

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 5, NO. 7 “EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION” —EDWARD R. MURROW JULY 2025

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Woodsboro election results corrected

As noted in our June edition, on May 20th, the Woodsboro Town Council held a special meeting to specially address the election results. In front of another packed audience of residents, Commissioner Jessie Case made a motion to overturn the actions of Burgess Barnes which directed that all votes in the Town’s May election containing a write-in vote for David Williams for Burgess be invalidated.

The decision by Barnes was met with disapproval from the residents in Town, who turned out enmass at the May 15 meeting demanding not only that their votes get counted, but an accounting as to how the decision to invalidate the votes occurred in the first place, with several residents calling for an ethics investigation of Barnes’s actions.

In making his motion, Case called for validating the votes for David Williams and recommended that, in the future, “decisions like this should be passed through the Commission, then we all can make them together...”

Outgoing Commissioners Bud Eckenrode and Rose Woodsmall volunteered to review all the invalidated votes; as a result, the final tally for Burgess was 139 votes for Heath Barnes, 75 for David William. In the Town Council race, Jessie Case came in receiving the highest number of votes with 164 votes, an increase of 43 votes; Denise Hahn received 141, an increase of 15; and, David Williams received 102, 80 more than originally reported.

At the June 10th Town meeting, David Williams congratulated both Case and Hahn on their victory and challenged Case to use his mandate for the good of the residents.

Immediately after their swearing in, Case was sworn in for his second four-year term and Hahn for her first, the Council was reorganized. Case replaced Enkenrode as Burgess pro-tem, which will allow him to run Town meetings when Barnes is unable to attend, as well as to sign official documents for the Town, including checks. Bill Rittlemyer agreed to remaining as the Water and Sewer Commissioner. John Cutshall will remain



Denise Hahn takes office as Woodsboro’s newest Town Commissioner as her father, former Commissioner, Dennis Kline looks on.

as the Streets Commissioner, and Hahn will take our Parks and Recreation from Enkenrode.

In addition to serving as the Burgess pro-tem, Case also will continue to serve as the Planning Commission liaison. (Subsequent to correction of the vote count, Williams accepted Jessie Case’s request that he serve on the Town’s Planning Commission.)

Absent in the June meeting, however, was any follow through on updating the Town Code to address the issue that led to the effort to invalidate votes for Williams.

In the May 20th special meeting, Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer stated that it was always the intention of the Town to follow Maryland election law, but no one ever got around to actually changing the Code to codify that expectation.

Following Rittlemeyer’s comments, Barnes stated that he was going to hold monthly meetings to review the Town Code and update it, something Barnes said was long overdue. However, no mention of any effort to update the Town Code was made at the June meeting.

Union Bridge readiness for 7th Annual Duck Derby

On July 12, Little Pipe Creek will be teeming with hundreds of little yellow rubber ducks.

While rain caused the event to be rescheduled, Dream Big Union Bridge plans to make an even bigger splash with their free to attend 7th Annual Rubber Duck Derby Festival featuring local vendors, food trucks, music, and Maryland’s Jeep Club.

The founder and co-founder of Dream Big Union Bridge, Brian Colussy and Cheri Thompson, have been working hard to ensure that proceeds not only fly towards the individuals who live in Union Bridge, Maryland, but also families across America through their inclusion of the non-profit organization Mission 22.

When Colussy stood in ankle-deep water a few days before the festival was originally scheduled, he knew it would be counterproductive to tear up the town park while setting up an event that raises money to rebuild the town.

“We also have to keep track of our athletic swimmers, the rubber ducks,” Colussy said.

“They are really happy to have the event postponed because they have been training hard, but some are struggling so they need a little extra time to prepare.” Thompson said.

In order to participate in the

derby, individuals can purchase one duck for \$5.00, six ducks for \$25.00, or 15 ducks for \$50.00.

The first three lucky ducks that float past the finish line are awarded cash prizes. First place is awarded \$250, second \$200, and third \$150.

“We think we’re going to draw a bigger crowd because now we’re not competing with carnivals,” Thompson said. “It seemed like everyone we talked to had something going on June 7th, but now we have more time to get more people, and even more vendors involved.”

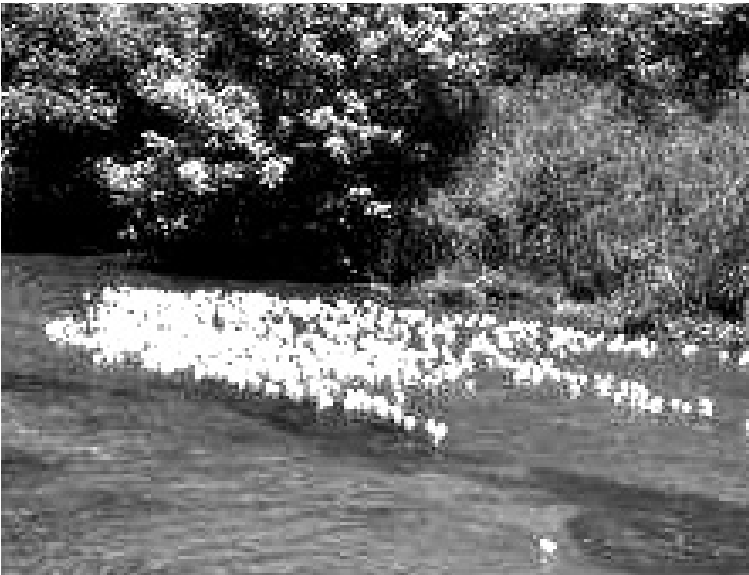
The rubber ducks splashing in the creek will be just one of the many attractions that Dream Big has planned for the day.

Attendees will have the opportunity to marvel at an assortment of Jeeps organized by Maryland’s Jeep Club while live music from The Mayo Family Band, and Payload, echo throughout the park.

For the first time, Dream Big is introducing local wineries and distilleries to the festival.

It is the founders’ hope that the more vendors and activities they feature during their upcoming event will not only bring people to the derby but also introduce people to a town that they otherwise would drive right past.

The ducks that bob in the creek



Rubber ducks race ... err ... waddle down Little Pipe Creek in hopes of bringing home a blue ribbon! See related story on page 4.

alongside the Donald D. Wilson Walking Trail are more valuable to the community than a simple cash prize. Each yellow rubber duck is a reminder that Dream Big is funneling money into improving the infrastructure of Union Bridge.

Kathy Kreimer, the owner of Esquire Liquors Union Bridge, ex-

plained that the duck derby puts a spotlight on the town that the rest of the county can see.

“It brings people into town and lets them see all we have and all we do,” Kreimer said. “It’s a real nice day to just have fun for the kids and the parents and not worry about anything else.”

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Property taxes set to increase

In a simple show of hands, the Town council at their May meeting, approved unanimously the town's FY-26 budget, and in doing so, opted to keep the town's property tax rate at the same level as last year, which will result in Woodsboro property owners seeing an increase in their yearly property taxes as a result of assessment increases.

While to some, the difference between a 'property tax rate increase' and a 'property tax constant yield' may be semantics; there are very real consequences for the town's property owners.

When a 'property tax rate increase is passed', actual taxes paid by residents increase based upon the change in the tax rate, as done in 2024 when the Woodsboro property tax rate was increased from \$.1409 to \$.18/per \$100 of assessed value.

Under a "constant yield" tax rate, the property tax rate is reduced to offset the increase in property assessments, resulting in the town receiving the same income from property taxes in the new budget year as in the prior year. Burgess Barnes made a point of trumpeting doing just this for the town's FY-23 budget.

Without a decision by the Council to maintain a 'constant yield' tax rate the town will get more money, but property owners will foot the bill with increased property taxes.

Water and Sewer Budget
Principle projected FY-26 water and sewer revenues include \$312,000 for sewer use, an increase of \$19,000 over FY-25; and \$158,000 for water use, an increase of \$22,000 over

FY-25. [Note, these revenue projections do not reflect the recently approved 5% water & sewer rate increase.

Total projected FY-26 revenue for the Town's water and sewer services is \$592,568, a decrease of \$26,015 over FY-25's revenue. The bulk of the decrease is a result of the lack of income from new hook-ups to the water and sewer systems, which last year added \$112,500 to the fund's balance. This year, the Town is anticipating only \$15,000 in revenue from new hookups. When this year's hookups are removed from the equation, projected actual revenues for FY-25 are on target to be \$562,126, \$30,442 less than what the Town has budgeted for in FY-26.

A key revenue source for the Town's water and sewer fund is income from leasing space on the water tower to cellular companies, with T-Mobile paying the Town \$33,802, Verizon \$24,000 and AT&T \$44,124, for a total of \$101,926 for all intents and purposes for doing nothing.

On the expense side of the equation, one of the principle drivers is the cost of ProStart – the company hired last year to run the water and sewer facilities at \$163,364. This is an increase of \$88,364 compared to the cost of the Town's prior sole operator who retired in September of last year.

Electricity, as Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer frequently notes, is one of the largest expenses in the operation of both facilities- \$92,000 for the wastewater treatment plant and \$27,700 for the water plant, the FY-26 budget for electricity represents a

\$11,700 increase over FY-25.

\$58,604 is budgeted in FY-26 for repair and maintenance tasks, a drop of \$45,604 from the FY-25 budget. Likewise, supplies and expenses projected for FY-26 for both facilities have dropped from \$54,000 in FY-25 to \$20,000 in the proposed FY-26 budget. However, while the proposed budget for these items have dropped, the actual expense for this year's sewer costs are well above the FY-25 budget, running to date at \$205,584 against the projected FY-25 budget of \$32,000.

On a high note, Barnes pointed out that thanks to Prostart, who is now dewatering sludge from the wastewater treatment facility prior to its disposal, the cost of disposal, which is based upon weight, has dropped dramatically. While the Town budgeted \$51,700 for sludge removal and disposal in FY-25, so far it has only incurred \$18,740, allowing the budget for this line item to be reduced to \$30,800 for FY-26, a cost savings of \$20,900.

Total projected FY-26 cost of operating the Town's water and sewer services is \$592,568, a decrease of \$26,015 over FY-25's projected cost. However, the projected FY-26 budget is \$374,009 less than current actuals for the year-to-date of \$644,386 as of the end of February.

General Operating Budget
On the general operating side of running the Town, the principle projected sources of income for the Town for FY-26 include \$28,860 from real estate taxes, an increase of \$17,860 over FY-25; \$190,000 from income taxes, a decrease of \$10,000 from FY-25; \$137,500

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from the County revenue sharing, a \$2,500 increase over FY-25; and, \$119,827 from state highway taxes, a increase of \$26,543 over FY-25, for a total projected revenue of \$781,127, an increase of \$47,840 from the FY-25 budget.

On the expense side of the equation, the principle drivers in next year's budget are \$148,000 for salaries, a \$25,097 increase over FY-25; \$76,500 for garbage collection & disposal, roughly in line with FY-25; \$80,000 in new town hall

expenses, down from \$150,000 in FY-25; \$173,585 for street upkeep and repair, \$68,177 over FY-25 [most of this will be spent on repaving 2nd street]; \$69,420 on parks, a \$18,290 decrease from FY-25; and, \$55,000 for the purchase of a new truck for the town.

Total projected cost of running the Town, absent the water and sewer systems, is projected to be \$781,127 in FY-26, which represents a 50% increase over the FY-24 budget of \$521,116.

Trout's Market reopens under new management

When a resident of Woodsboro finds themselves in need of commodities, they have always relied on Trout's Market. As new Management has taken over, many locals have noticed an overall decline in the Market's quality, while others are thankful grocery store in Town.

In May, a new owner took the responsibility of running the lo-

cally loved grocery store, leading many to feel uncertain towards the longevity of the market.

Only seven years ago Jarrod Asper, the owner of Southern States in Woodsboro, recalled that the parking lot of Trout's Market was always full of trucks and tradespeople lining up to grab a bite.

"At lunchtime the deli was always packed — you couldn't get

in down there," Asper said.

Although some of the tan shelves are not fully stocked with commodities, and the lunchtime crowd has dwindled, many residents' hearts are still stocked with a deep appreciation for Trout's Market.

It is much more than a brick building in the center of Town. It is one of the strong pillars that keeps Woodsboro from toppling onto the title of "food desert."

Mary Lyles who has lived in Woodsboro for over 50 years expressed that Trout's Market is her go-to-store. "The most important thing is everybody knows your name" Lyles said. "They all know you, what you like, what you need, and they have what you need."

Over the years, Trout's Market

has changed hands a number of times. Regardless of who has owned it, employee Robert Williams expressed that it has always been there to serve the residents in need.

"There are a lot of older people who live around here, and I think it's just more convenient," Williams said. "I don't think a lot of people want to run all the way to Walmart in Frederick or to Thurmont."

Resident David Crome, who relies on Trout's for all his daily needs, echoes William's sentiment.

"The next nearest store is in Walkersville and that's probably five miles away and this is less than a mile away for me," Crome said. "They also used to not sell beer but now they do and that's a plus."

For some locals like 67-year-old Sue Wisner who grew up in Woodsboro, the decision to sell beer, has changed Trout's atmosphere.

"I miss Trout's Market a lot," Wisner said. "It's not the same."

Although the current owner of Trout's was contacted, they declined to make any comments.

Providing locals with a convenient place to shop is not Trout's Market's only role. For ten-year employee Cherise Coleman, Trout's has been a crucial stepping-stone in her academic journey.

"I don't know what I would have done without the job here. It literally helped me get through college," Coleman said. "It helped with little things like paying for my phone and gas."

As Coleman worked towards her doctorate in occupational therapy it did not matter who the owner was, Trout's was always there for her.

And for people like Lyles, Trout's Market is what she relies on as she began to find it difficult to cook on her own.

"I love this place," Lyles said. "Older ones like myself, who are too old to cook, can get our good meals here that are cooked and ready to eat."

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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

FY-26 budget approved after extensive debate

A public hearing was held in June to hear residents' opinions on the deficit of the Town's General Fund budget. Only one resident, and former Commissioner, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, shared her concern about the budget being over by almost a million dollars and the subsequent transfer of funds from the Town's savings in order to balance the deficit.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert agreed with Brodie-Ennis, suggesting the Council consider how much they are willing to continue pulling out of the savings before they stop. Town Manager Sean Williams pointed out that last month was the first time the Town has moved any funds from the savings to the checking account.

Commissioner Bob Yoder was adamant that something be done about the budget deficit as soon as possible. "We can't continue to go down the road where we are spending more

than we are bringing in," he said. "Talking is not doing something about it." He outlined options he felt the Council could take to decrease the deficit which included cutting capital expenses and raising taxes.

The other Commissioners pointed out that it is too late in the year to increase the Town's tax rate, which is currently .14 cents per \$100 of assessed value. When compared to other local municipalities, Walkersville has the 16th lowest tax rate in the State out of 161 municipalities according to Commissioner Russ Winch. "For our size we are completely out of balance with everyone else," he said. He continued with a list of what comparative Frederick County municipalities tax rates are including Brunswick at .41, Emmitsburg at .34, Myersville at .34 and Middletown at .23. He said Thurmont is currently at .23 cents, but is planning on lowering their rates.

Gilbert pointed out that if the Town were to increase the tax rate by one penny (from .14 to .15 cents) at a later date, then they would generate around \$80,000. An increase of .6 cent to .20 cents would generate almost \$1.5 million, giving the Town a buffer to cover incidentals and other unexpected concerns.

In answer to the request to see where the Town could cut spending, Williams brought up the State mandated MS4 projects which include stormwater projects for Colony Village, Deerfield and Glade Towne. Although still in the design phases, the Town has been holding \$500,000 in the budget "as a benchmark because we know there is a big bill coming," according to Williams. He said that the \$500,000 in the budget is unlikely to be used in FY-26 and could be decreased to cut the current deficit.

Cutting spending in the Capital budgets from \$200,000 to \$100,000

will also greatly help reduce the deficit. Williams said the Town typically has \$200,000 as a buffer in case a necessary project comes along and needs funding, however Williams said they could eliminate it. These two things would mean a \$220,000 deficit instead of a \$821,000 deficit.

Another suggestion by Yoder was to make cuts in the Town's police protection portion of the budget as it is one of the biggest drains on the Town's budget. Walkersville contracts the Town's police protection out to Maryland State Police. At last month's meeting, the police protection budget was estimated to be around \$2 million dollars. Williams told the Council that the final estimate is \$1.83 million, and he recommended the Council include an additional \$70,000 in funds to cover unexpected overtime charges. This would bring the total budgeted amount for the Town's police protec-

tion to \$1.9 million dollars, almost 39% of the budget.

Alternative police protection options, outlined by Winch, included using a private security company, the State Police, the sheriff or building your own company which includes having a building and staff. Winch was adamant he would not vote to build a force as it is incredibly expensive. Burgess Chad Weddle also pointed out that the Town has discussed switching its police protection multiple times during public hearings and the citizens have felt the State Police are more involved with the Town and more professional.

Although the Council was not initially able to pass the vote (it failed in a vote of 2 to 3 with a deficit of \$821,548), after agreeing to reduce the MS4 projects from \$500,000 to \$100,000, the budget passed with a vote of 4 to 1 (Yoder against) and a deficit of \$421,548 which will balance after pulling funds from the Town's savings.

Parks Commission plans new 'tot lot'

The Parks Commission met in June to discuss the 'refreshment' of the Community Park 'tot lot'. The playground has been in existence for a long time with much of the equipment in dire need of replacement. Commissioner liaison Chris Ragen asked the Commission what existing equipment they wanted to see removed or replaced as well as what new equipment they would like to see added to the playground.

Ragen said the Commission has approximately \$85,000 of Project Open Space funds at their disposal for the project. The POS funds include the installation cost of \$22,732 with about \$60,000 available for whatever equip-

ment pieces the Commission chooses.

The previous Commission liaison sent a list of equipment out for an initial bid that included a unity rocker (a broad, saucer-shaped rocker), a home dome (a spherical structure made with an open design of interconnected pipes), an ADA accessible whirl (similar to a merry-go-round that is flush with the ground to allow wheelchair accessibility), a balance track (a set of beams and blocks for balance practice) and two kinds of sand digger; one with a normal seat and one with an ADA seat. It also included a six-bay swing set to replace the current broken set that according to Ragen, "is broken off at ground level."

Although Ragen suggested the green climbing wall be removed 'because it is not used much', the Commission agreed to keep the structure. He suggested removing the wooden exercise set, calling it 'a relic from when they had exercise equipment along the trails' and replacing the broken swing set with a 'mommy and me' swing (allows parent and child to swing together). He also suggested the train be cleaned and repainted.

Member Kevin Conley asked what equipment was damaged and would absolutely need to be removed. Director of Public Works Joseph Birch replied, "The swing set for sure," he said. "Some of the other

stuff I mean, is old and it needs to go." This included the ancient merry go round which Member Shannon Kelley suggested be replaced as it is a favorite amongst the kids.

Kelley shared with the Commission a list of equipment kids interviewed at the park one day suggested be removed. They included the silver slide 'because it gets hot in the summer' and the wooden exercise stand because it has splinters. For requests the kids said they like the train and the sand diggers as well as the existing plastic slides. They wanted to see swings again and a better edge to the sandbox to keep the sand inside.

Kelley herself liked the diggers, unity

rocker and the dome. She didn't like the whirl and felt the balance track was boring. After perusing the playground catalog, she offered adventure tubes (aka crawl tubes), an aero glider (a platform that sways with room for wheelchairs and adults), a triple shootout game, and 'fossil digs' that are underneath the sand, allowing children to uncover them while digging.

Unfortunately, a poured in place base is not a possibility for the project as those can cost up to \$90,000 which is well over the budget. The tot lot will have a mulch base instead.

The Commission will spend the next two months or so reviewing options for the playground before getting a final quote and voting hopefully in August.

Town considers changes to camper parking ordinance

Lamar Estridge, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee, requested the Town Council review the ordinance on boat, trailer and recreational vehicle parking within Town limits at the June Council meeting. Estridge said as a camper owner he parks his camper on the street to prepare it for trips because his driveway is too steep to park on, however parking recreational boats, trailers, campers etc on the street is technically unlawful according to current Walkersville Code. Although Estridge did not say he had been ticketed or received a warning for parking on the street he asked the Council to consider allowing recreational vehicles to park on the street in short term capacities without repercussions.

Resident Felicia Martin, Owner of Whistle Stop Coffee said her trailer is much smaller than Estridge's vehicle. However, she does essentially the same thing by parking on the street to clean and prep her trailer for work. She asked the Council to consider including commercial trailers in the edited verbiage. "What does that look like for mobile small businesses," she asked. "How do we permit that as well?"

Town Manager Sean Williams said reviewing recent violations should help the Council see what areas of the ordinance that need to be changed. "I think the

only other thing that we have run into issues with is typically when campers are parked in front of the residence, they are running an electrical cord across the sidewalk to charge the battery," he said. "If we are going to change it, this is something else to consider with the wording." He also pointed out the need to ensure any trailers or 'tag-alongs' remain attached to the towing vehicle.

After reading the exception portion of the ordinance out loud, Commissioner Russ Winch suggested the Council could work with the verbiage allowing recreational vehicles to park on the street for repair. The exception portion of the

ordinance states: "Any such recreational vehicle which cannot be moved to a garage, service station or private premises because of the need for necessary repair shall be granted, without fee and upon proper request, a permit valid for a period of 48 hours from the issuance thereof." Commissioner Chris Ragen agreed and suggested adding 'preparation' to the verbiage may address Estridge's concerns. The Council considered adding a 48-hour parking period, which should be plenty of time for trip preparation said Estridge.

Martin also suggested the Council consider implementing a nominal



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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Fri., July 4 - Town Hall Closed - Independence Day

Tues., July 8 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop

Wed., July 9 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Tues., July 22 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

Mon., July 28th - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting

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UNION BRIDGE NEWS

The power of big dreams in a small town

Daniel J. Mihm

Dream Big Union Bridge was awarded best charity event by Carroll Magazine. But not just because they only trained a couple of rubber ducks to swim downstream. Dream Big holds the title of “Readers’ Choice” by years of balancing full-time jobs with a passion for putting the Town they love on the map. The two founders of Dream Big Union Bridge, Brian Colussy and Cheri Thompson, are not just pouring ducks into the Creek. They are pouring their hearts and souls into improving a town that is at risk of being forgotten by the rest of the County. One major milestone that Dream Big is approaching is establishing a weekly farmers market on North Main Street which will run from June 7 to November 1 every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. “There are no grocery stores in Town and a lot of the people don’t even have their license around

here,” Colussy said. “Transportation is an issue, so they need as many services in Town to accommodate the need.” By creating a food market in Town, it is Dream Big’s hope to turn Union Bridge from a food desert into a food paradise. “You can go to Dollar General, and get your processed food, or you can go to 7-Eleven and get your frozen food,” Colussy said. “The market will bring the ‘freshness’ to Town.” Mohammed Zia, the owner of the 7-Eleven in Union Bridge, sees a lot of people coming into his store to do their daily shopping and expressed that access to another food source in Town would be beneficial to many residents. “A farmers market would be great in Town,” Zia said. “People could walk to get fresh local produce.” Elizabeth Delaney, physical therapist at Frederick Hospital and resident of Union Bridge, expressed that although a market is needed in Town for individuals who do not have their

licenses, she fears that Dream Big may have a hard time getting started due to the many produce stands on the outskirts of Town. “It’s a great idea because the more availability we have to fresh produce the better, but on the flip side, there are a lot of farms local to Union Bridge, so people have markets at the end of their driveways that people are used to stopping by,” Delaney said. “With that being said, there is still a large need for fresh food in the community.” Many towns in the Maryland area instilled inspiration in the Dream Big founders. “I’ve had a dream that this town could be like Sykesville or Mount Airy, because they looked like this before they got to where they are now,” Thompson said. “That’s my goal, I’d give anything for that.” Sykesville’s weekly farmers market started out with only a couple vendors but, over time, turned into an event loved countywide. If an individual was to look for the founder of Dream Big, Brian Colussy, there is no telling what

they would catch him doing. From power washing the sidewalk to planting flowers along store fronts, Colussy works tirelessly to improve the physical environment of the Town. Although such an act may seem small on the surface, beautifying a town has much deeper implications than simply making the environment pleasing to the eye. Hannah Brookfield, certified horticulturalist and owner of BotaniGal in Sykesville, explained that plants that hang on the side of buildings and that fill up planters around store fronts are a form of passive therapy. “You don’t realize you’re getting mental and physical health benefits from being around plants, but you actually are,” Brookfield said. “Just looking at a plant can decrease your heart rate, anxiety, depression, and it can increase productivity.” The store fronts that line the main street of Union Bridge are a mix of beige colored buildings. Colussy plans to add a splash of color by planting flowers along

the occupied and unoccupied store fronts. Not only does this have the chance to improve the Town’s morale, but the founders also believe it could leave a good impression on visitors. “We have people from all over come to the derby,” Thompson said. “Our goal is that when they come, they will learn more about the Town, patronize some of the businesses, hopefully they’ll see a vacant building and possibly want to start their own business in Town.” The two founders spend a lot of their time playfully bickering about the emails they need to send. But more often than not, they can be seen bouncing ideas off each other like they are constantly playing a game of ping pong with their hopes for the future of Union Bridge. After seven years of fighting an uphill battle to improve the Town, the two founders keep their eyes fixated on the reason they started. “We’re just continuing our mission to bring the citizens together, and make our Town beautiful,” Thompson said.

