrhage. The body was brought to Thurmont Monday afternoon and later removed to his father's home.

Loses Second Mill

Fire, believed to have been started by robbers, destroyed the Mount Hope Mill in Franklin County, Tuesday morning. The mill was built of stone 100 years ago and was one of the oldest flower mills in the county, but was equipped with modern machinery.

Henry Bean, owner of the mill, arrived on the scene only after the fire was so fierce that he was unable to enter the office to get his books. The mill burn to the ground with a loss of \$15,000. There was 1,200 bushels of wheat, corn, flour and feed in it.

Mr. Bean has been operating the mill for two years. Three years ago his mill at Zora, was burnt. It was after this misfortune that he moved to Franklin County.

When Mr. Bean dug into the ruins of the fire to find his books, he found the lock of the safe had been blown off, and this causes him to believe that robbers had entered the safe, which contain no money, and accidentally started the fire.

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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS - FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

Submitted by John Ashbury

August 3

Mistakes happen. On August 3, 1868, an incident occurred which immediately aroused the sympathy of Frederick citizens and initially maligned the reputation of a local pharmacist.

The daughter of H. F. Steiner was ill with cholera in mid-summer that year. The doctor was summoned and he issued a prescription to the child's mother. She took it to the pharmacy of Holbrook and Walter.

When told it would be some time before it could be filled, Mrs. Steiner said she had to return home to attend the child and would send her 8-year-old son to pick it up later. When the boy arrived at the pharmacy later, the prescription was still unfilled, but the pharmacist immediately set about making it up. When he finished, he discovered that the boy had left the store.

Several days later it was realized that the boy had taken a vial of Fowler's Solution of Arsenic, which had been prepared for another customer. A few doses of the solution was administered, but the little girl's condition grew worse. The doctor was again summoned. Shortly afterward she died.

A week or so after the little girl was buried it was learned that another Steiner child had also taken the Fowler's Solution of Arsenic but had suffered no ill effects. The pharmacist received a letter from the Steiner family absolving him of any blame in the matter. The wor-

ries of Fredericktonians over the competence of the pharmacist were thus relieved.

August 10

The youngest man to ever serve as Governor of Maryland was a native son of Frederick County, who lived on East Second Street and practiced law here.

Enoch Lowe was born on the family farm in 1820. When but 9 years old he entered St. Johns College in Annapolis. In the 1830s he went to Ireland to attend Clongore's College and later went to England to study at Stoneyhurst. After graduating he made a grand tour of Europe and returned to Frederick to study law.

He was admitted to the bar in 1842. He quickly became an eloquent and persuasive speaker and gained wide recognition. In 1845 he was elected to the House of Delegates, where he was a great reformer, championing the revision of the state's criminal code.

In 1850 he was nominated by the Democrats for Maryland Governor even though he had not yet attained the required age of 30 years, though he celebrated his 30th birthday prior to the election. He was elected with a majority of only 1,492 votes. It was during his administration that the state's Constitution was rewritten.

After his term as governor, Lowe became a strong advocate of the Southern cause and attempted to get Maryland into that camp. He moved to Richmond and contin-

ued his efforts to get his native state to secede. "The final defeat of the Confederacy brought a gloom to his soul."

He returned to Maryland but found he could not support his wife and 11 children, so he moved to Brooklyn, where he died in 1892, of complications following surgery for gout.

August 17

On the evening of August 17, 1911, more than 1,500 people gathered near the intersection of West Church and North Court Sts. to honor one of Frederick's pioneers.

Marie Diehl had devoted much of her adult life to the care and protection of all sorts of animals. She was the driving force, and the organizer of the local chapter of The Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

On this hot August night, a fountain, with drinking bowls at numerous levels, including one almost at ground level, was dedicated to her memory. It was made of brass and stood 18 feet high. The various bowls provided a place for animals to get a drink of water.

Joseph Baker offered appropriate remarks. He cited her devotion to her family and particularly, her kindness in the care of animals. He said that she always had a smile for everyone, no matter their station in life.

"Even through those years of her own struggle, she had in her heart and mind that great quality of mercy that was not only displayed toward her fellow beings, but which reached down to the animal creation, and her devotion to duty as she saw it in looking after the interests of the society which she so ably represented, showed a courage and devotion which must have made an impression in this community that not only today sends forth its light, but will be handed down to others who will follow us."

"Miss May," as she was called, had taken care of her ailing mother for years and had failing health herself. When she left Frederick just months before her death, she knew her time was short, but she still displayed a brightness and cheerfulness. It is to her memory that we today unveil this fountain that is to furnish refreshing drink especially for the animals of the town of Frederick, and nothing more appropriate could have been done as a memorial to her than the erection of this beautiful fountain which we here dedicate to her memory," Mr. Baker concluded.

August 24

One of the real jewels in Frederick County is located just south of Emmitsburg is Mount Saint Mary's College, founded by Father John Dubois, who was born in Paris in 1764.

As the French Revolution progressed, all priests were required to take an oath of allegiance to the crown. Father Dubois found this impossible and he fled his native land for America. He carried with him letters of introduction from the Marquis de Lafayette, and quickly found friends on the shores of the New World.

In 1794 he was appointed the pastorate in Frederick. Because his pastorate covered all of Western Maryland, Father Dubois travelled a great deal, particularly into those areas where Roman Catholics had settled. It had been a fond wish of Father Dubois to establish a college and a seminary. On September 24, 1808, Mt. St. Mary's College opened for the first classes.

In 1826, Father Dubois was asked to take over the Catholic Church in New York, and on October 29 that year he was consecrated its bishop. Before leaving Frederick and Emmitsburg, Father Dubois, on behalf of the college, signed an agreement whereby Mount Saint

Mary's became the diocesan seminary for New York for five years. In this manner he guaranteed the survival of his school.

Father Dubois only returned to his beloved Mount Saint Mary's once after his consecration as bishop in 1826. Of his summer of 1842 visit it has been written: "The whole population of the country around poured forth to welcome their benefactor and to ask a Father's blessing from him. It was as if a patriot were returning in triumph to his country."

August 31

On November 24, 1790, John Schley, who is credited with building the first house in Frederick Town, and who is also credited with being the father of the first white child born in Frederick Town, died.

To him a great deal of gratitude is owed. For it was John Schley who laid the foundation for the remarkable community that grew up with him and after him.

According to The Key, a newspaper published in the late 1700s in Frederick Town, Schley "had the satisfaction of seeing a dreary wood, late the habitation of bears, wolves, deer, etc., and the occasional hunting ground of the dreary savage, converted into a flourishing town surrounded by a fertile country, smiling with yellow harvest and comfortable farm houses, interspersed with handsome seats, the happy reward of enterprising, persevering industry."

Schley was a school teacher and very active in his church, The German Reformed. He actively worked for the construction of the house of worship we call Trinity Chapel today.

The Reverend Michael Schlatter, a noted German Reformed missionary and church organizer, said of him: "It is a great advantage to this congregation that they have the best school master I have met in America. He omits neither diligence nor labor in teaching the youth and edifying the congregation with all his ability by singing and reading the Word of God and printed sermons on every Lord's Day."

From this passage, many historians have assumed that Schley was the town's first choirmaster as well as school teacher. It has also been assumed that Schley filled the role of minister to the congregation when the parish was without one.

When he died in 1790 at the age of 78, he was buried in the graveyard at the rear of Trinity Chapel. But when the graves there were relocated, his could not be located. Thus, John Thomas Schley rests today in the middle of the town whose remarkable success for 253 years could truly be called of his making in its formative years.

To read past editions of Frederick County History, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Taneytown's Forgotten Son: Army Specialist Jeffrey Colbert

As summers come and go, people traditionally embrace the beginning with Memorial Day and celebrate around mid-season with the 4th of July. However, it is essential to reflect on whether we genuinely honor and appreciate the men and women who made these significant moments possible. In Taneytown, numerous heroes have made immense sacrifices, some even paying the ultimate price, yet their stories often remain unheard and unacknowledged.

Among these brave individuals are Sterling Galt and John Buffington, both of whom received the prestigious Medal of Honor for their bravery. These individuals and others like them have contributed significantly to the freedoms and liberties we cherish during these celebratory times.

Another hero, SPC Jeffrey Colbert, deserves special mention. On April 14, 1994, he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country—a memorial sign on Route 140 stands as a lone testament to his bravery and sacrifice. Still, unfortunately, many people are unaware of the profound tragedy that took not only SPC Colbert's life but also that of twenty-five other service members and officials.

On April 14, 1994, the tragic incident unfolded in northern Iraq, resulting in the loss of two U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters carrying 26 crew members and passengers. The events leading to the tragedy were attributed to a series of errors, with the responsibility ranging from the higher-ranking officials overseeing Operation Provide Comfort Task Force to the ground level.

According to Steve Davies' book, "F-15C Eagle Units in Combat," the day began with the launching two F-15Cs, 'Tiger 01' and '02,' flown by Capt. Eric Wickson (lead) and Lt Col Randy W May (wingman) on an airspace sweep north of the no-fly zone. Simultaneously, two UH-60s departed from Zakhu, Iraq, using the call-sign 'Eagle' and informed the

AWACS (call sign 'Cougar') of their departure point and destination. The AWACS controller, however, failed to pass this critical information to the F-15 pilots, who needed to be made aware of the presence of friendly helicopter flights in the same airspace they were assigned to patrol.

Wickson detected radar contacts on low-flying, slow-moving aircraft approximately 52 miles north of the no-fly zone's southern boundary and 40 miles southeast of his position. A minute later, the Individual Friend or Foe (IFF) returns from the UH-60 were visible and identifiable as being in the exact location as Wickson's reported contacts. Yet, AWACS still did not inform the 'Tiger' flight of the presence of IFF data in the target area. Wickson locked the target up and initiated his IFF interrogations in commercial and military modes. Each six-second-long attempt failed to elicit a response. 'Tiger 01' and '02' moved in closer to make a visual identification.

Wickson misidentified the helicopters as enemy aircraft, initially labeling them as "Hind" and then correcting to "Hip" before updating the identification back to "Hind" again. "Hind" refers to the Russian-made MI-24, and "Hip" refers to the Russian-manufactured MI-8. This miscommunication led to the engagement, and both Black Hawk helicopters were shot down, causing the loss of lives and permanently impacting the F-15 Eagle's reputation.

The USAF poorly handled the aftermath of the tragedy. Initially, the two pilots faced court-martial charges, but those charges were eventually dropped, leading to controversy and criticism. The 53rd F.S., the "Tigers," struggled to recover from the incident's stain on their otherwise exemplary record. The USAF closed the 53rd F.S. to move past the incident, leaving only one Eagle squadron in the USAFE theater for future operations. The mishandling of the case's fallout further added to

the black mark against the Air Force, almost equal to the tragic event itself.

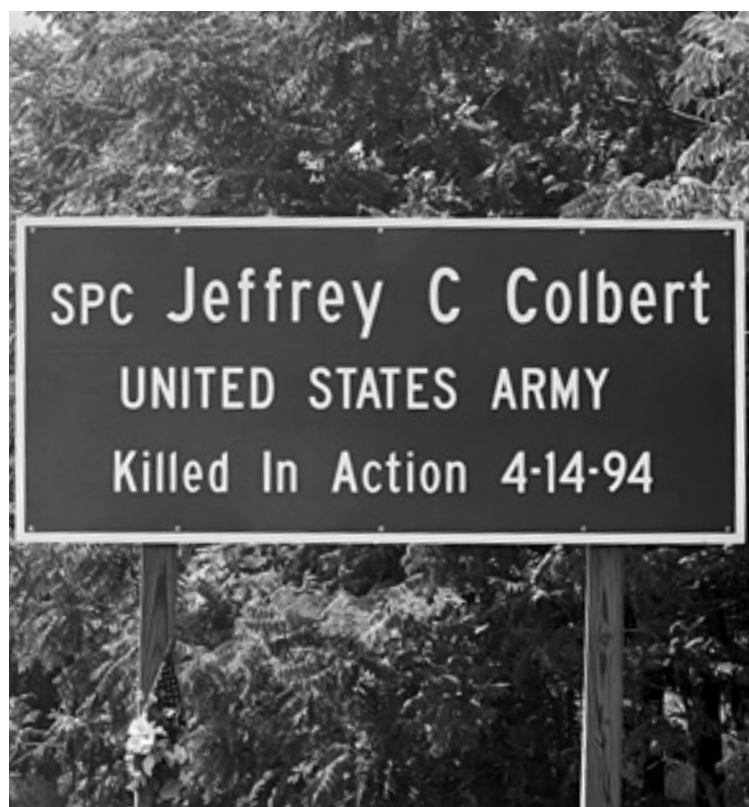
One of the twenty-six killed was Specialist Jeffrey Colbert, son of Taneytown resident Armita Colbert-Sowers. Colbert was born on May 4, 1971, and after graduating from Middletown High School in 1989, embarked on a journey with the United States Army, which had begun at the beginning of his senior year through the military's delayed entry program. Basic Training brought him to Ft. Lewis, Washington; in 1989, Colbert completed it successfully. His service took him to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, where he served in Saudi Arabia and Iraq from August 1990 to April 1991.

