

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION —EDWARD R. MURROW

SEPTEMBER 2020

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Gateway to the Cure goes on in spite of pandemic

Thurmont's Gateway to the Cure has raised more than \$83,000 over the past six years for cancer research and cancer victim support programs at Frederick Memorial Hospital, but this year, the pandemic is adversely affecting fundraising efforts.

The funds raised to date have come from multiple sources involving the Thurmont business community, with several new fundraisers added over the last several years, including the Covered Bridge 5K, Zumbathon, and Gateway to the Cure Golf Classic.

Already one of these, the Zumbathon, had to be canceled. Grinder said this would have been the third year for the Zumbathon, but the event was scheduled for indoors and would have been impossible to conform to state mandated COVID guidelines, regarding social distancing.

The Covered Bridge 5K, now in its sixth year, is still scheduled for September 13, as it was deemed safe to hold because the participants are either spread-out over the course or tend to participate in cliques or small family groups.

The 5K route begins and ends at Eyer Park. Those interested in participating can register at thurmontmainstreet.com, or by calling the town office. Registration ends on September 11.

Additionally, still scheduled is the Second Annual Golf Classic, to be held on October 9 at the Maple Run Golf Club. Golf is inherently a social-distancing event. Last year the event had 50 participants. Thus far this year, there are 20, but as she said, it is still early in the registration process.

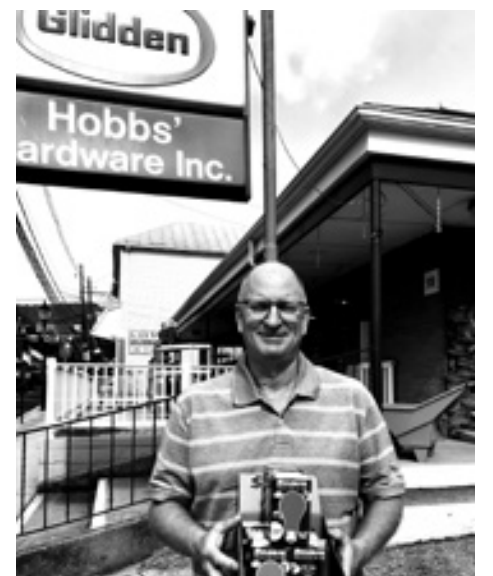
There is an \$85 per-golfer fee, which includes 18-holes of golf, a cart, a goodies bag, catered lunch, and awards. Those interested in participating can register at thurmontmainstreet.com.

Another source of funds which will continue are those raised by local businesses who donate a percentage of their sales, or the sale of a specified product for a certain period. Some 40-plus businesses have participated annually in this fundraising effort, she stated. The October campaign with the business community is the core of Gateway to the Cure.

However, the program manager said, "Some of our funding will obviously be decreased this year," noting that some of the businesses that have participated in the donations of a percentage of their sales will not be able to participate this year. "Most (have already suffered as they) have been shut-down for two months," due to the pandemic, plus she projected, patronage is also down. "Unchartered waters for sure"

"It's going to be a down year for everybody," she stated, noting that non-profit organizations and services sustaining funding losses even include fire and ambulance companies, among the many.

Additionally, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick noted that, as part of the fundraising efforts, the town is selling pink lightbulbs at Hobbs and Ace Hardware and the Town Hall. Residents and busi-



Supporters of Gateway to the Cure can pick up their pink light bulbs from Michael Hobbs, co-owner of Hobbs Hardware, one of the oldest, and most respected family run businesses in Thurmont.

nesses are asked to illuminate the lights every night during October to show their support of cancel awareness. The bulbs will be available for sale beginning September 1, and cost \$4 each. The town also so sells specially designed Gateway to the Cure apparel that can be purchased at the town office.

Restaurants struggle with virus seating limits

With restaurants in Maryland and Pennsylvania restricted to reductions in patronages, many are barely making ends meet.

Susan Glass, co-owner of the Ott House said the state-mandated regulations spawned by the pandemic have stretched the restaurant's resources to the limit, and she has yet to be able to bring back all her employees she was forced to lay-off during the initial state-mandated shut-down.

In order for the restaurant to generate as much income as feasible, the Ott House offers take-out, and outdoor and indoor dining. However, maintaining social distancing guidelines has dramatically cut into profitability, especially indoors, where seating has been cut to the state mandate of 50% occupancy.

In order to achieve social distancing, the ever-popular pool tables have been covered over and the bar has been reduced to only a few stools. Service is only provided to every other table, which places the serviceable tables six feet apart. Normally, the restaurant can serve up to 80 individuals. Under the restraints, they are down to half of that, although the outdoor dining area can handle about 20.

Another factor which has challenged restaurant management is knowing how much of each of the perishable products to buy, although it was more of a problem before the state allowed limited in-door dining. The eatery has at least been able to offer the full menu "as much as possible."

Even then, some food supplies and ingredients are not always reliably available. "You can't get some things," she said, adding that at least an effort is made to try and stock items that are the most popular.

As far as patronages, Glass said the returning Mount students are "making a difference" in generating profit, but not to the degree that they could offset the loss of patrons caused by the closure of the National Fire Academy. "The academy was a big percentage" of the income. Nevertheless, she said regular customers "have been wonderful in trying to support us."

So, what does the future hold? Glass said the restaurant has been able to acquire loans to help get through the hard times, and is hoping those loans, in the end, will be forgiven. Otherwise, she said, "When you run out of money, you run out of money ...

We're hanging on by a string."

Fairfield's Mansion House new owner George Keeney said Pennsylvania allows up to 25% in-door seating capacity. As a result, indoor seating at the inn has been reduced from 160 to 40. Keeney said they are lucky; when applying for a loan for the restaurant, they were conservative on initial customer numbers and they have not been hit that hard yet. "We are really looking forward to the end of this situation," Keeney said.

Stavros Pizza is digging its heels in to weather out the COVID-19 storm. General Manager Ian Dorcus said Stavros is relying solely on carry-out orders and has no plans to re-open their indoor dining area, even though they could open



Stavros is weathering the pandemic storm based upon their reputation of making the best pizza this side of ... well anywhere.

up 50% of their seating capacity. "We chose not to, until they allow 100%," Dorcus said.

Dorcus said the closing of the Fire Academy has been "definitely affecting us ... We got a lot of sales from them." However, Dorcus noted, the return of the Mount students has helped compensate for some of the losses.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town readies for municipal election

Town Manager Cathy Willets briefed the Town Council at their August meeting on the voting related virus protocols that would be in effect for the September 29 election.

Four individuals, comprised of three election judges and one greeter, will be working inside and outside the polling facility. The polls had previously been staffed by only three people. The staff will be provided with gloves and masks.

Face masks will be required for entry into voting facility, and voters will be requested to use hand-sanitizer upon entry into the building. There will be two voting booths, which will be located at least six-feet apart, as per social distancing requirements. Additionally, there will be taped marking on the floor and outside the polling facility debarking social distancing.

The greeter will be posted outside to ensure no more than two voters are inside at any time, manage the line at door of those waiting to vote

to ensure social-distancing, hand out face masks for voters who do not have one prior to entering, and have voters use hand-sanitizer before entering voting room.

In addition to managing the voting process, the judges will also be charged with wiping-down the voting booth with sanitizer after each voter exists, collecting pens from voters (after voting) and disinfecting them for the next voters., periodically wiping down the ballot-box with disinfectant, and periodically wiping down the sign-in table with disinfectant.

The commissioners also voted at their August meeting to approve the election judges and poll staff for the September 29 election. Appointed were: Lynn Orondorff as chief-judge; Charlotte Mazaleski as judge; Tammy May as judge; Deborah Arnold as "on-call" alternate judge/poll-greeter; and Tracy Lewis as poll-greeter.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, anyone wishing to not vote

in-person, may request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be returned to the town office no later than September 28. Anyone interested in running as a write-in candidate must apply, and submit financial disclosures by noon, September 22. The town election will be held September 29 at the poll located at 22 East Main Street.

Mayoral Debate

A Mayoral debate will take place, Wednesday night, September 3, in the town offices. All three candidates will be physically present. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public will not be allowed to attend in person. Instead, the debate will be televised live on Channel 99, and will be available on the town's Facebook page until the election, Sept 29. Members of the public can also watch via Zoom. The debate will be moderated by Michael Hillman, Editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal.

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Water use restriction averted

The Emmitsburg commissioners were to have considered, at their August meeting, the imposition of Phase-2 water restrictions, which would have placed compulsory water-use restraints on users, but, instead, voluntary restriction will remain in place.

Mayor Don Briggs and the commissioners voted at their July meeting to enact voluntary water restrictions, following several weeks of abnormally dry weather in Frederick County, and

across the state in general, and the declaration that North Frederick County was in a state of moderate drought.

But even as the August meeting was about to begin, summer storms had found a means of breaching the Catoctin Mountain, and Rainbow Lake, which serves as the municipal reservoir, and the town wells, began to show that water levels were beginning to rise towards potential normalcy.

In addressing the impending implementation of Phase-2 at the

August meeting, Town Manager Cathy Willets said, regarding the optimum well levels, "The wells came back up some since the end of June. None are terribly low for immediate concern. We're still in really good condition."

She stated that as of August 3, the lake is at 15.5 feet, noting that, normally, it is at 16.6. The difference is about one foot below its spillway level.

She further noted, "(Regarding) Well No. 1, we're a foot to the good;

Well No. 2, we're four-feet to the good; and then Well No 4, we're two-feet to the good; and Well No 5, we're one-foot to the good; so the wells have come up." Well No. 3 had previously been taken off-line due to a higher level of alkalinity.

Concerning rainfall, the town manager said "We do six month increments (in measuring precipitation), so the amount of precipitation for February 1 through July 31 (on average) is 23.3", and we received

18.6". So we are in a deficit of 4.7". We only received .9" of rain in July." This, of course, does not reflect the ongoing storms that have been occurring since the end of July.

Willets said that she had consulted with Water & Sewer Superintendent Dan Fissel, and that, "Right now, we have no problem with continuing with voluntary water restrictions." The status of the water supply would be re-assessed at the commissioners' September meeting.

News-Briefs . . .

Homebuilding in Brookfield to re-commence

Mayor Don Briggs announced that developers Ryan Homes will be returning to work on the Brookfield subdivision. Eleven years ago the development company stopped building after completing the Pembroke Woods development.

Over the years, the mayor stated he has met with Ryan Homes in the effort to coax them to come back and finish the Brookfield subdivision.

"Now," the mayor stated, "it is a reality. In spite of the adversity we are facing, so many positive things are happening. All of this is a tribute to the efforts of our town staff and the whole community."

The mayor said that Ryan Homes has

taken note of all the improvements the town has implemented to improve the image of the village, including the revitalized the Town Square and provided connectivity for the town sidewalks, "east, west, north and south," and Ryan Homes that the Brookfield developer "likes all of the things we have done."

Sheriff's Office contract renewed

The Emmitsburg Town Council approved renewing the town's contract with the county Sheriff's Office for 2021 to continue providing police services to the town. As per the current and renewed contracts, the Sheriff's Office provides two deputies to police the town.

Town Manager Cathy Willets said the total amount of the 2021 contract for county deputies to be able to continue providing police services for the community amounted to \$272,614.

The amount of the current 2020 contract was \$284,624. Commenting on why the 2021 contract is 4.21 percent, or \$12,010, less than the current year's amount, Willets said that the reduction was due to a change of personnel at the Sheriff's Office.

Processing 'wild water' continues

In spite of numerous wastewater collection system improvements over the years, the town's wastewater treatment plant continues to process 'wild water,' or storm water that seeps into the collection system through breaks and cracks

in the pipes in the collection system. (Wild water is also known as I&I, or inflow and infiltration.)

Willets told the Town Council that the wastewater treatment plant treated 320,000 gallons per day in June, while the town consumed 210,226 gallons per day, "which means that 34.3 percent

of the wastewater treated this month was 'wild water.'"

On the upside, the plant had no spills of untreated sewage in the month of June (the numbers released by the town manager tend to be those for two months prior to the town meeting), and did not exceed the plant's design capacity.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Liberty offers Hamiltonban police support

Liberty Township Police Chief Sherri Hansen appeared before the Hamiltonban supervisors to offer providing the township with additional police coverage, but the board took no action on the offer.