First farmers market is small, but promising

Like most small towns, Union Bridge kicked off their first farmers market in June. Unfortunately, the market had only two

vendors present, a florist and a honey stand. The market, which was located on North Main Street is the result of a collaboration

between the St. James Lutheran Church food pantry and Dream Big Union Bridge. Cheri Thompson, representative of the Dream Big organization, shared the overwhelming positive response residents and visitors had even with a small vendor presence. “What was overwhelming was we had over 100 people come, and the response was very positive,” she said. Although the market experienced some negative feedback, the majority was in support of

the market’s future. “Sykesville started with one vendor and now they have 90,” pointed out Thompson. Thompson pointed out that one of the main goals of the market is to only sell locally grown produce, and since produce harvesting has only just begun, it was a challenge to find other items to sell at the first market. “We did a lot of research on it [farmers markets] and we are going to only allow local produce,” she said. “We could have gone out and bought some

produce and had it there to sell but then it wouldn’t have been locally grown.” With the involvement of the food pantry, food vouchers are going to be passed out when the pantry is open that can be used to purchase food items on market days. Thompson was positive that the market’s future would improve. “Next weekend I don’t think we have any vendors but then the following weekend I think we’ve got three or four,” she said. The market is located on North Main Street, Saturdays from June 7 to November 1, from 9 to 2

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Second annual “Pop-Up on Penn” a success



Pop Up On Penn orginazers LeAnne Tennant, Aaron Stillwell, and Linda Morgan

Walkersville’s second annual “Pop-Up on Penn” event was “just fabulous,” according to the Economic Development Commission Chair Linda Morgan. So much so that the EDC has started planning a similar event for the fall. The event, which started just last year, was designed to bring business and exposure to the multiple local businesses around the Walkersville area by bringing multiple vendors to one location, similar to a street fair.

The May event saw 25 vendors (28 originally signed up but three were unable to attend) with goods ranging from bakery items, spices, honey, handmade soap, hand-

sewn accessories, pottery and food trucks. Local non-profits, the Frederick County Public Library and Walkersville Historical Society, manned booths working energetically to educate the community and encourage participation in local programs.

Pop-Up on Penn was held at the Walkersville Southern Railroad parking lot allowing the Railroad’s opening day to be a part of the event’s festivities. With thousands of visitors flocking to Walkersville every year to ride the Railroad, their participation in the event was integral to its success.

The Railroad’s involvement also allowed for the official ribbon cutting ceremony for Whistle Stop Coffee, a local coffee trailer that uses the Railroad parking lot as its primary location and is a big perk for anyone visiting the Railroad.

With the event being hailed as a success, the EDC members started discussing details about having a fall event and agreed on October 18th as a happy medium. “We think doing it during the pumpkin patch train would be perfect,” said Whistle Stop Coffee owner Felicia Martin. October 18th would coincide with the Railroad’s Pumpkin Patch train allowing the Railroad and the EDC to really get into the fall harvest theme.

Although the May event was from 10 to 4, members discussed

shortening the hours as they received a lot of feedback, from vendors in particular saying, “4 pm was a bit too long.” With the Railroad being a big draw for visitors, their last run on opening day was at two o’clock. It was found that the foot traffic slowed considerably once the train left the station.

The October 18th train schedule includes a third train at four o’clock making the discussion on time difficult. Martin suggested starting earlier (at 9) to catch the

early birds and ending earlier (at 2). Although this would mean the four o’clock train riders would miss the event, Burgess Chad Weddle pointed out, “It’s one of those things where if someone on the four o’clock train wants to come out to do it [the event] they need to come out early,” he said.

The Commission agreed on the date of October 18th and agreed on the hours of 10 to 3, allowing vendors plenty of time to set up before the first train leaves and giving visitors time catch a train ride and shop comfortably.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Congresswoman April McClain Delaney

In the summer of 1980, National Public Radio (NPR) completed the first nationwide radio satellite distribution network—a transformative step that allowed its programming to reach millions of additional listeners across the country. For the first time, people living in rural towns and underserved communities had access to the same high-quality journalism and storytelling as those in urban centers. This groundbreaking achievement didn't just expand radio coverage—it laid the foundation for a public media system built on the values of education, accessibility, and service, rather than profit.

In the decades since, more than 1,000 local public radio and television stations have

helped bring those values to life. These stations air programs guided not by corporate interests or advertising dollars, but by a mission to inform, educate, and uplift the public. Whether it's through trusted reporting, award-winning documentaries, or beloved children's programming, public media has become a vital part of the American cultural and educational landscape.

Now, however, that legacy is facing a serious threat. The Senate is preparing to vote on a bill that would eliminate \$1 billion in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). This proposed cut puts essential programming at risk—including PBS staples like Sesame Street, Arthur, and

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. For decades, these shows have offered children across America high-quality, age-appropriate educational content. For many families—particularly those without cable or reliable internet—PBS may be the only free, educational screen time available to their children.

We can't afford to eliminate the very tools that help kids learn to read and understand the world around them. That's why, when this harmful bill was brought before the U.S. House just a few weeks ago, I proudly voted against it. I also took to the House floor to speak out—on behalf of Marylanders, rural communities, early childhood educators, and the children and families who depend on these

vital services.

Before I came to Congress, I spent decades working as a nonprofit advocate focused on children's online safety, digital literacy, and closing the digital divide. I've seen firsthand how educational inequities can shape—and limit—a child's future. For many rural areas like my hometown of Buhl, Idaho, and communities throughout Western Maryland, public broadcasting is more than a media outlet. It's a lifeline. It's how families receive the news. It's how children without high-speed internet still get to learn from trusted educators. It's how seniors stay connected to current events and cultural programming. This broadcast programming is free to every

American—and priceless in its impact.

Cutting this funding isn't just shortsighted—it's harmful. Public broadcasting delivers extraordinary value: for under \$1.50 per American per year, it provides news, emergency alerts, children's programming, and local reporting to nearly every corner of the country. Slashing public media funding won't solve our fiscal challenges, but it will shortchange working families who need it most.

Investing in public broadcasting is investing in our shared future. It's an affirmation of our values—that every child deserves a chance to learn, every citizen deserves access to reliable information, and every community deserves to be heard. I'll continue to fight for those values in Congress.

County Council President Brad Young

Legislative Update

On June 17 the Council unanimously passed Bill 25-08, which amends the structure of the Police Accountability Board and the Administrative Charging Committee. This legislation was sponsored by Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett.

Also introduced on June 17 was Bill 25-09, which proposes the creation of a Critical Digital In-

frastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone. I am sponsoring this bill on behalf of the County Executive. A public hearing for Bill 25-09 will be held on Tuesday, July 15, at 7 at Winchester Hall.

This bill represents the beginning of a larger legislative process, which will include multiple opportunities for public input. The initial zoning text amendment was introduced at the June 17

meeting. Future steps will include a comprehensive plan amendment (not yet introduced) and a zoning map amendment to formally define the overlay boundaries (not yet published).

Overlay Zone Process

At our May 27 workshop, the Administration presented a roadmap for this process. The Division of Planning and Permitting will first provide a recommendation for the map amendment, which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Criteria for determining which parcels may be included in the overlay include:

- Proximity to industrial-zoned land
- Location within or near the county's designated growth area
- Access to necessary infrastructure

Parcel size

A 1% cap on total County land is proposed in this bill. To be clear, this is an upper limit, and it does not mean that 1% of County land will automatically be included in the overlay. Currently, approximately 5,000 acres of industri-

al-zoned land are already eligible for data center development without any zoning changes. Under Bill 25-09, the maximum possible land included in the overlay would be 4,284 acres, which includes the 2,200-acre East Alcoa site.

Please be aware that any maps or claims about specific overlay acreage currently circulating in public forums are not official and likely originate from advocacy groups promoting inaccurate information.

Stay Informed and Involved

I urge all residents interested in this matter to follow the County Council and Planning Commission meetings for accurate and timely information. The public hearing for Bill 25-09 will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at 7, and your voice is important in shaping this policy.

The Frederick County Council welcomes public input at all stages of the legislative process. You can:

- Speak in person at our Tuesday meetings
- Leave a voicemail to be shared with all Council Members
- Email us anytime at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov

The Frederick County Council holds regular meetings on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we strongly encourage community participation. Residents are welcome to attend in person or call in to join. Every meeting includes an opportunity for public comment, where individuals may speak for up to three (3) minutes on a topic of their choice.

Visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil for the latest agendas, legislation, and meeting schedules.

Council Members also attend community events such as business openings and anniversaries. If you would like to invite us to an event, please contact us at the above email.

Summer Recess Notice

The Council will be on Summer Recess beginning July 29. There will be no meetings on July 29, August 5, or August 12. Regular meetings will resume on Tuesday, August 19.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact me directly at BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov or call my office at 301-600-1108.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

July is a month brimming with excitement and community spirit. As we embrace the warm weather, our community comes together to celebrate our nation's independence. Fireworks will illuminate the sky on the Fourth of July, and we encourage everyone to enjoy the festivities safely and responsibly.

Freeze on Data Center Applications

I've heard concerns from the community about developers trying to rush data center applications before stronger regulations can be put in place.

That's why I issued an executive order last month that temporarily prevents the consideration of any new applications for data centers. The order also applies to electrical substations that support data centers.

This temporary pause gives the Council time to act and should give the community peace of mind about the process.

The order is designed to prevent further development of data centers before new standards become law and while the County Council considers zoning regulations. On May 20, the Frederick County Council approved

Bill 25-05, which created stricter design requirements for critical digital infrastructure facilities and substations. But like most bills, there is a 60-day delay before it takes effect.

Council members and I announced a separate bill to limit the construction of data centers to the area around the old East Alcoa property north of Adamstown. The bill to establish a zoning overlay was introduced June 17.

To learn more about Executive Order 03-2025 and legislation being considered by the Council, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Tracking Progress of Livable Frederick

You can now track Livable Frederick goals through a newly launched online dashboard. This tool allows users to see how the County and its partners are making progress on implementing Livable Frederick.

The new online dashboard makes Livable Frederick more transparent, measurable, and collaborative. I encourage you to explore the dashboard to see how Frederick County is turning our shared vision into action.

Livable Frederick is Frederick

County's Master Plan. It lays out a vision for the future of our families, neighborhoods, and overall community. The plan includes actions designed to create a vibrant and unique community where people live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging. The plan was adopted in 2019 after a multi-year public outreach process.

The dashboard will be updated regularly. You are invited to share their thoughts and ideas by emailing LivableFrederick@FrederickCountyMD.gov. To learn more and access the new Livable Frederick Dashboard, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/LF-Dashboard.

Celebrating Agriculture in our County

Frederick County continues to support agricultural innovation and economic growth through its Agriculture Innovation Grant Program. Last month, I announced \$125,000 in grant awards as part of the March 2025 cycle. Seven agricultural businesses were selected to receive funding for projects through this competitive grant program.

The Agriculture Innovation Grants Program is a strong and successful partnership between County government and our farmers. Our targeted investments will help make farming more viable and sustainable, which is good for our economy and our quality of life.

Projects awarded in this cycle are expected to create 16 jobs across Frederick County's agricultural sector. For more information and to see this cycle's winners, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Agriculture.

Our community is full of hard-working, passionate individuals who make Frederick County such a special place. The Office of Agriculture recently released the latest issue of Homegrown Frederick magazine to showcase the people, businesses, and products that drive our agricultural community.

The 2025 edition features inspiring stories on unique non-alcoholic craft beverages, women in agriculture, agricultural education in local schools, and innovative farming projects. From multi-generational family farms to emerging enterprises, Homegrown Frederick paints a vivid picture our community's deep-rooted agricultural heritage and forward-thinking vision.

To get a copy, call the Office of Agriculture at 301-600-3039 or email FCAG@FrederickCountyMD.gov. A digital version of the magazine is also available at www.HomegrownFrederick.com.

July Celebrations

In addition to celebrating Independence Day this month, July is recognized as Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and diversity of people with disabilities. To watch a recording of our Disability Pride celebration, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV or tune in to Comcast channel 1072 or 19.

We also acknowledge the importance of Parks and Recreation Month, a time to appreciate the natural beauty of our County and the numerous recreational opportunities available thanks to the amazing team at our Division of Parks and Recreation. Take time this month to visit your local park or join a recreational sports league. Visit www.Recreator.com to learn more.

As always, we continue to celebrate our rich history in Frederick County while remaining committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone in our community.

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

I hope you're enjoying the summer so far, and that you have maybe had a chance to have some ice cream at one of dairy farm stores in Frederick County. It's fun to drive to all of them, take in the gorgeous scenery, and try different flavors. No need to try and pick a favorite!

I continue to hear from County residents inquiring about data centers and how they will be regulated. I have a new update to share this month. In May, the County Council passed legislation to update design and siting criteria, and it was signed by the County Executive. There are now stronger regulations that address air pollution, noise and vibration reporting, light pollution, and viewshed protection. These regulations apply to the data center buildings themselves.

To address where they will be located, and where they will be prohibited, the County Executive has proposed a Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay. That is a zoning designation that will confine data center development to a specific area to prevent the kind of data center sprawl that we have seen in Loudoun County and ideally prevent data center sprawl all over Frederick County.

If you've had a chance to get down to the Adamstown area, you have seen that data center development is underway at the Quantum Frederick campus which is located on the old East Alcoa site. That's the area where the CDI Overlay is proposed. On June 17th, the bill to establish this overlay was introduced to the County Council. The bill will now go through the usual legislative process with several opportunities for public feedback.

At the May workshop for this bill, the County Executive's office outlined the next steps in the process which include a zoning text amendment, a comprehensive plan amendment which has not been introduced, and a zoning map amendment to add the overlay to the other County maps. This map has also not been published. The Council also

learned the criteria that will be used by the Department of Planning and Permitting to select parcels that are being proposed for the overlay. They include proximity to industrial lands and the growth area boundary, and parcel size.

These recommendations will then be presented to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will then review the proposed CDI Overlay proposal, and they can make recommendations to the County Council. There is opportunity to provide public comment at their meeting on Wednesday, July 9th, and again when The County Council holds a public hearing on Tuesday, July 17th at 7 p.m.

An important component this bill is a cap on land designated for data center development. The proposed limit is 1%

of total County land as an upper limit. That's about 4,200 acres. My understanding is that does not mean the overlay will necessarily include 1% of County land. I'm not convinced that we need to be devoting that much land to data centers, and I'm waiting to see the proposed map. The proposed overlay will include the East Alcoa site, which is 2200 acres.

The clear reality is that we need to do something to further define where data centers can be located in Frederick County. Current law permits a data center to be built on any land that is zoned industrial. With no zoning changes, right now that's about 5,000 acres that are eligible.

We need to continue to define where we want data center development, and what value it brings to Frederick County.

The revenue can help us address the many needs that we have in our growing county, like providing senior services and updating the Career and Technology

Center. However, development must be balanced in a way that preserves priorities such as agricultural preservation and protection of our scenic views.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Independence Day!

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Politics, promises and reality

Shannon Bohrer

When running for office, our current president made multiple promises, as many have before him. He was going to lower the cost of food, reduce taxes, and exempt Social Security from taxes. He was also going to balance the budget and make America great again. He also promised to end the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Palestine conflict, which is a war. Both would end in one day, if not before. We heard this before, as he made promises before his first term. Back then, he was going to build a wall, balance the budget, and make America great again. Some would say that America was already great before his first term, so his promises were puzzling for many, but also believed by many. Making America great again had mixed reviews. During his first four years, the economy was not good. Not one job was created, the worst record since President Herbert Hoover. In fact, under his administration, the US lost 2,720,000 jobs. As to the budget, he increased our deficit by close to eight trillion, the most in any four-year term. Adding to his record, the unemployment rate grew to 6.4 percent, resulting in a growth rate of minus 2.2 percent. It was not all sad news; corporate profits rose 17.4 percent, and

the wealthy received tax reductions during his first term. Even with his dismal record, many of his loyal fans believed it was a great four years. Making America great again worked for corporations and the super-rich, but not the rest of us. During his first term, he also promised to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico, ostensibly to reduce illegal migration. He did build part of his “beautiful wall,” but it was never completed. The cost surpassed eleven billion dollars, or twenty million for each mile. It became the most expensive wall ever built. He also promised that Mexico would pay for the wall. Is it possible that nobody sent them the bill? Before Trump was reelected, a bipartisan bill created by Congress to address the illegal border crossings was put forth. Both parties agreed upon the contents and the Border Patrol endorsed it. According to all reports it was a well-received bill. The legislation was never passed. Citizen Trump campaigned against illegal migration and lobbied his party not to pass the bill. Apparently, he did not want the problem corrected. After all, if corrected he could not complain about the issue. There is a pattern with his promises of projecting what he intends to accomplish, but the follow-through has had mixed results. Large corporations, businesses, and wealthy individuals did well during Trump’s first term. The

burdensome business regulations were reduced and eliminated, and the rich were granted tax reductions. The tax reductions, it was said, “would add \$1.8 trillion in new revenue.” That was wrong. Tax reductions for corporations, millionaires, and billionaires have never led to a decrease in our national deficits. Conversely, they have consistently contributed to our annual deficits, thereby increasing our national debt. During this term, his promises were again grand, but the results thus far have been questionable. Large corporations were again promised deregulation; however, the business environment has undergone significant changes. The on-and-off tariffs have affected large corporations in multiple venues. Planning and purchasing products and materials, along with projected sales, has become a guessing game. Large corporations plan their purchasing and sales strategies for months and even years in advance. The tariffs have been on and off, interrupting the process. The administration has told many large businesses to produce their product in the U.S. One such business was threatened with severe tariffs on their product if they did not start manufacturing the product in the U.S. The iPhones made in China are expensive, but the estimated cost of manufacturing them here is \$3,500.00 per phone. That is a no-win situation. Many small businesses have also been affected because of the tariffs.

Operating on smaller margins is more financially challenging. It is expected that many small businesses may close. Deregulation is supposed to be beneficial for business, of course that is providing the business can survive. It was curious that many of the country’s wealthiest mega-business owners attended Trump’s inauguration. They were invited, they attended, and one would expect they would receive good, or at least fair treatment by the government. Historically, the party advocating for fewer regulations for businesses has been considered business-friendly; however, that perception has shifted. In addition to the tariffs, these businesses have also been told to reduce their importations of products and materials by building manufacturing plants in America. As with the phone example, if the products were produced here, they would cost more, a lot more. Incumbering businesses also includes telling businesses how to conduct their personnel policies. Large companies that have used the model of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) were threatened, and many of these businesses have changed their policies to conform to the government’s request. Even law firms have been the target of this administration. Some huge firms have relented to his demands, and others have sued them in court. The higher education system in our country was the envy of the world, but that has changed. Just as the administration has dictated

to private industry, they have also dictated to colleges and universities. The demands include curriculum, what is taught, who can attend, and where the students can come from. The administration also targeted states and cities, as if they were not independent entities. Telling the governor of New York to cease traffic fines in parts of New York City. This administration is attempting, and often succeeds in micromanaging private industry, universities, and even local governments. That is not ensuring our freedom; it is restricting them. The party that has always believed in freedom is now imposing additional regulations and even restrictions on personal life. The business, manufacturing, legal, and educational communities have not been deregulated, nor have they even been given more freedoms. Instead, they are being micromanaged. Dictating to industry, legal, local governments, and educational institutions is restricting your freedom. A government that wants to run everything is not a democracy, but an autocracy. So, who benefits from this government? *“The purpose of government is to enable the people of a nation to live in safety and happiness. Government exists for the interest of the governed, not for the governors.”* - Thomas Jefferson.

To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.com.

The Bulwark

Dems figure out resistance under Trump 2.0

Lauren Egan

The nationwide “No Kings” protest against Donald Trump was, by all accounts, a smashing success. Millions of people showed up at hundreds of events in red and blue state houses and town centers across the country all in the spirit of rallying against the Trump administration. The crowds dwarfed those that came to Washington D.C. to participate in Trump’s combination birthday/armed forces parade. And while that certainly provided Trump’s opponents with a fair share of schadenfreude, it also raised the question: Why hasn’t this type of resistance risen up sooner? After all, Trump’s first term saw opponents sprinting to the nation’s airports within weeks of his inauguration to protest his ban on travel from Muslim-majority nations. When Trump did a more expansive version of that same policy several weeks ago, the response was relatively mild and diffuse. Though there have been glimpses of real grassroots energy—from the Tesla Takedown movement to the “Hands Off” rallies—these moments of light and heat showed how dim and cold the once-ubiquitous #Resistance movement had become during Trump’s second term. That is how it was, at least, until Saturday. The “No Kings” protests

offered the first real sign that the grassroots resistance to Trump hasn’t died—but it does look different from how it did, and it may, perhaps, be taking a more strategic form. “The first time around there were a lot of [protests], like March For Science, Families Belong Together,” said Amanda Litman, the cofounder of Run For Something, which recruits and trains first-time Democratic candidates. “This time around, people are being more targeted and asking themselves: ‘What will actually move the needle?’” There are a variety of reasons anti-Trump protest culture looks dramatically different from eight years ago. One reason is that Trump made more inroads politically and culturally during his 2024 run for office, and he has since used his newfound power to browbeat major institutions into acquiescence. But activists on the left also acknowledge that their side has changed, too. Sustaining outrage during a presidency designed to produce continuous outrages is an exacting proposition. The Democratic base is not immune to becoming desensitized to Trump’s actions. Presented with the challenges that come with Trump’s flood-the-zone strategy, organizers have tried to be more selective in the way they protest. “It’s different, not less,” Deirdre Schifeling, the ACLU’s chief political and advocacy officer, said of the protests under the second Trump

administration. “This time around, people are not shocked. They have lived through four years of this . . . and so, I think protest is taking a different form.” In addition to fighting exhaustion and choosing their moments, organizers during the second Trump term have tried to appeal to a broader coalition. That’s meant trying to get more moderates, independents, and working-class voters to show up, especially in red parts of the country—not just the college-educated MSNBC-addicts who were largely the face of the 2017 protests. It’s required organizers to shed some of the defining features of the original #Resistance, like the pink pussyhats. “There’s a little bit more of an all-hands-on-deck approach and a clear understanding that you ain’t winning this with a bunch of base Democrats this time,” said Democratic strategist Joel Payne. “That requires work on the part of the people driving the opposition, because you have to check your desire for purity at the door. You have to check your desire to have everyone conform,” Payne continued. “You don’t want it to be so homogenized that it makes it feel like it’s something easy to write off and disregard.” But even if “No Kings” felt like the first moment of mass demonstration against Trump 2.0, the data show that protest culture has become quite active over the past five months, perhaps even more so than during Trump’s first term. According to the Crowd Counting Consor-

tium, a Harvard Kennedy School and University of Connecticut research project that measures political crowds, there have been over 15,000 political protests since Trump’s second inauguration compared to just over 5,000 at this same point in his first term. (Data journalist G. Elliott Morris has a helpful graph of those numbers.) Organizers estimated that, across the country, three million people participated in the April “Hands Off” rallies, and five million turned out for the “No Kings” demonstrations—which would make Saturday one of the largest single-day demonstrations in U.S. history. One reason that it may feel as though the anti-Trump protest movements have been late in arriving this go-round is that the opposition party itself has had trouble deciding how best to harness them. Democrats spent the early weeks of Trump’s second term in a state of soul-searching, and on some issues they have sought accommodation, fretful that they had badly misjudged the social and economic currents that resulted in Kamala Harris’s loss. That has started to change, in part because of public and private pressure from activists for elected members and leadership to act against Trump with more urgency. In conversations with leaders on Capitol Hill, organizers have stressed that while grassroots movements play an important role, lawmakers needed to do more to help break through in the Trump-dominated media envi-

ronment. One organizer who helped lead the “No Kings” rallies told The Bulwark that they recently met with Senate staffers to stress that the Democrats’ usual press conferences and floor speeches chiding Trump for his latest actions were not going to cut it in today’s internet culture. Democratic organizers said that recent events felt like a clear sign that party leaders were starting to understand how best to push back against Trump—that the goal, in the end, must be about producing moments as much as feeding movements. “There’s definitely a dispute in the Democratic party right now about sort of how urgent this moment is,” Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said in an interview with The Bulwark before the Los Angeles ICE raids broke out. “It’s not hard to see that the democracy could disappear. I think we’re converting more Democrats as each week goes by to this case, but it’s slow. And my hope is that the conversion rate is not too slow to save us.” Murphy may have been worried a week ago. But the subsequent rush of activity suggests that more people are adopting his view about the urgency of the moment. At the Nashville “No Kings” protest, the crowd was packed with people motivated by existential concerns about the direction of the nation, convinced that the threat now was far greater than eight years ago. To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit www.thebulwark.com.