Following these experiences, he was deployed to Germany in the autumn of 1992, assuming the crew chief role aboard the Army's esteemed UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. His dedication led him to rotate to Turkey every two months while actively participating in Operation Provide Comfort.

SPC Jeff Colbert, a son of Taneytown, selflessly gave his life in service to his country as a member of the Eagle Flight Detachment. His bravery, unwavering dedication, and ultimate sacrifice will forever be etched in the fabric of our community. While a lone green sign on the side of Route 140 near Taneytown honors SPC Colbert's life, the community of Taneytown will forever remember him as an authentic hero, a shining star in Taneytown history.

David Buie is a resident of Taneytown and can be contacted via email at teambuie05@msn.com.

To read past editions of Taneytown History, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Remembering a Hero: A solemn tribute to SPC Jeffrey Colbert, who made the ultimate sacrifice alongside 25 others on April 14, 1994. His memory lives on silently.



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COOKING

Summer sweet treats

Sonya Verlaque

I helped out a friend at work, he had baseball tickets with this son but was scheduled to work and they were really disappointed. So, I picked it up for them. We are a small group and try to help each other out with stuff like this. The next time I saw him he brought me a lovely bottle of bourbon, but my husband and I aren't big drinkers so I didn't really know what to do with it.

While driving home - and its a long drive from WV - I was chatting with a friend and she suggested making a bourbon Pecan pie. Brilliant, although the last time we had one our friend had made it and she was Mormon and wasn't sure when to add the bourbon- so it was "potent." This recipe ensures that you cook the bourbon, so its safe to have more than one slice.

Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Pie

Ingredients

- 1 9-inch pie crust (store-bought or homemade)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup bourbon
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp salt

- 6 ozs semi-sweet chocolate chips (approximately 1 cup)
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preparation: Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Next, line a deep dish pie plate with the pie crust, set aside. Combine sugar, corn syrup and butter in a saucepan. Stirring constantly, cook over medium heat until butter melts and sugar completely dissolves. Remove from heat and cool to just above room temperature.

In a large (metal, if possible) bowl, combine egg, bourbon, vanilla and salt and mix thoroughly. Place the bowl on a damp towel on the counter, this keeps it steady for the next step. Very slowly pour cooled sugar mixture into egg mixture, whisking constantly so that the heat from the sugar mixture doesn't cook the egg mixture, I like to actually do this in a metal bowl that is pretty tall and pour it down the side of the bowl while whisking- which helps cool it.

Make sure the mixture is not hot enough to melt the chocolate too much then add the chocolate chips and pecans and stir to mix well. Pour mixture into pie shell. Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes or until set and golden on top. Serve warm or chilled and with whipped cream if you have it!

It's stone fruit season and it would be remiss if we didn't crumble something. This crumble can also be a plum, apricot or cherry - whatever you enjoy most.

Peach Crumble

Ingredients

- Crust and Crumbles
- 140 grams (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 130 grams (1 cup and 1/3 cup) rolled oats
- 155 grams (3/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt (optional)
- 150 g (2/3 cup) unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- Peach Filling
- 450 grams (2 cups) peaches, peeled and cut into small pieces
- 30 grams (2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp almond extract

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease 8 inch square oven-proof dish and line the bottom and sides with parchment paper, about 2 inches of overhang on each side. Chop the peaches into almost 1/2-1 inch pieces. First, mix the peaches with lemon juice and then with the almond extract. Next, toss with cornstarch and sugar. Set aside. Mix the flour, rolled oats, sugar, cinnamon, salt in a medium bowl. Then add the melted butter and stir with a spoon or spatula. Place 2/3 of the mixture into an oven-proof dish that is lined with parchment paper. Use your hands or a spoon to spread the mixture evenly.



Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Pie

Next, cover the crust with the peach mixture but leave the excess liquid in the bowl. You may want to use this liquid later if there a lot left as a drizzle. Sprinkle the remaining dough over the peaches. If you like you can make some big crumble pieces by squeezing crumble mixture in your hand before sprinkling. Use your fingertips to press to the crumbles so they can stick to peaches.

Bake for 33-35 minutes until the top becomes golden brown and the crumbles are crunchy. Let it cool at room temperature for almost 1 hour. Then keep in the fridge for extra 1.5 hours until it is completely cool so you can have nicely cut bars. Using the parchment paper you can lift it out of the pan and cut it into squares with a sharp knife.

To use the left over peach liquid as a drizzle for the bars once they are cooled. You can place that liquid into a small pan and heat it up to thicken it as the water evaporates. Or if it is a large amount, make a slurry of 1TBSP of cold water and 1TBSP of cornstarch and add it to the pot and bring to a boil, stirring continuously which will thicken it.

The Best Slow Cooker Pulled Pork

Every night people want dinner. If I have enough forethought, I love to use the crockpot to make a full dinner, usually have left overs and also not heat up the house in the summer. This is my favorite go to pork shoulder, and then after shredding - put in the oven for a few minutes for "burnt ends."

Ingredients

- 4 pound pork shoulder
- 2 tbsp smoked paprika
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup water

Preparation: Mix together all of the dried spices and rub into all sides of the pork. Place vinegar and water in bottom of slow cooker. Carefully add pork (so you don't wash off spices). Cover and cook on low for about 8 hours. Remove pork and shred (remove any large fatty pieces and discard). Add juices from slow cooker as desired.

You can also strain some of the juices through a fine mesh strainer into a sauce pan, and then make a slurry with 2 tbsp of water and 2 tbsp of cornstarch and add to the pan, then bring to a boil to thicken into a gravy for the meat or mashed potatoes. For brown, crispy ends, put shredded meat on foil lined baking sheet and broil for a couple of minutes in the oven (watch carefully!)

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MOMS' TIME OUT

LOL and other life lessons from my kids!

Mary Angel

The other day I watched my nine-year-old daughter say to my dad, "LOL, Poppop". To which he proceeded to laugh out loud. Then she burst out laughing herself. At that moment, she started motioning to her siblings and her father and I to look at what she could do. Then she encouraged her Poppop to laugh out loud over and over again with her LOL prompt. That was when I realized that without realizing it my girls had taught my dad (Mr. Flip-phone) texting lingo. We are talking about the man whose picture is in the dictionary next to the phrase you can't teach an old dog new tricks. He doesn't like change and often finds it completely unnecessary. The truth is the kids have taught us all something over the years.

First and foremost, would be to lose any modesty we might have. How many times have you heard a child say something completely embarrassing while in a grocery store. I have seen many a mortified parent when their small child asks why someone has "funny colored hair" or make note very loudly of a handicap, or tattoo, or weight issue. You name it and our children are going to notice it and announce it. It is all part of the learning process to notice people who are different from you. In this process I have also learned how to maintain my composure when my toddler is pointing and asking whatever question pops into their little head.

I have also learned from my kids, as they innocently ask about someone different, is that noticing and acknowledging a difference is not a problem when it is done out of curiosity and the desire to understand and not out of malice. People often make reference to the innocence of babes,

and it is that innocence that I hope my kids can hold onto all their lives.

Next, they taught me how to love myself for who I am, while still acknowledging there is always room for improvement. My sixteen-year-old daughter has struggled with her weight since she was a small child, and she has certainly gone through some roller coaster emotions because of it. When she was in elementary school, she started seeing a pediatric endocrinologist to make sure there weren't any more severe underlying causes to her weight gain. No matter what she ate or how active she was she would gain weight.

That continues today. She has to have blood work done every six months to a year, just to keep track of certain levels. Through all of this, she has grown to love herself in spite of her weight. She has chosen to focus on her beautiful hair and skin tone and gorgeous blue eye. Sometimes when she has to try on clothes she jumps back on that emotional roller coaster, but she also gets off as quick as possible. Now when she talks about losing weight it is not because of the way she looks, it is because she wants to be healthier inside and out. The older I get the more I struggle with some of the same things, and I am blown away by her positive attitude toward a healthy lifestyle and knowing that her weight is not what defines her.

When my now 24-year-old son was in 5th grade his soccer team was in the playoffs and it was down to two teams. Although he has never been very athletic, he played his heart out and even scored a goal. Eventually the game went into overtime and the players on both teams were obviously exhausted. By the end of the game our team lost by one goal. My son couldn't have been any happier to have made it all the way to the playoffs and come

so close to winning. He was congratulating the players on the other team and on ours for having played such an amazing final game of the season. Suddenly he stopped to take a breath and realized that many members of his team were either crying or mad that they had not won the game. He asked me why everyone was so upset and, "Don't they realize how amazing this is and how far we came?" I was so proud of his attitude and sportsmanship I was beaming. Even now, about 14 years later, I remember his positivity when I am having a bad day and try to emulate that in my own life.

Lastly, when my second son was little, he used to be a crack-up. He still is, as a matter of fact. He could make just about anyone laugh, no matter how bad their day, or what they were going through. He would tell the corniest jokes that made no sense, but you couldn't help but laugh. My father-in-law was victim to his humor almost every time they would come to the house. Now that he has passed away, I look back at pictures of him belly laughing at my son's antics.

Even when he was going through chemo and experimental drug treatments for his renal cell carcinoma he was still laughing because of a goofy little boy. Whether he was quoting SpongeBob, making funny faces, or cracking some joke that made no sense at all, he was always making someone laugh. I have watched him over the years cheer people up, make people smile and laugh, and on the rare occasion even bring them to tears. I guess what he has taught me is that difficulties can always be made better with a smile or a laugh. Also, not to take myself or life so seriously. This last one I need constant reminding of!

As most parents would agree my children have certainly taught me



patience, but that hasn't been as easy or as enjoyable as the rest of the lessons I mentioned. They have also taught me to bite my tongue as they have gotten older. After all, they need to figure things out on their own and sometimes they just need me to listen. Once again, this hasn't been an easy lesson to learn.

My mom loves to tell everyone that I taught her to hug. Apparently, she was not a very touchy-feely person when I was born, but I loved to hug and be close to her. She will say I forced her to be more loving. I am not sure, by her tone, that she viewed that as a good thing. My kids would say they are glad I forced her into a world

of hugging those you love, and they have certainly carried on my hugging crusade with their Meme.

I hope you all take some time to reminisce about what you have learned from your children. Whether it is emotional or practical, like how to work your smart phone or computer (God knows they are way better at technology than us) I think you will be surprised how much a child can impact and change our perspective on the world we live in. Enjoy the crazy ride of parenthood...LOL!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our students to pick and write about an August National Day, special days that often go unnoticed in our busy lives.

Sophomore

National Friendship Day

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

There are billions of people in this world, and somehow, we only meet a small section of the population—and out of this small section, there are only a select few who fall into the category of friendship. I wonder if anyone reading this knew that there is a day dedicated to just that: friendship.

National Friendship Day falls on August 26th and is a day which reminds us to recognize the friendships and bonds which we have built over the course of our lives. I would consider myself to have had quite a few insanely impactful friendships over the years. Some of the people I was friends with in high school I no longer speak to, and some of them I haven't lost contact with for a single day—it's crazy how that works, isn't it?

People come and go from our lives; yet, I am lucky enough to have had one person stick by my side for the last decade—my best friend, Madyson. We have been attached at the hip

since we were seven years old, and, having seen each other at our highest and lowest points, there's not much that could surprise either of us. This particular friendship began in second grade, on the playground during recess, and has continued through the divorce of both of our parents, different relationships and friend groups, high school, and then us moving hundreds of miles apart. Through every phase of our lives, we have always had the other there—whether in person or in heart, we are always with one another. And with connections as strong as ours, comes a plethora of memories worth honoring.

For my birthday in eighth grade Madyson gave me a "jar of memories," which was a mason jar filled with sticky notes depicting the things she loves about me, her favorite memories, and just things she wanted to tell me. I open the jar anytime I feel sad or homesick. The surprising number of memories we had made in a short period of time, now feel like a lifetime ago. I remember this one day when we had a 'best friend date'; we had our parents drop us off at Panera and we had lunch—where I wrapped a piece of bread in a napkin and stuck it in my purse (attempting to embrace my inner Aladdin)—and then we

walked to mini golf, where Mads got attacked by a bird. I don't think I have ever laughed so hard in my life!

There were also the less happy times we faced together, though; but for every single one of these times, I had this tall, blonde, goofy girl standing beside me, holding my hand through it all. At this point, we don't consider ourselves as just friends, but rather sisters. This was made evident in a text she sent me when she told me she was moving to North Carolina—the furthest we have ever been from one another in our lives: "I could never forget about you, you're my little Devy, my sister, my partner n crime, and my forever maid of honor and don't you forget that." This friendship turned into a sisterhood, and for that I am so incredibly lucky—so incredibly loved too.