Chief Hansen had sent a July 30 letter to the township prior to the meeting in which she stated, "I would be grateful to have the opportunity to meet with you on how Liberty Township Police could offer the residents of Hamiltonban Township the same quality of police services

that our residents enjoy."

Hansen further stated that since she assumed the position of chief in Liberty Township in May 2019, the police department has re-emphasized itself as one committed to community policing. "Such commitments go beyond becoming more visible and engaged with our community but attending to other needs not traditionally associated with law enforcement."

As an example of police activities that have been expanded under her

tenure as chief, Hansen said the force has become involved in the Elder Care program, "which not only checks on our older resident's welfare, but has also helped to coordinate other county services and care."

Regarding increased law enforcement that has taken place on her watch, Hansen wrote, "Our traffic enforcement has increased by 600 percent," and the department has been implementing a strong emphasis on DUI enforcement, and actively participates in the Adams

County DUI patrols.

The chief further stated at the board meeting that State Police have apparently been considering charging for their services. "Even if you would not be interested now, (that might change) if State Police start charging." Whether or not the state decides to go that route, she said the state force "is closer to now (to begin charging) than it has ever been."

While the supervisors decided not to act on the proposal, but instead

indicated they would consider the offer further if and when necessity might warrant it ... "over the next couple of months."

State police have been provide Hamiltonban with policing so since the township disbanded their own municipal Police Department in November 2012, shortly after the department had become unionized, but Commissioner Robert Gordon, board chairman at the time, stated that the unionization issue was not related to the board's decision to end the township police department, and that it was strictly a budget issue.

Council initiates a 'cover-up'

The Carroll Valley Borough Council opined for a half-hour at their August meeting regarding whether or not the frame of a truck being restored should be removed, covered-up, or contained within a portable car garage.

According to the council, a property located on Fruitwood St. was cited for violating the nuisance ordinance by having a portion of a pickup truck located on their property.

The property-owners, identified as the Robinson family, sent an email to the borough, seeking a waiver from the ordinance, stating that the vehicle was the subject of an ongoing

restoration project. At the time the citation was issued, only the truck's undercarriage sat in the yard.

Councilman Bruce Carr suggested that a fenced barricade be required to prevent the vehicle from being seen, rather than requiring the truck's removal, "since they're obviously working on it (actively restoring it)."

Council President Richard Mathews noted there was a two-car garage on the property, and asked why they couldn't use the garage for the restoration. Councilman Carr stated that the rest of the truck's body and parts were probably in there.

Borough Attorney Zachary Rice noted they proposed putting a tarp over the vehicle while restoration continues. The borough code does provide that, at the discretion of the council, "a tarp completely covering the nuisance, and secured against wind and weather, may be substituted for the aforesaid fence (where a chain-link fence could be required)," and further stated that such coverage could be approved as a temporary (time-restricted) measure.

Two of the councilmen initially supported a portable car garage in lieu of a tarp. Carr suggested a car garage would

essentially be overkill, given the incomplete state of the truck at the present time. Also, potential safety risks posed by the exposed truck-frame to children were brought up as well.

In discussing placing a time-constraint on approving a temporary tarp cover, it was noted that the restoration would probably not be something that would likely be accomplished in the short-term. Councilwoman Jessica Kraft noted, in the e-mail submitted by the Robinson, that "they may not necessarily have (a sufficient) budget set aside to do a restoration on the vehicle quickly."

Councilman Carr suggested a six-month renewable permit. However,

Councilman Mathews said, "What we've got in this borough ... there are probably enough vehicles in this borough, in it's 5.5 square miles, to create the biggest, or if not the closest, to the biggest junkyard in the state of Pennsylvania. I would be opposed to a permit that is renewable into perpetuity."

Mathews stated that the town manager has been actively working on these (nuisance) cases, and issued seven citations the same time that the one was cited. Six have complied, he stated, and "this one has excuses."

The council finally unanimously voted to allow the vehicle to be covered by a natural-colored tarp for a period up to a year.

News-Briefs . . .

Carroll Valley receives funds for wastewater upgrades

Developer David Sites appeared before the Hamiltonban supervisors to inquire if a new residential overlay could be had of lands adjacent to the site of a recently deceased commercial development.

Sites had attempted to develop a shopping center dubbed Iron Springs Plaza, initially proposed in 2006, that was to have been located on a 17-acre tract located at the intersection of Iron Springs and Fairfield roads, and it was to have consisted of various retail establishments, anchored by a major 35,000 square-foot grocery store, and a 7,200 square-foot superstore.

But Sites essentially declared the project dead in January, stating, "We have come to the conclusion that unless significant development of residential units takes place in the Fairfield and Carroll Valley (areas), we will not have success in building the Iron Springs Plaza."

There having been no "significant development of residential units" in the area to support a shopping center, the developer apparently is now considering creating that "significant development of residential units" himself.

Sites did not return to either phone message or email seeking additional information.

ity (CFA) recently approved the H2O PA funds upon a request submitted by the borough.

As part of the project, the municipality plans to construct a new control building, as well as a new ultraviolet disinfection system. Additionally, the treatment plant has not been able to process the load of waste being received and has had to pay to have the overburden transported to Harrisburg for disposal.

Overall, the existing plant was constructed in the 1970s. The PA Department of Environmental Protection recently notified officials that the plant was hydraulically overloaded and exceeded its useful life.

Mastriano stated. "As a state lawmaker, one of my main priorities is infrastructure. State grant dollars are highly competitive, so it is refreshing to see the CFA make this commitment ..."

Liberty monitoring Steelman Marker

Municipal police issued a number of citations for making illegal left-hand turns at a township intersection in July, as well as for exceeding the speed limit.

Police Chief Sherri Hansen told the township supervisors at their August meeting that officers have been enforcing the no-left-turn law on Steelman Marker Road at Waynesboro Pike and there have been some citations issued. Hansen also noted that numerous speeding citations were also issued, because "speeding is also a problem there (through the Steelman-Waynesboro intersection)."

Regarding other enforcement actions, the chief reported that police conducted roving DUI patrols but made no DUI arrests.

However, she stated, several drug and drug paraphernalia arrests were made as a result of the patrols.

Fairfield upgrading Village Hall

The Fairfield Borough Council has accomplished, or planning to address, a number of repairs to the Village Hall, notably dealing with doors and windows.

The council approved at their August meeting the awarding of a contract for the installation storm-windows in the amount of \$9,016. The money will cover the costs of the windows, including their installation, and will begin in October.

Borough Secretary Susan Wagle said the windows are much-needed,

and that during a recent storm, she noticed water coming into her office through the rear window, and water coming through the windows in the front during windy storms, "So this building will definitely benefit from the installation of storm windows."

Also being proposed is the replacement of the backdoor. Two quotes have been received. The council has held off awarding the work as it was felt additional details were needed in order to determine if the proposal was acceptable.

A broken windowpane was also recently replaced, and other interior maintenance tasks are planned.



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CV received money for plant upgrade

Carroll Valley Borough has received \$700,000 from the state to assist in payment for upgrades to the municipal wastewater treatment plant.

According to a press release issued by state Senator Doug Mastriano, the Commonwealth Financing Author-

THURMONT NEWS

Parking garage being considered

The Thurmont Town Council discussed at their August 4 meeting cost-related information recently obtained by the town regarding the possible construction of a parking deck to be sited over the current, municipal parking lot on South Center Street.

Jim Humerick, chief administrative officer, said that, at the request of the Commissioner Marty Burns, Nitterhouse Concrete Products had prepared a recommended plan and preliminary estimate.

He said the firm recommended a two-level parking deck, comprised of pre-fabricated walls, with 98 spaces

(which included several ground-level spaces, with the bulk contained within the parking decks). The company also included a provision in their documentation for the possibility of a third deck to be added in the future. The two-level deck up for discussion would consist one ground-level deck, and one elected deck above it.

Humerick said the estimated cost came in at \$1,481,000, which did not include electrical work and plumbing, design engineering, nor a proposed elevator. "They said they do these kinds of projects all the time. They think it's a very fair price ... and would be happy to

do the project in Thurmont."

Commissioner Marty Burns said, "This isn't just about parking. It's (also) about economic development," adding that the town does not have enough parking spaces to accommodate people that actually work downtown while, at the same time, providing adequate parking for would-be customers to generate more business.

"This is the only thing that's going to make businesses want to come to downtown Thurmont," Burns stated. "If you build it ... they will come," he said, quoting the famous line in the movie Field of Dreams.

The parking deck, he said, "will double our parking ability."

Commission Bill Buehrer said he would rather see shops on the ground floor deck, and two elected decks above be used or parking, stating that there is not, at present, a lot of existing shops available to accommodate much in the way of new businesses, unless new shops are added as well as the parking.

Commissioner Wes Hamrick suggested the parking deck, if the project is approved, should be kiosk-ed. "Personally, I don't see this as a free parking place. You don't have to charge exorbitant prices."

Mayor John Kinnaird said, "We struggle with parking in the Town of

Thurmont." As far as available parking in-town at present, the mayor said there is street parking, metered-street parking intended for use of customers and businesses, and in the municipal parking lot (which provides about 40 parking spaces), and which is not metered. However, he said, "As always, there's never enough parking spaces."

The mayor and commissioners directed Humerick to contact Nitterhouse Concrete for additional information regarding options, and to see if the company is aware of any types of applicable grants or funding opportunities. Further, Burns suggested town taxpayers be surveyed to ascertain their opinions.

Four new murals unveiled

Four new murals depicting the history and cultural heritage of Thurmont and environs, created by local artist Yemi Fagbohun, were unveiled August 22 at the old Thurmont trolley substation, joining five other murals which has previously been completed by the artist.

Additionally, Fagbohun created a number of portraits of the busts of presidents who have visited nearby Camp David and/or Thurmont.

The presidential portraits were also placed at various locations on the outside walls of the trolley building.

The new murals were unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by around 30 COVID-19 mandated, masked individuals, many of whom had also been donors toward the project.

Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick said the murals are prints made from originals produced by the

artist, which are mounted to panels, and then attached to the walls by Thurmont Public Works. The murals are also treated to keep the colors looking bright.

The collection of murals all features some aspect of Thurmont history, heritage, and area sights. The art project commenced in 2013 when the Thurmont Lions Club approached the Thurmont regarding the possibility of implementing a

project that would beautify the town.

Fagbohun said as he developed the overall art concept for the trolley building that he wanted to "make the wall something surprising," adding, "I've never done anything like this." He stated he incorporated four different art styles to produce the art, resulting in an array of different interpretations of scenes. He said he had no problem finding topics to represent. "One thing that makes this easy was there was so much to chew on (among local historical and

cultural subjects)."

Town Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder said Fagbohun original paintings of each of the mounted prints will go on display at the Thurmont Regional Library when it is re-opened to the public.

The trolley substation is located across East Main Street from the Thurmont Trolley Trail and is adjacent to a vintage trolley donated to the town by the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Historical Society in 2008.

News-Briefs . . .

Employees now subject to COVID-19 travel regulations

Town employees traveling to COVID-19 hot spots, must now, on proposing to return to work, follow a new set of procedures established by town staff.

Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer, told the Commissioners at their August 4 meeting, "If an employee travels out of state, and the state has been identified as a ten-percent positivity increase, that's considered a hot-spot, and the employee, when they come back, they have to be tested, they have to be quarantine at home until they receive the results of that test

If an employee travels out-of-state to a location that is not considered a hot spot, they will still be asked to be tested, and they can return to work

after the that test is done.

Humerick also noted that, due to continuing concerns over the spread of COVID-19, and new restrictions issued by Governor Larry Hogan, "We've sort of reverted back to where we were eight or nine weeks ago," including requiring employees to wear face-masks in the office unless they are at their work station, and using hand-sanitizer at work.

New officer sworn in

Newly hired Thurmont Police Officer Nathan McLeroy was sworn in by Mayor Kinnaird at the Town Council's August 11 meeting.