COMMENTARY

The Liberal Patriot

Life in America feels unsettling right now

Michael Baharaeen

As Donald Trump ran for a second term last year, a frequent attack he leveled at Joe Biden and Kamala Harris was that they were “weak.” He focused specifically on the porous southern border and conflicts abroad, problems he said never would have happened under his leadership. Enough voters ultimately bought this argument. In a post-election study from Third Way, among the top words they associated with Trump were “strong” and “leader.” The AP VoteCast survey similarly found voters were likelier to view Trump (56 to 43) than Harris (46 to 53) as a “strong leader.”

The efficacy of the “strong” versus “weak” framing likely stemmed from a deeper issue in American life: many people feel like the country is going through an uncertain and unstable time and are looking for strong leadership to navigate it. In a poll last month, YouGov asked respondents which periods in U.S. history they believed were the most and least politically stable. There were several contenders for most stable, but the top choice was the Reagan Era, which many seem to fondly recall as a time when the country succeeded under the leadership of a strong and confident president—especially coming out of the Vietnam War and economic

stagnation of the 1970s.

But respondents were less divided when it came to identifying the least stable era: a decisive plurality (31 percent) picked the present, which appears to include everything that has happened since 2020. Tack on the decade or so just before that, including the Great Recession and tumult of the 2010s, and that figure rises to 36 percent. The next-closest era? The Civil War, which just 17 percent identified as the most unstable period in American history.

In moments of vulnerability and precarity, people often turn to leaders who project strength—or whom they believe can at least deliver some sense of stability. In 2020, facing a global pandemic, that leader was Joe Biden, who pitched his steady hand and decades of experience as the antidote to four chaotic and unpredictable years of Trump and pledged a “return to normalcy.”

However, Biden’s term was marred by much of the post-Covid fallout detailed above, including growing inflation and a spike in border crossings that sharply reversed a previous uptick in favorability toward higher levels of immigration. According to the 2024 VoteCast survey, a large majority (60 percent) identified either inflation or immigration as the top issue facing the country—both issues dealing with matters of security and stability—and these voters broke heavily for Trump.

Since assuming office for the

second time, though, Trump has overseen even more instability. His haphazard tariffs have left allies, consumers, and markets spinning. Many of his executive orders pertaining to federal departments and agencies have been ill-conceived, leaving states, municipalities, and ordinary Americans unsure of whether federal funds and jobs will continue flowing to their communities. On the immigration front, far from any kind of organized and methodical deportation program focused primarily on criminal offenders, Trump’s approach has been more akin to shock-and-awe, engendering backlash from many Americans.

Just this past week, the country was rocked by a series of destabilizing events, as it watched marines arrive on the streets of L.A. to put down protests, a U.S. senator handcuffed and dragged out of a public event, the start of a new war in the Middle East, and the assassination of a Minnesota state legislator (and the near-killing of one of her colleagues).

And yet: despite all this, voters aren’t yearning for a return to Democratic rule. In fact, Trump has retained a higher level of support up to this point in his second term than he did in his first.

Democrats thus cannot assume the pendulum will naturally swing back to them four years from now. Even if Trump is unpopular or the current tumult hasn’t abated by 2028, there’s no guarantee voters will be ready to abandon the GOP. Research has found that during periods of rapid and unsettling changes, voters aren’t often look-

ing left. In the face of economic uncertainty, for example, support tends to increase for right-wing populists rather than progressive parties promising to expand the safety net and increase income redistribution—moves some Democrats might believe could address voters’ feelings of insecurity. Or consider that following the violent riots of the 1960s, support grew for the law-and-order candidacy of Richard Nixon.

Viewed in this context, one could reasonably argue that Biden’s 2020 win—a victory for the left party—was more of an aberration.

This isn’t to say Democrats can’t win back the presidency in 2028. However, to do so, they would be wise to reckon with the disquieting feelings many people possess right now, including speaking directly to the issues that informing those feelings. Though it may be a while before the public trusts them again to handle immigration, Democrats could at least offer their own alternative to Trump for how they plan to control the flow of migration over the southern border—a primary driver of the recent rise in anti-immigration sentiments—and plug other holes in the system while still pledging to defend the country’s rich tradition of welcoming and assimilating new immigrants.

There’s also another issue on which Democrats continue to hold an edge over Republicans and which they may be able to credibly press with voters: healthcare. Post-election evidence suggested that even at one of the Democrats’

lowest points in recent memory, voters still continued to trust them more on this issue.

People who don’t have health insurance often fear they are one medical issue away from bankruptcy. And for those who do have it, the threat of taking it away might be strong enough to move their votes. Given the overwhelming public opposition to the current Republican plan to cut Medicaid—and possibly curb Medicare benefits, too—there may be an opening here for Democrats.

Another way to address people’s concerns could be through the type of candidates they nominate, in particular for president. Maybe it’s someone with a national security or military background who can market themselves as a leader with a steady hand. Or perhaps it’s an experienced governor who successfully helped guide their state through the Covid pandemic, a difficult and fearful time for many Americans.

This period of precarity is unlikely to end soon, especially in the face of uncertain technological changes around artificial intelligence, growing partisan polarization, continued mass migration globally, and the persistence of foreign conflicts. Whichever party is able to compellingly speak to voters’ anxieties during this time and offer a reassuring vision for helping guide the nation through it may stand to enjoy sustained success in this decade and beyond.

To read other articles from the Liberal Patriot, visit www.liberalpatriot.com.

Good Day Neighbor

The right to celebrate

Dorothea Mordan

We might be losing rights a little at a time, but we still exercise our right to celebrate America’s birthday. Who doesn’t like a party? The Fourth of July is a celebration of what we have as Americans. Freedom and property. Property rights are easy to define. Civil rights and freedom? Easy to give to ourselves, not so easy to give to others.

The founding of the United States of America was based on the idea that to protect an individual’s property, our governing laws have to protect everyone’s property. Freedom of Speech supports the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

One reason Freedom of Speech is explicitly included in the Bill of Rights is that historically one punishment for speaking out was to seize property. Most of the Founding Fathers were only a generation or two away from living in England where their fathers and mothers would have seen up close the King taking property from someone who displeased him.

The current administration expects people to not use specific words—equity, women, climate

change. Funding is withheld from educational institutions simply because they offended the President.

The NIH is losing funding, in turn rescinding funding for projects that impact all of us. One defunded project in Mississippi is a study to find a “novel treatment for glioblastoma”, a form of brain cancer that can occur in any anyone, not a specific demographic. It is defunded because one of the scientists, Eden Tanner, has a disability. The study had qualified for funding from a pool of money designated for researchers with disabilities. The Trump Administration virtually uses a keyword search to identify what to remove based on how it fits into the DEI category. Not based on merit or efficacy, just using the wrong word when applying for funding—disability.

The right to say anything has long been defended, not defunded. The ACLU defended a Chicago based group of Nazis in Skokie, Illinois in 1977. The group wanted to prove their right to free speech by having a demonstration of their obsession of hating another group of people. Their pushy little display was to be held in Skokie, a town where about 50% of the population was Jewish, many of them Holocaust survivors. The group asked the ACLU to repre-

sent them in defending the First Amendment right of an American to speak in support of anything.

The demonstration was a protest against “decisions by Chicago-area park districts, including Skokie’s, barring them from holding a demonstration in Chicago area parks.” It was to be about 30 minutes, consisting of the participants wearing Nazi uniforms with swastika armbands and carrying Nazi banners and signs.

“Everything that the village did in opposition to the assembly boiled down to the same thing: Skokie wanted what is known to lawyers as a “prior restraint” against any Nazi speech in Skokie. In non-technical language, this meant that Skokie wanted to find a way to stop the Nazis from speaking before they had a chance to articulate their message.

The First Amendment principles that apply to prior restraints are straightforward. While any effort to censor by punishing a speaker after the fact is likely to violate the First Amendment, preventing the speech ahead of time is even more likely to violate the Constitution, even where the anticipated speech is profoundly offensive and hateful. Central to the ACLU’s mission is the understanding that if the government can prevent lawful speech because it is offensive and hateful, then it can prevent any speech that it dis-

likes. In other words, the power to censor Nazis includes the power to censor protesters of all stripes and to prevent the press from publishing embarrassing facts and criticism that government officials label as “fake news.” Ironically, Skokie’s efforts to enjoin the Nazi demonstration replicated the efforts of Southern segregationist communities to enjoin civil rights marches led by Martin Luther King during the 1960s.—from the ACLU website

The ACLU invited, and received, major criticism by taking this case. That’s what Americans do, take on a project no one wants, and take the heat for it. It’s how we survived the Revolutionary, Civil, and two World Wars. We will survive the manipulation of words. Words need to mean something. We expect words to matter.

Freedom of speech is being used to say “I can say whatever I want regardless of any factor, including truth.” The bar was, “you can’t yell fire in a crowded theater.” When you repeat a lie to manipulate people, it is functionally setting people up for the same kind of irrational behavior as stampeding out of a crowded theater, crushing anybody in your way. Freedom of speech gives any speaker the freedom to agitate anyone in earshot to the point of loosing all impulse control. Anyone who works with, or is raising a person with a de-

velopmental disability can tell you that lack of impulse control is often the root of socially difficult behavior that disrupts peer relationships and learning in the classroom. Random, emphatically repeated comments by our elected officials and endless online “influencers” is conditioning listeners to behave as though they have a developmental disability—no impulse control.

We want freedom of speech for ourselves. If what we say comes from hurt feelings or being angry at another person or a group, so be it. We have the right to say whatever we want. We know what we expect of ourselves. But what do we expect from others? Good manners? A little patience with our opinions, while we have none for the opinions of others?

We can celebrate how much we’ve been able to work together in the last 250 years. Our constitution encourages us to work together. We can celebrate the right to turn out backs on each other.

We celebrate our right to vote for officials who would impulsively take away our rights. Or we can elect people who will bring them back.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Author’s section of Walkersville.net, or visit her website: www.ChandlerDesignsLimited.com.

PASTOR'S DESK

Love both God and one another

Pastor Sean DeLawder
Woodsboro Evangelical
Lutheran Church

We live in a fast-paced world, where the individual so often takes precedence over community. But our scriptures point to a different way and in fact working together and helping one another in the ancient community was often how a person and community could survive and thrive. To get to that mindset we can look to the scriptures. Although for some our scriptures, written so long ago, are simply viewed as stories to be read and enjoyed, they actually remain strikingly relevant. Matthew 22:37-40 encapsulates two core commandments that not only guide personal behavior but also lay a foundation for a thriving, supportive community. This passage reminds us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. What does this mean in our lives? As we reflect on these teachings, let us explore how we can meaningfully care for one another in our community.

Jesus issued a profound challenge when asked about the greatest commandment in the Law. His response was two-fold: to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.” And to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

These commandments are intertwined, signifying that our love for God inherently expresses itself through our love for one another. By genuinely engaging in both forms of love, we create a supportive and nurturing community where everyone can thrive.

What does our love for God entail? Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind implies a holistic commitment to building a relationship with God. It is this relationship that empowers us to love others authentically. When we genuinely love God, we are inspired to reflect God’s love in our actions, words, and attitudes. Our heart is the center of our desires. A heart that loves God seeks to fulfill God’s will and values what God values. This means prioritizing love, compassion, and kindness in our relationships with others. Our soul reflects our identity and essence.

Loving God with our soul means existing in a way that reflects God’s light in the world. It means being intentional about how we treat others and striving to uplift those around us. Loving God with our mind involves engaging with Scripture and understanding God’s teachings deeply. The more we learn about God’s love, the better equipped we become to spread that love to our neighbors.

The second command from Jesus, to love our neighbor as ourselves, provides practical guidance for community living. But who is our neighbor? Jesus expands this concept to include everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs. As we engage with those around us, we should remember a few key components: empathy, kindness, inclusivity and forgiveness.

Empathy is understanding that the experiences and struggles of others is fundamental to loving our neighbors. When we take the time to listen, support, and stand in solidarity with those who are facing challenges, we embody the love of Christ. Acts of kindness can transform our community. Whether it’s a simple smile, a helping hand, or a gesture of support in times of need, kindness fosters connection and builds trust among community members. In-

clusivity means that a loving community embraces diversity, recognizes that everyone has a place. Everyone needs to feel welcome because it is essential in building a thriving community. This means everyone is respected, and valued, which fosters a sense of belonging. Loving our neighbor also requires us to embrace a spirit of forgiveness. Conflicts may arise, misunderstandings may happen, but extending grace and seeking reconciliation are vital components of healthy relationships and healthy communities.

As we reflect on the commandments provided in Matthew 22:37-40, it becomes evident that caring for one another is essential to building a strong community. Some practical ways we can live out this teaching begins with communication. Open and honest communication lays the groundwork for understanding and connection. This can begin with simple acts, such as regular community gatherings or informal meetups, where members can share their thoughts, feelings, and needs. Offering a listening ear can go a long way in building trust and solidarity. We can build community through service which can be implemented in many ways: volunteering at local service organizations, becoming involved with food collections, mentoring children and helping with homework and

there are many others. Loneliness is rampant in our communities so creating support networks for people becomes even more and more important. This can be as simple as paying a visit to an elderly neighbor, offering guidance when daily challenges arise, and simply just being present and aware of a person’s potential needs and then stepping in to meet them. And this goes hand in hand with engaging in random acts of kindness which can be simply helping someone carry their groceries or holding a door. There are so many practical ways to care for one another and build a strong community, I know you can think of many more.

This is how we can live out these two great commandments and this is how we can live out our faith. When we live our faith authentically, we become vessels of God’s love in the world. Our actions speak volumes about our beliefs. By fostering an environment characterized by love and care, we demonstrate the character of Christ to those around us.

Caring for one another is not always easy, and challenges will arise. However, we are encouraged to trust in God’s guidance and strength as we navigate these complexities. Prayer plays a vital role, as it centers our focus on God and aligns our hearts with His purpose. As we come together in love and care for one another, we reflect the unity that Christ desires for His followers. This unity becomes our testament to the world, demonstrating the transformative power of God’s love.

Matthew 22:37-40 serves as a timeless reminder of our call to love both God and one another. In doing so, we create a community that is strong, compassionate, and resilient. Caring for one another is not merely an act of kindness; it is a profound expression of our faith that has the power to transform lives.


In response to Jesus’ teachings, let us commit ourselves to embody love within our community. Together, we can foster a culture of empathy, support, and connection, enriching the lives of everyone involved. Through these collective efforts, we not only fulfill the commandments of Christ but also create a haven of hope, joy, and love for all. Let us embrace the call to care for one another, reflecting the love of God in each interaction and endeavor.

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ECOLOGY

Wineberry

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Berry picking has long been one of my favorite summertime activities. Growing up on the mountain, my grandparents regularly took me and my siblings to pick berries during the summer. We'd search for black raspberries, wineberries, blackberries, and more. Foraged foods were a staple in our household as store-bought foods were expensive, and berries were in abundance if you knew where to look. And foraged berries were exponentially better than store-bought in terms of flavor, color, and availability. It wasn't until I became an adult that I learned how invasive and problematic wineberries are. Furthermore, I didn't know wineberries and raspberries were two separate species. I had assumed that wineberries were so named because that was just what mountain folk called them. Their canes and berries have a wine-

like color, after all. Maybe growing on a mountainside just made them a little brighter, a little bolder, hence the name wineberries as opposed to just raspberries. As an adult, however, I've discovered that I was both right and wrong about this little fruit. Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) is an invasive plant in the same genus as blackberries and raspberries. It grows spiny, dense thickets that are impenetrable for larger wildlife. The canes appear reddish because of their thick coat of red hairs. These red hairs help distinguish wineberry from its cousins, the black raspberry and blackberry, both of which have such sparsely populated thorns along their canes that they appear almost bald in comparison. Similar to raspberry, wineberry, has silvery underleaves and a fruit core that remains on the stem when the berries are picked. Both have a raspberry-like flavor though wineberries are a little more tart and are a little brighter in flavor. Wineberries are also a bit smaller and juicier than their cousin.

This little sunburst of a berry was introduced to North America in the late 1880s as a breeding stock for cultivated raspberries. As with so many other invasives, it escaped cultivation, establishing itself in natural areas by the mid-1900s. It's more aggressive than many of our native berries and tolerates a wider range of soils, light, and moisture. It can be established in forest understories and roadsides alike. In our area of Pennsylvania, if there's a disturbance to the land, there's likely wineberry. Our climate and our soils are perfect for reproduction, and it has made its intentions clear: it's here to stay. Wineberry can now be found in most states east of the Mississippi.

It may dominate certain areas but at least it's delicious. I grew up eating jellies, jams, pies, sauces, and more made from foraged berries and wineberry is no different. As an adult, I created my own recipe for a wineberry jam that's similar to my grandma's only it has a dash of whipped cream vodka that brings out the full flavor of the berry as the alcohol cooks off. I also make jam called Fruits of the Forest with a combination of sweet cherries, blackberries, strawberries, and wineberries. I decided to add the wineberries almost as an afterthought because I wasn't sure if they would be too tart for the overall flavor profile, but I was happy to discover that wasn't the case.

Wineberry is versatile and makes an excellent addition to many foods. Chicken baked in a wineberry glaze? Absolutely. Fresh wineberries tossed in a salad with blue cheese crumbles and almonds? A perfect dish for a July picnic. Wineberry crisp? A great breakfast choice. Wineberries are also a great source of fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants. They're refreshing and abundant in our area. After years of cooking with this particular berry, I'm convinced there's little wineberry couldn't do.

If you're interested in foraging this or any other wild berries, please keep a couple of things in mind. Identification is absolutely critical when foraging for anything. Use more than one source when practicing your identification skills. Find good,



Wineberry is an invasive plant in the same genus as blackberries and raspberries.

clear photos or images of what you're looking for and compare them to your find. Fortunately, wineberry is a beginner-friendly berry to forage. Wineberries are vibrantly red when ripe and look like smaller, rounder red raspberries. This helps differentiate it from native black raspberries and blackberries though both are edible. It has three leaflets per leaf. Many blackberry species have five leaflets so count them to make sure you're picking the right berry.

Wineberry has another unique feature in that the fruit is covered by sepals, hairy green to red petal-like structures, until it's just about ripe. It's also covered in a sticky substance that coats fingers making them feel sort of waxy when berry picking. Gloves or hand wipes are a good idea for the average forager.

Black raspberry, on the other hand, has whitish underleaves and the berries are usually a deep purple-black. Stems are green and have a bluish cast that rubs off when touched. Their thorns are sparse but robust and you'll know if one has pricked you. Red raspberries likewise have thorns but theirs are smaller and fewer per cane. They produce red fruit that looks quite similar to wineberry but the canes are green and have very few, if any, hairs, unlike its wild cousin.

If you're still unsure about identifying wineberries or other wild edibles, go with a knowledgeable guide who can teach you different identification methods and tips about each plant you're searching for. And know your property lines to make sure you're not foraging on someone's private property without permission. Check local and state forest regulations before hitting trails in search of a snack. And follow ethical foraging practices to ensure a sustainable harvest. To be fair, wineberries don't seem to be going anywhere soon and considering how they're crowding out native species, ethical foraging might mean collecting more than your fair share. Even the most robust colony of wineberry plants can become memory if conditions are right or if every forager collects with abandon but that's not entirely a bad thing in certain areas where it has pushed out more needed native species. Wineberries will always have a special place in my heart and at my family's table. They're a fine summer staple in my household and one that is useful for a wide variety of meals. And foraging for this lovely berry is something I look forward to every summer.

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RECREATER

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2025

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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Noticing stuff

Bill Meredith

“I know this much: that there is objective time, but also subjective time, the kind you wear on the inside of your wrist, next to where the pulse lies. And this personal time, which is the true time, is measured in your relationship to memory.”

—Julian Barnes,
The Sense of an Ending

You wouldn't have to be very observant to notice that it has been wet around here lately. Back in March, I got the garden tractor ready to plow a few rows so I could plant my potatoes on St. Patrick's Day, but when the day came it was too wet. I hunted up the spade that we bought for our first garden back in 1960, dug a trench about a foot wide across the garden, and planted the potatoes in the mud. They didn't seem to mind; they were a little reluctant to get started, but eventually they came up and now they look healthy and contented. But it was well into April before it got dry enough to use the tractor.

It hasn't been all that long ago that, when it finally got dry enough, I could have plowed the whole garden in an hour or less, depending on how many coffee breaks I took. But this year, everything seems to take longer. I found myself getting winded after about three furrows, so I had to set a lawn chair in the shade at the end of the garden and rest a bit before the next three furrows. When you do it that way, it doesn't just take longer; you begin to notice things, and then your mind begins to wander. Time seems to slow down, but actually it's speeding up; and first thing you know, it's time for lunch. And then you need a nap. And by that time, it's got too hot to plow any more, so you decide to finish tomorrow. But tomorrow, it rains. So, first thing you know, it's June, and you still haven't got the whole garden done.

The first thing I noticed after starting the work-rest-work pattern was how much our garden slopes; it's less than 40 feet long, but the bottom must be nearly five feet lower than the top. I

knew it sloped, of course, but being from West Virginia, I never had paid attention to it. As a child I was in my parents' and grandparents' gardens all the time; they were on hillsides, so I just assumed gardens were supposed to slope. I still remember what a shocking experience it was, back in the summer of 1939, when I was six; we went to visit relatives in Indiana, and I discovered that out there, gardens were flat. In fact, everything was flat; there wasn't even a hill in sight, let alone a mountain. It was as unsettling as being in another world.

The pace of civilization has brought changes to our garden in the past 10 years. Across the road above the garden there used to be lawns and graveled driveways, so when it rained much of the water would soak into the ground. Now, most of that area is paved, so the water runs off of it; and it flows down through the garden faster than the soil can soak it up. Thus the lower fourth of the garden is wetter than the rest, and if we get more than an inch of rain we will have a miniature lake down there for a few days. In a year like this, I knew nothing would grow well there; but I finished the plowing anyway. When you start a job, there's no satisfaction to be gained unless you finish it. I can't remem-

ber who told me that; it was a long time ago. But it's one of the memories that stayed with me.

Sitting there, not looking for anything in particular, I often find four-leaved clovers. My wife is frustrated by this, for she never finds them. I don't know how I do it, because I don't actually look for them. I think maybe the nerve connections that developed before I was born caused my brain to be programmed to see patterns, so when I see hundreds of 3-leaved objects, the odd 4-leaved one stands out. Maybe that's why biology came so easily to me 65 years ago.