Speaking of sisterhood, National Friendship Day just-so-happens to fall on my oldest sister's birthday! In a way, siblings are the first friends you ever make. Regardless of how many fights you have and the growing up or apart, your siblings are essentially where you learn what friendship is. My oldest sister, Brooke, is probably one of my best friends now. We experienced things growing up that brought us extremely close and made

it easier to lean on one another. As weird as it is watching your best friend get married, having kids, and becoming their own person with their own life, it's also really cool getting to be a part of it all along the way.

Whether it's with siblings or friends, one of the best kinds of friendships, in my opinion, are where you have someone in your life who knows you better than you know yourself—because these types of friends are those who will call you out when you need it most. As hard as it is to be called out, it's also great because they make you realize that you do have people in your life who have your back; people who want you to be the best version of yourself.

Nonetheless, all friendships change and evolve and change over the years. You can lose some, gain some, some even turn into something more—like sisterhood or, as I recently learned, a relationship. One of the best friendships I have at Mount—aside from my roommate/best friend—is with my boyfriend. I was always told growing up that the best relationships start as great friendships, and I've learned that it's not too far off from the truth.

Friendships not only teach you about other people, but they teach you about yourself. They help you

learn what's good for you, how to stick up for yourself, and so much more. We can learn a lot from the people surrounding us, even if we don't realize it. I'm incredibly lucky to have so many great friends in my life currently, and I even consider myself lucky to have the friendships that were lost over the years. We should take into account the way other people help make us who we are as we grow older, regardless of whether or not we are friends with certain people still. They had an impact on our lives at one point because of a friendship, and that impact us even as time moves on.

I urge you to take some time on August 26th to recognize and celebrate your friendships. Whether it be by telling them face to face, making plans together, or even just thinking about them with gratitude, it is a celebration, nonetheless.

Happy National Friendship Day to all my friends; those who I have lost touch with, those I still have, and even the friends I am yet to make. I would not be where I am now without any of them by my side.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior

Global Sleep Under the Stars Day

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

Very often I walk through the woods by my house. It is stunning how magical such a place can be, even to an adult, if only he is left to his own thoughts. Once, a bird landed along the path before me, in much the same way Miss Dickinson's did. Happy to have a companion, I looked for a while, expecting it to fly away and the moment to be lost soon enough. Well, the bird did not fly away, and as I moved closer, it kept hopping along beside me. Soon I had walked a good part of the path following the bird, half expecting Aslan or the Lord Jesus to be around the corner. Eventually the bird took a turn I could not follow, into a neighbor's yard, and I left begrudgingly. The birds are good friends, I think, and the older I get, the more I envy them. The birds seem to me to be content doing what they are meant to be doing – not just flying, but, among other things, sleeping outside. Birds manage their whole lives outdoors, and spend much of their time in the sky. The modern person could probably be said to live in the opposite manner.

The sky is surprising. The sky is constant; it is there for everyone to see, yet few people look up. Life keeps us from looking up, but in doing so we forget to live, we forget that there is something better, something constant, something strange,

something surprising and beautiful and lovely and messy but perfect, always above us and with us, as if enveloping the space we take up and guiding our course through the heavens. Instead, we go to sleep looking at the ceiling; We trade the stars for nightlights and security.

August 8th is Global Sleep Under the Stars Day. The whole idea of sleeping under the stars has made me think about humanity's relationship with nature. Should we be as separate as we are now from nature? Certainly not. People suffer desperately without sunlight, it seems; Vitamin D ought to be the easiest vitamin to get but deficiencies are common. Without going outside regularly, the body's serotonin levels drop, and it is difficult not to feel depressed. It is easy to realize that our concrete castles are making us feel bad; after all, we have an incredible amount in common with animals, even with birds, and animals certainly do not avoid the outdoors. I am certainly happy with my air conditioning and comfortable mattress, but I also know that desiring comfort is often an easy way to make a bad choice. It is natural of course, but it might very well lead to unnatural conditions for the human person.

I have a dog that is somewhat crazy. We found out that she is inbred, and currently she is on prozac for her clinical anxiety, and she barks all the time, etc. One night, sometime after midnight, I happened to be up, and found my dog waiting at the door for me to let her out. This is not incredibly uncommon, since dogs need to use the restroom in the middle of the night as often as their human coun-

terparts. But after waiting about ten minutes, I realized that she was not coming in; in fact she was way back in the yard and out of sight. It was winter, so I was anxious to get her back in, but I went outside looking for her. I found her contently sitting in a field of grass, not a care in the world. Already I was impressed. I tried to bring her in, but she would put both paws on me as if she were giving me a hug, and then roll onto the ground. I figured, if you can't beat them, join them, and I laid down next to her. The stars were perfect. I realized that this might be the only time she ever gets where everything is quiet. We live near a highway, which is partly why she barks so often, but at 12:30am, you couldn't hear a sound.

My dog was raised on a farm. We made the mistake of picking the puppy chasing the guinea hens (she still has an identical energy). We should have known then that a dog that had never been indoors before would always prefer the sky. I wonder if we are something like that, if we human beings are made for one thing and we are born into a broken world that keeps it from us. I don't think that we are supposed to sleep outside all the time, or even that we are necessarily made for that. I'm really not sure what I think.

I get a little teary-eyed thinking about my dog out in the field. I like to think that I understand what that's like – all the time being surrounded by unnatural noise, and only desiring something natural and quiet and simple. The birds in the air are a little freer than my dog. Sure, they are not nearly as comfortable as housepets (as often as my pets have

taken my spot on the couch, they're more comfortable than I am), but they have something that we do not have. When they go to sleep, they do not see a dark wall above them or a light in the corner, but they see the whole universe stretched out before

them. I think we would be better off if we got comfortable doing the same thing.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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AUGUST NATIONAL DAYS

Senior International Blind Dog Day

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

In the final moments of my dog's life, he couldn't see. He could barely hear. He walked slowly around the house, his body thin and frail. I can still remember the sound of his paws against hardwood floor, his collar tags ringing together. His sixteen years of life behind him, as if weighing him down. Yet, although he was quite literally blind (cataracts) and couldn't make out most noises, he still turned his head at the sound of my voice, folded his ears down and crept towards me. And just like that, I was six years old again, and he was the new puppy crawling into my lap.

I had no idea that International Blind Dog Day was a thing. Celebrated on August 23rd, this holiday appreciates dogs with blindness. As dogs have evolved with people, their health issues have related to human nature as well. The care and protection of dogs has only recently become a priority, and International Blind Dog Day serves to sensitize owners and recognize our beloved pets' disabilities which also matter.

When I first saw that this holiday existed, I immediately thought of two things: Toby, my childhood dog who passed at the age of 16 years in 2021, and a class I took last fall, called Literature and the Environment.

The English course focused on the representation of animals in literature. We read books such as *Life of Pi*, exploring the roles between wildlife and humans, and we even researched the environmental impacts humans have left on the world, and the records of this left behind in literature as well. It was a fascinating course, using literary analysis, philosophical perspectives, and scientific research to pose interesting questions—questions we've spent several classes discussing. When we reached the unit on pets, the questions grew deeper, and the discussions grew emotional.

For example: is it possible for a dog to love? Do dogs have souls? If dogs experience pain, does this suffering reveal a greater spiritual reason?

When I was young and spent my childhood growing up with Toby—playing dress up and sneaking him into my bedroom at night—I was convinced that we were best friends. Long before he developed blindness and became hard of hearing and was in constant pain, he would run circles around the backyard, play catch

with his favorite toy, and lie in the sun. I would sit down next to him and feel certain that we were best friends, that he loved me as much as I loved him.

But this Literature and the Environment course revealed theories that went against what I believed as a child. For example, the attachment theory shows how the very close relationships between pets and humans serve merely as a transaction for nurturing behaviors. In these relationships, while pets seek safety and protection, humans crave companionship. It is in our nature to believe that dogs love us, that they are here for our utility, that their pain is our pain.

As Toby grew older, and as I progressed to college, I noticed how his age slowed him down. He lost some of his hearing, and if I looked closely, I noticed what looked like blurry clouds in his right eye: cataracts. Toby couldn't see well, and I did what any human would have done. I imagined myself in his shoes—I mean, paws.

This raised another question: do animals feel emotion? Did Toby feel sad or upset that he lost his eyesight? Did he grow sorrowful over his once clear vision?

Emotions are a very subjective experience, individual to our own psychological states and processes.

However, we must assume that animals have emotions to understand the roots of their behavior and how they process positive and negative experience.

At the very end of Toby's life, when we took him to the veterinary clinic to "put him down," I wanted to know so badly if Toby felt emotion. Although he couldn't see, did he recognize this? Was he conscious of his lack of eyesight, his hard of hearing?

I held Toby for the last time, and he looked up at me with those blurred, big brown eyes, and suddenly, I was six again, staring up at my baby puppy. But I was twenty, and Toby was dying, and he couldn't see me. He was suffering every day and needed the pain to go away. And although I couldn't for sure know if he felt sad or upset or sorrowful, I knew he was unsettled. Toby didn't know what was happening, but he knew something was different.

And he couldn't see. I imagined being blind myself, hearing distant voices and being in a cold room and feeling scared, shaking and shivering.

In the final moments of Toby's life, he felt the pierce of a shot, yelped loudly, and then stopped shaking in fear. Felt his last pulses of life. Then slipped away quietly.

It was difficult, experiencing this. Toby was an amazing dog, and even

if he was just a dog, I loved him as my best friend all throughout my childhood. But when I took Literature and the Environment, only then did I reflect on the emotions we experience when going through things like this.

Toby being blind revealed a deeper type of empathy I struggled to define. How could I know for sure if he felt scared or sad when losing his eyesight? How can any human cope with this, with the knowledge that a dog might be suffering when we can't truly know this for sure? It's its own type of sadness, somewhere between feeling empty and hopeless.

But what do we know? That International Blind Dog Day exists, meaning there is so much for love for all dogs, especially those with disabilities. That there is an attachment between humans and their pets, and so what if we call this love? In its most simple definition, love is a powerful connection that transforms.

By writing about Toby and reflecting on the August 23rd holiday, I want to raise awareness to all the dogs struggling with blindness—whether they know this or not—because they are loved, fully, and this is most definitely known.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Graduate

National Thrifting Day

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

"Buy it nice or buy it twice" is generally a helpful rule of thumb when purchasing things that you'll need for years to come. Buying nice clothing, especially, can be a worthy investment—linen fabrics will be sturdier and longer-lasting than synthetic materials, and they'll likely be more breathable, too. A hand-made cashmere sweater will be softer and warmer than a sweater made from rayon that will shrink after one wash and improper dry. However, when I've looked at price tags for cashmere sweaters, it is evident to me that in this case, buying nice isn't just unnecessary, it simply isn't feasible.

However, I try to avoid purchasing cheaper clothing from fast-fashion stores. The insistent pressure to keep up with what's "in" this week, even though it will change next week, along with the darker production and labor practices of many companies that create cheap fashion, are both reason enough for me to strive to stay away. More ethical companies, however, are oftentimes more expensive, especially since the quality is usually better. But I cannot get all my clothing from all these better, nicer brands, simply because I can't afford it. So I face a dilemma: my moral preference is to avoid the fast-fashion industry, and my frugality limits the ability to "buy nice" to my heart's content.

The solution? Thrifting. The

good news is, you don't have to go to the top of the line, name-brand stores to buy things nice. You don't have to go to the best of the best kitchenware store or dorm-decorating department to find what you'll need for your new home, apartment or college life. Thrift stores often have gently-used decorations and furniture. Moreover, thrift stores are a fantastic option to not only downsize your own closet through donating gently-used items and clothing, but they are also a great place to find great-quality clothing for a fraction of the price.

If you've never gone thrifting before, I suggest you give it a try. A great day to go is August 16th, which is National Thrifting Day, a day to celebrate reusing, donating, and re-purchasing gently-used items and clothing.

I am a huge fan of thrifting, and have been going to thrift stores for years. When I was in ninth grade, my friend invited me to be her plus-one at a dance her private school was hosting. I was so excited to get dressed up in a fancy prom-dress style gown and go to this dance with my friend. But upon going to a department store to see their options for dresses, I realized that their price tags far exceeded what I could afford, and I would have to look elsewhere. For weeks, my mom and I looked at thrift stores, and had very little success, but we continued to look to find just the right dress.

We were out running errands probably a week before this dance. I still didn't have a dress, and felt like I had looked everywhere. I asked

my mom if I could just run into the local Goodwill one more time, even though I had already checked there last week. I ran in with my sister, and found their formal dress section. Lo and behold, I found a beautiful formal dress that fit perfectly. It was in almost perfect condition, and I felt lovely in it. It was probably around twenty dollars in total. The dress was perfect for the dance with my friend, and I didn't have to worry about wasting tons of money on a dress I really only wore once.

Similarly, some of my favorite outfits have been entirely thrifted. I found a top-quality maroon flannel button up I wore all through high school in the wintertime, and even through college. I have found beautiful skirts for daily Mass, and casual dresses for summertime, almost always under ten dollars. I also found the twinkling, long string of icicle lights that I hung in my dorm for a grand total of four dollars. They lasted me the entirety of my senior year, and added an element of cozy décor that helped me feel at home. One of my favorite mugs, a neat dark blue mug with a fox carved into it, was found on a thrifting adventure out with my boyfriend. In the same trip, I purchased a flower vase for 99 cents, so that the flowers my boyfriend brought me could finally have a proper place on my desk.