Officer McLeroy told the commission he had "been wanting to be a cop for a very long time," and that he had served as a military police officer in the Army from 2013 to

2016. His father, Steve McLeroy, is a retired officer who had served with the Baltimore County Police Department.

McLeroy said he hoped to make his family proud, "and make it (the community) a little safer."

In an emotional moment, McLeroy's father said, "We're proud of him," and presented his son with a set of handcuffs that that he has used while serving with the Baltimore County Police. "These handcuffs were mine when I first started," he said, adding, "When I was first started, he was just born."

Census reminder

Thurmont Commissioner Bill Buehrer reminded residents at the Town Council's August 11 meeting that citizens have until September 30 to fill in the census form online.

If a resident has not filed by

October 1, "There will be someone ringing your doorbell or knocking on your door, and that's not necessary. It'll take you eight minutes to fill the census form." Buehrer also suggested inquiring if a neighbor has or has not filed their census form, and, if they have not, to offer to help them.

The census numbers generated by a community aid in planning and will affect the distribution of federal funding to states and municipalities, and can affect how congressional districts may be reconfigured, which can impact elections and representation in government.

Officer's stepdaughter granted scholarship

Elizabeth Anders, stepdaughter of Thurmont police officer Kyle Minnick, was named as the 2020 Mayor James F. Black Scholarship

recipient at the August 11 meeting of the town commissioners.

Anders, in thanking the town for the scholarship, stated that her education goals include enrolling in the nursing program at the Hagerstown Community College, followed by attending Frostburg State University through a dual enrollment, whereby she can concurrently work on her associate and bachelor degrees.

Following the completion of those efforts, Anders said she then hopes to obtain her master's degree and become a mid-wife, and eventually open a birth center, "so I can give back to my community."

Mayor Black's son, Dennis, established this fund in memory of his father, who passed away in December 2003. The purpose of the fund is to provide educational assistance for the town of Thurmont's employees and their legal dependent.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

New development nears approval

A 4.27-acre, 36-unit housing development proposed at Harney Rd. and Westview Dr. in Taneytown is slowly working its way through issues relating to establishing approvals for inclusion in the municipal water supply service.

The proposed development, Taneytown Crossing, would consist of 13 duplexes and one building with stacked units, according to the developers, Pax Edwards, LLC, of Belair.

Problems in advancing the development effort have been hampered

by an apparent stalemate between the town and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding 'exhausted' available water capacity at the water processing plant, the MDE maintaining the town did not have sufficient capacity left to commit to serve any new developments.

However, an end to the bureaucratic stalemate appears to be reaching a resolution, which would pave the way for the proposed development to progress.

Integral to gaining capacity that will aid the developers of

Taneytown Crossing is a proposal to amend the Carroll County Water and Sewer Master Plan in a manner that will allow Taneytown to be credited with more water and sewer capacity, which is slowly winding its way to final approval. The amendment must be approved by the MDE.

Previously, the capacity of local water and sewer plants was generated by employing one-size-fits-all numbers, but Taneytown successfully lobbied for the MDE to use actual town-generated numbers, which

more accurately reflects actual average water and sewer service usage.

The city was able to demonstrate that sufficient capacity did exist for impending developments or users, (such as the Taneytown Crossing development), using 'real,' average use numbers.

City Manager James Wieprecht stated at the August workshop, "We are in a much better place now with the water and sewer plan than we have been in the recent past." This resolution would pave the way for Taneytown Crossing.

Further, some additional water capacity was recently gained

through work on the O'Brien Ave. Bridge sewer-replacement project. As a result of that work, that fix alone gained the town an additional 53,000 gpd (gallons per day) by reducing the I&I. Also, work planned on the pipelines from the Meadowbrook area down to York St. in 2121 is expected to recoup another 102,000 gpd.

Gaining MDE approvals for the revised town capacity projections, thereby enabling the amendment of the Carroll County Water and Sewer Master Plan accordingly, could occur by the time this issue of the News-Journal is published

Wild water besieges water treatment plant

Problems and planned fixes at the municipal wastewater treatment plant and infrastructure was presented to the Taneytown councilors and mayor at their August workshop.

Town consultant, Brian Lubenow, environmental engineer and project manager with CDM Smith, reviewed issues associated with the wastewater facility, and the measures he recommends be addressed.

Lubenow said that one of the main concerns is that wild water (also known as I&I/inflow and infiltration.), entering into the collection system via broken or cracked pipes is adversely impacting the facility's service capacity for future users. "Getting I&I out

of the system is critically important. With no capacity, you (the town) cannot grow."

Additionally, the intrusion of wild water impacts the rate of flow through the collection system, which, if not reduced, could result in a state-mandated expansion of the physical plant. "Flow reduction means the MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) won't expect you to expand the plant."

At the crux of the I&I problem is a collection system, which still contains old terracotta pipes, along with those made from PVC. Once-popular terracotta is comprised of clay and shale, and readily cracks and deteriorates over

time. "The terracotta was installed in the 1960s and before," he said.

Another area of concern is controlling nitrogen and phosphorus in order to comply with the plant's MDE permit, one of the reasons for a facility upgrade several years ago, Lubenow stated. A combination of I&I and water flow exasperate the ability to control nitrogen and phosphorus levels as well.

Town staff continues to negotiate with the MDE on meeting permit restrictions. "Making improvements within the sewer system and well as making some optimization improvements at the plant, we hope those things come together and lead us

towards compliance with our (MDE) permit."

In the effort to solve the problems, Lubenow said, "Forty percent of the sewer system has been surveyed, with the completion of the survey to occur in October (including determining how much of the lines are terracotta)." Additionally, flow-meters have been installed to monitor the flow-rate to determine which parts of the system are subject to the heaviest I&I problems.

Lubenow recommended a number of improvements that would reduce the costs of the plant's operation as well. "A tighter system equals saving money in operations, as well as (generating) additional

capacity to promote growth."

Included among those recommendations, he said sentry probes should be installed at the facility to aid staff to operate the plant more effectively, the construction of a bulk-storage tank to hold a chemical that helps reduce nitrogen contact in the water. The cost of the expensive ingredient can be dramatically reduced if it can be purchased in larger quantities than that which can be stored now at the plant.

Regarding financing, Lubenow recommend that the town wastewater capacity management plan for the plant conduct a benefit assessment fee analysis (the mechanism of how the town will pay for the projects and cost-effectiveness) to help determine potential funding sources.

News-Briefs . . .

City hall damage costs released

The 55-year old suspect accused of ramming his truck into the front of the Taneytown City Hall in August 2019 caused \$51,735.99 in damages, according to information provided to the News-Journal.

City Manager James Wieprecht said, "While I can't provide exact details, I can summarize most of it is attributable to damage to the building itself and lost property within the building."

Exterior and interior damage repairs to the town offices were completed in August, nearly a year after Rodney Davis drove his truck into the front of the building, reportedly after having become angered that the city had cut his water service off.

Attorney Jack Gullo previously told the town counselors that Rodney Davis had "pled guilty to first-degree assault, which is a felony, and malicious destruction of property," during the then-suspect's court status hearing. Gullo said that Davis will likely be sentenced following an in-person hearing planned to take place on September 3. The attorney had further stated, "You can read between the lines that Mr. Davis is likely to be incarcerated for some period of time for the act of violence committed against the city."

Wieprecht appointed city manager
Jim Wieprecht will no longer be the acting city manager for Taneytown, as he was unanimously appointed to the position of city manager at the council's August meeting. Wieprecht will assume his duties immediately, with an annual salary of \$88,907.

Wieprecht has served as the acting town manager for the past 27 months,

having been appointed to the position in May 2018. He has served in various capacities with Taneytown since 1996.

Wieprecht also served as planning and zoning administrator at the same time he was employed as the acting town manager. As a result of his new status, the town will be looking for a new planning and zoning administrator, as he will only continue with those responsibilities until a new administrator is hired.

Mayor Bradley Wantz stated, "I've had the honor to work with Jim for a little over a year now . . . He has done a great job at leading the city. I've been very pleased with what he has done."

Free parking permits to be tried

Taneytown will be issuing free parking passes to prospective customers of

downtown businesses during a pilot program to test the effectiveness of the passes. Businesses themselves will serve as the issuers of the individual permits.

The passes will be made available during the last quarter of the budgetary year, starting in September, with intent to help boost business sales while the town continues to undergo stress caused by the on-going COVID pandemic.

Wieprecht told the Town Council that the permits are being rolled out for three months starting in September, especially to encompass the holiday shopping season.

The process would involve merchants being able to issue town-provided, day-long, free-parking passes to customers to encourage shopping at businesses where parking is metered. The merchants would date the permits so ensure to they are only used

on one day, and then the signed permit would be displayed on a business patron's windshield.

Virus delays police vehicle deliveries

Police vehicles Taneytown had hoped to purchase this year are not being produced due to COVID-related industry shutdowns.

The town had placed an order of \$89,000 for Ford Explorers, but City Manager Wieprecht said those vehicles were not being built this year, and will not be delivered until fiscal year 2021,

thus the 2020 budget needed to be amended to omit the purchase and move the expenditure to the 2021 budget.

The issue relating to the police cars was one of several arising out of the need to amend the FYI 2020 budget. Additionally, \$146,000 that had been allocated for the Bollinger Park project (sited on land annexed to the city in 2016) has been moved to 2021 because the work has proceeded slower than expected.

The councilors approved the proposed budget amendments.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Mayor Don Briggs

Thank you to everyone for the strong response to the 2020 Census drive. We are now at 71.4 percent that is above the overall County percentage. In the 2010 census, before I became mayor, the town resident ending overall response was only 52.2 percent. Every respondent brings back to the County and our community \$1,800 per year or \$18,000 over the decade census period.

As the County population grows there will be more demands of services and projects. Responding to the census can help keep taxes down. With one more month to go, if you have not yet responded, please do so. It is very important. Go to the town website or respond to the census tracker who soon may be knocking

on your door.

For the National and State elections, Governor Hogan's has decreed that Emmitsburg will not have a voting location or a drop box. County precincts have been reduced from 63 to 12. The decreed northern County location for in-person or drop box will be Catoctin High School.

Town responsibilities have grown considerably in what we must do now for the environment. We live in Maryland home to the Chesapeake Bay. While mayor the town has positioned itself well to meet the ever-increasing State mandates regarding the environment and the pandemic. But the mandates keep coming. Being mayor is a full-time daytime job. The demands of the mayor have increased immensely over the last

nine years, it would be extremely hard for a mayor to do this as a night-time job ever again.

I feel town transparency has been enhanced by weekly podcasts, monthly articles, monthly newsletters, and quarterly mailed updates. We will continue our commitment to work harder at it.

I am a long-time non-partisan mayor supported by county and state leaders from both parties. Bi-partisan support allows me to draw in financial resources to continue to fund long overdue infrastructure improvement such as water and sewer line replacements. The town has been steadily replacing the old lines. But the years of overlooking the water lines caught up with us and residents suffered greatly. We are directing even more attention to the old lines. Everything we have done, in the parks, solar, new down-

town, have been done during a period when property taxes were reduced 14%.

My goals if re-elected are:

- Continue through our veteran staff, to systematically overhaul our water and sewer lines, while growing the community in a balanced way going through this pandemic.
- Since the death of a student along S. Seton avenue 21 years ago, twice I have called everyone together to connect the Mount campus to the town with walkway or secure path. We were very close on the second try. I will go at it a third time.
- Now that the Square-Main Street is set, existing business activity is stronger, healthier, new businesses are coming in. A 50,000-

sq foot owner-user warehouse is in the planning stage, Ryan Homes is back in Brookfield bringing incredible marketing capabilities with it that will spill over to the town. We are in another gear with the pandemic response, but let us be deterred, there are big plans to bring Mount graduate programs into the town. Let us be there for them when needed.

- We must form a seniors committee to streamline communications for their needs to be heard.
- We must go after more award-winning projects. Some of the awards we have received are: 2017 - State of Maryland Green Registry Award, 2018, International Society of Arboriculture - Harry J. Banker, Gold Leaf Award, and Arbor Day Foundation's 2018 - Tree City USA.