Coincidences happen. On the day I finished plowing, I sat longer than usual, and found that I wasn't in the shade any more. I got up to move the chair, and noticed a mother chipping sparrow feeding a fledgling on the ground under the bird feeder. It was a nice domestic scene, easily misinterpreted as an example of human feelings such as mother's love; but something was wrong. The baby bird was more than twice as big as the "mother;" he was a cowbird, and was perfectly capable of feeding himself, which he did when she flew away for a moment. But she came back, and he immediately started begging... and she started feeding him again. The only human-like feeling that fit the picture was stupidity... and



for a moment I applied it to her. But I had to relent. She is a prisoner of her instincts.

It rained again that afternoon (during my nap), so after supper I went out and sat by the garden for a few minutes to bask in the glory of a job finally finished. Sometime last fall, a lightning bug had laid an egg in the flower bed by my chair; the egg hatched into a larva, which hibernated in the litter that I didn't get around to cleaning up, and after feeding and growing this spring, it pupated. It must have emerged from the pupa case that morning, probably while I sat in the chair dripping sweat on it; and now, as twilight deepened, it crawled up the arm of my chair and out onto the end of my finger, rubbed the sleep out of its eyes, turned on its tail-light, and flew off to seek its fortune. It was the first lightning bug of the summer. If my grandmother had been here, she probably wouldn't have known the first part of that story; but the last part is how she would have told it, if I had been three years old and sitting on her lap. I am now older than she was when she died in 1948; but when a memory like that comes, I seem to go back to those times.

So, here we are; June is over, the year is half gone, the garden is plowed and mostly planted, and the weeds are growing faster than the vegetables. My personal time... the true time, according to Julian Barnes... is slipping past in fits and starts. I sit in the shade and notice stuff, and remember how things got to be the way they are. Lately recent memories are less clear than the older ones. Maybe that's as it should be.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Symphony of lights

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Orange hues fade to purple, which rapidly descend into darkness. The sky resembles a backlit canopy with holes punched in it. Sultry summer air hangs on your skin and if you're lucky the magic begins to happen. The luminescent show begins with an overture from crickets and frogs. As a child your wonder and amazement are unparalleled as you run after the fluttering diamond like glint of lightning bugs. Your bare feet glide through the grass and you clasp your hands around these tiny little bugs in the hopes that you can inspect the phenomenon up close and personal. This natural light show subtly draws to a close by dawn, and may be doing so permanently.

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, can inspire awe in children and adults alike. Who can't say that they didn't spend summer nights running after this elusive illuminative force? To either catch and release or capture and hold in a jar empowered us as tiny masters and detectives of our natural world. Fireflies and lightning bugs are neither bugs nor flies. They are actually a type of beetle. What makes them a beetle is how their body functions. They have hardened forewings, called elytra, which extend in flight and will lay flush against their body when at rest. When in flight these elytra will be raised for balance, and they'll rely on hind wings, located underneath the elytra, for movement. This feature is what classifies them into the beetle family.

There are more than 2000 different types of firefly species in the world, and are found on every continent except Antarctica. They produce light that can vary

in color from yellow, orange, or green. Each species has a different flashing pattern, and some species don't actually light up at all. Primarily, they'll use these lights to attract a mate, but they can serve other purposes too. Some species will communicate to others with their flash. This can range from marking or guarding territory or to warn predators to stay away. They have a foul taste, so most would-be predators leave them alone as it is. When attacked fireflies do what's called "reflex bleeding". In the blood that is released is a chemical that tastes bitter and is actually poisonous to some animals. So, be careful of any pets that may try to eat them. On one particular evening though I had taken a stroll through Baker Park, and had stopped to sit down on a bench to talk with a friend. Ducks had been waddling by and every so often would lunge their necks out and snatch up a lightning bug. Apparently they didn't get the memo about not eating them, and I didn't see any keel over so I assume they're okay.

Adult fireflies aren't the only ones who glow though! Their eggs and larva (think babies) can also glow. There are two chemicals in their tails that make glowing possible - luciferase and luciferin. These chemicals when combined with ATP (which is found in all living animals) will produce a glow. ATP should be a relatively stable level in healthy cells. In diseased cells the balance may be off. Scientists and doctors have put this knowledge to good use, and can detect potentially cancerous cells in people by injecting these chemicals from fireflies into diseased cells to detect anything from cancer to muscular dystrophy. Other

medical uses include detecting blood clots, marking tuberculosis cells, marking the progressing of diabetes, and more. That's not all though! Scientist will also use these chemicals to detect food spoilage and have even equipped space craft to detect alien life with it as well. Fortunately, medical science has created a synthetic form so we don't need to commercially harvest them from the wild anymore.

It's a good thing we aren't harvesting them from the wild anymore, and haven't in a sometime, because population levels seem to be declining by all accounts. The numbers aren't concrete yet, but some places in Asia are reporting up to 70% decline. Here in the US evidence is still largely anecdotal, but the research is underway. Researchers from Boston's Museum of Science, Finchburg State College, and Tufts University have teamed up to create an organization called Firefly Watch. Their goal is simple - "to track the fate of these amazing insects." They rely on volunteers, or citizen scientists, to help them by collecting data. It requires minimal effort or time on the part of the participant. According to the Firefly Watch website, "We hope that you'll be able to spend ten minutes checking your backyard for fireflies, one evening a week throughout the summer. However, we realize that you lead a busy life and may not be able to collect data every week. Any information you can send us is valuable, as long as you fill out the observations form, and upload the results to us." With your help they aim to understand population distribution and the behavior of fireflies.



Fireflies, or lightning bugs, can inspire awe in children and adults alike. Who can say that they didn't spend summer nights running after these elusive, illuminative forces?

While the research is still ongoing to discover the extent of population numbers and decline there are a few theories behind the apparent abatement. The culprit is likely human interference. First and foremost, habitat destruction has taken its toll. Fireflies live in fields and forest edges. When these fields and forests get paved over fireflies don't migrate to new homes. They simply vanish ad infinitum, they're gone forever. Light pollution seems to be a major problematic factor. Street lights, porch lights, and landscaping lights can make it difficult for fireflies to find the blinking lights of mates, which can make it hard to propagate the species. Broad-spectrum pesticides can also negatively impact them too.

A few simple suggestions to

aid the lightning bug are to keep the pesticide use down. Fireflies spend the day resting in grass and shrubs, so by limiting pesticide use they'll find it easier to avoid getting poisoned. You could also plant more plants, trees, and shrubs in your yard. It'll beautify your home, and create homes for them and other wildlife. While you're at it, you can install a water feature too! Fireflies prefer ponds and creek sides, so if you can include this addition to your home they'll love you for it. Turn off the outside house lights unless you need them to see. You'll save on energy costs and help cultivate an amorous atmosphere for fireflies.

The symphony of frogs and crickets wouldn't be complete without the light show offered for free from fireflies. Hopefully with better understanding we can help this awe-inspiring phenomenon avoid the decrescendo into oblivion that many species have faced. Let's conduct the sonata forward illuminating the summers of tomorrow.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Understanding the most powerful new genetic technology

Boyce Rensberger

I want to tell you about one of the most revolutionary developments in science in decades. You may have read about this thing with the strange name of CRISPR. It’s a genetic technology that can seem like magic.

“It actually allows us to change human evolution if we want to,” one of its discoverers has warned. That should get our attention. More immediately, dozens of clinical trials are underway for treatments that use CRISPR to diagnose or treat many different conditions from heart diseases to cancers to AIDS.

Scientists are already using CRISPR to make food crops more resistant to drought or disease. Some experts say CRISPR-modified crops will be in widespread use within 15 years. A whole new controversy about GMOs is certain.

So, this is a good time to try to get a sense of what it is. Stick with me through this piece, and I think you’ll come away with a fair grasp of the basics.

Recently you may have read, a baby was born with a rare and rapidly fatal disease caused by a mistake in its DNA. The mistake was very small, involving just a single letter out of the 3.2 billion letters that make up the human genome, a copy of which is carried in every cell. And yet scientists constructed a machine small enough to enter the baby’s bloodstream, find the mistaken letter, cut it out of the DNA strand and replace it with the correct letter. The molecule-sized CRISPR machine was custom made for this one baby’s genetic defect.

This molecular machine is a shape-shifter. It has moving parts—levers and latches that swing and swivel to grab other molecules and push them around. I’ll explain that as we go along with links to animations.

What’s new in the baby’s case is that CRISPR was used to repair a specific defect known only in this

one baby, now ten months old and healthy. This bespoke version of CRISPR offers the promise of treatment for other extremely rare genetic diseases. But also treatments for more common diseases where a single mutation in one gene must be repaired.

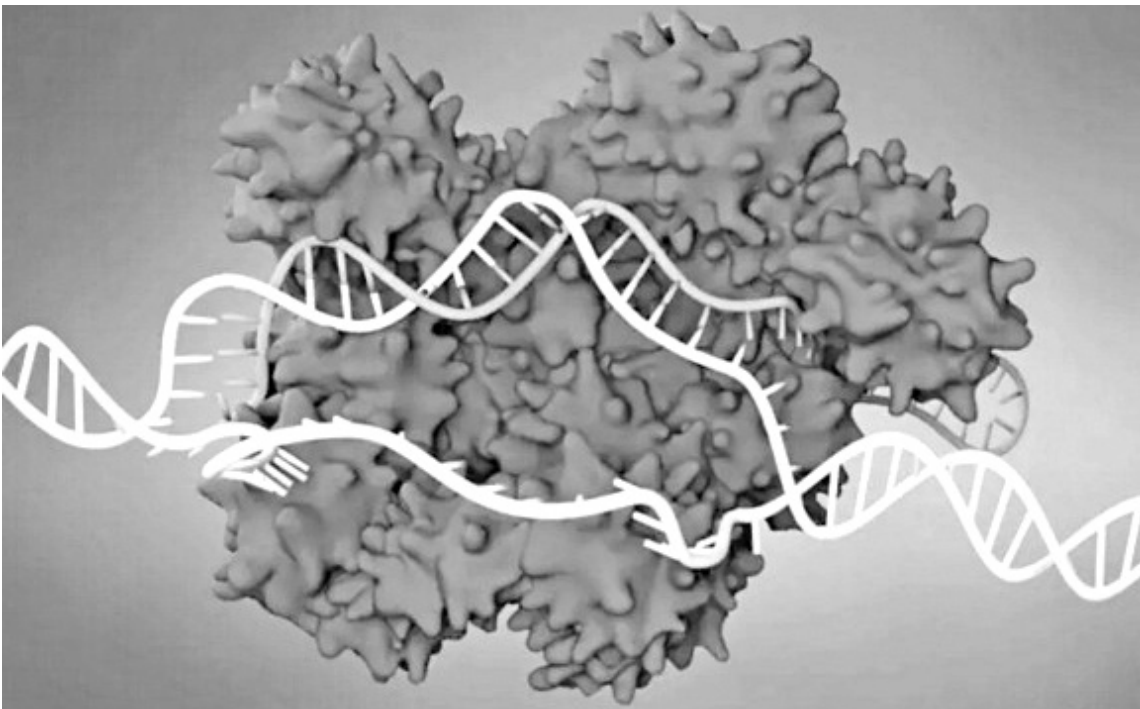
Two years ago, the FDA approved a standardized CRISPR-based therapy for sickle cell anemia—a treatment that a few dozen people have received so far. That was done by re-activating a good gene that functions in the fetus but that is normally dormant in adults.

So, what is CRISPR, and why does it have a name pronounced like a drawer in the fridge?

Its history goes back to 1987 when scientists discovered a fascinating phenomenon in bacteria. Many of those one-celled organisms have a kind of immune system that protects them against viruses. Yes, bacteria get virus infections. As you may know, viruses are mainly packages of genes in the form of DNA or its molecular complement, RNA. The bacterial immune system consists of a molecule that recognizes certain sequences found in most virus genes and with the help of an enzyme that bacteria also carry, it cuts up the virus’s genes, stopping the infection.

These sequences (Are you ready for this?) are “clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats.” CRISPR is an acronym for that awkward term. (A palindrome is a sequence that reads the same in both directions. Viruses usually have these.)

In recent years, scientists realized that this system could be modified to recognize not virus sequences but any sequence in the genes of any cell. Molecular biologists have long known how to make DNA and RNA in any sequence they want. They just couldn’t splice it into a pre-



A molecular machine—CRISPR-Cas—unzips a double helix.

determined spot in a genome. A genome, you may recall, is the whole collection of genes (made of DNA) in a cell. Early forms of gene therapy used a shotgun method, randomly inserting new genes anywhere in the genome. Because CRISPR enables precise insertions, it opened vast frontiers in biological research and medical treatment. It is not only more accurate, but faster and cheaper.

The scientists who discovered this are Jennifer Doudna at the University of California-Berkeley and Emmanuelle Charpentier, director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin. Working together they did the basic science—and let me emphasize basic science—to understand these mechanisms and how to use them. And together they shared the 2020 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

CRISPR works something like a computer’s word processor with these four functions—find, cut, copy, and paste. The CRISPR “gene processor” has two main parts. The first is a short sequence of RNA that can search a cell’s genome and “find” a corresponding

set of letters in the sequence that makes up DNA. Doudna calls it a “guide RNA.” Scientists can synthesize any RNA sequence they like, typically making a segment that corresponds to the DNA sequence they want to find.

The second part of the CRISPR machine is a huge protein molecule originally found in bacteria. It’s called Cas, which is short for CRISPR-associated protein. Cas rides along with the guide RNA, unwinding the DNA double helix and separating the two strands so that the guide RNA can look for its corresponding sequence on one strand or the other.

The whole complex will bounce around randomly in a cell’s nucleus until it happens to find the right sequence. Then it will stick there while the second part of the Cas molecule changes shape again and cuts the DNA right where the guide RNA indicates, leaving two dangling ends.

When DNA breaks, which happens often naturally, cells use their own enzymes to splice the ends back together. At this point an optional third component

of the CRISPR complex—the “copy” and “paste”—comes into play. It is a length of lab-made DNA bearing the correct sequence. This serves as a template that the cell, “thinking” that it is merely repairing a break, will automatically use to guide its repair. The result is the insertion of a new gene that may treat a disease or that may confer a new trait.

All this is slow to explain, but it happens in a fraction of a second in a living cell. And just as fast, if desired, in billions of cells simultaneously.

To see a short animation go to: bit.ly/CRISPRshort

To see a long animation go to: bit.ly/CRISPRanimation

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after some 40 years as a science writer and editor, primarily at The Washington Post and The New York Times. He welcomes feedback at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Summer aromas: herbs, spice, and everything nice

Maritta Perry Grau
Frederick County Master Gardener

“Summertime, and the living is easy...” Well, maybe. For some, being outside in the summer’s heat and humidity can trigger migraines or allergy attacks; however, on a positive note, that heat and humidity can trigger summer’s scents. It’s not just the pretty, bright flowers that attract me and the bees, butterflies, and other insects—it’s the aroma of herbs and spices that tickle my nose whenever I take a stroll around the gardens.

We have two lavender plants, a young one just beginning to edge the front and one next to some stepping stones that cross another garden; we love the way the smell of lavender drifts on the air at the slightest touch when we walk by. Even when they’ve finished blooming, the needle-like foliage still provides delectable scents. On our backyard patio, we have some potted rosemary mixed with coleus and other plants just by the back door. Again, the scent wafts on the air as we brush by. Russian sage and other aromatic flowers, as well as herbs, add to the fragrances in other beds around

the house and yard.

You can find lots of information about herbs and spices on the University of Maryland Extension Service’s website. For example, advocates of using herbs and spices claim that such healthy eating helps many of the body’s systems, since herbs and spices contain trace amounts of phytonutrients and antioxidants.

Usually, when a recipe, whether used in a medicinal way or for food, calls for “herbs,” it is calling for some form of the leaves of a small plant (think basil [*Ocimum basilicum*], chives [*Allium schoenoprasum*], dill [*Anethum graveolens*], mint [*Menthum*], rosemary [*Salvia rosmarinus*], sage); spices are bits taken from roots to bark to seeds of larger plants such as trees (think cinnamon, cloves, garlic, ginger, paprika).

Extracts are made from raw materials and usually contain alcohol, which extends the shelf life of the extract. Flavorings, on the other hand, are made from essential oils and do not contain alcohol. Both extracts and flavorings can be made from natural or synthetic materials.

Don’t have any herbs or spices in your garden, or you want to add more? You’re in luck. It’s not too late to plant

this year! You can plant many annual and biennial herbs up through August. You may want to research your chosen herbs before planting, as some, like dill and parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), are best planted directly as seeds rather than transplanted as seedlings into the soil (although I am delighted to report that my seedlings of dill, fennel [*Foeniculum vulgare*], and parsley are thriving so far). You just have to know what your zone is (check the USDA Hardiness Zone map) and when the first frost is predicted for that zone. In our mid-Atlantic region, that is usually zone 5 or 6, with a frost date around October 15.

Note, too, that lots of summer herbs, such as basil, mints, peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*), and rosemary, attract pollinators, repel some predator pests and insects, and, of course, add those aromas mentioned earlier.

After checking your particular zone and its requirements, you may find that you can plant frequently used herbs, including anise (*Pimpinella anisum*), basil, chives, fennel, lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*), marjoram (*Origanum majorana*), oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), and tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*), among others. Many of these can even be grown indoors in the fall.

Your herbs will probably want at least four hours of sun, although they may need some shade in the hottest part of the day. Again, research the UMD Extension Service information about growing herbs and spices in the mid-Atlantic first. And as we noted in our June article on taking care of your lawn, you’ll want to be careful about the amount of water you give your new herbs.

Joi Vogin, Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent for the UMD Extension Service, Frederick County, suggests that when storing dried herbs and spices, you “use airtight glass containers...



A two-year-old French lavender plant is beginning to overlap the sidewalk in the author’s front garden. Its subtle, soothing scent releases quickly into the air at the slightest touch. It prefers fast-draining, nutrient-poor, alkaline soil and thrives in hot, dry, sunny locations, like this southwest-facing garden.

Store them in a cool, dark, dry place like a cabinet or drawer,” although fresh herbs can be rinsed, patted dry, and kept in the fridge (except basil) for about 4 to 7 days.

Fresh herbs can be kept on the counter in glass jars or in the refrigerator on a paper towel in a ziplock bag. In a recent e-mail, Dr. Vogin said that “Herb-infused oils should be kept in the refrigerator and used within 3–4 days to prevent growth of harmful bacteria.” Herbal oils can be kept longer when frozen in ice cube trays or similar mini-containers.

In addition, the UMD website says that you should store “paprika, chili powder, and red pepper...in the refrigerator to retain their color.” The website says that only these three should be stored in the fridge. Most dried “herbs and ground spices should stay fresh for one year and whole spices should be usable for two years,” the website says.

Consult the UMD website for more information on how to preserve specific herbs and spices.

Many studies have shown that both sight and smell can improve our perception of the taste of our food: in studies where food was tinted an unappetizing color, people often lost their appetites. According to the UMD website, volatiles, those aroma chemicals in herbs and spices, combined with heat, increase the aroma. And although we often try to avoid or limit our intake of oils and fats, they do help to dissolve volatiles better than water alone.

Dr. Vogin advises that if you’re doubling a recipe, you will want to increase the herbs and spices, but don’t double the amount. Instead, add herbs and spices in small amounts until you achieve the taste you want. Different types of herbs and spices, whether fresh or dried, add to the flavor of cooking at various times, whether added at the beginning or end. A note of caution: remember that the flavor of some herbs, such as peppers and chilies, get more intense during cooking, so be careful to add such herbs gradually.

And what about irradiated herbs and spices? Irradiation is the use of ionizing radiation to reduce or eliminate bacteria, molds, and pests in food, “making it more resistant to spoilage,” according to



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For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County Maryland Facebook page, or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.

the Center for Consumer Research (ccr.ucdavis.edu). Those that you buy are usually irradiated at the company where they are processed, but those from your garden obviously are not.

You can go to the UMD Extension Program's website for a video on herb gardening ("Introduction to Herb Gardening"), as well as other information to help you in growing and preserving the herbs and spices in your garden.

Visit the Frederick County Master Gardeners headquarters at the UMD Extension Service, 330 Montevue Lane in Frederick. There, you can get print brochures and other publications (some in Spanish). Additionally, check our website for upcoming seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, or other announcements at bit.ly/FCMG-Home-Gardening, or call

us at 301-600-1596. Get ideas for your own garden in our demonstration gardens behind the building—check out our herb spiral! On the first Wednesday of each month through October, weather permitting, at 10, we have a Children's Storytime in the Garden. A master gardener reads a story to the children, and follows up with story-related activities.

Even more gardening information and advice are available to you online at: University of MD Extension Home & Garden Information Center, bit.ly/UME-HGIC; Frederick County Master Gardeners Publications, www.extension.umd.edu

Oh, and thank you, Ella Fitzgerald, for your take on one of my favorite songs in Porgy and Bess.

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

Small Town Gardener

The necessity of underwear

Marianne Wilburn

The tricky business of last minute staking is on the agenda this month. Each year I fantasize that the storms won't come, the vertical accents won't go horizontal, and the work I shirked in May won't haunt me in July. And each year I am slapped in the face (sometimes literally), by plants that really needed an assist to be all they can be.

There are many people who feel that staking plants is time consuming, overly meticulous and fussy. But staking is not solely about appearance, and can positively affect the production and purpose of a plant. If you choose to plant, for instance, an old-fashioned peony with heavy double blooms that smell sweetly, something is lost in translation if you have to pull the blooms out of a mud puddle in order to sniff them.

Tomatoes can flop, and the Italians often grow them thus – in an orgy of vining, twining summer stems reclining atop beds of straw, but I find that there is more production and less waste when they are (at the very least) leaning against an upright cage.

This sentiment might reflect the uptight part of my nature, but it is also very practical when one is dealing with a small space and a humid, fungus-loving climate. The Italians also live in Italy, and not in my cool stream valley.

Thanks to a friend's successful example, I have now taken to removing the bottom leaves of my tomato plants as they grow to stop soil borne

disease splashing back onto the foliage. This is made possible by staking the plants in the first place -- otherwise all leaves are bottom leaves. I have had much healthier plants as a result.

And, if you've ever dug a huge hole, amended it with love, and within, planted a small, precious tree, only to leave the staking for another day; I trust that the resulting 60 degree angle of the trunk five years later is to your liking. Trees settle in their holes. They stretch toward the sun and must be gently reminded that building good character starts with boundaries – yours.

So, staking should be undertaken, and just like any good undergarment, the stakes should be discrete. But how, and with what? I am not a garden-gadget person, but a few years ago, I found green metal stakes in two and four-foot lengths topped with a half circle hook at one end, allowing the gardener to quickly pop in a stem and secure it without ever getting out the twine.

I love these reusable, camouflaged stakes and add a few to my collection whenever I see them at garden centers. They are great for plants like foxglove, large iris, Echinacea, and other perennials and annuals that throw up tall blooms that could be damaged by winds or rampaging guinea hens.

For larger clumping perennials whose blooms grow more as an extension of the foliage (peony, hypericum etc.), hoop style staking with attached 'legs' is the option we are always given at the home centers, but it is rarely satisfactory.

You will spend a great deal of time trying to get all three stakes at equal depths, and wind or rain can still push a plant to one end of the hoop or another. One is often left with the look of a too-big vase for a too-small bouquet.

But hey, at least they're off the ground.

My preferred method these days is either to create a pea-stick structure for the plant to grow through in late winter (which can be almost as beautiful as the plant itself), or create a network of twine and bamboo to create something similar with an inner cobweb-like structure once the plant is actively growing.

The term 'pea-stick' refers to the old practice of sticking branched twigs (often hazel or other bendable tree branches), into rows of pea seeds for the emerging plants to cling to. The branches are cut in winter when shed of leaves. In the early spring, they can also be used to surround a perennial crown in a circle, and the tops are carefully bent and broken to form a cobwebbed dome – woven into each other in a pleasing way that smacks of rusticity and cunning. It is almost a shame when the plant is fully emerged and the artistic shapes are lost.

But it is July, and that ship has sailed. Now your most egregious floppers require one or two stout canes pounded into the soil near the perennial clump, and some twine wrapped around several strategic outer stems to create a different type of cobweb.