This year, I've been in need of some nicer shoes for fall, but have been waiting to find the right pair at the right price. Just a few days ago, I went on a double-thrifting adventure with my sister and a friend; at the first thrift store, I found a pair of tan shoes, great brand, great condi-

tion, and great for fall—that I purchased for five dollars. At the second store several miles down the road, I found the exact same pair of shoes, but in black, in near-perfect condition. Needless to say, my closet for fall is about ready to go. From all my experiences both in thrifting and finding what I need, and also by donating during spring cleanings, I cannot stress enough the value of thrift stores.

You can find a lot of treasures thrifting. You can't find everything you need, but you can find a lot, and it's worth the treasure hunt. It's also a good habit to go through your closets and get rid of what you truly don't wear, or donate that extra piece of furniture for someone else

to get good use out of.

Buying nice doesn't have to mean breaking your bank account. It can mean an outing with friends or family members to one's local thrift store—you never know what you might find. Maybe a prom dress, maybe a framed picture, maybe a new pair of shoes. Here's to August 16th, National Thrifting Day. Let's all pitch in to combat wastefulness, excessive consumerism, and the myth that buying nice means buying over-priced. Go to your local thrift store and see what treasures you might find!

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Mondays – Children’s Story Time 4-5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 - minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 - 4 p.m. Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 - 6 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – August 8 at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club

meets at 5:30 p.m. on August 15. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet August 21 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240

August at the Emmitsburg Library and Thurmont Regional Library

August is here and It’s a bittersweet month for most of us. Hot days spent in the pool, last trips to the beach, family gatherings and finally, preparing for the new school year. Here at our libraries, we continue to fill our days with fun and exciting programs for all.

At Emmitsburg and Thurmont Libraries, families can drop in and cool down with our “Beat the Heat” day on Saturday, August 5th. There will be a variety of fun activities for everyone.

The Summer Reading Challenge wraps up on August 15th, with the grand prize drawings on August 16th. Drop by any branch to pick up your finisher prizes and remember to

add your virtual tickets to the prizes you hope to win.

Emmitsburg Library has the Teen “End of Summer Pizza Party at Tuscany’s Pizzeria” on August 15 and the “Teen Clothing Swap” on August 19.

Special events at Thurmont Library on August 1, include the Children’s Author Visit with Ada Ari, who shares one of Africa’s most loved folktales. Participants will also learn a popular Ghanaian dance and interact with artifacts from the Ashanti Kingdom. Adults can discover “Francis Scott Key and the War of 1812 in Maryland” at 7 p.m. at the library, or families can enjoy Trivia Night with Thurmont Library at Thurmont’s newest restaurant 10Tavern.

Both our branches are filled with exciting and fun programs for you and your family as summer comes to an end. Visit the library website to discover so much more. Enjoy this last month of summer and we look forward to seeing you!

Emmitsburg Branch Library:

- Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.
- Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Exploration Station (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28: Little Adventures (Birth to 5), 11-Noon.
- Aug. 5: Beat the Heat (Birth-5, Elementary), 10-2:45 p.m.
- Aug. 3: Fly High with Paper Airplanes (Teens), 5-7 p.m.

Aug. 10: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Aug. 10, 24: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers (Teens), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Aug. 15: (Off-site) End of Summer Pizza Party at Tuscany’s Pizzeria (Teens), 4-6 p.m.

Aug. 19: Teen Clothing Swap (Teens), 1-3 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library

Summer Lunches: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays all summer (18 yrs. and younger), Noon-1 p.m.

Aug. 1, 8, 15, 29: Baby Storytime (Birth-18 months), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 31: Musical Storytime (Birth-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Aug. 1: Francis Scott Key and the War of 1812 in MD (Adults, All Ages), 7-8 p.m.

Aug. 1: Children’s Author Visit Ada-Ari (3-5, Elementary), 2-3 p.m.

Aug. 1: (Off-site) Trivia at 10Tavern (Adults, All Ages), 7-8 p.m.

Aug. 2: Lunch and a Movie Afternoon: Ratatouille (3-5, Elementary), 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Aug. 5: Beat the Heat (Birth-5, Elementary), 10-4:45 p.m.

Aug. 7, 14, 28: Preschool Storytime (3-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Aug. 7: Mini Masterpieces (3-5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 8: Exploding Paint Bombs (Elementary), 2-3 p.m.

Aug. 10: Tween Comedy Time (Elementary) 1-2 p.m.

Celebrating Ukrainian Needlework

In honor of Emmitsburg’s Sister City of Lutsk in Ukraine, a Ukrainian needlework exhibit is being hosted by the Emmitsburg Library, beginning August 19. A guest speaker, “Elle” Yelizaveta Prikazchiko, will speak at a reception to comment on the needlework on Thursday, August 24, at 6:45 that evening.

The exhibit features vintage and modern Ukrainian needlework on traditional, age-old patterns, supplied by Ukrainian needleworkers. This traditional needlework appears in Ukrainian folk dress, especially at weddings and other family celebrations. It varies by region in its motifs, types of stitches, and favorite colors. Flower designs often appear, signifying messages of love or blessing or protection.

The lecture is timed to coincide with Ukrainian Independence Day August 24. All are welcome to the exhibit and the reception!

Aug. 11: (Off-site) Nature Storytime & Hike at Catoctin Mountain Park (Birth-5), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 13: Storytellers on the Deck: Adam Booth (Adults, All Ages) 2-3 p.m.

Aug. 14: Starting Stem (3-5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 15: Elementary Design Time (Elementary), 2-3 p.m.

Aug. 17: Digital Learning (Adults), 10-Noon.

Aug. 18: (Off-site) Storytime on the Road (Birth-5, Elementary, All Ages), 10:30-11 a.m.

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Time to get the kids ready for school

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

Summer is quickly winding down. The first day of school for the 2023-24 school year is Wednesday, August 23.

Don't forget to enroll your student if your child is entering Pre-K or kindergarten, or you are new to Frederick County. Enrollment can be done online through the PowerSchool portal. An FCPS representative will be in contact to complete the process. You will need immunization and health records, birth certificate, proof of residency, and parent photo id. For Pre-K you will need to show income documentation. The FCPS website has a great deal of information on Student Enrollment. Go to the tab "For Families & Students" and click on the first link.

With the approach of the new school year, it's a good time to review your Find Out First notifications. If you aren't yet a subscriber, the link is on the main webpage under FCPS Quick Links. You can sign up to receive emails tailored to your interests within the school system as well as emergency-closing phone texts.

Another avenue of keeping abreast of what is happening in your child's classroom is through Schoology. Many parents/guardians look over their students' shoulders as they are log in. But did you know you can obtain your own account to review your children's progress? Contact

your local school to find out how.

Dr. Dyson has released "State of the System", an 8-minute video which explains the five core goals aligned with our priorities. We think you will agree that many positive things are happening in FCPS.

The system has launched a new FCPS Volunteer Center. If you are a current volunteer, you should have received an email. If you are a new volunteer or did not receive an email, you can find the link on the FCPS website under the tab "For Families & Students". The Family & Community Involvement link will take you to the registration page.

The Board voted to adopt adjustments to how the community can provide public comment. The time expanded from 30 minutes to 60 minutes. Previously, those wishing to make public comment would have to arrive in person to sign up. There will now be online pre-registration starting five days in advance of each scheduled BoE meeting and closing two days prior to the meeting. Walk-in registration will still be available. Additionally, there will now be a dedicated email address where written comments can be submitted, which will be included in the meeting minutes so that the public may access them along with the Board members.

For complete details, go to the FCPS website in the About the District News section. You can review the updated Policy 102, and email

Board@fcps.org with any questions. The goal is to balance the practice of having public comment, which provides valuable insights that aid the Board in decision-making, with the time needed for the Board to perform its necessary work. The changes will be implemented at the first August meeting on the 9th. If, after a settling in period, the Board can always revisit the policy and discuss possible updates.

The United Way of Frederick County is once again working with community partners to Stuff the Bus. There is a link on the FCPS website or directly from the United Way's website. Donations directly support FCPS students. While the collection period has ended, it's not too late to donate. In 2022, an estimated 90,358 items valued at \$75,054 were distributed to Frederick County students. Contact Joyce Kwame-na-Poh at JKWAMENAPOH@UWFREDERICK.ORG if you have questions.

One of the newest FCPS partnerships is with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to establish new innovative STEM centers in selected FCPS elementary schools. This was made possible by the generous support of Edgewater Federal Solutions. According to the FCPS website, in the school year 2023-24, "Stem Centers will launch at Tuscarora Elementary and Whittier Elementary".

Of particular interest to many is the so-called Crestwood Area Redi-

Back to school vaccinations for children

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) will be hosting Back to School vaccination clinics from August 1st to September 11th for children who do not have health insurance, have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations, or who are unable to get the vaccinated by their healthcare provider. Vaccinations are free for these children and appointments are required. Call 301-600-3342 to schedule an appointment.

Children who have health insurance that covers vaccinations are encouraged to see their healthcare provider.

Maryland State Law (COMAR 10.06.04.03) requires all students enrolled in prekindergarten through Grade 12 to receive age-appropriate immunizations. The Maryland vaccination requirements for the 2023-2024 school year are available here.

School vaccination requirements help protect children by making sure they are protected against vaccine-preventable disease. Children who are not vaccinated can spread diseases to

others, particularly to those who are too young to be vaccinated, or people with weakened immune systems, such as those with cancer. The school must have proof of immunizations before allowing a student to begin school. Students who have not received the required vaccinations may be unable to attend school until proof of vaccination is provided, according to Maryland requirements.

Important information for Parents/Guardians:

Children 18 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

If parent or guardian will not be bringing their child, they must send a written note giving the individual bringing the child authorization to have the child vaccinated.

All vaccinated children are required to remain at the clinic for observation after vaccination.

Only one parent or guardian may accompany children who have an appointment. Additional persons will not be admitted.

Please do not come to the vaccination clinic if child or parent/guardian has any symptoms, or are waiting for COVID-19 results.

tricting Study. There is a link on the main FCPS webpage with a great deal of information. Upcoming Community Meetings are September 6 at THS, September 7 at FHS,

September 11 at GTJHS, and the BOE Public Hearing on November 8. The Board has not yet taken action so no final decisions have been made at this time.

Board of Education modifies meeting rules

The Board of Education of Frederick County has adopted Policy 102: Meetings, which will establish the framework and public engagement opportunities governing Board meetings moving forward.

The Board values the opportunity to hear from the public. All adjustments made to Policy 102 were made to ensure all community members can share information with the Board in a variety of ways and to streamline the process for signing up to provide public comment. The adjustments will go into effect, starting with the August 9 Board meeting.

In the interest of transparency, the Board is providing this update about the changes and the opportunities for providing valuable feedback:

What is the Same

Public comment will continue to be an opportunity for the Board to listen to community members. It will not be a question-and-answer platform between the public and Board members.

Public comment must be on issues related to the school system. Comments cannot pertain to individual personnel issues, complaints identifying individual students, matters that are on appeal, or advertising or solicitations for products or services.

What is New

Time allocated for public comment: A maximum of 60 minutes will be provided, with 15 minutes for student comments and 45 minutes for general

public comments. No additional time will be added for public comment at the end of Board meetings.

Pre-Registration: Community members will be able to pre-register for public comment. Pre-registration will open five days in advance of each scheduled Board meeting with the public posting of the meeting agenda. Community members who wish to provide public comment can pre-register during the five-day registration period by calling 301-696-6965 or by completing the public comment form, which will be accessible via FCPS.org. Pre-registration will close two days before the scheduled Board meeting.

Those wishing to make public comment will have to provide a name, contact information, if the speaker is a student or not, the topic to be discussed and if an interpreter or accommodation is requested with information identifying the specific need.

Same-Day/Walk-In Registration: Those that do not pre-register may sign-up for public comment 30 minutes prior to the start of the regular evening meeting. Speakers will be asked to provide the same information as those who pre-register by completing the registration form electronically on a device provided by the Board. Registration will close no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.

Allotment of Public Comment Slots: All speakers – individuals or those representing an organization – will be limited to three minutes for their public comments. Ten public comment speaker

slots will be reserved for those who pre-register. If fewer than 10 individuals pre-register, the remaining slots will be allocated to same-day/walk-in public comments. Five general public comment slots will be reserved for same-day/walk-in public comments. Five public comment speaker slots will be reserved for students. If fewer than 5 students wish to speak, the remaining slots will be allocated to same-day/walk-in public comments.

Selection Process: Slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. To ensure equity of access and opportunity for public comment, if the number of individuals who request to speak exceeds available slots, speakers who have spoken at the most recent Board meeting will be rotated to the bottom of the sign-up list as to not unduly favor when an individual signs up.