Town Councilman Joe Ritz

While I write this article in late August, it's hard to believe that summer is winding down and that the kids will be returning to school. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices my wife and all parents have made during remote learning, the outstanding job they've done, and for the time being, will continue to do. Additionally, thank you to all teachers who have adapted their teaching styles and who have patiently dealt with software glitches, computer crashes, and connectivity issues in our virtual classrooms.

Due to Labor Day, please remember that the September town meeting is scheduled

for Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30PM. Some items on the agenda include: an introduction of an annexation resolution pertaining to our wastewater treatment plant and the scheduling of a public hearing regarding this potential annexation; a possible vote on enacting phase 2 mandatory water restrictions (water ban); and, a proclamation officially renaming Community Park as the "E. Eugene Myers Community Park." I fully support this designation since Mr. Myers, a life-long resident, volunteer fireman, and former mayor, did so much to make this park what it is today.

Another agenda item for consideration is Emmitsburg's par-

ticipation in the Maryland Main Street Affiliate program. Our lack of membership in this program is something I have questioned since I was first elected. My inquiries were dismissed since our involvement in sustainability initiatives was deemed more important. However, now with a desire to revitalize our community, encourage business growth, and to obtain grants and assistance in fixing our failing infrastructure, we are officially deliberating on joining this program just as our neighbors in Thurmont and Taneytown already have. Better late than never, I suppose.

Speaking of town meetings, I'd like to dispel some inaccuracies circulating about. Even though we're currently conducting virtual meetings, you DO NOT need special permission to speak; simply provide your name, address, and topic to the Town Clerk (mshaw@emmitsburgmd.gov, 301-600-6300) prior to the meeting. This is the same procedure in place for in-person meetings, where you would sign a form with the same information. Additionally, your topic does not need to be related to an agenda item. As a resident, you are permitted and urged to discuss whatever is on your mind, including complaints, compliments, or recommendations for improvement. I also fully understand that public speaking may not be a comfortable situation for some. Therefore, you are always welcome to contact me (jritz@emmitsburgmd.gov, 301-748-8516), or any of the other commissioners, so that your concerns can be addressed in a public forum.

As stated last month, I am currently seeking my third term as town commissioner and if re-elected, some things I'd like to accomplish are encouraging new business growth, addressing our traffic issues, and seeking a solution to our public parking deficiency. Although the necessity of that last topic was questioned on social media, I do strongly

feel that this is an important endeavor. So are offering more opportunities for our youth, dealing with the growing presence of Mount students in town due to limited space on campus, and focusing more on the disconnect between the town office and residents, specifically as related to customer service and communication. Are there other things that should take priority? What else can be done to help better our community? These are questions that as a commissioner, I should always be asking. However, I also need your help. I need to hear from you so that together, we can make things happen.

I sincerely appreciate and thank you for your vote on September 29th. At the time of this writing, there are three mayoral candidates who would also appreciate your support and vote. To better inform you of their vision of Emmitsburg's future, a special mayoral debate has been scheduled for September 3rd at 7 p.m. Thank you to the Emmitsburg News Journal for hosting this event, which will be broadcast live on Channel 99 and via Zoom, and later rebroadcast on the town's YouTube channel. Details of the debate may be found on the town website - www.emmitsburgmd.gov. You may also contact me for details. Again, thank you Emmitsburg!



RE-ELECT Mayor DON BRIGGS

These are challenging times to which we have adjusted and are now welcoming new businesses. Let's take care of our vulnerable and children. WE ARE GOING TO BEAT THIS!

- We have grown through aggressively going after grants while cutting taxes by 14%.
- Government transparency has been enhanced by monthly articles, newsletters and quarterly updates.
- We have many infrastructures. Our emphasis is on waterline infrastructure.
- It's time for a senior committee to address their needs.
- Let's welcome Ryan Homes back along with 2 new businesses, Dunkin Donuts and Rutters!
- Let's complete the sidewalk connection to Mt. St. Mary's University!

Working hard everyday to ensure Emmitsburg is the finest small town community in Maryland!



TOWN OF EMMITSBURG ELECTION DAY TUESDAY September 29th 22 East Main Street 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Registration applications can be obtained at the Town Office located at 300A South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg or by visiting www.elections.maryland.gov.

All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in the order they are received.

The write-in deadline is September 22nd at noon.

The Mayor's seat and one commissioner's seat are up for election.

For more information visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov or call the Town Office at 301-600-6300

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Rural roads

If you love Frederick County's rural and scenic roads, consider serving on our new Rural and Scenic Roads Advisory Committee. The committee is being formed to refresh the County's Rural Roads Program. The goal is to enhance the appeal of these hidden gems while ensuring safe travel for local residents and visitors alike. Since the Rural Roads Program began almost 20 years ago, over 80 miles of roadway have been incorporated into the plan. More than half of those roads, 46 miles, are gravel roads, and 30 miles are tar-and-chip covered. There are another six miles of asphalt roads in the program.

I hosted a public roundtable on Rural Roads earlier this year. One of the recommendations was to form the advisory committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send an email to FCGboards@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

COVID-19

Thanks to citizens who are wearing face coverings and keeping distance from others, Frederick County continues to flatten the curve on coronavirus cases in

our community. But, we are not out of the woods yet. The risk is still real. Sadly, several more of our neighbors have died from COVID-19 in the past few weeks. We must stay vigilant! It is up to all of us to do our part.

As we slowly and gradually find safe ways to resume some activities, we know there are challenges ahead. One major challenge to reopening is the availability of child care. We know child care is key to opening our economy and supporting our families. Without someone to watch their children, many parents are not able to return to work. With fewer children allowed and expensive cleaning requirements, providers were in a tough place at a time when our community needed them more than ever. In early August, close to 30% of providers in Frederick County remained closed.

So I launched a grant program, using federal CARES Act dollars, to help cover the costs that child care centers and in-home providers face to meet new health guidelines. Working with the non-profit Child Care Choices, the County was able to provide one-time grants to about 300 licensed providers in Frederick County. Eligible family provid-

ers received \$4,100 each. Centers with up to 59 children were awarded \$5,100 grants, and centers with 60 or more children received \$6,800 grants. Several providers told us that without these grants, they would not have been able to reopen their doors. The County offered similar support for our small businesses and our farmers earlier this year with our Jump Start grant program.

I know people in our community are feeling anxiety and uncertainty from the economic and health impacts of the coronavirus as well as from isolation. People are worried about their finances, their health, the education of their children, the lack of social interaction with family and friends, and are simply weary of the limitations on our normal lives. I hear and feel the anger, frustration, and anxiety. It is all normal and to be expected under the circumstances. Frederick County is a caring community. Take a minute and call a friend or family member who may be experiencing isolation. Take the opportunity to go for a walk or visit one of our parks or historic sites. Be patient and kind. Do your best. Together, we will get through the pandemic and will be stronger and thrive again.

Mayoral Debate

A Mayoral debate will take place, Wednesday night, September 3, in the town offices. All three candidates will be physically present.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public will not be allowed to attend in person. Instead, the debate will be televised live on Channel 99, and

will rebroadcast every night on the town's Facebook page until the election, September 29.

Members of the public can also watch via Zoom (the link to the meeting will be provided prior to the debate).

The debate will be moderated by Michael Hillman, Editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal.

The Election

The November 3rd election is right around the corner. Make your voice heard by voting. Because of the coronavirus, this Fall's election will look a little different, with several options for casting your ballot.

Early voting – From October 26th through November 3rd, registered voters can go to any of Frederick County's four early voting sites: Catocin High School, Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, Middletown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building, and Urbana Regional Library. These sites will be open every day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Mail-in (absentee) voting – Every

voter will automatically receive an application for a mail-in ballot. This is different from the Primary Election. If you want to vote from home, fill out and return the application you receive and a ballot will be sent to you.

You can mail your ballot immediately, or starting early in October you can drop it off at one of eight secure drop-off boxes. There will be a box at Catocin High School, as well as the Board of Elections office at 340A Montevue Lane. Elections staff will collect ballots from the boxes each day.

In-person voting – Traditional in-person voting on Election Day remains an option.

Jim Hoover, candidate for Mayor

I know from personal experience what an honor and pleasure it is to serve the Emmitsburg Community. I also know that the time commitment of this position is a major undertaking which often means that personal plans are frequently interrupted. With my previous experience on the town council as a Town Commissioner (1998 until 2002) and as Mayor (2002 until 2011) I am uniquely qualified for this position.

In no particular order here are just a few reasons to Elect Jim Hoover.

- My participation in community events demonstrated my interest in the Emmitsburg community and its residents.
- My participation in Town government as a member of the Streets & Transportation Committee, the Planning Commission, the Town Council and serving nine years as mayor has given me a clear and in-depth understanding of our town government.
- As Mayor I will re-establish pro-

fessional bipartisan relationships with federal, state and county officials which has helped the Town in obtaining grants to fund several capital projects.

- As Mayor, Emmitsburg residents can be assured that they have a Mayor who will fairly and objectively review all issues and take actions that are in the best interest of the entire Town.
- I believe that my longstanding involvement with civic groups, municipal, county, and state level governments and my leadership experience will again serve the residents of Emmitsburg very well.
- I have a genuine love for Emmitsburg; my community interest and participation in the community demonstrates my commitment to the Emmitsburg community.

My agenda's pretty straightforward—it's professional leadership and serving the entire community equally.

As Mayor I've put a lot of empha-

sis on upgrading the Town's infrastructure and improving the Town's financial situation. During my previous tenure as Mayor we replaced several sewer and water lines, added several new fire hydrants and replaced most of the non-working hydrants.

Our financial situation was great. When I joined the town government in 1998 the Town had to borrow money to meet their daily operating expenses. During my time as Mayor we created a reserve fund of over 1.4 million dollars to protect the Town during tough economic times and to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances and crisis. The time to plan for an emergency is not after the emergency occurs. We must plan and be prepared before emergency before it happens.

From the outside looking in those successes were not easily seen but, those successes made a positive impact on the residents of Emmitsburg.

It wasn't all work and no play. We also did some family oriented fun activities.

While I was Mayor we made many improvements in Community Park; new bandstand, increased parking, restrooms, new pavilion, multi-user trails, and upgraded tot lots. We also established family programs and activities: pool parties, ice cream socials, farmers' market, the circus, BBQ competition, and the after school program.

I am running for Mayor because I love Emmitsburg and I truly believe Emmitsburg prospered during my previous three terms as Mayor.

I am very committed to the Emmitsburg Community. I've been a member of the Emmitsburg Streets and Transportation Committee, Planning Commission, Town Council, and I was elected Mayor for three consecutive terms. I have the knowledge, drive, and experience needed to move Emmitsburg forward.

I know how important and how equally difficult it is to find creative and effective solutions in the best interest of the entire community. For 15 years I provided the town with a voice of reason and the leadership that understands

the day-to-day operations of local government. My ability to re-establish professional bipartisan relationships at the State, County and Federal levels will ensure that Emmitsburg is treated fairly and equally and not forgotten about.

Previously serving as your Mayor for nine years and serving on the Town council for over three years has given me the background and experience in municipal government that makes me uniquely qualified to be your Mayor.

In addition to leading the Town, my 30 plus years of management experience with the Maryland Department of Transportation, and Anne Arundel County Government has given me a considerable amount of executive and administrative experience. I have experience managing and overseeing multi-million dollar budgets, hundreds of employees, oversight of departments in facilities maintenance, fleet services, transportation (bus and rail), bus maintenance, coordination of capital projects and I've also served as the purchasing agent.

I am respectfully asking for your vote on September 29th.

VOTE Jim Hoover For MAYOR

Tuesday, September 29

- Improve the town's deteriorated water and sewer infrastructure
- Promote user friendly transparent town government
- Promote a cost efficient government

***EFFECTIVE *CONSERVATIVE *LEADERSHIP**

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The 2020 fall equinox arrives in our area on September 22nd at 8:31 am EDT. With the start of the fall season comes the beginning of the flu season. Flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter months. As we have experienced in the past, the flu activity often begins to increase in October and November and usually peaks between December and February. It is going to be an “interesting time” as we enter the fall season. The question is what happens when influenza meets coronavirus? They seem to have similar on setting symptoms such as sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, and fever.