Such staking won't secure a small tree. But ½ inch rebar can be pounded in on either side of a newly planted specimen and connected with a bit of rope sheathed with rubber hose to protect the trunk from being gouged. Use a figure-eight configuration with the rope and don't secure it too tightly – it's important the tree is able to move a bit in the wind. After a year or so of this treatment, a tree is usually able to hold its head up high.

Some plants will require an immediate staking, others can grow into it, and still others will get by with a stake thrown in on an as-needed basis. Use your discretion, and think carefully about a plant's need for extra support before you buy it. If you disapprove of underwear in the garden, you can easily find dwarf cultivars that make such trappings unnecessary – but burning one's bra and letting it all hang out is not the answer.

Marianne Willburn writes from Lovettsville, VA. Join her and Leslie Harris for thoroughly un-boring gardening each week at The Garden Mixer podcast. Available wherever you get your podcasts.

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PETS

Summer heat

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Okay, so I have about had it with the humidity and heat. Oh my word, I swear the older I get, the worse I feel when temperatures climb above 90 degrees. I had my dad out for groceries the other day and it was one of those days where we had an excessive heat warning. The temperature display in the car actually said 100 at one point. I was so incredibly exhausted by the time I got home, I seriously thought something was rather strikingly wrong with me. After a quick Google search, I learned that fatigue during really hot days is because of the work our bodies do to cool us down. Our bodies have to work almost twice as hard when it's super hot in order to keep our internal temperatures at an okay place. Whew. The heat is quite literally too much. Then I imagined what it would be like for our four-legged friends. I mean, can you imagine wearing a fur coat in this heat? I absolutely can't. And yet, that's what it would be like for our pets when the temperatures soar above 90 – and sometimes get close to 100. Add to that the fact that animals don't perspire like we do to keep cool and you have a recipe for a rough afternoon for a dog or cat who has to contend with the elements. One of the biggest differences between us and our four-legged babies is our pets don't sweat like we do. They cool themselves down by panting – they pull air over their wet tongues and that helps lower their body temperature. They can also put their bellies or paw pads on a cool surface to help, but mostly it's panting. When they pant, obviously their breathing accelerates, but so does their heart rate.

If they can't cool down, excessive panting can lead to heart failure, brain damage, nerve damage and even death. Even if a pet doesn't die, he or she could literally be affected for life from excessive heat. The next time you get in a hot car to go somewhere, try to pant. Don't do it for long because you'll be overcome in a few short seconds, I'm certain, but that's what it would be like for a dog or a cat inside a hot car. In fact, I found a study that says, even when it's 72 degrees outside, a parked car's internal temperature can reach 116 degrees in one hour. That's too hot for anyone, let alone an animal covered in fur. When I think about it, it's tough to keep anxiety and panic from setting in because I can sympathize with the animals. Please, if you have to take your animal with you in the car, make it a short trip and don't leave them in a parked car. I always think people are sick to death of hearing about heat warnings for pets, but then I'll hear about someone who leaves a dog (or God forbid a baby) in a car on a hot day and my brain leaks out my ears a little. So, I'm going to keep saying it – please don't leave your animal in a car at this time of year, even with the windows rolled down. Many of them can't take it. Also remember in general at this time of year, our pets will most definitely need access to water and cool spots, especially the breeds with thick coats or smashed faces. Pugs have difficulty breathing sometimes as it is (if you've ever heard one of those little squirts snort like a pig, you know what I'm talking about – it's adorable, but can be problematic). If you add panting through incredibly hot heat to the mix for a pug, you could see where issues can arise rather quickly.

Keep in mind sunburns aren't just for humans. The hairless breeds – or dogs that have lost their hair recently – can get sunburned. So, when you're out and about on those bright sunny days, keep your four-legged friends in mind and make sure they have access to shade. Oh, and asphalt. Man, I can feel the heat coming off it when I'm wearing flip flops. Imagine what it's like for our dogs and cats who have no protection on their sensitive paws. If you're taking a walk in the summer, remember to give your guy a chance to wander through some grass so he can get off that burning pavement. If your boy or girl appears to have signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, call your vet or the emergency clinic for suggestions. Obviously, excessive panting is a sign, as well as drooling, red-denied gums, vomiting, diarrhea, mental dullness, uncoordinated movements, loss of consciousness or collapse. Get him or her into a cool place and put cool water on his or her feet and belly. Your goal is to get them cool, fast, but don't make it too drastic a temperature change – that could do more harm than good. Take the advice of your vet or the techs at the emergency clinic to help cool your pets down. Cats can also suffer from the heat, although they are often a bit more adept at finding cool spots.

Outdoor kitties can usually be found under a porch or deep in the shade on really hot days. Still, they may need more water in the sweltering heat. If they don't eat as much, don't panic. Heat can make cats not as active and not as hungry, so they will likely cut down on their food intake. Keep an eye out for panting in cats. I've often said cats really shouldn't pant, so if they are, something is going on. The signs of heat issues in cats are essentially the same for dogs. A cat with heat stroke or heat exhaustion really should get to an emergency vet as soon as possible and you should try to cool their paw pads and if they'll let you, their stomachs. The heat can be tough on all of us, but keeping an eye on our pets will help make sure the whole family can have fun in the sun without repercussions. And that, to me, is the best way to spend these warm summer days.

The Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvaspets.org.



Calliope came into the shelter as a stray, so not a lot is known about her background. She is an active girl who is about 2 years old. Calliope is strong and will need someone who can work with her on leash skills and provide her with regular exercise. She is food-motivated and loves playing in the yard at the shelter. She would do best at a home without other animals.



We must talk about Bruno! He is a sweet guy who is looking for a special home. Bruno is blind and walks oddly due to a neurological condition. He was surrendered to the shelter when his former owner could no longer care for him, and because of this, he needed a little extra help adjusting to shelter life. Bruno has made strides since his arrival and is a happy dog! He is a 1-year-old mixed breed who enjoys attention and is very loving. Bruno does need help when navigating around objects, but otherwise, he does very well on his own! He will need someone who is understanding of his needs and is willing to work with him on adjusting to a new home. He would do best in an adult-only home.



Muffin was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a fun-loving American mix rabbit that enjoys getting veggies and loves to explore! He has been neutered since his arrival at the shelter.



Snowshoe came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but she is one good looking girl! She's about two years old and really nice. She's going to make someone a great companion.



Harvey was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is an 8-year-old Jack Russell Terrier mix who is an outgoing fellow. Harvey would do best in an adult-only home. He can be a bit vocal so he may not do well in apartment living. Harvey does chase cats so a home without cats would be best. Could he be your new four-legged best friend?

For more information about Calliope, Bruno, Muffin, Snowshoe, or Harvey call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, 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.

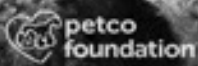

I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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



PETS

New wheels

Shawn Snyder

There’s a little more zoom in Giblet’s zoomies these days thanks to a special gift from Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter (FFOCAS). The nonprofit group recently paid for a cart from K9 Carts so the two-year-old Pit Bull Mix can finally run, play and do all the zoomies he wants without leg pain.

Giblet is one of two special needs dogs currently residing at Frederick County Animal Control. Upon his return in November of 2024, he was diagnosed with bilateral luxating patellas. While surgery is an option, our team recognizes that the recovery process may do more harm than good in terms of Giblet’s quality of life. So, we’ve instead decided to go with a less is more treatment approach, daily medication to keep him comfortable.

Giblet doesn’t let his condition hold him back. He may do things a little bit differently, but he still runs, plays and climbs onto the couch for cuddle sessions. Sometimes, however, he plays too hard and feels sore and still. That’s where his new cart comes in.



Giblet

His cart will serve as a walker or crutch, taking weight off his back legs so he can “dog.” As Giblet ages this cart, which is his forever, can be converted into a full wheelchair in the event that he can no longer use his back legs.

The silly pittie has been using his cart for several weeks now and according to his foster mom “loves it.” He gets into it without issue and has taken to it amazingly well. He is now able to play harder and go for longer walks. He’s even taken it off road on a few short hikes. When Giblet’s not zooming about, he loves nothing more than to be snuggling with his people. He has serious Velcro dog poten-

tial. But Giblet doesn’t just love people, he loves other dogs too. He would love to live with another dog that wants to play and cuddle as much as he does. Additionally, Giblet has done well with kids and cats.

Giblet would do well in most home environments apart from those with a lot of steps. While he can navigate a few here and there, multistory homes may prove difficult for the dog especially as he ages.

We are so grateful for FFOCAS and all of their donors. Without them, wonderful gifts like this wouldn’t be possible for our residents.



When looking at Horatio one might think he is an older puppy but he’s actually only two years old. Horatio is a playful guy but is more than willing to sit still if you are petting him! He seems to like people of all ages and reacts favorably to other dogs at the shelter. Horatio is still working on keeping his paws on the ground but does walk nicely on a leash and has a few basic commands already under his belt.



Smart, energetic and affectionate are all adjectives to describe Mikey. He enjoys going for walks or playing outside but what he really thrives on is attention from people. Mikey’s previous owner told us he was trusted alone and he never had accidents in the house. True to his hound dog pedigree, Mikey loves to sniff and follow his nose; therefore, his next family will need to ensure they can keep him safely at home.



What a beauty! Julianne has an amazing tortoiseshell coat and has the personality to match. She was found as a stray on Main St.in Mt. Airy. At the shelter, she is a social butterfly. She is relaxed when meeting new people, and she initiates petting by rubbing against your hand.



The first thing you notice about Ms. Meowgi is her cloudy right eye. The cause of the corneal scar is unknown, but her eye is healed and there is no further treatment needed. Ms. Meowgi was found as a stray in Emmitsburg, so not much is known about her past. She takes a moment to warm up to new people but once comfortable, she is friendly and enjoys being petted.



Simple math: looks + personality = Mufasa. This handsome fellow is going to make a wonderful companion. Mufasa loves attention but is not overly demanding or needy. At only 2 years old, he still loves to explore but is also content lounging in a cat bed. Mufasa has tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), which is manageable and cannot be contracted by humans.



Are you a patient person looking for a silly canine sidekick? Let us introduce you to Roderick. While Roderick is initially quite shy, your patience will be handsomely rewarded. Once he is comfortable with new people and surroundings, he turns into your typical adolescent dog; playing and exploring. A perfect gentleman on leash, he enjoys long walks, rolling in grass and collecting treasures like pieces of bark he finds along the way. Roderick has done well with dogs and cats, but his fearful nature makes him better suited for life in a quiet home with older children and adults.

For more information about Horatio, Mikey, Julianne, Ms. Meowgi, Mufasa, or Roderick call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!

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COMMUNITY NOTE

Louie’s Famous Chicken & Subs

Celia Alsbaugh
WHS Class of 2028

Walkersville has no shortage of local restaurants. From breakfast diners to fast food joints to taquerias, this small town has a colorful assortment of meal options for its community. One restaurant, however, stands out. Louie’s Famous Chicken & Subs is located on West Frederick Street and has been around for nearly 50 years. Louie’s is home to a menu customized to the people’s tastes, which has been carefully constructed over years of serving.

Curious about what the favorites are on this famous menu? It’s in the name, but Louie’s sells both fried chicken and sub sandwiches. In terms of subs, the people of Walkersville love their Steak and Cheese Sandwich.

“Everything sells, but that’s probably the top sub,” the owner’s son,

Said Hani, says. Their fried chicken has also built up a reputation of its own, being another one of their top sellers that the townspeople have come to love and enjoy. Whether you like to dine-in or take your food to go, Louie’s offers both.

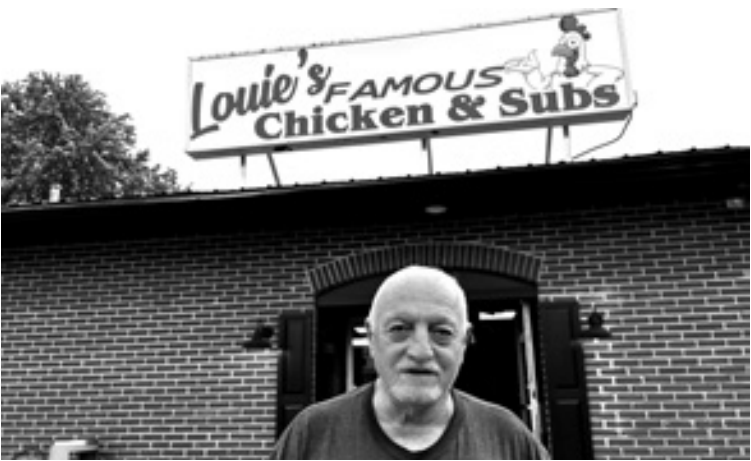
This local restaurant has not only rich meals, but also a rich history. Formed by brothers Elias Hani (aka Louie) and Nick Hani, Louie’s is a family business. Louie and Nick are both Palestinian, having moved to Montgomery County when they were 16 and 14 respectively. They jumped into the food service industry right away, establishing Louie’s in 1986.

For over 50 years the brothers ran Louie’s with pride, catering to their community’s needs. However, for the past 16 years Elias’ son Said has run the restaurant. Said was able to buy out his uncle a little over a decade ago and now runs Louie’s full time.

The Louie’s location in Walkersville was opened in 2022. Actively, this is their only open Louie’s establishment, having found the space at a good price and in a prime location. Now Louie and Said run their restaurant together, with Said’s mother, Busma, helping out on Fridays.

On a daily basis, Said and his family take care of everything necessary to run the restaurant themselves, keeping Louie’s solely a family business. They manage the inventory, order and pay for supplies, answer the phones, man the cash register, clean the restaurant, and cook the food. Said jokes about how well he knows Louie’s saying, “there’s nothing I can’t do in this place.”

For about the last 40 years Said and his family have lived in Walkersville, their restaurant’s mission being to serve good food and serve their neighbors. They’ve gotten to know the people well and have



Elias Hani (aka Louie), the official greeter (and cook) at Louie’s Famous Chicken & Subs.

learned what the people do and don’t like. “A lot of the people around here like the same kind of food,” says Said, mentioning how in the time between 2018 and 2022 multiple different establishments came through the plot that Louie’s now runs out of, and how none of the people took to them.

The Hanis have formed deep bonds with the people they have come to know in Walkersville. One local, Ashley Bailey, has

known Said and his family for a long time. Back when the restaurant was called Royal Chicken, Bailey and her family ordered their takeout one night, meeting Said and becoming fast friends. Louie’s quickly became their family’s go-to restaurant for week-ends. One of the reasons Louie’s is so well loved in Walkersville is because “the family is so kind and generous. Their family has been a staple in this community for MANY years,” states Bailey. The importance of family and community is deeply rooted in the restaurant’s history and continues to play a huge role in Walkersville to this day. Despite name and location changes, those who are dedicated to Louie’s follow where it goes.

This classic local restaurant quickly had the Baileys finding their favorite menu items. “I love the BLT sub,” states Bailey, “[and] the steak and cheese [sub] is delicious.” Great for family dinners, the Bailey kids love the chicken strips with fries and they especially enjoy the pizza! Louie’s is also renowned for having great affordable prices. The low cost of the food allows families of all kinds to enjoy the delicious, hand-crafted meals made by Said and his family.

Another local family, the Irelands, have also known the Hanis for a long time. Terra Ireland and her three sons became quick friends with Louie and his family, becoming fast regulars in their restaurant. Terra notes how she found, and still finds, it incredibly admirable that the brothers moved to America at such young ages, “super brave in my opinion,” she says. Despite being immigrants, Louie and Nick have firmly integrated themselves in their local community. Their personal friendships and relationships formed with their customers (on top of the delicious food) have made Louie’s the place to be. As Ireland puts it, “if you ever want to know what is going on in Town, Louie is in the know.”

Friday night dinners at Louie’s turned into friendships made with the other regulars and owners, “the [Hani] brothers would entertain everyone telling stories about their home and families,” states Ireland.

So if you’re looking for a tasty and easy meal, or a place of community and friendship, take a trip down to Louie’s and get to know just how special it is for yourself!

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

SECTION 2

The joys of mentoring

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

So often we categorize reading and writing into this category of school and requirements, but we frequently forget the importance and the magic that surrounds the two in any and every sense. Writing and managing for the Woodsboro-Walkersville News Journal has become a huge part of my life; from writing for Four Years At The Mount and editing news articles multiple days a week to having the pleasure of mentoring young writers on their own journey in the professional world of writing.

I've learned that writing is so much more than the words on a page. It's how we process the world, connect with others, and share our experiences and our stories in a meaningful way. It's also an act of courage—to make sense of your own perspective, commit it to paper, and offer it up for others to read. That kind of bravery, especially in young writers, is something I've grown to deeply admire. It's a scary step to take; allowing others to read your work and hear what you have to say. You open yourself up to criticism and other opinions which may differ from your own, yet it's also a sort of "rush" to know that people are reading and engaging with something you wrote and put out into the world.

Over the course of the past year, I have had the immense pleasure of mentoring and working with a freshman—now moving into her sophomore year—from Walkersville High School named Celia Alspaugh, a name I'm hoping you all know well by now. Celia keeps us all up to date with the happenings at WHS, whether it be school plays, club activities or fundraisers, she's got it covered! Her writing brings such a light to the News-Journal and allows us to immerse ourselves in teenage life at WHS.

I will admit, when I was first told I'd be mentoring Celia I was stressed about it. I had just been promoted to Managing Editor, was drowning in schoolwork and exhausted from waitressing most nights in Frederick; I was burning out and doing so quickly. That said, being in charge of someone else's development was a bit scary. I honestly didn't think I was ready for it. I was afraid of letting her down, of not having enough time, or of being a poor role model because I was still figuring things out myself. That fear and worry was completely unnecessary though. Celia has a talent and skill so unique and beautiful, and she works incredibly hard. When I say it's a joy mentoring her, I genuinely mean it's a joy; I'm not sure my job would be the same without her.

Naturally, when we first started working together there were some

habits to break and new habits to get used to. Technology is a tricky thing, something I think many people can attest to, it took many tries for us to be able to get articles sent back and forth without having to grant permissions, go online and copy and paste into a new document, or even get articles to properly attach in emails. We were learning to navigate cloud drives, email formats, and editing tools all while on deadlines. Through it all, Celia was patient, resilient, and always kind. She never let me worry for a second. Each article she writes is filled with voice, care, and sincerity. I learn something new not only about WHS, but about her, and often, about myself.

Over the months we've worked together she has aced the structure and format of her articles, and her writing has become absolutely impeccable! In fact, I normally try to send as many articles to my staff to edit as I can but I tend to keep Celia's to myself. I find immense joy in reading her writing and I feel honored to be the first to read her thoughts and experiences as she writes them in her articles. Watching Celia discover her voice and find confidence in her words reminded me of how transformative writing can be. It's not just about reporting facts—it's about connecting people to one another, telling stories that might otherwise go unheard, and creating meaning from experience. As someone who didn't grow up in Maryland and is still (even after three years here) finding their place in the community, hearing the perspective of a young woman who has grown up in the area and is experiencing her adolescence here is riveting. We're not just learning of what's happening at Walkersville High School, but we're learning of how Celia is experiencing it both as a teenager and as a writer! When I read her work, I'm reminded of how fresh and immediate writing can feel when it's rooted in personal experience and observation. She writes with heart, and that heart shows in every sentence.

What I didn't anticipate was how much I would grow in the process. Mentoring Celia has pushed me to articulate my own process more clearly, to become more intentional in my edits, and to slow down and really think about what makes a story resonate. In a way, she's reminded me why I fell in love with writing in the first place. Not only that, but Celia has also given me a purpose in a way. I absolutely love helping people and being able to be someone who is there for Celia, whether it be to aid in her writing process, give her advice, or even just be there to talk to about the stress of daily life, it makes my days a little brighter.

Being a teenager is no easy feat. Growing up is a stressful time and

it's hard to know what comes next for yourself and for those around you. Celia is moving into her sophomore year of high school this year; a time where young teenagers have found their place, their friends, hobbies, interests and, in some ways, themselves. Watching her blossom as a writer has reminded me how powerful words can be, especially when someone finds the confidence to own their voice and Celia certainly does so.

I've also come to see how vital youth journalism is—not just for the students who participate in it, but for the communities they represent. Young writers have fresh eyes. They bring sincerity, honesty, and a desire to learn that breathes life into local reporting. Their work deserves to be read, supported, and nurtured.

I'm incredibly proud of everything Celia has accomplished this year. From her first submitted article to her most recent piece, her growth has been remarkable. I know that she'll continue to thrive as both a writer and a leader, and I can't wait to see what she does next. For the first time I am sad to say that I will be graduating from the Mount and leaving town come May 2026 because that means I will have to come to terms with the fact that it will no longer be me who gets the joy of



Celia Alspaugh

mentoring Celia in her journey of becoming a writer. But I'm also not quite sure she still needs my help; her heart and love for writing shows in each article. My hope is that she remembers how powerful her voice is—and that one day, she too will pass that light on to someone else, mentoring with the same grace, drive, and brilliance she's shown all year long.

And for me, this experience has

served as a beautiful reminder: mentorship is not about having all the answers. It's not about being the best even. It's about walking alongside someone as they ask the questions—and growing together along the way.

Editor's Note: If you get a chance, take the time to read some of the riveting works on life at Walkersville High School by Celia!

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SCAN ME



HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Creagerstown, Ladiesburg, Johnsville, Middleburg, New Midway, Libertytown, Woodsboro, Lewistown, & Walkersville entries.

Continued from last month

Colonel Leyman

Colonel Leyman, a prominent farmer of the Creagerstown District, son of the late George and Sophia Lehman, was born in the Mechanicstown District, August 12, 1871.

The late George W. Leyman, father of Colonel Lehman, was born in the Mechanicstown District, and was prominent amongst the farmers of his day. He was educated in the schools of his native District, and spent his whole life in the cultivation of the soil. Mr. Leyman began farming for himself on a small place, which he purchased in the Creagerstown District and some years later, rented the old Schley farm in the Frederick District, which he cultivated, until after the close of the

Civil War. Shortly after the close the war, he brought a farm of 180 acres, belonging to the Clem estate in Mechanicstown District, which he cultivated so successfully that he gave him large returns for his labor.

In 1884, Mr. Layman purchased another farm of 120 acres of fine farming, land situated in the Creagerstown District, the property of Captain Willhide. This place he also improved in every way, and made it one of the most desirable properties of the District. He also owned a valuable track of timberland in the conductive mountains.

Mr. Leyman began life as a poor boy, and describes all his financial success to hard work and close attention to business. He was Republican, highly esteemed by fellow citizens. Mr. Leyman was married to Sophia Favorite, with whom he had seven children.

Colonel Lehman, son of George and Sophia Leyman, received education in the schools of his native District, and remained at home, working with his father, whose

intelligent instruction, he became a skillful farmer. Mr. Leyman began farming for himself on the old Guck place, now, the property of his brother in the Lewistown District. Seven years later he rented the Robert Ramsburg place, which he cultivated successfully for three years. At the end of three years, he purchased his homestead, a farm of 204 acres of fertile land situated about 11 miles north of Frederick, on the Creagerstown and Lewistown Road. His property is beautifully situated and has a fine stream of water flowing through it.

Mr. Leyman is a progressive farmer, and is improved his place in every respect until it is considered one of the best farms in the county. He deals exclusively in livestock, and has been very successful in this business. Mr. Lehman attributes his financial success to hard work and close attention to business.

Colonel Leyman was married to a daughter of Eli and Amanda Fisher, whose father is a retired farmer of the Lewistown District. Their only son died in youth. Colonel Leyman and his wife are members of the Methodist Church.

William Long

William Long, one of the prominent and progressive farmers and well-known citizen of the Cragertown District was born in the Woodsboro District, May 25, 1865. He is a son of Abraham and Amanda Long.

John Long, the grandfather of our subject, was in native of Germany, and came to United States while young man. He settled near what is now Littlestown, Adams County. He learned to be a veterinary surgeon under his father in the fatherland and follow that profession in this country successfully for a number of years. He then purchased a fine farm, located in Littlestown and began farming, in addition to his medical work. Mr. Long made a success of life from the time of his landing in America. He began life as a poor boy, but at the time of his death wasn't comfortable circumstances. Besides his farm, he also owned a small track in Littlestown, on part of which now stands the Union Church of the Reformed and Lutheran Congregations. He was an honored and respected citizen of his community. Mr. Long was married in this country to Sarah Keller, who, like himself,

was of German birth, and came to America in early life. They were the parents of three children.