Notification: The day prior to each identified Board meeting, individuals who were allocated a confirmed slot will be notified via email and asked to confirm their availability. The day prior to each identified Board meeting, individuals who were not allocated a public comment slot will be notified via email.

Written Comments: Individuals are provided the opportunity to and are encouraged to submit written comments electronically and email them to the address indicated on the Board's website (<https://www.fcps.org/boe/meeting-schedule>). Written comments must be submitted as a PDF attachment (strongly preferred) or a Microsoft Word document with the .doc or

.docx extension and will be uploaded to BoardDocs as part of the official meeting record. Comments in the body of an email will not be accepted.

Disruptive Conduct: If any individual fails to comply with these procedures, the Board president may

take action to ensure compliance, such as ordering the person to leave the public meeting or adjourn the meeting. Visual demonstrations such as the waiving of placards, signs, or banners, or other behavior may not obstruct the view of audience members and may be restricted at the discretion of the Board.

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ARTS

Way off Broadway's A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

Justin Kiska

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre's 2023 Season continues this fall with the Tony Award-winning musical A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.

The show, opening September 8th, is a hilarious dark comedy about a distant heir to the D'Ysquith family fortune who sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm... and a dash of murder. Gentleman's Guide is a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music and non-stop laughs as low-born Monty Navarro designs a plan to knock

off his unsuspecting relatives without being caught and become the ninth Earl of Highhurst. And what of love? Because murder isn't the only thing on Monty's mind...

Gentleman's Guide is based on Roy Horniman's 1907 novel Israel Rank: The Autobiography of a Criminal. The book inspired the 1949 British film Kind of Heart and Coronets.

In 2012, Gentleman's Guide premiered at the Hartford Stage in Connecticut, followed by a run at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego the following year.

The show arrived on Broadway in the fall of 2013 when it opened

at the Walter Kerr Theatre starring Jefferson Mays as all nine members of the D'Ysquith family and Bryce Pinkham as Monty Navarro. The production went on to run through January 2016, closing after more than 900 performances. At the 2014 Tony Awards, it was the most nominated show of the season garnering ten nominations including Best Actor in a Musical for both Mays and Pinkham. When the Tonys were announced, Gentleman's Guide took home four trophies – Best Musical, Best Book, Best Direction, and Best Costumes. It also won seven Drama Desk Awards and four Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Taking on the nine D'Ysquith family members for Way Off Broadway's production is Michael Reid opposite Jarod Glou making is Way Off Broadway debut as Monty Navarro. They will be joined on stage by Megan Elizabeth West as Sibella, Laura Saunders as Phoebe, and Jessica Billones as Miss Shingle. Taking on the fifty additional roles in the show are Amy M. Cajigas, Raquel Luciano, Stephen Soares, and Wil Spaeth.

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder runs September 8th through October 21st and has a book by Robert L. Freedman, music by Steven Lutvak, and lyrics by Freedman

and Lutvak. Justin M. Kiska directs the production, with musical direction by Tina M. Bruley and stage management by Mitch Brannen.

Performances are every Friday and Saturday evening, with matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Tickets on a Friday evening or Sunday afternoon are \$55 per person; on Saturday evening, tickets are \$59. Tickets may be purchased by calling the theatre's Box Office at (301) 662-6600.

To learn more about A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, or any of Way Off Broadway's presentations, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Music, Gettysburg! presents Cormorant's Fancy

Featuring the song and dance traditions of the Ireland and the Celtic Nations, one of the Gettysburg area's favorite bands, Cormorant's Fancy, will perform a free outdoor concert Sunday, August 6th at 6:00 pm at the outdoor performance pavilion in Schmucker Grove, just north of Springs Avenue on the United Lutheran Seminary campus.

Ni Riann School of Irish Dance, under the direction of

Holly Lanteigne-Marrow, will perform with the band to bring to life an exciting Celtic experience! Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner! The concert is free and open to the public. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will move next door to the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Check our website at www.musicgettysburg.org for last minute updates.

Cormorant's Fancy wings

across generations and oceans with traditional and contemporary music of Ireland, along with Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, and North America. Passion for their heritage pulses in every note! Driving reels, sprightly jigs, haunting airs, beautiful ballads, spirited songs and good-humored sing-alongs feature fancy-full harmonies and soaring instrumentals that blend vocals, concertina, fiddle, penny whistle, guitar, key-

boards and bodhrán.

The group features Beth Folkemer, Steve Folkemer and their daughter Margaret Folkemer-Leonard, as well as Ricky Czar and Ryan Kozak. Ni Riain School of Irish Dance's Performing Company includes the Folkemer's granddaughter, Allyson Folkemer. Her father Joel will complete the roster as guest vocalist.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier

concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel is at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, call 717-339-1334, visit www.musicgettysburg.org, or email to info@musicgettysburg.org.

GCT presents Much Ado About Nothing Set In The 1920's

Gettysburg Community Theatre (GCT) will present their production of Shakespeare's comedy Much Ado About Nothing August 4-13 with performances at 7 p.m. Fridays &

Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Limited reserved seating tickets are available now at www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org.

A playful comedy layered

with all the rich complexity that comes with Shakespeare's work, Much Ado About Nothing is a snappy, surprisingly timely meditation on gossip, gender, and the follies of romance. Don Pedro, Claudio, and Benedick arrive in the Sicilian port town of Messina after a decisive victory on the battlefield. As they join in the post-war celebrations at the

Governor's estate, Claudio takes a liking to their host's daughter, Hero.

Meanwhile, Benedick engages in a different sort of battle with Hero's cousin, the quick-witted Beatrice. Cupid-like characters conspire to bring our quartet of lovers together, while darker forces seek to drive them apart. Can love truly conquer all when

the combined powers of deception, betrayal, and envy stand in its way?

Much Ado About Nothing is comedic, yet cautionary; elegant, yet down to earth; mischievous and undeniably merry. The comedy the director has chosen to set in the 1920's, is suited for ages 10+ and is approximately two hours with intermission.

The cast of actors include: Kyle Tirak from Frederick, Holly Landis from Dillsburg, Roger Dalrymple, Mike Krikorian, Elizabeth Pellegrino, and Elizabeth Smith from Gettysburg, Abbie Mazur-Mummert from Hanover, Michaela Odian from Taneytown, Cory Abrecht and Alyssa Byers from Walkersville, Lorraine Durbin and Rye Love from Carlisle, Caitlin Cutright from Shippensburg, Sarah Eisenhuth from New Cumberland, Dan Griffin from York, Jim "Bluto" Fisher and Becky Winter from Shiremanstown, Joan Crooks from Westminster, and Bethany Malykh from Mechanicburg. The production is under the direction of Samuel Eisenhuth from New Cumberland, with Stage Management by Julie Carlin from Harrisburg, and Costume/Props Design by Elana Farace from Middletown.

GCT, currently in its 15th year, is located at 49 York Street, Gettysburg. Limited reserved seating tickets are available now at www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

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The world of art and architecture

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

Architecture is all around us. Whether we think of American monuments such as the Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty, architects once created these monuments. Architecture, by definition, is the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings. Architecture to us might not be regarded as a form of art, but that is far from the truth. In reality, it is one of the classical forms of fine art and has always been associated with the art world.

While some might know of this fact, some might think of this as false because of the modern way architecture is designed. There are seven distinct types of architecture we currently use: residential, commercial, landscape, interior design, urban design, green design, and industrial. While a few of the forms have design in the name, all of these forms have some inclusion of art. The job of an architect is to design and create a building from the materials accessible, and, almost like sculpting, bring it from the blueprints to the desired area. Cutting, shaping, and molding are all parts of the construction of the building that also need to be accounted for.

Architecture has been around for millennium, and while we use architecture more in residential, commercial, and industrial forms, this was not always the case. Some of the most well-recognized forms of architecture were created in the ancient world. Think of the Ancient Greeks, with the formation of the Parthenon or the Amphitheater. The Romans had the Colosseum and the Pantheon. Ancient Egypt had the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx. The Mayans and other South American civilizations created temples and structures that are just as amazing despite being halfway across the world. Machu Picchu is one of the greatest landmarks of the time that we still have.

While the purpose of these buildings varies, two common justifications for these buildings include the

consolidation of power and purpose, mostly to Empires and Dynasties, and to appease the gods. The Parthenon, built for the Greek goddess Athena, and the Pantheon, built for all Roman gods and goddesses, are an example of this second justification. While this was the initial reason for architecture, it has evolved, like modern medicine or technology. During the Renaissance and Gothic periods, architecture changed. From leaving the rounded arches of the Roman buildings to assimilating Assyrian, or Islamic architecture, with the steep pointed arches, Gothic is more found in buildings created around the mid-twelfth to mid-fifteenth centuries.

This was the principle of the Gothic architecture, especially in religious establishments, including churches and cathedrals. Most of these sanctuaries are found in the western half of Europe, with a majority found in France. The most notable is the Cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris, or Notre Dame. Other Gothic Cathedrals include the Duomo di Milano in Italy, Canterbury Cathedral in England, and the Frankfurt Cathedral in Germany. A lot of these Cathedrals are of the Roman Catholic religion.

With the Renaissance, we see yet another shift. Instead of the high, pointed arches, we see an increase in domes again, like the Byzantine empire had. It is also important to note the increase in stained glass, mosaics on the ceilings, and fresco murals. Fresco murals are paintings that are on fresh limestone. This is also known as wet plaster, so the paintings, when created, are embedded in the limestone. Many buildings all across Europe have a Renaissance style. In fact, most people do not know that Renaissance and Elizabethan eras are the same in the styles and eras. So if you look at a picture of the Globe Theater in London—now called the Shakespeare Theatre—and the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, both have similarities in the style and in some of the structures.

Architecture is an important part



Side view of the I.C. Chapel. Notice how the window resembles a flower?

of human history, and affects even the Mount and her students. As important as the history is, we can look around our young country and see many of these older styles of architecture in our buildings all across the country. Looking at the Mount, we see similar styles with the buildings on campus. The Immaculate Conception Chapel, our I.C. Chapel, was built in 1827. The Seminary, which was the first building on campus, was built in 1808, establishing the university first as a college.

Looking at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus, the outside resembles that of the Gothic revival. While some of the features are more inclined to look like the renaissance period, these were the two most-popular styles of the time period. With these revivals, and the France influence Bishop John DuBois, founder of both Mount St. Mary's and Emmitsburg, the I.C. Chapel resembles that of Gothic cathedrals all across France. If you look at the I.C. Chapel from the side, there is a small flower-like window on the side of the chapel, resembling that of the rose-patterned window at the front of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

One of the most remarkable features when you first enter the building of the I.C. Chapel is the stained glass of Jesus Christ's crucifixion at the front of the hall. This is the focal point that draws you in, as the glass seems to tower over you, drawing you forward to look at its entire beauty. The second thing to notice is the way the structure is built. Similar to the interior of the gothic cathedrals, the way the arches and pillars to the church are assembled makes the space seem more confined, elongating the room, and drawing focus to the front of the church, where Mass would be said at the altar. There are no murals on the ceilings or walls of the I.C., which is another distinguishing mark from the renaissance cathedrals.

Another building on campus, the COAD science building, is a different style from several of the previous, older buildings. While a lot of them has some influence, whether it be a gothic or American colonial style of architecture, the COAD seems to have influences of a Greek Revival mixed with a more postmodern approach. While the Knott Academic Center (AC for short) is seen as modern, COAD has some of the modern elements,

which makes it unique. The similarities COAD has to the Greek revival architectural style are the "pillars" on the front of the building. The Greek revival focused primarily on the use of pillars, with triangular arches at the top of the building. To get a relative idea, look up a picture of the Second Bank of the United States, which is located in Philadelphia. That is what the architectural style resembles most. However, the "pillars" on COAD are more for an aesthetic look, as there is no function of the pillars. This is what makes it more modern, as well as the numerous windows to accommodate for many classrooms in the buildings.

We are excited to see the extension of the COAD building this fall, especially to see what the new architectural styles bring to make the campus more modern. While the Gothic style and Greek Revivals are now long passed, architecture will keep evolving with every new generation. Who knows? There might be a new approach to architecture in the next few years, causing a new era of art to flourish.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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CATOCTIN SPORTS

FCPS introducing girls flag football this fall

Gina Lin
CHS Class of 2024

As we are approaching the start of a new school year, Girls flag football has been a highly anticipated sport, as the flag football clinics showed great turnout. About 400 signed up for the flag football clinic and more than 200 attended the clinic held at Frederick High School in May. Previously, FCPS had tried to negotiate a flag football program with the MPSSAA. Due to reasons concerning the conceived popularity of the sport, MPSSAA chose to not sponsor the proposal. Subsequently, FCPS introduced a flag football proposal to the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens agreed and pledged to support a flag football program in all 10 FCPS high schools with a \$200,000 grant. Additionally, Under Armour will be providing all of the highschools with 30 sets of customized uniforms and athletic accessories.