If you experience these symptoms, the question is which do I have? What should I do? Answer – pay attention to your body. Contact your physician. Remember, one may be more contagious – easily pass on to others. Please consider getting the appropriate (depending on age) flu shot

and while you are at it, also get the pneumonia shot. Intuitively, it makes sense to me that wearing masks, practicing social distancing, working from home if you can, to minimize the spread of COVID-19 would lessen the transmission of other respiratory infectious diseases as well. Wish you and your family ‘Good Health!’

As the leaves fall, some residents may choose to burn their leaves, yard clippings, and tree trimmings rather than transporting them to a dumpsite. If you are planning to burn these items, please refer to the Carroll Valley Ordinance No. 6-2008, it addresses the burning of yard clippings and a recreation fire. Both are considered an open burn. Open burning is defined as the outdoor burning of any materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

The ordinance does not prohibit recreational and incinerator burn fires in the borough. However, when performing an open burn of yard clippings, leaves, etc. are subject to the following conditions: (1) the burn takes place from dawn to dusk, (2) the fire is on your residential property and will remain on your premises with constant supervision and control for the duration of the burn, (3) the burn is further than 50 feet from an existing building or any paved portion of a public right of way.

The ordinance specifies items that are not allowed to be burned in the borough. Some of the not allowable items are any garbage, plastic, Styrofoam, cardboard boxes, and chemically treated lumber. Also, no persons, corporations, partnership/ association shall burn or permit to be burned, a structure of any size, or burn or permit to be burned, any material outside of a container with approved cover

within Adams County unless first receiving a permit from the Adams County Department of Emergency Services at (717) 334-8101. To read the entire ordinance go to the CarrollValley.org website and perform a search on Open Burn.

This month the Borough will start the FY2021 Budget preparation. The starting process involves collecting and analyzing the 2020 budget revenue and expenditures to date and then comparing the results to the initial estimates. The results of the comparison determine the reasonableness of the forecasted values for the rest of the year and the initial values for the following year with planned adjustments. The draft 2021 budget is then prepared for the Finance Committee to review in detail and discuss any changes. Once the Finance Committee completes its review, the revised 2021 budget with recommendation(s) is presented to the Council for consideration.

A Joint Finance Committee and Council meeting is held to review the details of the 2021 budget and

reach a consensus. After chances are implemented based on the joint budget meeting, the 2021 Budget is presented to the Council for approval to advertise the budget as a “Tentatively Approved Budget with Intent to Adopt”. During this advertised period, the budget is made public for comment. Finally, the budget is presented to the Council with any changes for approval. The process starts in late August and ends in December.

During the pandemic, the Borough Office and services remain available to the residents via phone, email and as of May 11th in person. A sanitizing station is available in the lobby. Please wear your face mask when entering the Borough building. The Carroll Commons (the park) and walking trails are open. All play equipment in all parks are sanitized daily. The meetings for September are Finance Committee (Sept 8th) and Borough Council (Sep 15th). If you have any questions, please call 301-606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Keep well!

Rich Sterner (D), candidate for State Senate

I am running to represent the residents of State Senate District 33 in the Pennsylvania Senate. If you live in Adams County or Eastern Franklin County I am asking for your vote on November 3rd.

Today, I want to introduce myself to you and share my reasons for running for office. Next month I will explain my position on some of the important issues facing Pennsylvanians. In November, I will tell you why I think a vote for me is the best decision you can make in this election.

I consider myself a moderate Democrat. In fact, for much of my voting life, I was a registered Republican - a “Reagan Republican.” Although my party affiliation is Democrat, I do not focus on partisan political ideology. Instead, I focus on listening to and representing all residents of District 33. Rather than following a party line, I seek to understand the facts surrounding an issue, to find a solution that will resolve the issue, and to secure support for that solution with anyone who agrees with me,

regardless of party affiliation.

This is the approach I have taken to problem-solving my entire adult life. Even as a student in high school and college, I learned the importance of working with others for the good of everyone through my involvement in team sports and musical ensembles. As an athlete and musician, I learned to work with others to achieve something that I could never achieve on my own. I learned that everyone has something to contribute to the process, and everyone’s input needs to be valued.

In my early adult years, I spent a few months working as a UPS delivery driver. My brief stint as a UPS driver taught me one of my first, and most valuable, leadership lessons - Always look to the furthest point down the road. Taking an action that is momentarily expedient and provides temporary relief is often not the best long-term strategy to address a problem, and sometimes it ends up making the problem worse. Visionary leadership requires the ability to see the

long-term consequences of current actions.

As an adult, I spent 25 years in public education, first as a Social Studies teacher, and then as a middle school and high school principal. I also coached football, and in retirement, I am a member of the school board at Bermudian Springs School District. My experiences as a coach, a teacher, a principal and a school member have taught me how to bring people together around a common purpose and work to achieve a common goal.

My career in education taught me that there are many ways to resolve an issue. It also taught me that meaningful solutions require discussion, understanding, and ultimately compromise. The ability to “see the furthest point down the road” makes it easier to determine the best course of action to achieve long-term benefits.

I decided to run for Pennsylvania Senate because I believe this type of visionary, results-oriented leadership is sorely lacking in Harrisburg. There are too many problems

not being resolved due to partisan, political posturing and an unwillingness to compromise. Too many of our State Representatives and State Senators concern themselves with playing to base constituencies rather than working toward solutions that benefit the vast majority of Pennsylvanians.

I am not interested in playing political games. I am interested in working with colleagues to find long-term solutions to difficult issues. Those issues include: providing affordable health insurance for everyone, which is not dependent on job security; securing fair and equitable funding for K-12 schools; enacting property tax reform that maintains a high standard of local control; maintaining clean air and clean waterways without job losses due to environmental restrictions; putting an end to gerrymandering and voter disenfranchisement; finding solutions to gun violence that don’t impinge on Second Amendment rights; promoting social justice and law enforcement reforms; and support-

ing volunteer emergency services and responders.

Achieving solutions to these issues requires leadership and vision. Leadership includes listening to all sides of an issue and consulting with recognized experts. Vision includes knowing the desired outcome and anticipating the consequences of short term actions. As an example, throughout the current pandemic crisis, I have consistently advocated for consulting with and following the guidance offered by medical experts, while keeping an eye on “the furthest point down the road” to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

As Principal at Biglerville High School, I had the privilege of greeting each graduating Senior individually. I shook their hands just before they received their diplomas. When I looked in their eyes, I saw the potential each one of them had to become a productive, contributing member of society. Ultimately, my decision to be your State Senator is motivated by my desire to help these young people fulfill that potential. It is in that spirit that I ask for your vote.

Rich Sterner Leadership, Integrity, Compassion, and Honor

Senate District 33
Democratic Candidate



He will listen to and represent ALL residents of Senate District 33!

Rich Sterner will work towards: Better and more cohesive COVID-19 response, Affordable Healthcare for everyone, and Property Tax Reform while maintaining local control of education.

Learn more about Rich Sterner at www.sternerforpa.com

**Vote for Rich Sterner
On November 3rd!**

Paid for by the Sterner for PA Campaign

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

Adams County offices are fully open to the public again and to this point operations are running smoothly. The only remaining exceptions to public access are the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex and the 2nd floor of the Department of Emergency Services Building housing 911. Throughout the pandemic, all county offices continued to provide service in-person, by email or telephone. Visitors are encouraged to consider remote service when possible to reduce exposure.

Upon building entry, both staff and visitors must have their temperature scanned and be wearing a mask. The number of clients allowed in an office at one time is limited. At this time those client limitations have not proven to be an issue for visitors. The Adams County Office of Veterans Affairs is taking walk-ins again; but also encourages appointments if possible. Appointments for Veterans Affairs can be made by calling Stan Clark or Todd Gardner at 717-337-9835

In July, Adams County received \$9.3M of Federal CARES money, that

was distributed to 60 counties with populations under 500,000, through Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Affairs. In Adams County we are calling this program the Fund for Adams Investment and Recovery (FAIR). The first application cycle for these funds opened on Monday, August 17. The Adams County Board of Commissioners is disbursing funding provided by the CARES Act through this program to provide assistance meeting eligibility, for those in need in the community.

Entities that are eligible to apply for FAIR include; small businesses with less than 100 full-time employees, tourism-related businesses regardless of the number of employees, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment providers, non-profit organizations as defined by Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and municipal governments. At this time the county has received more than a dozen applications and are fielding numerous calls. In an effort to assist applicants as they apply to this program, here are the answers to

the top 3 most frequently asked questions to date.

Can the funding be used for payroll? No, payroll is not an allowable expense through this program. Please refer to the eligible expenditures list for details.

Can the funds replace the money my business lost due to the pandemic?

No, the funds cannot be used to replace lost revenue; but they can be used to pay for expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. Documentation must be included to support these expenses, i.e. invoices, statements, etc.

If I received money from the Payroll Protection Program or another program, am I still eligible for this program?

Yes, you are still eligible to apply for this program; but applicants who have not received other funding will take a priority over your application.

Please remember to upload all documentation including invoices or statements to support the amount of funding requested in the application. This is necessary for the Community

Evaluation Team to review the application. Details are provided in the application process online.

FAIR applications will be accepted until September 17, 2020. Once all of the applications received in this first round are evaluated, it will be determined if another application cycle is warranted. Questions can be directed to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development at 717-337-9824.

Kudos to the Adams County Veterans Affairs Office for again realizing an increase in awards to Adams County veterans this past fiscal year. Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs reported that \$2,785,669 in 156 new claims was awarded to Adams County veterans for the fiscal year that ended on June 30. This figure represents a 5.5 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. This is quite an accomplishment considering the Adams County Veterans Affairs Office was not able to see veterans in person for almost 3 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2014, awards to Adams

County veterans has increased every year from \$568,300 in 2014 to this year's \$2,785,669. Director Stan Clark and Assistant Director Todd Gardner are always willing to help any veteran, and occasionally they get requests for assistance from veterans outside the county. Government should provide excellent service. Thank you, Stan Clark and Todd Gardner for the superior service you provide to Adams County veterans!

Those Adams County peaches will soon be over so grab some at your local produce market or orchard - and get those peaches along with watermelons, sweet corn and cantaloupes while you can. As a side note - due to the dry conditions the peaches are extra sweet this year! Also, while on the subject of eating - many of our local restaurants need your support to get through these difficult times - so when you think hungry, consider patronizing a local eatery.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

State Representative Dan Moul

As a state representative, I am acutely aware of the need to restore Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure to ensure public safety, reduce traffic congestion and strengthen mass transit systems. I am also aware of the enormous costs associated with these improvements and the need to find revenue sources to pay for them.

The House Transportation Committee is currently considering a package of bills stemming from the House Transportation Task Force, formed last year to address our transportation funding needs. In its report, the task force outlined the reasons for shortfalls in our transportation funding streams and produced a series of recommendations to address these deficiencies.

Since 2012, about \$4.5 billion has been transferred from the Motor

License Fund to the Pennsylvania State Police, leaving insufficient funding for transportation infrastructure projects that would be paid out of the fund. Act 89 of 2013, which increased the state's gas tax to fix our crumbling roads and bridges, has failed to raise the revenue anticipated due to low gas prices and greater auto fuel-efficiency.

Another significant change occurred with Act 44 of 2007, which required the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to transfer \$450 million annually to PennDOT for transportation capital needs. This forced the PTC to finance the debt payments, sharply increase tolls and the PTC's debt load now at \$13 billion. When the turnpike's obligation to PennDOT drops to \$50 million in 2022, it will create a large funding gap in the General Fund.

Legislation now before the committee stems from task force recommendations and focuses on generating reliable funding sources to provide for our current and future transportation infrastructure needs. To learn more, visit pahousegov.com/transportation.

2020 Election Update

Since the volume of mail-in ballots is expected to be far greater in the Nov. 3 General Election, legislation I sponsored, which is contained in another pending bill, would permit earlier processing of mail-in ballots with counting to begin when polls open on Election Day. When we

return to session in early September, we will address this legislation and other measures to ensure the integrity of our elections.

Revisiting 2020-21 State Budget

In May, the General Assembly passed a \$25.8 billion short-term budget to fund state government while we better assess the fiscal realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and work on another short-term plan to fund the balance of the fiscal year. The inability to forecast state revenues during the pandemic led us to a plan that fully funds preK-12 education and human services for the entire fiscal year but funds many other expen-

ditures only through November. We expect to be called back this fall to complete the budget.