Abraham Long, son of John and Sarah, was a prominent farmer in the Frederick County area. He was born in Adams County, and received a private school education. For five years, he was successfully engaged in teaching school in his native county, but not having a liking for that profession, he bought a farm from William Black, which was situated in Carroll County. He began to farm. This track he cultivated with large returns for some time, and approved it in general. He later purchased another farm containing 133 acres from Joseph Black, located in the Woodsboro District. To this property, he removed, living here for two years. Mr. Long leased this farm, then to one of his brothers and rented the old Bussard farm in the Creagerstown District.

For a period of 23 years he was highly successful in his management of the latter place. At the end of that time, he returned to his Woodsboro District farm, on which he spent the rest of his days, dying there, July 11, 1895. He was laid to rest in Mount Tabor cemetery in Rocky Ridge. Mr. Long was a prominent and highly regarded citizen of Frederick County. He was a staunch Republican, and in his early life was appointed magistrate of Carroll County. He was one of the leading spirits in the direction of the Mount Tabor, reform church at Rocky Ridge, but he was consistent member. He served as a member of the church council, and also as an elder. Mr. Long was married to Amanda Mingus, a member of a prominent and long settle German family of Adams County. She was also a member of Mount Tabor Reform Church. By this marriage, there were 11 children.

William H. Long, son of Abraham and Amanda, was the recipient of a public school education. He has been identified with rural occupations, all his life. Until he reached the age of 24, he helped his father. He then sat out to make his own way in the world. He became the possessor of a farm of 88 acres, which was a part of the old John Smith estate, situated one at 3rd miles north of Creagerstown. This property was greatly increased in value and desirability by the erec-

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HISTORY

tion of a new house, barn, and other necessary buildings. With these improvements, this was one of the best farms in the District. 10 years later.

Mr. Long purchased the adjoining farm of 106 acres, and made one of the two properties. The enlarged farm of 194 acres of land, with two sets of buildings, lies on the road running from Creagerstown to Loys Station. The location is a nice one, and the farm is a good producing one. Mr. Long is one of the prominent farmers of the county. As an agriculturalist, he is a leader and has made a success of life. In 1906, he bought the old Ridenour farm, adjoining his other farm. This track consisted of 100 acres, which he has improved by remodeling the house and putting up a new barn.

It his political views, Mr. Long is a loyal Republican. He is affiliated with the Saint John's Evangelical Reform Church of Creagerstown, in which he has filled the offices of Deacon, and is at present one of the elders.

Mr. Long was married to Sarah Fisher, daughter of John and Mary Fisher, the former well-known retired farmer of the Creagerstown District and the latter deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Long were born 11 children.

Frank Burrier

Frank Burrier, tenant of the Nico-demus farm at Walkersville for the past five years, is a practical and enterprise farmer. He was born on its grandfather's farm in Walkersville, April 29, 1866. He is a son of Charles and Kathryn Burrier.

Daniel Burrier, the grandfather of Charles Burrier, died near Walkersville. He was a farmer his entire life and was an extensive landowner. He was born and raised at Chestnut Grove. He was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In his political views, he was a republican. Mr. Burrier was married to Linda Creagor.

Charles Burrier, son of Daniel and Linda Burrier, was born on the home place near Walkersville, November 23, 1841. He was educated in the common schools and a select school near Woodsboro. He grew to manhood on the farm, where he passed his entire life, except one year in Frederick city, and part of a year

on his father-in-law's farm at Ceresville. This farm now contains 148 acres and was originally larger. He died May 20, 1892 and is interned in the Mount Olivet cemetery in Frederick. Mr. Barrier was a man who was greatly esteemed in the community and highly thought of by all who knew him. He was an independent voter. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Walkersville, in which he held office for several years. Mr. Burrier was married March 1, 1864 to Catherine Hoke, daughter of Samuel and Catherine Hoke. Since the death of her husband, she has managed the farm.

Frank Burrier, son of Charles and Catherine Burrier, acquired his learning in the public schools at Walkersville. He spent his boyhood on the home place, where he was employed in the summer and attended school in the winter. When he became of age, he went west, and passed one year in Kansas, and three

years in Illinois, his time being occupied in farm work. He returned home December 25, 1890, and worked for his father again for two summers. After his father's death in 1892, he operated the home farm for four years. In the spring of 1896 he went to live on the farm at Dublin, owned by John Cronise, which he cultivated for eight years. In 1904, he took up his residence at his present place where he has the oversight of 250 acres of land, all which is fertile. This is one of the finest farms in Frederick County, and under his skillful management has yielded large returns.

Mr. Burrier is up-to-date and uses the best improve method of cultivation and the latest machinery. He is also engaged in the dairy business, and has to find herd of Durham cattle, many of which are registered. He is an extensive butter maker, which he ships to Baltimore. In that city, his butter has made a big reputation, being known as the JDZ brand. He

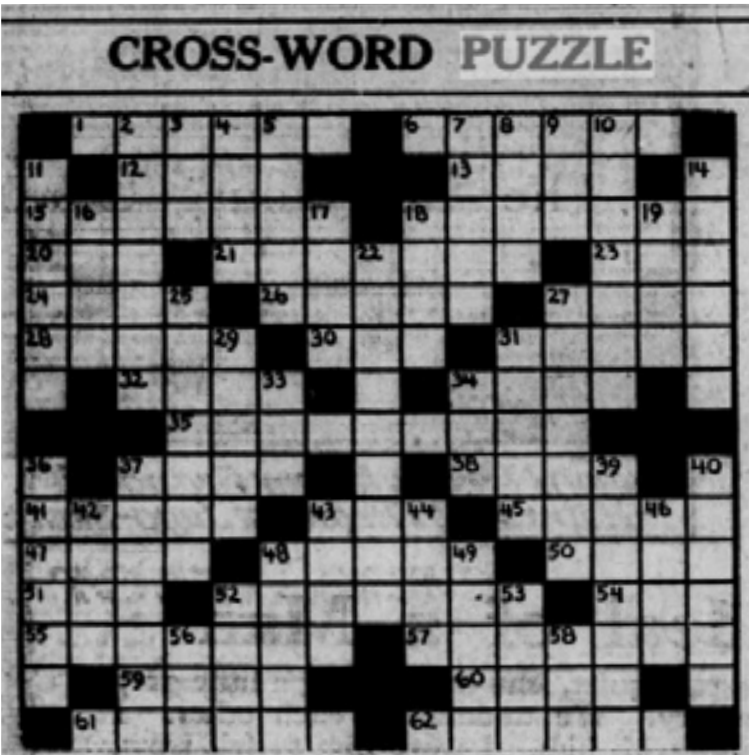
possesses the latest improved churns and up-to-date separators, the power being supplied by gasoline engine. He has won many blue ribbons at county affairs for his high-grade cattle.

In politics, Mr. Burrier, uses his influence in favor of the Republican Party. He's a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is one of the trustees of his congregation.

He has also served as assistant superintendent of the Sunday schools.

Mr. Burrier was married March 8, 1893 to Annie Zimmerman, daughter of Harry and Ellen, Zimmerman and sister of William Zimmerman, cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Frederick. She is a Lutheran in religion.

Continued next month



Horizontal

- 1 - Go away
- 6 - Hypothesis
- 12 - Body of a church
- 13 - Intermittent fever
- 15 - Attends closely
- 18 - Frightened
- 20 - Girl's name
- 21 - Narrated
- 23 - Moved swiftly afoot
- 24 - To play the leading role
- 26 - Grow less
- 27 - Low marshlands
- 28 - Looked at with clear attention
- 30 - Disease of fowls
- 31 - Stalk of grass
- 32 - Always
- 34 - Child (contemptuously)
- 35 - Rivalry
- 37 - Narrow opening
- 38 - Morasses
- 41 - Verdant
- 43 - Suitable
- 45 - Station
- 47 - To take notice of
- 48 - Clownish persons
- 50 - Preserve
- 51 - Request
- 52 - Basket used on horseback
- 54 - Boy's marble
- 55 - Clerk's income
- 57 - Particles
- 59 - Spikenard
- 60 - Musical instrument
- 61 - Exit
- 62 - Of the teeth

Vertical

- 2 - Take by craft
- 3 - In a fit manner
- 4 - Assert to be the case
- 5 - Freshen
- 7 - Detested
- 8 - Interjection
- 9 - Pronoun
- 10 - Fall Back
- 11 - Fastenings
- 14 - Glass for converging rays of light (pl.)
- 16 - Denoting entrance
- 17 - A blow
- 18 - Stairs-trend
- 19 - Go ashore
- 22 - Liveliness
- 25 - Feasted clamorously
- 27 - Raised rims
- 29 - Friend
- 31 - Ponder over
- 33 - Sunken track in road
- 34 - Chin cloth
- 36 - Stuck dumb with horror
- 37 - Searching
- 39 - Broad thin knife
- 40 - Cooked in liquid
- 42 - To repose
- 43 - Loving
- 44 - Advanced math
- 46 - Egg-shaped
- 48 - Companies of musicians
- 49 - To work for
- 52 - Father (French)
- 53 - Precipitation
- 56 - Nominal Value
- 58 - Used in referral

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 3

Walkersville Missionary Service
Henry Ishimurs, Japanese Christian student, now pursuing collegiate work in America, will be the speaker at the missionary service, next Friday night, at the United Brethren Church in Walkersville. He is now making a speaking tour of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Upon the completion thereof, he will return in September to resume his studies and work at Lebanon College. He will appear in his native costume, and will speak on the theme "Fifteen Years Before the Idols of Japan." He comes under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society of the United Brethren church, which is focused on converting the heathens in the Far East to the Christian path of enlightenment.

Playground Open
The playground at Walkersville, which is owned and operated by the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was open Saturday evening, but rain spoiled the program. The concert by the Yellow Spring Band, which had been planned for the evening, will be given on the playground Saturday evening, July 11. In connection with this a sale will be held. The proceeds to be used to defray the expense of the new equipment, which is being added.

Run Over By Tractor
William Myers, on the Fair farm, met with a narrow escape from death, or very serious injury, last Saturday. He had cranked a tractor that he thought was apparently out of gear, but the tractor started moving suddenly and threw him to the ground, one of the front wheels passing over hip and leg. Fortunately, the ground

was very soft and he escaped with a wrenched back and some bad bruises. The tractor then stopped before the plows caught him. Had the ground been hard and the tractor kept on going, he would likely have been killed.

July 10

Shotgun Wedding
A very pretty wedding took place in the Lutheran parsonage of Walkersville, Saturday evening, July 4, when Miss Francis Donsife, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Donsife of Woodsboro, became the bride of Charles Hahn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, also of Woodsboro.
The bride was becomingly attired in brown silk cr pe, and was attended by Miss Margaret Crum, who was bridesmaid, and her sister, Miss Ethel Crum, both of Woodsboro. The groom was attended by Frank Cramer, of Walkersville, who was the best man, and Deputy Sheriff Stall, who escorted Crum to the wedding at the request of the bride's father.
The ring ceremony was performed by Reverend Shilke. After the ceremony the wedding party went to Woodsboro where the new Mr. and Mrs. Hahn will reside.

250 Killed Over the 4th of July Weekend
The total number of fatalities in automobile and drowning cases throughout the country reached 250 over the 4th and 5th, while over 400 were injured. Illinois headed the list with 57 dead and 100 injured. Most of the cases were due to reckless and careless auto driving. As a result, the officers of law are being urged to more rigorously enforce laws against offenders.

National Income Taxes To Be Reduced
A national tax reduction of \$400,000,000 is proposed for the coming year. President Coolidge said the Government was flush with cash and had no debts and estimated that fully \$300,000,000 can be returned to tax payers. The money will be returned by way of reducing next year's tax rates.

Remedies For Mosquitos
First, catch the mosquito. Hold it securely with a pair of nippers in the left hand, and with the right hand clip off its proboscis hypodermicus with a sharp pair of scissors. This is humane, as it does not kill the bug, except in cases in which it dies through humiliation and a broken heart.
Some prefer injecting carbolic acid into its go-getter arteries, but this requires skill and equipment. Another effective plan, but not artistic, is to immolate the captive on a piece of sticky fly-paper and then burn it in the stove.
Some use the more barbarous method of holding the delicate creature by its hind legs, trailing its neck on a block of wood, then using an axe, as in the murder of chickens.
Those who do not believe in capital punishment, say that a coating of gas tar over the face and hands, and other vulnerable parts of the human body, renders intended victims immune from attack, and saves the time and trouble of catching the little hummers.
It may not be generally known that it is only the mosquitress that punctures the epidermis, which explodes the theory that the female is rarely, if ever, successful as a business manager.

July 17

Evolution Case Now Being Tried
The evolution case made progress, this week, in the selection of a jury, after which counsels on both sides indulged in verbal fireworks over a motion made by the defense to quash the indictment, on the grounds of unconstitutionality and defective construction. Following the various arguments of counsel, Judge Ralston withheld his decision and adjourned the court for the day.
Attorney Darrow, for the defense, objected to the opening of the Court with a prayer, as has been the custom, stating that

they were conducting a lawsuit and not a prayer meeting, but the Judge overruled the objection. A resolution was then offered to hear prayers from ministers who were not opposed to the evolution theory, the ruling of the Judge being that he would refer the matter of opening prayers to the ministerial association of the town, which precipitated a long debate on the subject of prayers in a court room.
The reply of the Judge to all objections was "I do not want to be unreasonable about anything, but I believe I have a right. I am responsible for the conduct of the Court. It has been my custom since I have been a Judge to have prayers in the courtroom when it is convenient, and I know of no reason why I should not follow this custom, so I overrule the objections." The question of opening the court with prayer occupied portions of the first and second days proceedings.
The state quickly completed its side of the case on Wednesday in less than two hours, most of the witnesses being Dayton high-school boys. The defense then called Dr. Metcalf, of Johns Hopkins, as the first scientific witness, which was immediately objected to by the State, and the jury was sent out until Judge Ralston prepared his decision.
Counsel on both sides on Thursday, made speeches for and against the admission of expert evidence. The speech of William Jennings Bryan, which lasted for an hour and a half, was generally regarded as not being up to the Bryan standard, and was a disappointment.
Grief Stricken, Woman Shoots Herself
Miss. Eleanor Staufer, 40 years of age, daughter of the late Dorsey Staufer, was found in the garret at the home of her brother-in-law, Newton Fulton, of Walkersville, Tuesday afternoon, with the bullet wound from a 38-caliber revolver about an inch below her heart. The weapon which she used in an effort to end her life was found a short distance from where she lay. She was taken to the Frederick City Hospital, where an operation was performed with a hope of saving her life. Her condition is reported as being very serious.
Miss Staufer, who also lived in Walkersville, have been spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Allie Soren, in the latter's home in Washington. She had been much

depressed since the death of her sister, Mrs. Fulton, about two years ago, and it was supposed that this together with ill health prompted the rash act.
About 3:30 neighbors heard the report of a pistol at the home of Mr. Fulton, followed by the screams of a woman. Charles Crawford, who resides next-door, went to the house and found the front and rear doors locked. He immediately went for Miss Soren, who was at the home of her aunt Miss Clara two doors down and informed her that he thought something had happened to her sister. They returned to Mr. Fulton's and on account of the door, being locked called for Miss Stauffer, receiving no reply.
Mr. Crawford then forced open the front door and accompanied by several persons went from room to room to investigate the cause of the pistol report. Finding no one on the first and second floor they went to the garret where they found Miss Stauffer, moaning and unconscious.
Dr. James Long of Walkersville, and Dr. Paul Etzler of Woodsboro were quickly summoned. The former, who arrive soon after being called, found that the woman was suffering from a bullet wound about an inch below her heart. A 38-caliber revolver belonging to Mr. Fulton was found close to the body.
It is believed that Miss Stauffer carefully planned to end her life. Mr. Fulton left home early in the afternoon and after her sister went to visit her aunt, Miss Stauffer closed the windows and locked all the doors. It is supposed that she then retrieved the weapon, went to the garret and fired the bullet into her body with suicidal intent.
Miss. Stauffer is a niece of J. H. Stauffer, a well-known merchant of Walkersville. Following the death of Miss Fulton, Miss Stauffer became despondent. For sometime she has been in poor health, and it is thought that the brooding over the death of her sister and the state of her health is responsible for her deed.
Her father, the late Dorsey Stafford, was struck and killed by lightning about 25 years ago.
Fire Near Uniontown
Fire destroyed the barn on the farm of John Formwalt near Uniontown, tenanted by Jesse Stonesifer, shortly after midnight, Monday



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morning. The building and contents were completely destroyed. Mr. Stonesifer was awakened by the noises caused by the fire, but was too late to save anything; the horses and mules were lying on the ground, suffocated by smoke, when he got to the burning building. The alarm was quickly given in Uniontown, and the firemen summoned, who saved the wagon shed adjoining.

Two horses, five mules, and a calf died; also about 700 bushels of wheat, 19 loads of hay, a large wagon, all of the harness and a few farming implements. The fire is supposed to have been caused by heating of the hay or grain. A portion of the wheat crop, stored in a shed, was not burned. The cattle, fortunately, were out in pasture.

The barn was partially insured and Mr. Stonesifer had about \$750 insurance on the burned items, in the Taneytown Mutual Company, which will not near cover the loss. Mr. Formwalt gave a check to the firemen, of \$50, for their services. He is planning to build a new barn at once.

Accident

Last Sunday evening an accident happened on the state road, on Clear Ridge in Uniontown, when two cars ran together. The one, driven by some colored men and going pretty rapidly, failed to give room for the other to pass, both cars were badly broken.

Carroll Easterday, Union Bridge, was driving his car, and had with him, Miss Grace Cookson, Bernard Devilbiss, and Miss Royer. Miss Cookson was thrown out on the state road and badly bruised. Mr. Devilbiss was thrown forward on the windshield, and had a hole cut through his lip and his nose and face bruised and cut, and has been under the doctor's care.

July 24

Scopes Guilty In Evolution Case

In a brief written opinion, Judge Ralston refused to permit the jury to hear the evidence of expert scientists on evolution. The substance of his opinion was that as the state of Tennessee had by law made it unlawful to teach evolution in public schools, the opinions of experts could not change that fact. After a half-hour of crossfire between the counsel, and tart allusions to Judge Ralston, the court was adjourned until Monday.

Attorney Darrow, whose expressions on Friday conveyed an attitude of contempt for the Court, greatly enraged the Tennessee Bar Association and the press of the state, and Judge Ralston was criticized for not disciplining him. On Monday, Darrow expressed his regret at having made such remarks, placing his remarks in the form of complete apology, which the Judge accepted, after Darrow had been formally cited for Contempt of Court.

The sensation of the week was the placing of William Jennings

Bryan on the witness stand, and his cross-examination by Darrow (who does not seem to resent being called an atheist, nor deny that he disbelieves most, if not all of the Old Testament). Bryan's examination was stormy from beginning to end, and finally became so violent that the Court was suddenly adjourned. Most of the evidence in the case was mere publicity argument, and did not go before the Jury.

The case closed on Tuesday morning, and a verdict of guilty was promptly rendered. Judge Ralston imposed a fine of \$100 and fixed bail at \$500, pending the filing of an appeal. In commenting on the verdict, Scopes said he had been "convicted of violating an unjust statute." As Scopes had admitted the charge of teaching evolution contrary to law, there was no other verdict possible, the only question being was the constitutionality of the law of the state.

As one of the outcomes of the case, a bill will be presented before Congress providing that Federal aid be withdrawn from all schools teaching the theories of evolution.

The Philadelphia Ledger commented, caustically, on the disgraceful features of the case, and particularly on the part played by Bryan and Darrow. It said in part: "If these are leaders of the two forces which met at Dayton, then the whole issue is an empty quarrel. If they are, in fact, the representative champions of Science and of Religion, it is a shameful confession of America's intellectual bankruptcy.

"Neither is a true representative of the cause in which he fights. William Jennings Bryan is an aging politician who does not represent the greater Christian or religious forces of America. Clarence Darrow is a tired, disillusioned and vitriolic advocate, who made his reputation in the field of criminal law. He may represent unbelief, but he does not represent true Science which has no quarrel with spiritual life and Religion.

"The happenings at Dayton on Monday were a disgrace to a civilized Society, to Religion and to Science. They were a humiliation to the law, to Tennessee and to the Nation. It is time for the issues to be transferred to a higher tribunal and for this small town farce to end. It was high time for the curtain to be rung down on this hippodrome of self advertisers in a publicity-crazed community and on this clownish travesty that was

making Science, the Church, the Law and the State of Tennessee ridicules."

Asks For Bus Permit

The application of John Corbin for a permit to operate a motor-bus line between Union Bridge and Frederick will be heard before the Public Service Commission next Tuesday morning. Mr. Corbin asked permission to operate between these two points via Middleburg, Ladiesburg, New Midway, Woodsboro, and Walkersville.

Held For Grand Jury

Charge for taking a pocketbook containing \$25 in currency and checks valued about \$120, Emery Stull, 15, of near Lewistown, was held on \$500 bail for the September Grand jury after a preliminary hearing before Justice Sherman Bowers.

Charges against Stull were brought by Samuel Ramsburg, who claimed the pocketbook was in a coat hanging in the barn, when Stull went into the barn to dispose of some chickens.

Missing the pocketbook, Ramsburg suspected the boy and the sheriff was notified. Deputy Sheriff Crum was sent out to investigate and went to the boy's home. After questioning the boy, the Deputy took him to Ramsburg's place, where he was identified as the suspected person.

July 30

Thieves Get 50 Chickens

The chicken house of Clinton Metcalf, north of Libertytown, was entered on two nights during the early part of this week and a total of 50 chickens stolen. It is reported that another hennery in the neighborhood was the scene of a theft of nearly 100 chickens. The guilty parties have not been apprehended. A flashlight left by the thieves, was found after one of the robberies.

William Jennings Bryan Dead

William Jennings Bryan was found dead in bed, at Dayton, Tenn., last Sunday afternoon. He had attended services at the Southern M. E. Church where he led in prayer. Following the services returned to his temporary home, ate a hearty dinner during which he remarked on his appetite, then retired for an afternoon nap shortly after three o'clock.



Solutions to this month's crossword puzzle. Note, this crossword puzzle was originally run in July 1925.

Mrs. Bryan went to the back porch, not over fifteen feet from his bed, to attend to some correspondence, and at about 4:30 when she thought he had slept long enough sent their chauffeur to wake him. It was then found that he was dead, and the physician pronounced it to be a case of apoplexy.

Since the Scopes trial Mr. Bryan had been busy speaking, and had along program arranged ahead for the summer. It is thought that the excitement of the trial, and the great discomfort brought by the heat, may have undermined his health, but he made no complaints of it.

And so, there has passed from life one of the most widely known figures that ever appeared on the stage of American political activity; one who came near to being President; one who in it's best days wielded tremendous popular influence; one who no matter what may be thought of his doctrines—was a man of great ability, and must be accorded honest intentions in all of his many attitudes.

Mr. Bryan had just completed arrangements for the publication of his undelivered address on evo-

lution that he had prepared for the Scopes trial, and at an early date had expected to open a speaking campaign on the subject throughout the country, as to which project there was pretty wide difference of opinion as to its advisability, especially as Mr. Bryan was not generally accepted as the highest authority on the subject.

Mr. Bryan was born March 19, 186 0in Salem, Ill. Practiced law until 11887 when he settled in Lincoln, Neb. Made political speeches in the campaign of 1888. Served in Congress from 1891 to 1895. Nominated for President in 1896 at age of 36 years. Commanded 3rd. Infantry of Nebraska in Spanish American war. Again nominated for President in 1900 and1908. Was Secretary of State under Wilson in 1913 and resigned in 1915. His political leadership was broken at convention of 1920.

Burial services will take place today, Friday, in Arlington cemetery, with simple ceremonies.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

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LIBRARY NEWS

July at the Walkersville Library

Bonnie Hoover
Children’s Library Associate

July is here and summer unfolds with fireworks and fireflies lighting up the night sky, barbecues sizzling and friends gather to celebrate the season in full bloom. Beyond the beaches and backyard parties, your local libraries are buzzing too! With storytimes, reading goals (have you signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge yet?!) and creative programs, the library is the place to be, offering a cool escape and plenty of opportunities to keep the minds sharp while school is out. Whether you’re chasing waves or turning pages, the Walkersville Branch Library has something to offer everyone.