FCPS announced their pilot partnership with the Baltimore Ravens and Under Armour earlier this year in a press release. Citing that the initiative "aims to pave the way for female student-athletes in every Maryland county to eventually receive these same opportunities well into the future. Frederick County will be the first county in Maryland to pilot an interscholastic girls flag football program. Currently, there are only a handful of states, Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Florida and Nevada, offering flag football programs. This demon-

strates a major step for Frederick County in fostering a more inclusive environment for all genders to participate in athletics.

FCPS flag football leagues will also be included in the Raven's RISE program, which is a high school football outreach initiative that provides additional support and opportunities for athletes and helps to connect players and coaches around Maryland. One of the numerous events sponsored by the Ravens, was a flag football clinic held at the M&T Stadium on May 21st, in which more than 250 girls worked with Ravens players and USA football certified trainers.

FCPS's athletic supervisor, Kevin Kendro, hopes that will create more opportunities for girls in flag football. There were Frederick County Recreational flag football leagues, but they struggled to get by without the funding of FCPS. The recreational leagues would practice in parks and practice cancellations were frequent. Through the new initiative girls flag football teams will have the appropriate equipment along with sufficient space for games and practices. FCPS and the Ravens hope that the flag football pilot program will convince other Maryland counties to support flag football programs. This could lead to an endorsement of girls flag football by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) which will allow for state championship titles.

The first flag football game will take place at Frederick High on

August 30th, with each county team playing a match. Girls flag football schedules will align with that of Central Maryland Conference sports teams. The master schedule has been created and was sent out to those subscribed to the Find Out First updates. Each match consists of seven players from their respective team on the field at once. The game should last about an hour and is divided into two 20 minute halves with three minute intermissions. Touchdowns are worth six points. 10 points can be obtained from the 10- yard line and three points from the 20- yard line, Except for the last minute of each half, the games will be played on a running clock, which means the game clock isn't stopped. Each team is allocated four downs to progress the ball 20 yards and possessions usually begin on the 14 yard line. The offensive team can punt or go for it or proceed on fourth down. If the offensive doesn't score on the first down, the ball must be passed to the opposing team where the failed attempt took place.

Interested in participating in fall sports? There are some important reminders and dates to keep in the back of your mind. In order to be considered for the fall sports season, an online athletic registration form, which can be found on the FCPS Athletics page, must be completed prior to August 8th. Additionally, a sports physical dated after April 1st of this year, must be completed and submitted to head coaches on the first days of tryouts, practice, or the Fall Sports Open House. The sports physical form can also be found on the FCPS Athletics website.

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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The Spire City Ghost Hounds

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

In 1989, the Fredrick Keys were founded as the High-A minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. It was the first time professional baseball had graced the city in nearly sixty years since the folding of the Frederick Warriors in 1930. The Warriors were a part of the Blue Ridge league, a precursor to what would become Minor League Baseball. Ever since the Keys have been around, many league titles have come home to Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium, but with the onset of the pandemic in 2020, many minor league teams were unaffiliated with their parent major league clubs, including the Keys. But the people of Frederick and the surrounding areas would not have to wait for more than half a century for professional ball to return. Three years after the Keys were let go by the Orioles, the Spire City Ghost Hounds were founded as the newest member of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball.

Just to be clear, the Keys never went away; in fact, they have been thriving. After becoming unaffiliated, they joined the MLB Draft League, a summer collegiate league where college players and amateurs from across the world look to hone their skills and improve their draft stock for Major League teams. This year alone, ten of their players were either drafted or signed as free agents by Major League clubs. The Ghost Hounds are a completely different team, almost independent of the Keys, with a different colorway and gameday production. There is one notable thing that the two teams share: a front office and a gameday staff, headed by General Manager, Andrew Klein.

But for the first three months of the season, the Ghost Hounds were unnamed, playing under the assumed name of the "Frederick ALPB Team", with their logo being a question mark and their uniforms clad in black, yellow and red question marks to resemble the colors of the Maryland state flag. But an essentially no-name team is hard to market, especially when you have a team such as the Keys, a team that is older and much more ingrained in the community sharing a stadium.

"We had to create a temporary brand identity to go with the Maryland flag colors to play off the popularity of the flag, but it was very challenging to market it since we didn't have a team name or logo knowing we would be changing it to something very soon," said Branden McGee, Head of Marketing for the Ghost Hounds, and the Keys.

Obviously, there was a more of a reason for the later onset of the Ghost Hounds' branding besides

building the hype for a new team name and branding. "Part of the reason that route was taken was because we didn't want to rush it and come out with something that we wouldn't be proud of for a long term. So rather than doing something quicker, we decided to take our time, put some different things in motion and then, when we were ready for the real unveiling of the name and the logos, have it out there and make sure that it's something we can all be proud of for years to come," Klein said.

When reveal night finally came around, the production team and marketing team's plans were all set to celebrate a new era of professional baseball in Frederick. But the original

reveal night of June 23rd was postponed due to inclement weather, pushing the reveal night back to June 24th. This set into motion a whole new means of debuting the new team, as a doubleheader was played to make up for the cancelled game on the 23rd. During the first game, the team played still as the Frederick ALPB team branding, clad in their question mark jerseys and all. Then during the half hour break between games, the team made their way up to their clubhouse and changed into their new white, black and teal uniforms. They then made their way down to the right field gate and waited. On the video board, a reveal video played where a

mysterious figure with a lantern walked through Mount Olivet Cemetery, which is across the street from the stadium. The logo was revealed, and CO2 cannons went off from the right field gate. The players walked in wearing their new uniforms, led by their mascot, Freddie. The Spire City Ghost Hounds were born.

But how has the product on the field been? How has the baseball side of the Ghost Hounds been doing? Currently, the Ghost Hounds sit fourth in the ALPB South division and have a record of 31-44, but have been on a hot streak, winning their last five games in a row. Part of these early struggles have been down to problems out of control of the management.

"The first three weeks of the season, unfortunately we were missing seven players due to delayed visas, we had seven major leaguers not in the lineup who are some of the better players in this league. It was a struggle, we knew it was going to be a really tough first month of the season," manager Mark Minicozzi said. And there is a lot of former major league talent on the team: Starlin Castro, a former Chicago Cubs and New York Yankees player is on the team, as well as Jimmy Paredes, a member of the Baltimore Orioles team that won the American League East in 2014, and Raudy Read, who won the World Series in 2019 with the Washington Nationals are also in the lineup.



Outfielder, Leobaldo Cabrera celebrating with his teammates after a home run.

But there is also a great deal of players who have never seen a game in the majors who are having standout season at the independent level. Leobaldo Cabrera, a former Minnesota Twins minor leaguer and brother of the Yankees outfielder, Oswaldo Cabrera, leads the team with 25 homeruns and 60 RBI. Former Boston Red Sox minor leaguer, Kole Cottam leads the team in the OPS department with a line of 1.044. These are only some of the standouts. "We have one of the most explosive offenses in the league; you continue to see that when you look up at the scoreboard—almost every one of our guys in the line up has double digit homeruns." Minicozzi added.

All in all, the Spire City Ghost Hounds are a fun team to watch, with a great team identity and a great future. The fact that they share a stadium and a staff with the Keys does not detract from the game day experience at all as the experience of going to a Keys game and a Ghost Hounds game are one in the same. The ALPB season runs through the beginning of September and with the start of the second half of the season set to begin, the Ghost Hounds are hot. Frederick's next era of professional baseball is well underway, and its name is the Spire City Ghost Hounds.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

God helps those who rest themselves

Jefferson Breland

In last month's column, I finished with the line, "God helps those who help themselves."

We've heard this sentence many, many, many times. What does it actually mean? What is help? What is enough help? Help ourselves? Isn't that selfish?

First, a story about the ignorance of my youth.

In the mid-1980's, I read the book, "The Tao of Pooh" by Benjamin Hoff. It was my introduction to the Eastern philosophy of Daoism, sometimes spelled Taoism (pronounced "dow-izm"). Both spellings are acceptable, since these spellings describe how to pronounce the Chinese character symbolizing the concept of the Dao, meaning road, way, method, principle, or path. If you want to learn more look it up at the library or online at the library. I like the library because it has free air-conditioning and it is quiet. I digress.

In a nutshell, Hoff describes the basic concepts of Daoism using the characters from A. A. Milne's book, Winnie the Pooh. It is a cute idea. I had read Pooh and the gang when I was a kid, even saw the cartoons. I thought, "This will be a breeze."

Well, let's just say it wasn't easy for my younger self. I totally misunderstood the book and therefore some pretty basic concepts of Daoism.

One of the foundational principles of Daoism is to be simple and humble. My understanding

of being simple or neutral like an "uncarved block of wood" as described in the book was essentially, "Life happens to you." "Wait around and see how life shapes you. Life will tell you what to do."

With my sophomoric cynicism and total ignorance of Chinese culture and history, I thought, "This is a great way for the Communist party to control a billion people." "They don't have to think for themselves, the government will tell them what to do."

Wrong. More accurately, it means, being prepared to do what needs to be done anytime, anywhere. Besides, Daoism is over 2,000 years old; way older than communism. Plus I think communism discourages any philosophy other than communism, just sayin'.

Another basic principle of Daoism I misconstrued was Wu Wei (pronounced "woo way"). This is the practice of not forcing things to happen, but observing and following the ways of nature and acting accordingly. This is sometimes referred to as non-action or effortless action. The gardener can't pull on the sprouts in the ground to make them grow faster. One must be patient and help provide the conditions for growth letting nature do its thing.

Back then, my understanding of the concept of Wu Wei was me bringing home weeks of dirty laundry from college and by some miracle it was all washed and folded by the time I went

back to school; talk about effortless action. (Thanks, mom)

To round out the conversation about Daoism which I didn't understand 35 years ago, I here include other important principles in its philosophy. Generally speaking, they are: be kind, be humble, live a balanced life, be moderate in all things, be compassionate, don't steal, take responsibility for your actions, use only what you need, everything is inter-related/connected, and do your own laundry.

"Be humble, live a balanced life, be moderate in all things, be compassionate, take responsibility for your actions, and use only what you need."

I mention my misadventures with Daoism and Winnie the Pooh to provide context.

It is not uncommon to not understand new concepts. Daoism is an ancient philosophy from a culture which has a significantly different history, logic, and foundational principles from ours.

What about common concepts we are very familiar with and taken for granted or never really thought about?

This leads us back to "God

helps those who help themselves."

We seem to be helping all the time these days. Many of us do thing the things we need to do to support our families, our friends, our pets, our community, the planet, and so on.

We do our jobs. We shuttle our children to sports, clubs, school, and friends houses. We volunteer. We recycle. We help our friends and neighbors. We find infinite ways to stay busy. We get up early. We stay late. We go the "extra mile."

This is all very good; however, we are very practiced at exhausting ourselves. We are taught this is the way to do life. We are judged, graded, evaluated by how much we do. I venture our entire society is based on this: Go, go, go. Do, do, do.

What does this have to do with "God helps those who help themselves?"

Exactly. Look at the sentence again. It does not say, "God helps those who help everyone else." It doesn't say, "God helps those who ignore their own well-being."

I am serious. This is a health care issue. You have to take care of yourself. Help yourself to be healthier. Help yourself in order to help others.

We go and go and go until symptoms show up like headaches, joint pain, insomnia, digestive issues. Then we take an over-the-counter drug or go to the doctor who prescribes a drug to help us get through whatever we are experiencing. Generally speaking, none of these drugs address the root cause of our feeling poorly.

We continue to go and go and go, then complain about not having enough time and always being tired. We might even say something like, "I don't have time to rest." "I'll sleep when I'm dead."

There are times when it is appropriate to push ourselves, to exhaust ourselves. These are the exception. If we do this on a daily

basis, we will make ourselves sick. We will weaken the body's God-given ability to heal itself.

How do we help ourselves? This is a good question.

As I am a fan of simple, sustainable changes in ones' life and I like naps and sleeping in general, I recommend "REST."

I put "REST" in quotation marks because it means different things to different people. I put REST in all capitals to emphasize its importance.

Resting can simply mean not doing anything. It might mean sitting down and looking at the sky or a tree. It might mean taking a nap. It might mean going to bed earlier, sleeping in later. What does rest mean to you?

Rest is a means of being simple and neutral like the "uncarved block." Rest is a way of being prepared to do anything, anytime. Rest is Wu Wei, doing without efforting. Rest is a gift we can give ourselves. It is healing.

Scientific studies show how rest improves one's immune system leading to better general health. Studies show rest reduces stress, improves mood and mental health. Studies show rest helps improve memory and mental concentration.

Sleeping more is even better. Google "studies about benefits of sleep." You might be amazed. If you have difficulty sleeping or staying asleep, let's talk. I have a number of ways to help you sleep better and none of them are supplements or herbs.

Remember, babies grow by sleeping, not by going to the gym or staying busy all the time. Sometimes it's okay to be a big baby. God helps those who rest themselves.