New Law Allows Seniors to Volunteer, Save on School Taxes

I supported legislation, recently signed into law, which allows senior citizens to volunteer at their local schools in exchange for a reduction in their property tax burden. This is a practice already employed by some school districts around the Commonwealth, but I voted for Act 20 of 2020 because it codifies this practice, making it easier for older citizens to trade their time for much-needed school property tax relief.

WORKING FOR YOU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAN MOUL



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Truth tellers

Shannon Bohrer

When someone tells the truth, it is supposed to be a good thing. When John McCain was running for president, his campaign bus was named the 'Straight Talk Express.' Peoples liked that given that politicians seem to have a gift that enables them to answer questions they wished they were asked, not the question that was asked. Many believe John McCain would have won the presidency if he had not picked Sara Palin for his vice-president candidate. Mr. Steve Schmidt, McCain's campaign manager, said she "was manifestly unprepared to take the oath of office should it become necessary...." Ouch!

Straight talk is what we want and asked for, that is until the straight talkers say something with which we do not agree. It was reported that Steve Schmidt and others in the campaign, who were critical of Sara Palin, were not invited to McCain's funeral. Sara Palin was also not invited. Why they were not invited, is unknown to me. What is known is that while we say we value the truth; it is not always beneficial to the truth teller.

We say we value truth, nonetheless when faced with a truth that does not fit our view; we reject what is being said. The pandemic is real, and the scientist and doctors tell us

that we should all wear facemasks and socially distance from others. Then there are politicians that tell us that everything is improving - when things are getting worse. In some cases, politicians are attempting to discredit scientists and facts because they disagree with the political narrative. That does that square with truth.

Disagreeing on theory or philosophy is understandable, however when people disagree with science and facts, that seems illogical. Early in the presidency of the "Very Stable Genius" we heard phrases like "alternative facts' and "truth is not always truth." The "alternative facts" was spoken by an administration official and the "truth is not always truth," was spoken by an attorney.

Apparently, there are either motivations or inhibitors, at least for some people that allow them to disregard facts and science. It would be easy to say that when talking about politicians and attorneys, that truth can have multiple meanings. However, that does not explain the mistruths, fairy tales and misrepresentations that are universally used in our society, including this administration.

It should not be an unrealistic expectation for police to tell the truth.

Since the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police in Minneapolis, we have heard of numerous incidents were law enforcement has misspoken, lied or just ignored

the truth. It has been proffered that if every officer that witnessed excessive force by a fellow officer reported the incident, excessive force incidents would cease to exist. So, the simple question is, why officers that witness these events do not report them? It should not be an unrealistic expectation for police to tell the truth. Is being silent and not saying anything, akin to lying? We know that some officers do report these incidents, but we also know that many do not.

Discussing police misconduct, we talk about the need to change police culture. Theoretically, the culture of silence, or the blue wall, stops officers from reporting of crimes committed by other officers. There have been numerous reports of officers being harassed and ostracized by other officers, after reporting on fellow officers.

For many people, that is the culture that needs change.

In a somewhat analogous example, the police often criticize citizens for not reporting crimes they witness. The police want and need the help from citizens to solve crimes. However, citizens know that they may pay a price for reporting crimes. In Baltimore City, Mrs. Angela Dawson and her five children were killed when her house burned down. Ms. Dawson had reported drug dealing in her neighborhood, and yes it was the drug dealers that set the fire. So, while we say we value the truth, the

culture of society tells us that telling the truth can be harmful. After the arson at Ms. Dawson's residence, how many neighbors would call the police?

The culture that often hides the truth, that people say needs changing in police agencies, is prevalent in our society. The large drug companies that sold Oxycontin told everyone the drugs were safe, is just one example. There were thousands of drug company employees, salesman, doctors, and pharmacies that knew the dangers, and said nothing. They literally hid the truth with their silence. Does silence imply complicity?

During the impeachment trial of the 'Very Stable Genius' there were members in the senate that defended Trump with Russian propaganda, regarding Ukraine. While our intelligence agencies verified the fact that it was Russia that interfered in our election in 2016 and not Ukraine, there were members in both houses pushed the Ukraine theory. Many of those pushing the "alternative fact", had received intelligence briefings, so they knew better. So, what was the motivation that allowed them to not just ignore the truth, but to offer an alternative story?

Fiona Hill, the former National Security Council director for Europe and Russia testified. In her opening remarks she stated that she refused to legitimize the narrative that Ukraine interfered in our elections. She said that it was Russia that attacked us in 2016, not

Ukraine. She was forceful in her testimony and when asked specifically about the alternative theory she responded with "This is a fictional narrative that has been perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves." Mrs. Hill was vilified in some media circles as not being loyal? It was reported that she was even part of the deep state, and out to get the president.

Another witness at the impeachment trial was Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman. His testimony confirmed much of what was in the whistle blower complaint, and yet he was also vilified. After the impeachment, when Trump was acquitted, Col. Vindman was escorted from the White House. It was later reported that a list of allegations against Col. Vindman was sent to the Pentagon, from the White House. Was that his reward for telling the truth?

Maybe it should not be a surprise when some people do not tell the truth.

"Many of them, indeed, know better, but, as you will discover, people find it very difficult to act on what they know. To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger"

—James Baldwin

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Common Cents

Back to school

William Hillman

Or maybe this year not back to school, but back to the kitchen table and a laptop. For those parents facing this new challenge of virtual learning - my whole-hearted best of luck and God Bless you.

I have one son in Catholic elementary school and one in public high school. We are a week out from the first day and the public school district still has no idea how they are going to handle this. In the last 7 days, I've received on average 3 emails a day from the school administration, principal's office, and councilors. The emails are all confusing, give incomplete information and at times, contradict other emails.

Below is one recent email exchange I had with the high school's administrator concerning the attendance and new schedule of my son's technology classes. All regular school classes will be held virtual for the first few months. Previous communications laid out that first year students of this technology program would be taught virtually, while 2nd and 3rd year students would attend on specified days for full day instruction. My son falls into the category of the former.

Edited for space and brevity.

Administrator - hidden in a

long rambling email, "we have changed the scheduling so students will only attend for a half day instead of full day."

My email reply - "Does this change only apply to 2nd and 3rd year student, and 1st year student will still be virtual? Or will all students now be attending but only for half days? Please clarify. The emails and communications from the school are often contradictory and always confusion. Sorry for the complaint but there seems to be a lot of time and energy telling us things we really don't need to know and little emphasis of things we do need to know."

Administrator's reply, - "Yes that is correct." The email continued, "you need be patient, we are under a lot of stress and everything is constantly changing. We are doing the best we can."

Me - We are all under a lot of stress and things are in a constant state of flux for all of us. That is why clear, concise communication is so important. We have now had 4 email exchanges and I still don't have an answer to the simple question is my son in school or learning virtual. You responded YES but gave no indication to which of the two scenarios your yes referred to.

This is a public school that spends roughly \$30,000 a year per child. It is the highest cost per student in the state and one of the

highest in the country. The school buildings are more like resorts than schools. With all their money and expertise, they never got virtual learning running last spring. It was a complete disaster and all indications are that this fall semester will be no different.

The teachers are afraid to teach, and the kids know it's all a big scam. I spent most of the spring semester fighting with my oldest son to do his schoolwork. If someone was not standing over him, he would switch his computer to a video game and all the schoolwork would go undone because he knew something we didn't.

The school had put out an edict that all students would pass the spring semester with a grade no less than their highest grade in the previous 3 semesters.

One recurring fight was over my son's worst class, organic chemistry. He had been struggling all year in this class, so I kept a close eye on his progress. The teacher ran classes several times a day and was online each night to provide additional student help. Each Friday the students had to take an online test. Of all the teachers, this chemistry teacher tried. While other teachers' weekly assignment would require nothing more than the student sending the teacher an email saying they were "OK" (this is not a joke), this chemistry teacher followed through on the curriculum that the students were expected to learn in his class.

Despite our best efforts he fell

further behind. I finally had to hire a tutor to help him prepare and pass the final exam. The exam was intense. Each student in the class had a unique exam (I assume he does this to keep students from passing answers class- to class). It took 6 hours to complete. The completed exam was then scanned and returned. Within an hour his grade of 80/100 was posted. This confused me. How could the teacher grade that many exams that quickly? I sent the completed exam to the tutor and asked him to review. The tutor (a PHD in organic chemistry and teacher at a local college) told me all the answers were correct. This pissed me off. I emailed the teacher asking to know which questions he got wrong. He never replied.

I expressed my outrage to my son. He just shrugged his shoulders and said, "Dad, everyone got an 80." He continued, "I got an 80 in my Spanish final and I never took it. I barely did anything in Spanish this last quarter and I got an A."

It would later be confirmed by several acquaintances who worked for the school that the district administration had told the teachers to just handout grades whether the kids earned them or not. A version of "everyone gets a trophy".

I believe the chemistry teacher fought this and tried to do something unique during that time. He tried to teach. Unfortunately, he buckled to the pressure of a system that is more concerned with the possibility of hurting students'

feelings than they are in actually educating.

They didn't learn anything, but more importantly we can say we didn't hurt anyone's feelings

Currently, the teacher's union is pushing for a repeat of last spring. They have requested that teachers run classes virtual from home, not from their classroom. Away from supervision. Away from interaction with councilors, and department heads. They want to be able to "teach" from the beach in Florida. They also want to do away with performance reviews.

My other son attends a Catholic grade school. Their cost of education per student is less than \$8,000 per child per year. All schools in the state were shut down on Thursday March 12th. The teachers and staff held working meetings over the next two days. An action plan was put together. Classes resumed via zoom Monday morning 8:30 to 3:00 and continued for the rest of the year. If a child missed a class or assignment, parents were required to send an email of explanation to the teachers. Learning continued without missing a beat and no-quarter was given.

I have full faith and confidence that this school performs in the best interests of the students. This school does not have a teacher's union.

To read past editions of Common Cents, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

The American Mind On the Electoral College

Mark Greathouse

As I was driving across the vast expanse that is Texas on a recent vacation, I had occasion to especially notice the stark difference between folks in the open rural byways versus those in the crammed-together urban and even suburban areas. The residents were clearly quite different in their social, cultural, and economic needs and expressions. The ranches and shops of the little town of Bandera for example contrasted markedly with the skyscrapers and sprawling suburbs of San Antonio. It gave me pause to wonder whether tiny Bandera (pop. 900) had a big enough voice in the Texas legislature to not be subject to the considerably greater influence afforded to San Antonio (pop 1.6 million).

It doesn't take a mental giant to figure that the much larger population of San Antonio holds considerable sway so far as Texas and Congressional elections. And if yard signs are any indicator, political differences are as wide as cultural.

I got me to thinking on a larger scale. Nationally, there is one representative from each of 435 Congressional districts and two senators from each of the 50 states. Wyoming has one representative in the U.S. Congress, while Texas with its larger population has 36. Each state has two senators. Why should Wyoming get the same Senate representation as Texas?

What's good for Texas ought to be good for Wyoming...or should it? Why should Wyoming have less

skin in the decision game just because its mostly rural? Its capital, Cheyenne, features a population of 59,000. Wyoming offers tourism, agriculture, energy, and mineral resources. Texas is...well, Texas is huge! It occurred to me that more than 60 million of what one 2016 candidate called "deplorables" live in more-sparsely-populated states like South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Do their votes count as much as Texas or California?

We must look to history to remind us of the well-grounded logic of the authors of our Constitution that still stands today. The U.S. Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. Delegates from the 12 of the 13 member states of the Confederation met in Philadelphia for 2 years to hammer it out. That not-so-little matter of equal state representation in the government was a huge sticking point. I mean, Rhode Island was tiny compared to Virginia. How would they enable the smaller states to have an equal voice? How would everyone's freedoms be assured?