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Pick up your books before we close or explore the online collection of movies, audiobooks and more through Hoopla and Libby—all you need is your library card!

Cooking and history enthusiasts alike will enjoy “Victory on the Homefront: Hunting, Fishing, and Preserving WWII” presented by Sarah Lee, host of the Victory Kitchen Podcast. She will discuss how Americans coped with rationing through WWII in ways that are less common to us



today. She will also share recipes and some food to sample as well! Sunday, July 20 at 1:30.

There are many special storytimes and programs this summer at the Walkersville Branch Library including some “field trips” out in the community; read on to find out where you can join the librarians for summer fun!

On Thursday, July 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 the Go Team Therapy Dogs will be all ears and ready to listen to you read. Don’t forget to log your reading time as part of the Summer Reading Challenge!

The Walkersville Branch Library schedule for storytimes is as follows:

Monday: Baby Storytime at 10
Tuesday: Toddlers at 11
Wednesday: Family at 6
Thursday: Preschool at 11

Bring a picnic lunch and join the librarians at the Walkersville Community Park on Kenneth Drive for an outdoor storytime on Wednesdays at 1pm. In the event of inclement weather, please call the library for the status of the program.

Bilingual Storytime at the Walkersville Branch Library will be on Wednesday, July 2 and 16 at 6. Storytime will be presented primarily in English, while introducing basic words and concepts in Spanish, French, ASL and other world languages!

A multi-sensory storytime designed to support children with autism or sensory processing challenges will be held at the Walkersville Branch Library on Tuesday, July 15 at 6. This time is designed to meet your child where they are in a fun, engaging environment.

Put on your sunscreen and bring your appetite for ice cream because Preschool Storytime on Thursday, July 24 will be held at Happy Cow Creamery in Union Bridge. Storytime will start at 11. In the event of inclement weather, storytime will be held at the Walkersville Branch Library as usual, with a rain date at Happy Cow on July 31 at 11.



Run away and join the circus without leaving home! Join former Ringling Brothers performer and professional knucklehead Gregory May as he builds his own wacky circus show. Over a dozen audience volunteers will join him as he juggles, walks on a rolling globe, spins plates and cowboy ropes, and messes up magic tricks with tons of fun and lots of laughs! The show is designed with kids ages 5 and older in mind, but the whole family is welcome to join the fun on Tuesday, July 1 at 1.

If you’re looking for the right mix of fun and educational programs for your elementary school kids, the Walkersville Branch Library has just the thing: Discovery Days! Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a splash-tastic time on Friday, July 11 at 11. This program is the perfect mix of fun, learning, and exploration with a variety of hands-on activities. For Swifties and cat lovers, get ready to shake it off and step into a world of glitter, music, and cats in our Taylor Swift Experience — a magical program designed for kids who love to sing, dance, and celebrate all things Taylor! In partnership with Cuddles Cat Rescue and Tip Me Frederick, there will be real kitties at the library to enhance your experience on Friday,

July 18 at 11. Prepare for a vibrant day filled with color, creativity, and fun with Trist N’ Shout Balloon Artist on Friday, July 25 at 11. Plus, don’t miss your chance to craft your own masterpiece at one of the interactive art stations! Discovery Day programs may be outdoors in the Walkersville Branch Library yard; in the event of inclement weather, please call the branch for details regarding the status of the program.

We welcome adults who want to practice their English to a conversation class hosted by the Literacy Council of Frederick County on Mondays in July from 6:30 to 7:45. Students will practice their speaking and listening skills with conversations guided by an instructor from the Literacy Council of Frederick County. Please note, registration is requested by the Literacy Council of Frederick County. You can visit or call the Walkersville Branch Library for assistance or register on the Literacy Council website.

Twice a month, the Walkersville Branch Library will host a coffee and conversation group, often with a presenter or a discussion topic. This month, on July 10 at 10, Stephanie Mendiola from Brick Block Cakes will offer a hands-on demonstration of cake decorating techniques. Come back on Thursday, July 17 at 10 for a hot cup of coffee, lively conversation and to meet new folks!

All ages and abilities are welcome to wind down the day with a 1-hour, free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga on Monday, July 14 and 28 at 6. If you’re looking for an exercise class that will invigorate your morning, try out Freedom BANG Fitness class every Saturday at 10.

Did you know that having a library card gives you access to more than just physical books? You can stream movies and TV shows, access research journals, newspapers, comics and more, at FCPL.org. No matter your needs or interests, you can always find something to do at one of the Frederick County Public Libraries so stop by today!



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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Schools

Karen Yoho
Board of Education

As of this writing, the 2024-25 school year has ended, all graduations have occurred aside from the Remote Virtual High School which will take place in mid-July, and the FY2026 FCPS budget was close to being balanced by its due date of June 30.

This seems like a good time to review the budget process before we turn around and start all over again in the not very distant future. Public input is an important part of our process.

First, let me say that much of the information I will provide came from the FCPS website on the dedicated Budget page. I highly recommend becoming familiar with this site. Our CFO, Heather Clabaugh, and Director of Budget, Denise Frock, along with the other dedicated Finance Department and Public Affairs personnel, do an outstanding job of presenting the information and keeping it up to date.

Determining exactly how the money we receive is spent is one of the main roles of being a Board of Education member. Our seven-member board acts as a collective. To pass any budget or portion thereof, at least four votes are necessary to achieve a majority. FCPS has a number of budgets. The best-known are the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget, but we also have a budget specifically for the following: Self-Insurance Fund, Artificial Turf Fund, and Food and Nutrition

Services. The latter gets no money directly from the school system and must run on its own like a business.

All five budgets must be balanced and submitted to the county and state by the end of June. Aside from the Operating Budget, the other four are more straightforward as to what funding is anticipated against what expenditures are planned. When it comes to the Capital Budget, FCPS works in close conjunction with the Frederick County planning office and the Interagency Commission on School Construction to maximize our capital dollars.

We have a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan that is updated annually. The Educational Facilities Master Plan is a 200 plus page document available online along with interactive maps that will tell you everything you need to know about our current and planned facilities.

Now, let's focus on the Operating Budget because this is the main one that the Board and staff spend so many hours working to balance.

Beginning in the early fall, not long after school has begun, the Superintendent will start to determine the priorities for the next year by meeting with department heads and school administrators. This past year, four Community Budget Listening Sessions with the Superintendent were held either virtually or in-person. In early January, the Superintendent then releases her Recommended Budget.

At this point, the Board takes over as we spend a budget-filled January. At our

first meeting in the new year, we have an opportunity to discuss the recommended budget as well as the expected funding amounts. In mid-January, often the same day the Governor's budget is released, the Board holds a full day Budget Work Session where we hear from each department/division so we have that background as we proceed through the next few months. At every stage, the Board is asked to submit questions ahead of time to allow staff to prepare answers, while still being able to ask questions during meetings. The questions and answers that are submitted are posted on the FCPS Budget site for the public to access as well. Typically, on the last Wednesday of the month, the Board holds a Public Hearing on the Operating Budget.

Mid-February, we approve the initial budget request that will be forwarded to the County Executive. From this point forward, it is now the Board of Education's Budget. Throughout the next few months, we will continue to discuss the budget, learn what our revenues will be, and receive recommendations from staff. By our last meeting in June, the final budget must be balanced, and a majority of the Board members must vote to accept the specific budget we've worked on over the past six months. It takes the Budget Department several days to put everything in order before the final budget is sent to the County and the State. The Maryland State

Department of Education mandates fifteen categories that school systems must align their budgets with.

A few additional numbers of interest. FCPS receives funding as follows: 47.4% from the State; 46.1% from the County; 4% from the Federal Government; 2.5% from other sources such as facility rental, earnings from investments, and nonresident pupil tuition.

The total operating budget for FY-26 ended up being \$970,236,964. Of this total, 85% goes to salary, wages, and benefits. The other 15% covers all other expenditures. For the past decade, Frederick County has been the fastest growing county in the state. The school system is projected to have 48,867 students next school year, 8% growth.

Student numbers are compiled for what is known as the "September 30th Count". This number is submitted to the state for funding that will occur in the next fiscal year. That means that a growing county will go an entire school year with additional students not funded until the next school year. This is one of the major reasons it becomes difficult to keep up with growth.

Additionally, it is becoming more difficult for all school systems to fund their public school systems. The federal government passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1975. The original law promised to fund 40% of special education services in public schools. The reality has never seen this number at even half that amount, and is currently at 10.7% according to Secretary of Education McMahon.

A big part of crafting a balanced budget involves negotiations with our three personnel bargaining units, the Frederick Association of School Support Employees, the Frederick County Teachers Association, and the Frederick County Administrative & Supervisory Association. All three negotiated agreements were ratified and signed at our June 25 meeting. This is another long process that requires teams from both parties meeting to work together to come to a resolution that is hopefully satisfactory to all.

In order to balance the budget the past few years, positions have been cut while student enrollment has grown. This means that class sizes are bigger and staff has had to pick up the slack. This is not business as usual, and our personnel will have a breaking point. And the next few years do not look promising. The federal cuts that have already occurred won't hit us until the next federal fiscal year begins on Oct. 1. Maryland continues to work on its structural deficit but we're not there yet which doesn't bode well for education.

So, what can you do? Attend one of the Superintendent's budget meetings this Fall, send your ideas to the BoE, advocate on behalf of students with our local, state, and federal legislators. Public schools are supposed to support and do the best for all students. This requires adequate funding and good decision-making. You can help us with that. To contact the Board, email Board@fcps.org. For Budget questions, please contact fcps.budget@fcps.org.

Free school lunch program

The Walkersville library kicked off the free summer lunch program in June. According to the Library branch administrator, Levi Branson, "Summer is a booming time at the library," he explained. "Every summer we provide fun activities and programs for all ages."

The free lunch summer program was started in 2019, and the library has served almost 15,000 lunches since then with approximately 4,000 served last year alone. "Many families rely on the lunch provided by the school during the academic year and when school is not in session the library's program fulfills that need to ensure that children have access to a weekly meal," said Branson. The program provides free lunch from 12 to 1 to ages toddler to 18 from June 16 to August 15. The bagged lunches will include a main entree, a side, a snack and bottled water.

In prior years the lunches were prepped and distributed by the library's staff. This year the library is offering it as a volunteer opportunity open to teens and adults to help meet any needs for service hours and to bring the community together in the preparation of the lunches. Another change from last year is the inclusion of information on community resources for families. This information includes information on the 'back to school project' by Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS).

Also new this year, Branson welcomed the community to come into the library to eat the free lunch. "This year we are inviting the Community to stay with us and eat lunch inside the library in the community room," said Branson. "It's a great space for some

community socializing and of course free air conditioning."

Every year the Town Council aids the program by providing funding. This support joins contributions from the Friends of the Library and GVCS. Branson explained that GVCS typically gives \$5,000 and the Town provides \$2,500 to \$3,000. Even though the cost of supplies has gone up, Branson said they are not asking for more funding than what they received last year. "I can confirm that [the requested \$2,500] will meet our needs for this year,"

said Branson. He also said the food items themselves are purchased from a discount club, which helps keep the costs down.

The Council discussed how much they would give for the 2025 program. With a budget of \$20,000 in Community donations and only \$3,950 spent so far, they decided to give the same amount they did last year, \$2,500 in a 4 to 1 vote with Commissioner Betsey Whitmore-Brannen excusing herself from the vote as she is employed by the Frederick County Library system.

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...SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Senior John Witherspoon

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

Independence Day. What do you think of when you hear that? Do you think of the barbecues, swimming at the pool, day drinking and the beach? Maybe you think of days spent with family, relaxing at home and playing board games or going outside and throwing a football around. Maybe you're like me and you're expecting to be working on Independence Day—personally, I expect to be working the entire holiday weekend—and are either dreading it, or excited for the opportunities being brought forth. Do you ever stop to think of what led to the holiday? The efforts that went into bringing about our freedom and separation from Great Britain's rule. Where would we be now without those efforts, specifically, where would we be without those who made those efforts?

We all celebrate America's freedom in different ways, but it's important that we don't forget why we really celebrate this holiday and what it means. Granted, we weren't there and can't know what exactly happened, but we can take time to educate ourselves on the history and remind ourselves how important the sign-

ing of the Declaration of Independence was. As we do every July, the News-Journal is here to educate on the history of this period and shed light on those who signed the Declaration, many of whom we have forgotten or just simply don't know.

That said, I am here to introduce you to John Witherspoon, a Declaration signer for the state of New Jersey. John Witherspoon was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence, but his life was so much more interesting than that singular moment.

Witherspoon was not an American native. Instead, he was born in Yester, Scotland on February 5th in either the 1722 or 1723—depending on if you look at the Julian or Gregorian calendar—to James Witherspoon and Anna Walker. His mother, Anna, came from a long line of clergymen extending back to John Knox, a well-known leader for the Scottish Reformation in 1546, and his father was a minister himself; so it is safe to say that it's "in his blood". Witherspoon was incredibly well educated; having first been taught by his mother, he learned to read at age four, reading from the Bible and eventually being able to recite a majority of the New Testament. By age thirteen he was sent to University at Edinburgh and completed a four-year degree in only three and earned his Master of Arts degree, while petitioning to publish his thesis by the

end of the year 1738. He was only fifteen years old at this point—an incredible accomplishment at such a young age. Just after his sixteenth birthday in 1739, Witherspoon was awarded his Master of Arts with a thesis in Latin, De Mentis Immortalities, signed by Johannes Wederspan.

Witherspoon is most well-known for his time as the President of what is now Princeton University. Following the completion of his degree, Witherspoon was recruited by the trustees of the College of New Jersey to become President following the death of the previous President, Samuel Finley. Amongst said recruiters was Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, both who would also go on to sign the Declaration of Independence, who went as far as travelling to Scotland to personally request Witherspoon's presence. The institution flourished under the direction of President John Witherspoon; with him growing the endowment fund, instituting circular changes and having patched up a major schism in the Presbyterian church. He is considered to be one of the greatest Presidents of Princeton University to this day.

Witherspoon was a crucial advocate to the American cause. In the years 1774-75, he represented his county in the New Jersey Provincial Assembly, where he successfully agitated for the removal and imprisonment of the Royal Governor and received appointment to the

Continental Congress, which he stayed with until 1782. Within his years on the Continental Congress, he aided in the reorganization of the Board of Treasury, drafted a letter of thanks to Lafayette, the credentials, and instructors for Ben Franklin as minister plenipotentiary, and designed seals for the Treasury and Navy department. He also was part of the ratifying convention that led to New Jersey having the honor of being 3rd to ratify the US Constitution. During the period of war, Witherspoon even went as far as advocating resistance to the crown in a commencement speech at the University. With war though comes destruction and chaos, which led to Witherspoon closing down the College once the war entered the New Jersey territory in 1776. During this period, the British occupied the college; the burned its library, burned many of Witherspoon's papers and left things a complete and utter mess. He never gave up on it though; come 1778, Witherspoon had the College of New Jersey back up and running again with classes resuming in November of that year. By 1789, Witherspoon had returned to the New Jersey assembly with the responsibility of setting priorities of business, which included the following: the body shall deal with the treatment of prisoners, pensions of invalids, public debts, promotion of religion and mortality; divorce, paper money; establishment of records of vital statistics and encouragement of manu-

facturing. Witherspoon also chaired a committee concerned with the abolition of slavery in New Jersey, even though he was a slaveholder himself.

Witherspoon was more than just his accomplishments though. He was a son, a father, a brother, and a husband. John was one of six children, although he lost a brother in the West Indies. Witherspoon was a father to eleven children total, but only six of them made it to adulthood. On September 2nd, 1748, he married Elizabeth Montgomery. Together they had nine children, however, only five survived to adulthood and made the journey to North America from Scotland. In October 1789, Elizabeth died suddenly and unexpectedly at age 68. Two years after his wife's death, Witherspoon remarried 24-year-old Ann Marshall Dill. The two had two children together, sadly though, one of these children died nine days after birth.

Witherspoon lived a long and full life, filled with numerous accomplishments to be remembered by. He died in his Princeton home, "Tusculum", on November 15th 1794, at age 71. I'll end with this: take the time to enjoy your holiday this summer, but don't forget why you have it at your disposal. Take a moment to remember those who signed the document of America's freedom.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Author's section of Walkersville.net.

Creative Writing War Horse

Abby Dacombe
MSMU Class of 2026

At one point, they had lived calm lives. They'd grown up in fields, so grassy you could only dream, following each other around, frolicking in the sun. Some worked the fields, some were used for sport and entertainment, and some pulled families in their carriages. Others stood for hours, herding cattle until the sun set.

They spent years without a care in the world. Until their world began to burn. The men in red came first, taking them in the night.

Then came their men, the men who had raised them, fed them, and worked them. They got upon their backs and took them into battle for the first time.

They had a new purpose in life. Their peace was gone.

The posts they were tied to creaked as they stood, waiting for the men to return. They were murmuring this morning, their excitement rolling off of them in waves. There was an uncertainty among the herd; this much excitement from men only meant one thing.

Something had changed. It had been many months since they'd seen their men this happy. The darkness in the air had lifted, and a feeling of hope had taken over their men. A sense of freedom lingers in the air.

They were in the eye of the storm.

The earth was moving, rattling

beneath iron shoes. It hadn't always been like this. There had been peace, green grass, and brimming brooks. Back then, there was calm, and blood flowed slowly through their veins. But now it was pumping, their eyes wild and afraid.

The ground cracked beneath them, sparking with each step they took. Cobble-lined streets were unforgiving to their trek. They passed homes, riddled with flames, echoing with screams. It made their ears ring, their nostrils flare, and their eyes widen. They wanted to refuse, to hold back from the fray, but the men on their backs urged them on, and they had no choice but to obey.

The sound of their shoes ricocheted throughout the street, heard above all else, alerting the people to their presence. Brown fabric whipped out from in front of them, and they reared back, away from the men in boots and black hats. These were not the men who sat upon their backs; these were men who'd taken from them their peace and their friends.

They marched on, past the men in brown, who to any other eyes were cloaked in red. Their eyes were sharp, watching as they passed through, ready for any form of disobedience from their men.

This was only the beginning of their new jobs. They would spend the rest of the days marching for the men who sat upon their backs.

Bells tolled over their heads. By now, they were used to the wartime call. Their ears no longer flickered anywhere but forward, always alert, always marching. The men, upon their backs, left them when the skies

turned dark, returning to their women and their ale. They were left to eat from troughs of scraps left behind, fueling them enough to start over when the skies lightened, and the ringing started again.

Their work was never done. It had been years, but they still responded to the call of their men and the bells that rang from churches high above. Their backs never broke from the leather thrown over them; they became stronger from it. Resilient, pushing through, obeying the men who fought for their land.

At first, they hadn't understood their purpose. They ran from it. But in time, they began to understand. This was their lives now, they needed to be strong, to fight battles in their own way.

The war lasted for years. They were older now, wiser, no longer afraid of what was to come every time they stepped onto that field. It was a miracle they'd made it this far. So many of them had been lost to the terrain, and the men in brown. The grief tore through them all, wondering how different things would be if they were no longer needed. How many of them would be left when this was all over?

They spent their days marching, over and over again, until their shoes came loose, and their muscles ached in ways they'd never ached before.

No more were there parades and children looking up at them. Now it was battle-torn fields, and faces filled with hatred for the men who sat upon their backs.

They were the collateral damage that could be spared for the lives of the men they served. No longer did they pull their carriages; now they pulled carts full of weapons, carts full of bodies, carts full of men in uniforms.

They no longer ate clover in the sun or rolled in the dirt until they were covered in it. Life wasn't carefree any longer. It was darker as the shadow of war loomed over their heads.

It lingered in the men who sat on their backs, the men who lay across the fields. The men in red who'd stolen their friends in the night. It wrapped itself around everything, until all that was left was duty, sacrifice, and the fight for freedom.

Fields of grass were now ripped apart by battle—their once lush fields, marred by the footprints of their friends. The remnants of chaos now lay in the wake of a once peaceful place they called home.

The rivers they drank from were polluted with the aftermath of war. The air smelled of gunpowder and fear. They had served their time, but what did they have to show for it, but ruined land and fearful minds.

The men who'd led them into battle discarded them now. They were left to return to fields of clover and handfuls of grain, as if nothing had ever happened. As if the war-torn land was how, it had always been. They were trotting upon the corpses of men and the friends they'd shared pastures with.

It would take them years to relearn how to live without war. Any time a bell tolled, their ears would prick, eyes wild with fright and adrenaline. Their purpose had ended, some moved to fancy properties, where they continued to work, in the fields, over large fences, or chasing foxes.

Others lived quietly, separated from the ones they'd risked their lives with. They found it hard to adjust, constantly on edge, always waiting for the men who'd occasionally be on their

backs to call them to war again. But for them, that call would never come.

Their children would spend their lifetimes in peace. It would be the generation after them that would experience the same story as their ancestors. It would follow them, for years, until machines replaced them, and they went back to their lives of peace and pastures full of clover.

They were getting older, the ones who had survived. They had no job now, no one to serve. Their lives were spent on the grass, eating to their heart's content.

A little girl came to visit them once. Her hair was in braids, ribbons tying them together. She held a lone cube of sugar in her small hands.

She passed it to the war horse, petting her nose gently.

She had served her duty to the men who'd sat upon her back. This was the first gentle hand she had felt in years. She nudged the child back, something warm blooming inside of her chest at the tinkle of laughter that came from the girl.

She no longer had a purpose, but she still felt the warmth of the world through the children of the men who'd led her through war and back.

Living out the rest of her days in that field, slowly greeting the little girl until she couldn't anymore. War hadn't taken everything from her. She had finally found her peace.

To read prior articles by Abby Dacombe, visit the Author's section of Walkersville.net.

ARTS

Behind the scenes at Other Voices Theater’s Guys and Dolls

Caroline Watson
MSMU Class of 2027

With school being out for the summer, I have the opportunity to enjoy some arts outside of the Mount. As a local, I am lucky enough to know many of the ins and outs of the Arts scene in Frederick. This month I am thrilled to give you a behind the scenes look at Other Voices Theater’s production of *Guys and Dolls* beginning in August!

This summer, the stage of Other Voices Theater goes back to the streets of New York for a rolling time as they follow an infamous traveling game of craps in *Guys and Dolls*, directed by theater veteran Lee Rosenthal. The show itself is familiar to her, as she admitted to seeing it multiple times but said that the opportunity to actually direct essentially fell right out of the sky after she starred in *Big Fish*, another one of Other Voices Theater’s productions last year. “I’ve never done it, it’s never been on the bucket list of something that I have to work on,” she admitted when asked if *Guys and Dolls* was ever on her radar as a director. “It just kind of appeared, and I was like, ‘Oh, okay.’”

Lee Rosenthal is no stranger to theater productions, either performing in them or directing them herself. She’s been performing for about forty years, she told me, and directing as well for around twenty. She’s directed productions such as *Heathers: The Musical*, *Shrek: The Musical*, and *Grease* in previous years. She stated that she’s much more drawn to directing more modern and contemporary musicals; venturing into musicals from the Golden Age of Broadway isn’t exactly her style because of the subject matter. We discussed some scenes in Golden Age musicals such as *Guys and Dolls*, but also ones like *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Grease*

that might have some trouble translating to a modern audience with their messages and treatment of female characters and other cultures. It’s hard to strike a balance with shows like that, because both the director(s) and the actors have to figure out how to stay true to the story while making the audience more comfortable with the show. When I asked Rosenthal how she dealt with this balance she wasn’t very worried about it. “It’s not much of a struggle due to the actors,” she said. Being sure to lay everything out plainly with the actors in scenes that might be a particular struggle, and make sure that all of them were on the same page is crucial. “It’s all about choices made with line readings and whatnot”, she said, and expressed that “things have worked out really well” in that regard.