Jefferson is a board-certified, licensed acupuncturist who has been studying philosophies of healing for the past 15 years. If you want to learn more about how to help yourself, contact him at 410-336-5876 or jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com



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Exercise can improve your golf game!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

We all know exercise is good for our health, joints, balance and body in general. I was pleased to hear from two of my clients that they felt lifting has improved their golf game. Core strength and upper body strength is important for many sports and golf is included. Increasing your upper body flexibility along with more power behind your swing is helpful when driving the long distance shots.

Endurance is another important part of playing any sport. Being able to walk, swing a golf club, run, or whatever the particular sport you enjoy is helpful not only with completing the game or course but is also beneficial for your heart, lungs and overall body. Being able to be as strong at the end as you are when you start gives you a feeling of strength and accomplishment.

Lifting weights may seem import-

ant for body builders and competitive weight competitions but it is just as important for any sports you choose to participate in. Anyone interested in baseball, basketball, track, tennis, swimming, archery and hunting or any activity can benefit from lifting weights, stretching, cardio and just moving. Any activity you choose can become your exercise routine. Finding what you will enjoy will keep you on track and make you want to continue.

You may have to try several different exercises till you find the one that is right for you. I have a client that told me when she started that she wasn't into exercise and didn't think lifting weights would be her thing. She has been with me for 23 years, so I guess she changed her mind. Finding the right exercise for you is only part of the equation. Finding the right place and people that you enjoy working with is another very big part of sticking with your routine.

I was so glad when a client told me how she felt about her improved golf game that I wanted to share it with you. Discovering that something you do has been improved by finding and continuing a routine that is also beneficial to your health is satisfying. It makes you feel like you are doing all you can to stay healthy and have fun at the same time.

So many people have become sedentary because of working at a computer, playing video games and being on our phones that they don't realize it may be harming their health. I'm not saying give up all that, I'm just saying include exercise and movement in your day as well. Maybe you can find a way to include your phone or other devices in your exercise. My grandchildren like to search for Pokemon. If that is something you enjoy you could meet some friends and go on a walking adventure to search for them. Challenging your friends to see who can find the



best ones and also see who can get the most steps while searching. Anything you can do to incorporate movement, exercise and fun into your daily routine is great.

I hope sharing these ideas and my clients discovery of her golf game will give you some inspiration to see what you can come up with to include exercise in your daily duties. So many people tell me how much

better they feel after their workout, even when they didn't really feel like doing it that day. Setting our mind to faithfully exercising each day is the biggest part of developing a healthy daily routine. After you start you enjoy it and you know how good you will feel when you're finished.

Remember, keep moving, you'll be glad you did. Enjoy your summer!!

Ticks & Lyme disease

Dr. Kathy Heinsohn
Technical and Training
Entomologist

As both an avid gardener, outdoorswoman, and a Ph. D. entomologist working for a local pest management company, I'm aware of the fact that Brunswick, MD and surrounding areas are square in the pocket (dare I say bullseye?) for potential Lyme disease transmission. Lyme (so named because it was first identified in Lyme, Connecticut) is caused by a bacterial spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is passed when a deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) bites you and is not removed in time. Deer ticks are prevalent in our area and deer mice, rabbits, squirrels, and other small mammals all serve as hosts for this pathogen. White tail deer can all transport ticks already infected with Lyme, but do not suffer from Lyme infection themselves.

Lyme disease can be very debilitating and have lasting lifelong consequences. Severe arthritic and carditis and other symptoms are known and well-documented. There is no vaccine for humans in the US. There is a vaccine for pets

that a veterinarian can provide.

How to stay safe when outdoors:

Ticks like to crawl to the top of tall grasses and exhibit a behavior called "questing." They lie in wait for a mammal to walk by. They sense CO2 and vibrations, and they have their forelegs with small claws sticking out moving constantly. Once they sense these cues, they grab on to fur or hair and begin to search for a place to feed. Commonly they will go where there are creases in clothing, such top of socks, belt area, sleeve area, neckline, etc.

Ticks like shady edge areas where wildlife graze, so keeping your yard's grass trimmed low and keeping wildlife at a distance from areas where you go within the yard will make a huge difference. Ticks, especially small ticks like deer ticks, desiccate easily if it is too hot or dry. So, they seek shady shrubby areas and tall grasses. (i.e. Do not place swing sets and playgrounds in shady areas!)

Shade may include crawlspaces and under decks, porches, and patios, where wildlife will often live as well. If you have a rodent or other wildlife (raccoon, skunk, groundhog, squirrel) concern near or under your house and dwelling,

or in your attic spaces, consider getting them eliminated or trapped out and removed.

Cut back limbs and branches touching the house that wildlife may use to gain access to nest in your home.

If you have a pet dog. Be sure to not miss any of the K9 vet prophylaxis anti-tick products used to keep ticks at bay. Most must be placed on your dog monthly. Be sure to follow this regimen per your veterinarian.

Do not feed the birds in your yard, at least not close to your home. Spilled birdseed attracts various rodents that support deer ticks.

Some pest management firms offer tick services for your yard. If your yard has a lot of wildlife in it, you may want to consider this.

When in your yard for long periods of time, protect yourself by wearing a hat, long sleeves, long pants, and pull your socks over your pants legs. Wearing lighter colors can help you to identify a tick you have picked up by accident. (There are also other ticks out there, not just deer ticks. And they can all vector various severe diseases, like Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.)

Wearing a product with Deet sprayed over your clothing will also keep ticks at bay. If you are outside

longer than six hours, it may need to be reapplied. It is best not to apply DEET directly to the skin, and especially it should never be applied to a baby's skin directly. (Always read and follow label instructions.)

Taking a shower immediately after being in the yard and doing a self-tick check is important.

Deer tick adults are small, about the size of an apple seed when not engorged. Nymphal (juvenile stage) deer ticks are even tinier, and they can be active year around, even in winter months. Only female adult deer ticks and nymphs can transmit the pathogen when feeding on mammals, including humans.

If you should find a deer tick on your person, it should be removed immediately. In fact, removing it before it has been on your person feeding for 24 hours may prevent

Lyme transmission. So time is of the essence once you find it. Use a pointed forceps to get at the base of where it has entered and to get the head out completely. Use a strong pulling motion. Do not squeeze the tick's abdomen (you could inadvertently force more pathogen into the bite wound otherwise). Once removed, flush the tick down the toilet or kill it. Swab the bite with alcohol to clean it. If a red circular rash (often described as a bulls-eye rash) develops and starts to grow around the bite area over the next 3 -30 days, or if you experience any flu like symptoms, including fever or nausea or headaches or joint soreness, go immediately to your physician. The physician may wish to prescribe an antibiotic for you.

Stay safe! Watch out for deer ticks and Lyme.



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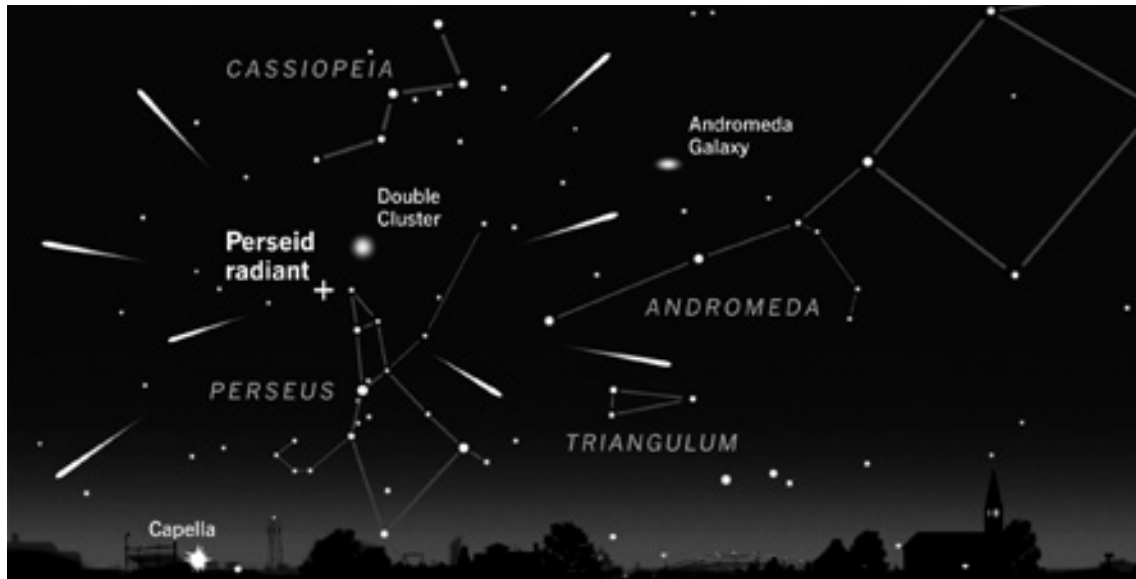
The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For August the full moon, the Thunder Moon, is on August 1st. It passes two degrees south of Saturn on August 3rd. The last quarter moon is three degrees north of Jupiter and Uranus on August 8th, with all three rising about midnight. The slender waning crescent moon will offer little problem for observing the Perseid meteor showers on the weekend of August 12th. Expect a meteor a minute under dark skies, with most arriving after midnight, and the radiant in Perseus climbing higher in the dawn hours. The new moon is on August 16th, and passes the planets Mercury and Mars in twilight on August 18th, a great photo op. the moon is first quarter on August 24th, and a “Blue Moon” (the second full, moon of a calendar month) on August 30th, when it lies two degrees south of Saturn.

Mercury is at its best evening appearance on August 9th, at greatest eastern elongation 27 degrees east of the Sun in the evening twilight. Venus lies between us and the Sun at inferior conjunction on August 13th, but will become visible just before sunrise in the dawn sky by the first week of September. Mars too is lost in the sun's glare this month. Jupiter is close to Uranus in morning sky in Aries, but will be rising in the NE by 10 PM at month's end. Saturn is at opposition, rising in SE in Aquarius at sunset on August 27th; compared to last year, the rings this year are closing, and appear much thinner in the telescope.

With climate change, more sunlight is being trapped, and the earth for the first time in history had an average global temperature of 69 degrees F for three days in July, the hottest on record. Our star itself is not getting hotter, but it is get-



The Perseids are one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. They occur every year between July 17 and August 24. This year they will peak on the night of Aug 12-13.

ting a lot more active, with a peak in sunspots for the whole 21st century reached last week, two years ahead of the predicted solar maximum.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about July 31st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for August 2023; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. There is also a video exploring the August 2023 sky from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/. Sky & Telescope has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/ for observing the sky each week of the month.

In the photo note huge Active Region 3633 at upper left; it had just rotated onto the earth facing side of the Sun the day before, but had been tracked from Mars by the camera aboard the Curiosity Rover the previous week, since Mars was 90 degrees east of the Sun and could see half of the Sun still hidden from earth! A true cosmic perspective! The larger spots to the right of it are themselves bigger than Earth!

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we “arc” SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky

Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. From Spica curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Hercules is overhead, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. It is faintly visible with the naked eye under dark sky conditions, and among the best binoc objects on the map back page. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the “double double”... a fine sight under steady sky conditions.

Below Vega are the two bright stars of the Summer Triangle; Deneb (to the north) and Altair. Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross, known as Cyg-

nus the Swan to the Romans. It is one of the most luminous stars in our Galaxy, about 50,000 times brighter than our Sun. It sits atop the Cross; at the other end is Albireo, a fine orange and blue double star well resolved at 20X by almost any smaller scope.

To the south is the southernmost member of the Triangle, Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle. If you scan the Milky Way with binocs or a small spotting scope between Altair and Deneb, you will find many nice open star clusters and also a lot of dark nebulae, the dust clouds from which new stars will be born in the future.

To the southeast, Antares is bright in the heart of Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Just above the tail of the Scorpion are two fine naked eye star clusters, M-7 (discovered by Ptolemy and included in his catalog about 200 AD) and M-6, making one of the best binocular views in the sky. Your binoculars are ideally suited to reveal many fine open star clusters and nebulae in this region of our Galaxy. Get a dark sky site, and use the objects listed on the back of the August 2023 SkyMap printout to guide you to the best deep sky wonders for binoculars and small telescopes.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. Above it is the Trifid Nebula, M-20, another fine and very colorful stellar nursery. Just east of these young star birthplaces is the fine globular cluster M-22, faintly visible to the naked eye and spectacularly resolved in scopes of 8” or larger aperture. Look just east of the top star in the teapot of Sagittarius with binoculars.



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—Jane Austen (1775-1817)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Seasonably warm (1, 2) with isolated thunderstorms in the evening, hot and humid (3, 4, 5, 6); dry, warm and humid (7, 8, 9, 10) with PM showers and more thunderstorms with heavy rain, then dry and turning much cooler and less humid (11, 12, 13, 14, 15) becoming hot and humid, with scattered evening showers and storms (16, 17, 18); dry, cooler and less humid cool, less humid and dry at first, then muggy with isolated evening thunderstorms PM T west (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); seasonably warm with isolated evening showers west; windy along the coast from possible offshore hurricane (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees heavy rains (11,

12, 13, 14 and periods of high winds from off-shore hurricane (28, 29, 30).