Benjamin Franklin was reportedly asked by a Mrs. Powell upon completion of the vote on the Constitution, "Well, doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?" Franklin's reply, "A republic, madam – if you can keep it." Think on that. They established a republic, a representative form of government with an elected president and a body of representatives of the people as distinguished from a pure democracy. They were fearful that a straight-out democracy could be every

bit a dangerous as a monarchy. Delegates feared that smaller states would not have a meaningful voice in electing the President of the United States, as a flat-out popular election would throw the balance of power to larger states with large urban populations.

The delegates' solution was "electors" proportioned per state populations. The number of electors is determined as the sum of a state's senators plus its representatives. Thus today, there are 538 electors (435 + 100 + 3 = 538). (The District of Columbia gets three.) In the debate among the delegates, supporters argued that what became known as the Electoral College was essential to the broad regional voice of American federalism, the essence of a republic and guarantor of freedom. Opponents argued that it was antithetical to a democracy of one person, one vote. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton (yes, the one the Broadway musical is about) went to work devoting some of their Federalist Papers to the issue.

In Federalist No. 10, Madison argued against the undue influence of "an interested and overbearing majority" and "mischiefs of fashion" characteristic of a purely democratic system. Factions were seen as being driven by common impulses of passion or interest adverse to the rights of other citizens. Madison saw a republican government as countervailing against factions. In Federalist No. 39, Madison explained that the Constitution was designed to be a mix of state-based and population-based government. That is a critically important aspect. Hamilton laid out in Federalist No. 68 the advantages of an Electoral College, including avoiding a party-run legislature or



permanent body subject to influence by foreigners. Hamilton also argued that no federal office holder could be an elector, this supposedly eliminated electors being beholden to any particular presidential candidate.

Initially, electors were chosen by state legislatures, but that shifted in the early 19th century to selection by popular election. The votes of the electors have mirrored the popular vote except in 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016. Notably, there was a resultant hue and cry in each case about abolishing the Electoral College so the "voice of the people" could be heard. In 2016, those sorts of protests were mostly heard from heavily-populated states with large politically liberal-leaning cities like San Francisco, Chicago, and New York City. No one was complaining in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

It's not likely that the Electoral College will be eliminated any time soon. It would take a Constitutional amendment. Article V of the Constitution prescribes the two ways the Constitu-

tion can be amended. One requires ratification after two-thirds of the House and Senate approve of the proposal and send it to the states for a vote. Then, three-fourths of the states must affirm the proposed Amendment. The second method has never been used. It requires that a Constitutional Convention be called by two-thirds of the legislatures of the states. It can propose as many amendments as it deems necessary, and those amendments must be approved by three-fourths of the states. So, if you don't like the Electoral College, you're unlikely to see it go away any time soon.

So, I'm sure Bandera, Texas will survive, as will Wyoming. I'm just as sure that "overbearing majorities" or "mischiefs of fashion" won't have outsized influence. Our republic with all its inherent protections of our freedoms must prevail.

To read past editions of *The American Mind*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under The greatest nation on Earth

Lindsay Coker

President Bertha Hanover today announced that Americas has been recognized by every nation on earth as the best there has ever been. "Our strength," she said, "is in the freedom we offer, the path to equality that has no equal, the respect we pay to all who wish to be our friends, and our implacable isolation of all who wish us harm."

"Every nation knows we bring peace not war, every nation knows we bring prosperity and the recognition of their capabilities. We do not fear their culture, knowledge or desire to be great. We applaud and assist it."

"For the first time the world is essentially one in facing the future, one in dealing with the threat of climate change, and one in dealing sensibly with every citizen on this great and wonderful earth. And I am proud to be the leader who has helped bring this about."

This was the beginning of her speech this morning at the Unified Nations speech today. It was greeted with tumultuous applause, cheering and sighs of relief..

Of course, this is all make believe. It's about as far removed from reality as it gets, and it could never be remotely true, but there was a point when it could have been started.

FDR had the right outlook to form lasting alliances and begin the process, but no motive. It was not until 1986 when Russian president Gorbachev proclaimed Glasnost – his idea of opening up the country to a free market and meaningful elections – leading, in 1987 to president Ronald Reagan making his famous 1987 "Tear Down The Wall" speech in Berlin. A few months later it was down, and the jubilation amongst East German citizens was unbelievably rapturous. Cooperation, East-West detente, the dismantling of the Communist empire, the privatization of state run enterprises – all these followed quickly.

Praise for Ronnie swept the land, the mighty USA had made the world a better place, American capitalism was the only way to go, and the future was clear. It mattered not that he had only a small part in the overthrow of communism, it was the speech, the rhetoric that did the work.

Then George H W Bush came on the scene and he was as equally fervent. His speech in December 1990

proved that the USA was indeed the greatest nation, and self-congratulation became the order of the day.

The international facade had, however, already started to decay. Foreign policy was limited in its scope, vision was myopic, and the rhetoric couldn't mask the reality. America was indeed great, but not at understanding the opportunity it faced. It was actually impossible for a nation that had always put itself first, and was convinced that insisting on its version of capitalism was its mission. Foreign policy always had this end in mind, while not bothering to understand the values, culture and points of view of others, especially in central America, the middle east and Asia.

It was more important to be great at home than anywhere else. The way to empire was to make other nations jealous of the nation's success, meaning they would want to adopt your system. When they refused to give up their values, no matter how bad their lives seemed to be, their leaders were, whenever possible, coerced: Regime changes, assassinations, covert war.

The end results were disastrous. The British, in building their empire, had allowed commercial companies, such as the East India Company, to establish highly profitable trade before moving in and establishing their own system of government, introduced their way of life and justice, and far from being seen as invaders, were seen as

beneficial advisers. That empire still exists, still has power and although now much smaller, has the loyalty of a great number of citizens in former colonies.

The days when America could take what it could get, influence, coerce and dictate to those who seemed to have no choice have long gone; it's fall-back position of the greatest manufacturer, trader and money power have been undone by greed, incompetence and actual stupidity.

It's ironic that victory over the USSR was inadvertently thwarted by Gorbachev when he appointed Vladimir Putin as his successor. It was also ironic that the China was staging the Tiananmin square massacre just as Gorbachev was privatizing the USSR. Two new dictators without protest, two anti-American nations getting teeth and the means of undermining democracy and super-capitalism while your eyes were turned to high fiving yourselves.

Reagan and Bush senior may have been hailed as saviours, but their lack of vision ramped up the inward-looking vision of today. Obama may have tried to stem the tide, but the master opportunist and his devious adviser Steve Bannon saw the opportunity to make the world their own – or at least the civilized parts – and the opportunity for American greatness was lost forever.

You could say it was chance that did this, but chance had been given

wings by the power of money, and your future has never looked more bleak. It is impossible to report on Trump, a chameleon with a corrupt heart determined to rule by ego and duplicity, but unless moderate Republicans band together and vote Joe Biden in, their great party will never be able to govern again.

The downward spiral of incompetence and self-serving stupidity will make Republicans repugnant to a great majority, because the strength of the dollar will have been overtaken by China, climate change will take much of what Covid 19 hasn't, and the ability to print money and trade it at a profit will vanish like water in a desert. The middle class will join the poor, the super rich will stay in their drug-induced heaven.

Donald will have his prize, a fools mask, Americans will have theirs – servitude and shame – and there will be no superman in the wings. No Goliath to bring down the walls of the rich, your allies will no longer be friendly, and America will no longer be needed as guide, exemplar, or defender.

Please do not let this happen. We need you as never before. The free world needs you strong and clear-sighted. Just make sure you excise the cancer that is killing you.

Lindsay, in moral support of your freedom and goodness. To read past editions of Down Under, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Do not be conformed to this world

Pastor Sue Koenig
Graceham Moravian Church

Appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:1, 2 (NRSV)

Followers of Jesus are not to be conformed to the world, but neither are they to abandon the world or set their minds only on heaven. Christianity is “an in the world faith;” the church is the body of Christ present in the world. “Our goal is not the reward of heaven, not personal reward, but of living in God’s reign, of sharing in God’s glory when God’s will for all of creation is fulfilled.” [Art Ross/Martha Stevenson, Bible Studies on Romans] “Our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.” [The Message 2 Cor. 3:18]

This is our hope and trust, from the grace we have received, that by the Spirit’s renewal of our minds, we will be transformed more into the likeness of Christ and live as Beloved Community. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equal

opportunity, and love of one’s fellow human beings. You can find 25 Traits of Beloved Community at this United Methodist website www.gcorr.org.

From our grief and sorrow, our anxiety and distress, and our uncertainty as we face a global pandemic, a severe economic crisis, a cry and command to end systemic racism and its devastating outcomes so that all people may truly be “free at last,” and deep division among people, our minds may be renewed and our lives transformed to more clearly reflect the image of God and God’s love for the world.

In a changing world, the church must both “claim and test its heritage,” and discern who God is calling the church to be in this our time and place. We can claim and test our heritage and the ways we have acted or failed to act in the past, to discern together what it means to reflect the image of God in the world today and to live as Beloved Community. With renewed minds and transformed lives we can be a healing, reconciling, and hopeful presence in the world. We can repent of our past complicity and be the church that listens and discerns and begins the journey toward racial justice and racial healing. We can let the same mind that was in Christ Jesus be in us, a mind focused on love, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, wholeness, unity, and peace. We can choose to love those with whom

we disagree; we can choose to see the humanity of every person and seek understanding. Bryan Stevenson, Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative says, “I’ve always had this idea that we are all more than the worst thing we have ever done.”

We can have faith that God’s will for the world will be fulfilled. Rep. John Lewis wrote in his book, *Across that Bridge*, “Faith is being so sure of what the spirit has whispered in your heart that your belief in its eventuality is unshakable.” We can have an unshakeable faith in the Spirit’s power to renew minds and transform lives and relationships, and in the eventuality of Beloved Community this side of heaven. At the heart of it all is our ability to love one another with the love of God that has been poured into our hearts.

Our view of the world and our responsibility is discerned by the grace of God working through our humility, gratitude, and acceptance of our need for God. What we cannot know in ourselves, God reveals to us; and in community we discern what is good and acceptable to God, what is mature and complete. In response to God’s great mercy, “taking up our cross” and following Jesus, we freely offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, made holy and acceptable by God. In this way we worship, dying to self to have selfless love for others.

Paul has written to the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 6:19) that our bodies are an abiding place of God – the temple of the Holy Spirit. We may worship in spirit and truth wherever we are, on Facebook or Zoom from



our homes, outside, in our vehicles in church parking lots, or in our church buildings with masks and social distancing and other loving precautions to care for one another. For decades, we have struggled as the church with how to get outside our buildings, to focus on the world beyond our walls, to mission and ministry in our communities and neighborhoods. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is renewing our minds by inviting us into a new understanding of what it means to be the church, rather than just go to church.

In Romans chapter 12, Paul describes Christian life in community: “Let the love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in

spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints. Show hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them...” [Romans 12:9-15] This is not a list of what we are to do, but who we are to be as those who follow Christ. This is to be our identity.

Our lives are transformed by the renewal of our minds – so much so that the world may think us “unreasonable” which is another translation of the word “conformed.” “Do not be reasonable to this world...” Do what is “unreasonable” – respond to suffering with empathy, respond to hate with love, respond to self-centeredness with selflessness, respond to violence with non-violence, respond to fear with courage, respond to injustice with justice, respond to dishonesty with truth, respond to death with life.

With minds that have been renewed and lives transformed, we glorify and worship God with our lives, loving others with the love we have received from God, crossing bridges to build Beloved Community, and actively awaiting the eventuality of the glory of God’s reign and the fulfillment of God’s will for all creation.

To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church visit them on-line at / www.gracehammoravian.org/ or better yet, join them for Sunday service.



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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The Autumnal Equinox



On or about the 21st of September and 21st of March, the ecliptic or great circle which the sun appears to describe in the heavens, crosses the terrestrial equator in the course of the year.

The point of intersection is termed the equinoctial point or the equinox, because at that period, from its position in relation to the sun, the earth, as it revolves on its axis, has exactly one-half of its surface illuminated by the sun's rays, whilst the other half remains in darkness, producing the phenomenon of equal day and night all over the world. At these two periods, termed respectively to the seasons in which they occur, the autumnal and the vernal equinox, the sun rises about six o'clock in the morning, and sets nearly at the same time in the evening.