One of the more infamous scenes along those lines in *Guys and Dolls* is the Havana scene, where gambler Sky Masterson takes the leader of a Christian mission, Sarah Brown, to Havana, Cuba on a date and gets her drunk without her knowledge. Bill Brown (Sky Masterson/Set Designs) admitted that there are some moments in the show that “need tweaking for a modern audience”, but, despite its name and initial impression to some, the show isn’t quite the old-fashioned show it gets the reputation of. He elaborated further, saying “I see people saying, ‘oh it’s so old and misogynistic’, it’s not that.” Colleen Prior, who plays Sarah Brown, agreed. “Especially the Havana scene; the way it’s just scripted on the page- yeah, it’s pretty problematic,” she continued. Prior went on to say that the lines of the script, at face value, don’t exactly give the full picture. “I think if you read between the lines, it could be a totally different situation.” Both actors emphasized the importance of actors digging



Earlier this year, Other Voices Theater’s stage transformed into Nurse Ratched’s ward for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Tickets for *Guys and Dolls* are on sale at othervoicestheatre.org.

further into character motivations and exploring every bit of the script to determine what they believe to be the true meaning of a scene. Bill said he’s dug deeper into Sky’s character nuances and that’s allowed him more insight into the man, which gives him more insight into the show’s depiction of Sarah. “He helps her. He goes sightseeing. He’s complaining the whole time, but he’s not just leaving her alone in another country,” Bill said. “He gives her the option to do this to save the mission, and she has the agency to do that. People always make fun of *Grease* and *Annie Get Your Gun* cause, at the end, the woman changes everything she is for the man, and here at the end, Sky joins the mission. It’s a surprisingly progressive show for the time.”

Guys and Dolls is one of the more famous shows considered a “classic” from the golden age of Broadway, from around the 1940’s to the 1960’s. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that, of the three actors I spoke to, they’d all been waiting for an opportunity to do the show. Bill Brown, who stars as Sky Masterson and doubles as the set designer, has been waiting and working for this

role for over thirty years: nearly his entire theater career, which began when he was in high school in 1991. “I first saw *Guys and Dolls* in 1993 at a local high school and fell in love with it,” he said. “It’s been my favorite musical since that day and Sky Masterson has been the role I wanted to play in that show since that day.”

Michelle Boizelle, also doubling up as both one of the Hot Box girls and the understudy for Miss Adelaide, has done theater since the age of seven and adores Adelaide’s character. “She’s just a fun character, and she’s just iconic, and when it comes to Broadway musicals, Miss Adelaide is a recognizable character,” Michelle said. “She’s funny, she’s the comedy relief, she’s a little bit of everything.”

Colleen Prior, playing Sarah Brown, has also been performing since a young age, around nine or ten, she said, and has always wanted to play Sarah. “*Guys and Dolls* has been one of my favorite shows since I was a kid,” she commented. “And I’ve wanted to play Sarah since I was, I think, nine years old. I found the CD in, like, a bargain bin at Tower Records,” she told me while laughing, “and

that’s how I was introduced to the musical.” She said she’d fallen in love with Sarah’s numbers and has been waiting for the chance to play her ever since!

“Directing as a performer,” Lee Rosenthal has developed a unique style of directing shows. “It’s nice to feel like the director is listening to you,” she said, and that statement has shaped much of her directing style. She stressed the importance of listening to what an actor thinks of their own character and how that may change readings of the script. One actor’s idea of their own character may in all honesty change the entire show, and so it’s the director’s job to be flexible and allow for the actor’s vision to shine through as well. “When they have an idea, I don’t shoot it down because it’s not my idea. It doesn’t have to be my idea just because I’m the director.” It’s important to her that actors feel like they’re heard and that their creativity gets to shine as well, because it’s what she enjoys feeling as a performer.

Guys and Dolls is a classic with a plethora of iconic numbers. Bill Brown is particularly excited to bring *Luck be a Lady* to the stage as a performance because he’s been using it as an audition piece for years. Michelle Biozelle is looking forward to *The Crapshooter’s Ballet* because of the dancing: it’s got “the most difficult dancing” she’s had so far, but it’s a blast. Colleen Prior wants to let Sarah loose in *If I Were a Belle* because it’s at a point where she feels she can have a little more fun with such a strait-laced character. Every single one of them are ecstatic to bring this Golden Age classic to the stage. As Michelle put it: “*Guys and Dolls* is classic Broadway, and you will be absolutely entertained.”

Guys and Dolls takes the stage at Other Voices Theater on August 1 and runs on weekends until August 10. Tickets are available online at the Other Voices Theater webpage, www.OtherVoicesTheater.org, or by following the links on their Facebook, www.facebook.com/othervoicestheatrefrederick.

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COOKING

Baby, you’re a firework

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

Looking back on these recipes, we might be a little lime and spice heavy, but it’s been a spicy summer and July isn’t going to give us any break. In the US, Persian limes are the most common but no matter the species: key, persian, desert or makrut, they contain loads of Vitamin C for immune support, as well as being high in antioxidants which can promote heart health and prevention of other chronic conditions. Also, they are delicious and refreshing in this summer heat.

Thai Lime-Garlic Steamed
Fish with Coconut Lemongrass Sauce

Ingredients
For the Steamed Fish:
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbs. fish sauce
1 tsp. sugar
4 fish fillets (such as tilapia, snapper, or cod)
2 tbs. fresh lime juice
1 tbs. soy sauce
1 small red chili, finely sliced (optional, for heat)
Fresh cilantro leaves, for garnish
Lime wedges, for serving

For the Coconut Lemongrass Sauce:
1 stalk lemongrass, trimmed and smashed
1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
1 tbs. sugar
1 small red chili, finely chopped (optional, for heat)
2 tbs. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbs. fish sauce
1 tbs. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. grated ginger

Instructions: In a small bowl, mix the minced garlic, lime juice, fish sauce, soy sauce, sugar, and sliced chili (if using). Place the fish fillets on a heatproof plate or steam-

ing dish. Pour the garlic-lime mixture over the fish. Set up a steamer over a pot of simmering water. Place the plate with the fish in the steamer, cover, and steam for 10-12 minutes, or until the fish is cooked through and flakes easily with a fork. Make the Coconut Lemongrass Sauce: In a medium saucepan, combine the coconut milk, lemongrass, fish sauce, sugar, lime juice, chopped chili (if using), and grated ginger. Bring the mixture to a simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Cook for about 10 minutes, allowing the flavors to meld and the sauce to thicken slightly. Remove the lemongrass stalk and stir in the chopped cilantro. Carefully remove the fish from the steamer and transfer it to serving plates. Spoon the Coconut Lemongrass Sauce over the fish. Garnish with fresh cilantro leaves and serve with lime wedges on the side.

Cucumber Mint Yogurt Salad
There was this big trend last winter and spring, about just eating a whole cucumber and a lot of recipes that went with that. Many of them had a spicy peanut sauce, but this one is cool for summer, and incorporating fresh herbs along with hydrating cucumber that you can easily keep for a few days in the fridge to be your side salad for any meal.

Ingredients
2 large cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 cup plain Greek yogurt
2 tbs. fresh mint, chopped
1 tbs. fresh dill, chopped (optional)
1 tbs. lemon juice
1 tsp. olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions: In a large bowl, combine the yogurt, lemon juice, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Whisk until smooth. Add the sliced cucumbers and chopped mint (and dill, if using) to the bowl. Toss gently until the cucumbers are evenly coated. Chill the salad in the refrigerator for at least 30 min-

utes before serving for the best flavor.
Key Lime Pie Bars
You can use key lime, or lime juice for this. One of my favorite memories is making a key lime pie for my husbands birthday, and our middle son, Colt, decided he was going to chomp down on a key lime to taste it. That photo was the real birthday gift. This recipe is from the King Arthur cookbook.

Ingredients for filling
2 1/2 cups (568g) heavy cream
3/4 cup (149g) granulated sugar
1/8 tsp. table salt
zest of 1 lime
6 tbs. (85g) Key lime juice or lime juice

For crust
1 1/2 cups (150g) graham cracker crumbs, about 10 whole graham crackers (crushed)
1/4 cup (28g) confectioners’ sugar, sifted if lumpy
1/8 tsp. table salt
6 tbs. (85g) unsalted butter, melted

For topping
1 cup (113g) whipped cream, prepared
zest of 1 lime

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 350°F with a rack positioned in the center. Line an 8” square pan with parchment that hangs over the side like a sling. In the end you will lift the bars out of the pan. To make the filling: In a large sauce pan, heat the cream, sugar, salt, and lime zest over high heat until boiling, stirring occasionally with a heat-proof spatula to dissolve the sugar. Once the mixture comes to a boil, reduce the heat slightly to maintain a gentle boil for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Watch the mixture carefully and further reduce the heat if the cream starts boiling rapidly— maintain a gentle boil. The mixture will thicken only slightly; it will look almost as fluid as plain cream. Remove the saucepan from the heat and stir in the lime juice. Set aside to cool slightly in the saucepan while you prepare the crust. Stir occasionally to prevent a skin from forming.



Key Lime Pie Bars

To make the crust: In a medium bowl, stir together the graham cracker crumbs, confectioners’ sugar, and salt. Add the melted butter and mix until thoroughly combined. Transfer the crust mixture to the prepared pan, then use the bottom of a measuring cup or glass and the pads of your fingers to press it firmly and evenly into the bottom of the pan. Bake the crust for 10 to 15 minutes; it’ll darken in color a bit. Remove it from the oven and place it on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

Gently pour the filling over the slightly cooled crust, then carefully place the pan, uncovered, in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours, or overnight, until set. Once set,

lift the bars out of the pan using the parchment sling and transfer them to a cutting board. For the cleanest and most precise cuts, soak a chef’s knife in hot water, dry it thoroughly, then slice the bars. Repeat soaking and drying the knife between cuts, as needed, to keep the edges clean. To top the Key lime pie bars: When ready to serve, top each bar with a dollop of whipped cream, then zest the lime over the top. These bars are best served chilled. Storage information: Store any leftover Key lime pie bars, covered, in the refrigerator for up to 1 week; freeze for longer storage.

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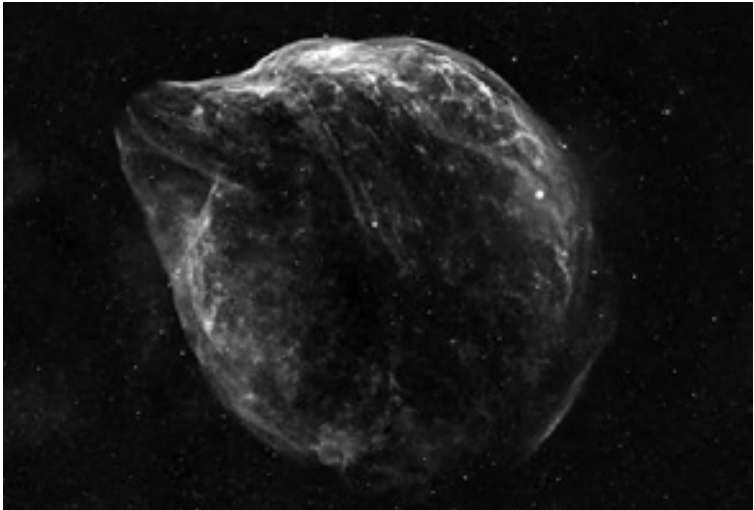
The night sky of July

Professor Wayne Wooten

For July the moon is first quarter on July 2nd. The full moon is on Thursday, July 10th, the Thunder Moon due to all the afternoon thunderstorms. The last quarter moon is on July 17th, the day after it passed just south of Saturn in the dawn. The waning crescent moon is just above Venus on the morning of July 21st, and makes a nice triangle with Venus above and Jupiter below it on June 22nd; a great photo op for anyone with a smartphone! The moon is new on July 24th, and passes just below Mars in the twilight on July 28th.

Mercury is briefly visible in the dusk in the west on first week of July, then passes between us and the Sun. Venus dominates the dawn sky, far brighter than even Jupiter some 22 degrees to the SE of it in the morning skies. Saturn's rings are now open 3.5 degrees, looking much more familiar than even a month ago. It is in Pisces, rising at midnight. The only evening planet for July is Mars, faint red in the west at dusk, and getting lost in the Sun's glare by August.

High overhead is the Big Dipper, and good scouts know to use the pointers at the end of the bowl to find Polaris, the pole star, staying 30 degrees high in our night sky all year long. By midnight, the earth's rotation will carry the dipper low in the NW sky, yet Polaris will still be in the same place. This was critical to early navigators like Columbus, for if they kept Polaris at the same altitude in their northern sky, they knew they



The Lagoon Nebula is a giant interstellar cloud in the constellation "Sagittarius". It is one of the only two star-forming nebulae faintly visible to the eye from mid-northern latitudes.

were sailing due west, leading him to the new world.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. 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. This is the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. It lies on the far edge of our own barred spiral, and may account for the formation of our bar. 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.

Arcturus is currently the brightest star overhead, but that can change any day now. To the NE of Arcturus is the northern crown, Corona Borealis. Its brightest jewel is Gemma (or Alphecca, here), in the center of the crown.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the

luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant.

South of Deneb, on a dark clear night, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years. The star at the south end of the Northern Cross is one of my favorites, Albireo, the "gator star", a notable orange and blue double at 20X.

Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Just east of Altair is the tiny, faint, but very distinctive Delphinus, one of the rare constellations that indeed look exactly like its name,

This Dolphin in the myths carried the Greek Poet, Arion, to safety when he was robbed and thrown off the ship that was carrying him and his considerable fortune home to Corinth. It is claimed his singing of a dirge before being cast overboard caused his savior to come to his aid. Shades of Jonah and the whale!

As we head south, Antares is well up at sunset in 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! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way.

From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout. This view of our home galaxy stretching overhead is for about midnight on July evenings, looking from the South to overhead.

My favorite way of learning the many deep sky objects (open and globular clusters, bright nebulae like the Lagoon, and the many dark nebulae that make up the "Dark Constellations" of the Inca) is to use low power binoculars (I prefer 8x40s because they are light and easier to hold steady with my Parkinson's, but younger folks with a better grip on life will find 10x50's will show fainter objects and at high power) and lean back in a lawn chair (also an ideal way to observe meteor showers like August's Perseids with just your naked eyes) and slowly sweep up and down the Galaxy, marking off the deep sky objects on your SkyMap as you spot them.

Note the back of the SkyMap has a fine selection of the best deep sky objects to spot with the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes to help you find your way across the Galaxy this summer. Of course, you will need dark skies to see this kind of beauty, but many have plans for trips to parks and out west this summer, so be sure to plan for at least a few evenings under dark skies to appreciate our galaxy.

Also, most new smartphones can get fine shots with timed exposures on a tripod like this one, using night camera or Starry Camera Pro programs. Try out yours dark evening. For iPhones, download the app, "Nocturne by Unistellar" free. It needs to be steady, so a tripod like the Vivitar pistol grip smartphone holder (\$7 at WalMart) is ideal.

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"I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone"
—Edith Cavell (1865-1915)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: seasonably warm and humid, then very hot with late day showers and thunderstorms followed by a transition to more tolerable temperatures (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); turning hot and humid with PM showers and thunderstorms then turning slightly less humid (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); less humid at first, then turning hot and humid with a round of afternoon thunderstorms (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); mainly dry and seasonably warm and humid (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); quite humid and seasonably hot with a few rounds of shower and storms, then turning far less humid and dry (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); isolated afternoon thunderstorms and showers and seasonably warm, then turning more comfortable and dry (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanac sees excessive heat (2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10) along with severe thunderstorms and heavy rain (14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24).

Full Moon: July's Full Moon will occur on Thursday, July 10th. Many Native American tribes referred to it as Buck

Moon because of rapid growth of antlers on young bucks during the month. It has also been called Thunder Moon because of the numerous severe thunderstorms during the month (just look at this month's forecast above!) Many other tribes called it either Ripe Corn Moon, because of the appearance of young corn on the stalks that were planted in the Spring, or Hay Moon since hay tended to ripen as well.

Special Notes: Watch out! Those Dog Days of Summer will be upon us starting Thursday, July 3rd. Get ready for some the hot and humid weather to hit and last until mid-August.

Holidays: The Fourth of July is celebrated on Friday in 2025. On this day, in 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent states". And always remember, if planning any extended outdoor activities, use the appropriate level of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher). Apply it frequently, especially if swimming or perspiring. The Islamic New Year falls on Tuesday, July 18th. If a barbeque is planned, double-check the grill. Nobody wants any surprises, so it is wise to make sure that it is functioning properly and that you remember to fill up the propane

tank (or to pick up plenty of charcoal and charcoal lighter fluid!).

The Garden: This is the last month to plant these veggies for a fall crop if you are in zone 5: snap beans, peas, cukes, carrots, kohlrabi, summer squash, early sweet corn, and green onions, can go in right now! Allow roses to rest in July and August. Do not fertilize, but continue spraying, and give them a light pruning in July to encourage new fall growth. During the dry summer months, remember to mow the lawn when it is high and mow less often. Taller grass withstands drought better because its blades shade the soil.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (18, 19); weeding and stirring the soil (25, 26); planting above-ground crops (4, 5, 6); harvesting all crops (7, 8); the best days for setting hens and incubators (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); transplanting (1, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); harvesting and storing grains (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living
"Do not regard liberty and freedom so lightly that you forget its value and take it for granted."

INTERESTING FACTS

8th Grade Final Exam:
Salina, KS - 1895
Could You Have Passed the 8th Grade in 1895? This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 from Salina, KS. USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smoky Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS and re-printed by the Salina Journal.

Grammar (Time, one hour)
Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.
Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no modifications.
Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of do, lie, lay and run.
Define Case, Illustrate each Case.
What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.
Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)
Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts. per bu., deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?

Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per are, the distance around which is 640 rods?
Write a Bank Check, a Promisory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)
Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
Show the territorial growth of the United States.
Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800,1849,1865.

Orthography (Time, one hour)
What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
What are elementary sounds? How classified?
What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, sub-vocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
Give four substitutes for caret ‘u’.

Give two rules for spelling words with final ‘e’. Name two exceptions under each rule.
Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi,dis,mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, super.
Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: Card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

Geography (Time, one hour)
What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
Describe the mountains of North America.
Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
Name all the republics of Europe and give capital of each.
Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?





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HEALTH

Melanoma prevention

Taylor Thomas
Frederick Health

Melanoma is a serious type of skin cancer. That’s why Frederick Health is raising awareness of sun safety and the importance of getting regular and yearly screenings to boost early detection.

While melanoma only accounts for 1% of all skin cancers, it causes the most skin cancer deaths. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2025, about 100,000 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed annually in the United States with around 8,400 people expected to die from the disease.

“The latest statistics show that since the early 2000’s, new melanoma cases have been on the rise,” says Dr. Saro

Sarkisian, MD MHA, a board-certified hematologist and oncologist with Frederick Health Medical Group. “Melanoma tends to spread more than other skin cancers which is why it’s so serious. Survival depends on the stage, if we catch it very early, stage 1 is better than stage 3 or 4.”

Early detection is crucial for a successful treatment. In fact, according to the Melanoma Research Alliance, the 5-year survival rate for stage 1 melanoma is 97%-99%. It’s important to understand the risk factors to prevent getting melanoma and the warning signs to look for so it can be treated as early as possible.

Melanoma cases most commonly occur later in life, with the highest incidences seen in individuals ages

65-78, followed closely by those aged 80 and older.

But why are the number of cases so high among older people? When we asked Dr. Sarkisian about risk factors, he said a large contributing factor is excessive sun exposure as a child followed by a family history of melanoma, a weakened immune system and fair skin.

Melanoma is significantly more common among Caucasians who have a lifetime risk of 1 in 38, compared to 1 in 1,000 for African Americans.

Prevention starts now. It’s important to practice sun safety as it’s an essential step toward preventing melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers in the future. Dr. Sarkisian recommends the following:

Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen of at least 30+ daily. Applying generously every 2 hours and after swimming.

Avoid tanning beds.

Limit sun exposure and wear sunscreen when the UV is the strongest (from 10 am to 4 pm).

Wear protective clothing such as wide-brimmed hats, sunglasses with 100% UV lenses and clothing with an ultraviolet protection factor up to 50.

It’s important to check yourself for melanoma by performing monthly skin self-checks. Knowing what to look for can help increase the chances of spotting skin cancer early. The American Academy of Dermatology provides the ABCDEs of Melanoma, so you know what to look for when checking your skin for dark spots and moles:

A – Asymmetry: One half of the mole doesn’t match the other

B – Border: Irregular or poorly defined edges

C – Color: Multiple or uneven colors
D – Diameter: Larger than 6 mm (size of a pencil eraser)

E – Evolving: Changing size, shape, or color

In addition to monthly skin checks, book an appointment with your Primary Care provider for a yearly physical exam. If you have any concerns during your self-exam, new or changing moles, bleeding, itching, or painful skin lesions, see your Primary Care provider. Frederick Health has an expert team of providers who specialize in the early detection and treatment of skin cancer.

Melanoma diagnosis and staging depends on the results of a skin biopsy. For early stages of melanoma (0, I, and II) treatment is typically done with surgery to remove the tumor with certain patients needing adjuvant therapies. The later stages of melanoma (III and IV) will require surgery as well as immunotherapy and targeted therapy. No matter the stage, regular follow-ups are essential to help detect any signs of recurrence or new melanomas.

Treatment for melanoma has considerably improved over the past decade. The introduction of immunotherapy, which enables the body to attack cancer cells, and targeted therapies, which focus on the specific mutation in melanoma cells, have greatly improved the survival rate and quality of life for many patients. Other forms of treatment include clinical trials which are exploring personalized therapies and vaccines.

“Immunotherapy is the cornerstone for certain stage 2 diagnosis and everyone in stages 3 and 4.” Says Dr. Sarkisian. Immunotherapy saw a significant improvement in the 5-year survival rate for metastatic melanoma. It works by helping the immune system recognize and attack melanoma cells. About 35-40% of patients will require a targeted treatment which is a combination of pills rather than infusions.

Frederick Health’s expert oncologists provide patients with individualized treatment plans ensuring patients are getting the latest effective therapies. Dr. Sarkisian and his team continue to help shape the future of melanoma care with innovative techniques and personalized treatments.

Melanoma is less common than other skin cancers but it’s more aggressive and likely to spread. Early detection is key to improving your chances of survival. Be vigilant about doing monthly skin checks and yearly physical exams with your Primary Care provider. It’s important to follow proper sun safety measures and avoid using tanning beds.

If you notice changes or suspicious lesions on your skin, don’t delay seeking medical care.

Schedule a visit with a Primary Care provider online by visiting frederick-health.org/find-a-provider or call 240-215-6310. To schedule a visit with Dr. Sarkisian, call 240-566-4100.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation Opens Grant Program for Community Projects

Nonprofit community groups looking to improve or build new recreational spaces are encouraged to apply for the Division of Parks and Recreation's Fiscal Year 2026 Community Grant Program. In partnership with the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Commission, this grant program provides funds to eligible organizations for recreational facilities for people who live in the County.

Organizations may apply between June 2 and August 15, 2025. Groups that can apply include homeowners' associations, civic and community organizations, service clubs, sports leagues, and recreation councils. A budget of \$100,000 has been approved for the Fiscal Year 2026

Community Grants and each applicant may ask for up to \$25,000.

Grants can be used to improve existing or build new recreation areas, however grants cannot be used for regular maintenance. For example, funds could be used to demolish and replace a playground, but not for maintenance of that playground.

The land where the recreation area is located must be owned or used by the organization. Grants cannot be used for projects on federal, state, municipal, or county-owned land. Grant funds will be provided before the project construction and can help pay for materials, equipment, and hired workers. Groups can also use volunteers to help with building.

Projects must be completed, and all Community Grant Closeout documents must be submitted to

the Division of Parks and Recreation within two years of the award year. For Fiscal Year 2026 grants, this deadline will be June 30, 2027.

To learn more about the Community Grant Program and to see if your organization's project can qualify, visit www.Recreator.com/CommunityGrant.

Applications must be submitted online by August 15. Preliminary grant funding decisions will be shared in October.

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Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

Summer Sportsman Outdoor Bash

Saturday, August 2



Gates open at 10 a.m.
Drawings begin at 11:45 a.m.
Food, Beer, Wine Coolers & Soda Included
Noon - 5 p.m.

\$20 PER PERSON

No one under 18 - ID Required - Must present ticket to enter
No pets except service dogs - No coolers or carryouts allowed
Bring your lawn chairs & canopy
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