Full Moon: August's full moon will occur on August 1st. Many Native American tribes called it Ripe Moon or Fruit Moon due to the many fruits and vegetables that ripen during the month.

Holidays: The end of summer is near, “The Dogs Days” of Summer that began on July 3rd, will end on Friday, August 11th, and Labor Day is right around the corner! Many are starting school, some for the very first time, and may need special attention. Begin planning now and make a list of the things that need to be done and when they need to be completed. Schedule immunizations and/or physicals, purchase new clothes, and assess school supplies that will be needed with ample lead-time to ensure a successful ‘first day’ for your young students.

The Garden: August is the peak of the hot and dry season so your

plants will need water more than anything during this time. If watering is limited or restricted in your area, concentrate on getting the most to newly planted trees and shrubs. If the weather is cool, Fescue can be sown to repair lawns in the last week of August.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (7, 8, 9); weeding and stirring the soil (14, 15, 16); planting above-ground crops (22, 23); harvesting all crops (1, 2); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23); transplanting (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23); harvesting and storing grains (18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26), the weaning of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

“Congratulating oneself is not the best evidence of success”

COMPUTER Q&A

Should you buy new or renew your computer?

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computers

If your computer is slowing down or is no longer able to support your needs, you may find yourself questioning if its time for a new computer. While that may be a great option, it may be possible to upgrade the hardware or software in your current computer to extend its life. Not only will upgrading your existing computer likely save you money, you won't be starting from scratch, which can reduce your frustration.

Is it possible to upgrade your machine? While it may take a professional to determine if your machines hardware can be upgraded there are a few devices that either can't be upgraded or have limited upgrade capabilities. Some devices such as mini desktop computers, all-in-one computers and laptops don't have the same potential to upgrade as desktops do. These devices are typically limited to storage and memory upgrades. Desktops on the other hand, offer more flexibility since additional hardware including (but not limited to) motherboard, CPU and video card can be replaced.

Is it worth upgrading? Technology is always changing so there will likely always be something newer and faster available. Instead of focusing your attention on purely specifications, we suggest placing more emphasis on ensuring that your computer will meet your needs while providing wiggle room for potential future needs. Some upgrades will provide little to no performance boost so it is important to know what you should expect so that you can determine whether it's worth it. A good repair shop will be able to do a cost/benefit analysis rather than pressuring you to replace your device.

There are several reasons why you might want to reconsider upgrading your machines hardware. If you are running Windows 7 still you can upgrade to Windows 10, however previous versions of Windows will not upgrade. Hardware on older machines should be evaluated by considering the amount of use and likelihood of hardware failure. Sometimes the underlying issues can be the result of software conflict and performing a fresh install of Windows on your device and re-installing only the software that you use may be all that you need to resolve your issues.

Performing regular maintenance: Maintenance on your device by a trusted technician is recommended to help remove potentially unwanted programs, viruses, malware and other junk as well as diagnose any potential hardware issues. For exam-

ple, If your computer is more than five years old and you've never replaced the hard drive, a replacement drive especially a solid state hard drive, will offer a significant performance boost. Upgrading your hard drive should be done BEFORE your existing hard drive fails so that your data can be cloned to another drive preventing you from having to re-install any software – everything will be as it was but much faster.

Replacing your computer: Replacement of a computer can be overwhelming especially with so many options. If you are considering purchasing a new computer visit our web-

site at www.jesterscomputers.com for our printable recommendation guide for purchasing a new computer. Once you purchase a new computer your personal data like documents, pictures etc. can be transferred to your new device. Those who purchase a custom-built desktop from us are provided with a data transfer FREE (\$65 value).

If you have questions about upgrading your machine or are in need of technology support contact Jesters Computers at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web. Our website is full of great technology tips and troubleshooting guides!



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Meet Claire Doll, our new Managing Editor

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

I would like to introduce you to Claire Doll who has assumed the role as Managing Editor of Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal. I have had the honor of working with her through this past year and a half, and have utmost confidence that she will do incredible things as the next Managing Editor. Claire has already done so much for the News-Journals that I could hardly fit it all into one article. But she, who constantly highlights the best of others in her work, is certainly deserving of her own spotlight here.

Claire will be entering her senior year at Mount Saint Mary's University this Fall, which means she is one step closer to beginning the next major phase of her life: teaching full-time after graduation. While she is still determining which grade she wants to teach, it is clear from the love she has for teaching English that she will serve her students well. I have no doubt that the enthusiasm, patience and hard work that she brings to the News-Journals will also be brought to her next workplace.

For now, Claire will be continuing her studies as an English major, and taking on the role as Managing Editor. The team of student writers is excited to have her as a leader, but in some ways, she has already been just that throughout this past year. Claire has been the Assistant Managing Edi-

tor for the past year, which means that during some months out of the semester, all of the articles would go to her first before they went to the Managing Editor. She gave them a careful read-through and edited where it was needed, and then she would send the articles on their way. Even at the beginning of her time as the Assistant Managing Editor, I could see Claire's skills as an editor already that showcased her commitment to accuracy in the punctuation, grammar and flow of every sentence. I also knew immediately that I could send my own articles to her and could count on her to help me improve my writing.

Claire did not just happen upon this new position as Managing Editor, either; the Four Years at the Mount section (something we have added starting last month to this paper) is structured in such a way that each year, the writers receive a new level of responsibility. As a freshman writer, one's only job, really, is to write and edit as needed. As the sophomore, the junior trains the sophomore on what to expect as the Assistant Managing Editor, which is the position assigned to the junior writer. The junior writer gives the sophomore instruction on what the new expectations are when the second year is completed, and up the writer goes. The Assistant Managing Editor finds himself or herself quite busy, working closely with the senior writer. Once a writer has finished junior year, they become the

Managing Editor of the paper—a role that the graduating writer should be preparing them for throughout the spring semester. As the graduate writer, I have tried to prepare Claire as much as possible for this position, and have sent her tips, reminders, and short lists of expectations and instructions.

As has been the case for me and a graduate writer, Emmy, above me, graduating early made our tracks a little out of the ordinary. Similarly, Claire hasn't necessarily "followed" the usual four-year structure. Her original position on the team was the Arts writer, and she became a writer for FYATM as various writers shifted around their graduation timelines. Claire's eye for beauty and poetry made her a great candidate for the Arts column, but her excellence in journalism and creative writing made it apparent to us that she would thrive in the FYATM position. And she has not only met but exceeded expectations in her roles at the News-Journal.

As the Assistant Managing Editor, Claire was always punctual—with everything. It was her responsibility to schedule our monthly meetings as a team; the monthly meetings have a very narrow window in which they need to happen at the beginning of each month. Despite the wildly different schedules of seven college students, Claire found a time that worked for everyone, and made the meetings well in advance. At the meetings, Claire was the one who had her computer

out, taking notes on what the leaders had to say, and on what we could improve on as a team. She wrote down every prompt idea, every follow-up question she and I would have for Mike or particular writers, and had the budget email ready to go right after the meeting. That way, the writers could receive their prompts as soon as possible, so they had plenty of time to get their articles done before the deadline.

I could also always count on her to be the first to submit her articles to me—sometimes within a day of the prompts going out. Her skills at time managing never cease to amaze me, even when I'm just thinking back on them. During this past school year, I would mosey into the café at the Mount to get my morning coffee at an "early" 8:30 a.m., and would see Claire at a booth with her computer, notebook, and coffee all around her. At that point in the morning, she would have been up for at least two hours already, have gone for her sunrise walk with a friend, and have finished much of her homework. She and I would have a brief chat about News-Journal updates and where we were with writing, and then she would go right to work. It would be no surprise for me to receive an email from her with at least two completed articles before noon. And each one would be thoughtfully written, as if she had been musing on the topic for the past several weeks and finally sat down to write it.

And that is one of my favorite things about Claire, an aspect I am



sure you as readers have also noticed: Claire puts so much care into the person in front of her, and so much care into every sentence she writes. Her love of poetry echoes through her prose, as each sentence has an air of story behind it. I love the enthusiasm she brings to each prompt, to each feature article, and to each interview she hosts for an article. I am sure she will continue to bring the wonder she has for the world everywhere she goes—and for now, she is going into this role as the new Managing Editor.

Claire has not only been a fantastic and dependable coworker for me, on whom I could always count—she has also been a wonderful friend. I am grateful for the opportunity I had this past year to work with her, and am so glad that she is the one who I am handing on this beloved role to. Trust me when I say it, the Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal is in good hands with Claire Doll!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Seton Center Executive Director retires

Sister Martha Beaudoin, director of the Seton Center in Emmitsburg, has retired this past June after 11 years of service to the Seton Center. If you've ever been involved in volunteering at the Seton Center, you likely have seen or met Sister Martha providing service to those in need with passion and care.

Sister Martha started at the Seton Center as board chair in 2012. In 2015, she became not only board chair but also executive director, continuing the position until today. However, Sister Martha's experience and involvement in social work extends beyond the Seton Center.

Since 1980, the director has been in social work, working with social charities in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In fact, Sister Martha had never step foot in Maryland before working with the Seton Center, but her ministry experience has made her the perfect fit for its programs and service.

When asked what made her choose the Seton Center, Sister Martha admits that the sister who preceded her had only agreed to serve two years with the programs. Then, the center faced difficulties with attaining the right to build a new building. The center needed a new building, and at the time, Sister Martha needed to take the former director's role.

In 2018, the Seton Center moved into a new building at 226 E Lincoln Ave, and in 2019, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a symposium at Mount St. Mary's University. Here, Sister Martha

and other staff discussed the program's goal of "Bridges out of Poverty," which defined the center to not only help those in poverty, but also find ways to get them out of poverty. "Not only a hand-out, but a hand-up," Sister Martha described when discussing the center's motto.

The different programs in the Seton Center are distinguished by their purposes and action. The Getting Ahead Program, in an interactive small-group format, allows participants to discover what's best for them in efforts to build resources needed for a better life for individuals impacted by poverty. These participants will "graduate" into the Staying Ahead Program, which continues this safe and supportive environment through development of goals and leadership skills. "Over 45 people who participated saw a different direction in their lives and new goals for themselves," says Sister Martha. Frederick County was able to get funding from the state. Sister Martha hopes that these programs, which mainly happen in Frederick City, will find their ways to rural Frederick County, such as Thurmont. "Rural areas are often overlooked, as there are many needs in Frederick City," she stated. With involvement from the Seton Center, the county is more aware of their needs. These programs, for example, exhibit the Seton Center's promise to commit to the longevity of transitioning individuals out of poverty and developing their lives.

Another program called DePaul Dental, ran by Sister Roberta

Treppa, provides the resources needed for adults to improve their dental health and prevent serious illness. The Seton Center makes arrangements with different dentists to provide dental care for individuals, paid for by the center. Sister Martha notes how this program is especially helpful in developing the self-esteem of individuals struggling in poverty while also increasing the likelihood of getting jobs. This program, which educated people about dental health and even provides annual visits to the dentist, is especially beneficial in the community and supported by the Seton Center.

The center also has a Family Store, which offers a non-profit, high-quality thrift shop consisting of affordable new and pre-loved items. This store is a source of income for the Seton Center but also offers good quality items at reasonable prices for those impacted by poverty or experiencing financial issues. The store accepts cash or credit cards.

One of Sister Martha's hopes for the program is to continue to address the transportation issue in rural Frederick County. While there is no regular transportation between Emmitsburg, Thurmont, and Frederick, the center is proposing a collaboration to provide more programs for people to use transportation, such as buses, to and from areas in the county. "This is now more of an impetus than ever," says Sister Martha, who remarks how COVID-19 has impacted the funding in Frederick County for this issue. This year, the Seton Center inaugurated a



Sister Martha Beaudoin has retired as the director of the Seton Center after serving in that position for 11 years.

program for repairs for older cars to get help on a regular basis.

Also started this year are education sessions, sponsored by the Seton Center, open to anyone to learn about the services available to them and their community.

Sister Martha's roles enable the staff and community to both look after and meet others' needs. She engages in conversation with people in need and handles situations that come her way. During retirement, Sister Martha plans to use her background in social work to continue volunteering in her ministry.

Sister Martha notes how the Seton Center has been in existence for over 50 years and "has moved with the times and responded to needs of the times," a rather impressive feat. As the programs move forward, Sister Martha hopes that the center will continue the same way, looking after the needs

of the community and inquiring how the center can collaborate with other agencies and "bring out the best in the community."

The Seton Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Deborah Bisenieks to the position of Executive Director, which began on June 12th.

Located in Northern Frederick County in our very own Emmitsburg, the Seton Center's Outreach Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To get involved with the center, volunteer opportunities include Outreach Office Reception, Family Store Sorting Room Assistants, Family Store Cashiers, Environmental Services, and Technology Coach. To stay informed, make a donation, or request assistance, visit their website at <https://www.setoncenter.org>.

Thank you to Sister Martha for her wonderful years of service and involvement to the Seton Center!

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