From the difference between the conventional and the actual or solar year, the former consisting only of 365 days, while the latter contains 365 days and nearly six hours (making the additional day in leap-year), the date at which the sun is actually on the equinox, varies in different years, from the 20th to the 23rd of the month. In the autumnal equinox, the sun is passing from north to south, and consequently from this period the days in the northern hemisphere gradually shorten till the 21st December when the winter solstice

is reached, from which period they gradually lengthen to the spring or vernal equinox on 21st March, when day and night are again equal.

The sun then crosses the equator from south to north, and the days continue to lengthen up to the 21st of June, or summer solstice, from which they diminish and are again equal with the nights at the autumnal equinox or 21st of September.

Owing to the spheroidal form of the earth causing a protuberance of matter at the equator, on which the sun exercises a disturbing influence, the points at which the ecliptic cuts the equator, experience a constant change. The equinoxes are always receding westwards in the heavens, to the amount annually of 50.3", causing the sun to arrive at each intersection about 20' earlier than it did in the preceding year. The effect of this movement is that from the time the ecliptic was originally divided into twelve arcs or signs by the ancients, the constellations, which at that date coincided with these divisions, now no longer coincide.

Every constellation since then advanced 30° or a whole sign forwards. The constellation of Aries or the Ram, for example, occupies now the division of the ecliptic called Taurus, whilst the division known as Aries is distinguished by the constellation Pisces. In about

24,000 years, or 26,000 from the first division of the ecliptic, the equinoctial point will have made a complete revolution round this great circle, and the signs and constellations as originally marked out will again exactly coincide.

The movement which we have thus endeavoured to explain forms the astronomical revolution called the precession of the equinoxes. Science is indebted to the great French mathematician D'Alembert for the proper ascertainment and demonstration of the precession of the equinoxes.

In connection with the ecliptic and equator, the mutual intersection of which marks the equinoctial point, an interesting question is suggested in reference to the seasons. It is well known that the obliquity of the ecliptic to the equator, at present about 23°, is diminishing at the rate of about 50 seconds in a century. Were this to continue, the two circles would at last coincide, and the earth would enjoy in consequence a perpetual spring.

There is, however, a limit to this decrease or obliquity, which it has been calculated has been going on from the year 2000 B. C., and will reach its maximum about 6600 AD. From that period the process will be reversed, and the obliquity will gradually increase till a point is reached at which it will again diminish.

From this variation in the position of the ecliptic, with regard to the equator, some have endeavoured to explain a change of climate and temperature. It is imagined the world has gradually experienced this change, occasioning a slighter contrast between the seasons than formerly, when the winters were much colder and the summers much hotter than they are at present. It is believed, however, that whatever truth there may be in the allegations regarding a more equable temperature throughout the year in modern times, it is not to the variation of the obliquity of the ecliptic that we are to look for a solution of the question. The entire amount of this variation is very small, ranging only from 23° 53' when the obliquity is greatest, to 22° 54' when it is least. It is therefore hardly capable of making any sensible alteration on the seasons.

As is well known, both the autumnal and vernal equinoxes are distinguished over the world by the storms which prevail at these seasons. The origin of such atmospheric commotions has never yet been very satisfactorily explained, but is supposed, as stated by Admiral Fitzroy, to arise from the united tidal action of the sun

and moon upon the atmosphere; an action which at the time of the equinoxes is exerted with greater force than at any other period of the year.

Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit

The name of Fahrenheit has been familiarised to a large part of mankind, in consequence of his invention of a thermometer, which has come into almost universal use.

Before the seventeenth century, men could only judge of the amount of heat prevailing at any place by their personal sensations. They could only speak of the weather as hot or very hot, or as cold or very cold. In that century, there were several attempts made to establish a satisfactory means of measuring heat by tubes containing oil, spirits of wine, and other substances; but none of them could be considered as very successful, although both Halley and Newton applied their great minds to the subject. It was reserved for an obscure and poor man to give us the instrument which has since been found so specially serviceable for this purpose.

Fahrenheit was a native of Danzig, who, having failed in business as a merchant, and having a turn for mechanics and chemistry—possibly, that was what made him fail as a merchant—was fain to take to the making of thermometers for his bread. He at first made his thermometers with spirits of wine, but ere long became convinced that mercury was a more suitable article to be put in the tube; about the same time, finding Danzig a narrow field for his business, he removed to Amsterdam. There, about the year 1720, this patient, humble man completed the arrangement for a mercury-thermometer, very much as it has ever since been fashioned. His instruments were speedily spread throughout the world, everywhere carrying his name along with them.

The basis of the plan of Fahrenheit's instrument was to mark on the tube the two points at which, respectively, water is congealed and boiled, and to graduate the space between. Through a chain of circumstances,

which would here be tedious to explain, he put 180° between these two points, commencing, however, with 32° because he found that the mercury descended 32° more, before coming to what he thought to be the extreme cold resulting from a mixture of ice, water, and sal-ammoniac.

The Royal Society gladly received accounts of his experiments from Fahrenheit, the value of which it acknowledged by making him one of its members (a fact over-looked in all his biographies). In 1724, they published a distinct treatise on the subject.

Celsius of Stockholm soon after suggested the obviously more rational graduation of a hundred degrees between freezing and boiling points the Centigrade Thermo-meter. The Frenchman, Reaumur, proposed another graduation, which has been accepted by his country-men. But with by far the larger part of civilized mankind, Fahrenheit's scale is the only one in use, and probably will be so for a long time to come. To speak accordingly of 32° as freezing, of 55° as temperate, 96° as blood-heat, and 212° as the boiling-point, is part of the ordinary habits of Englishmen all over the world. Very true that the zero of Fahrenheit's scale is a solecism, since it does not mark the extreme to which heat can be abstracted.

This little blemish, however, seems never to have been found of any practical consequence. The arctic voyagers of the last forty years have all persisted in describing certain low temperatures as below zero of Fahrenheit, the said degrees of temperature being such as the Amsterdam thermometer-maker never dreamed of, as being part of the existing system of things.

It is a pity that we know so little of the personal history of this remarkable man. There is even some doubt as to the year of his death. Some authors place it in 1740.

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

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ECOLOGY

Snakes

Lizzy Ryan
Strawberry Hill Nature
Presenrve

Snakes. Those slithery serpents whom many cringe at the sight. Others, like myself, jump at the opportunity to see one. This article is for those out there that are not a fan of snakes. Hopefully, after reading this, you will have a newfound appreciation for these important creatures.

Here are some slithering facts about snakes:

“There are more than 3,000 species of snakes on the planet and they’re found everywhere except in Antarctica, Iceland, Ireland, Greenland, and New Zealand. About 600 species are venomous, and only about 200—seven percent—are able to kill or significantly wound a human (National Geographic).”

Snake have an awesome way of eating. If they are nonvenomous, they constrict their prey, meaning they strike and then squeeze their prey until it can no longer breathe. Then, they swallow it whole. Snakes can open their mouths three times the size of their head! That is equivalent to us swallowing a watermelon in one bite! Contrary to popular belief, they cannot unhinge their jaws to do this. They

actually have really stretchy ligaments in their mouths. In fact, their bottom jaw is in two pieces, connected together in the middle by another stretchy ligament. Their teeth are curved backward. This allows them to “walk” their prey into their mouths and down their throats.

Snakes also have a great sense of smell. When they flick their tongue in and out of their mouths, they are smelling. They have a special organ called the Jacobson’s organ (also known as the vomeronasal organ) that allows them to take in scents with their tongue. This organ is located just above the roof of the snakes’ mouth in the nasal cavity. Snakes have “heat pits” which allows them to sense heat of warm-blooded creatures. These heat pits are located along their jaw.

Snakes do not have external ears. They “hear” by sensing vibrations in the earth.

You may often find snake skins in your sheds or log piles. Snakes shed their skin as they grow and to get rid of any parasites. It does not hurt them to shed, and in fact, when I’ve watched our snakes shed, they look relieved. They will rub on any rough object they find to help them get the old skin off.

Snakes comes in a variety of sizes. The largest snake in the world is the reticulated python growing to a whopping 30 feet. The smallest

snake is the thread snake growing to about 3.9 inches.

Many think that all snakes lay eggs when in fact only 70% of snakes lay eggs. The rest bear live young. Snakes do not do any parenting. They lay the eggs/give birth and then leave the young to care for themselves.

I get lots of questions asking how to tell the difference between a venomous and a nonvenomous snake. One way is by the shape of their head. If they have a round/oval shaped head (much like the shape of your thumbnail) it is most likely a nonvenomous snake. If it has a triangular shaped head, it is most likely a venomous snake. Another way to tell is by the shape of their eyes. Nonvenomous snakes will have round pupils and venomous snake will have slitted pupils (like a cat).

There are 21 species of snakes found in Pennsylvania and 27 in Maryland. There are two types of venomous snakes found in the area. They are the Northern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake. Both are pit vipers. They are called pit vipers because they have a heat seeking pit between each eye and nostril.

Copperheads are found in forests and fields in rock or log piles. Like their name suggests, copperheads are copper in color. The juveniles look just like the adults except they have a bright yellow tail.



If you had always wanted to pick up a snake but are skittish, try picking up a baby Garter snake. They are quite harmless and rather personable snakes that really don't mind being picked up. Just make sure you put them back down where you found them!

The timber rattlesnake is often found in upland forests in rock outcroppings or log piles. They have two color phases—a light and a dark. They have a chevron like pattern on their bodies. The juveniles of the timber rattlesnake also look just like the adults.

Snakes are very important to our environment. Without snakes, there would be a severely high number of rodents around. The snakes that live in this area eat small rodents like mice, rats, rabbits, voles, moles, chipmunks and squirrels. They will also feed on eggs, birds, frogs and if the snakes are small enough, worms and insects.

One type of snake that is very common to this area is the black rat snake. Black rat snakes are known to be the longest snake in North America. They can reach over 7 feet long. They like to spend their time in trees. Black rat snakes lay between 5-30 eggs in early summer. Every summer we found many rat snakes at our house, usually in our straw bales or our shed. I have even found them a time or two in our chicken coop going after the eggs!

Another common snake is the garter snake. These are a smaller


species of snake. They will feed primarily on worms, insects, and small amphibians. Garter snakes are also ovoviviparous, meaning they bear live young. Garter snakes are found in fields and forests.

If you encounter a snake in the wild, it’s best to leave it alone. You obviously would not want to get up close enough to it to see its eye and head shape to tell if it’s venomous. If you don’t bother the snake, they won’t bother you. Let them go about their daily business. After all, they are helping you out by eating the rodents!

At Strawberry Hill, we currently have 3 snakes that we use as Animal Ambassadors. We have Regina, a ball python, Cornelius, a corn snake, and Leche, a Pueblan milk snake. They each have their own personalities. Regina for instance, loves to look out the window and spend time outside in the sunshine.

If you are interested in booking an Animal Ambassador program to meet one of our snakes and many other Animal Ambassadors, email info@strawberryhill.org or call 717-642-5840.

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IN THE COUNTRY

G is for Great Falls National Park



Great Falls National Park's Patowmack Canal offers a glimpse into the early history of this country. For families looking for a day trip, this often-overlooked National Park is a must do.

Tim Iverson, Park Ranger

Located in McLean, Virginia Great Falls Park is nestled just 12 miles upstream from the capital city of the nation it helped create. Great Falls has attracted people to the shores of the Potomac for thousands of years. Initially, American Indians settled this area. Later George Washington came to the banks of the river to carve a legacy for the nation out of the stone. Rivers connect mountains to plains to the ocean. Over the course of time the river and the falls have connected people to the resource. From prehistoric peoples to colonial Americans to present day visitors the river binds us together in a common history.

The Potomac River and Great Falls have played host to people throughout the ages. Today, just like in centuries past, people are drawn to this place. American Indians, predominately the Powhatan and Piscataway peoples, called this area home. When the English colonists sailed up the Potomac River 400 years ago, they were surprised to find that early settlers had cleared fields, planted crops, built villages, and established profitable trade routes. Due to the fertile soil and abundant natural resources tribes along the Potomac were populous and prosperous.

Captain John Smith, while initially exploring and mapping the New World, sailed to the base of Great Falls. He meticulously mapped and documented the area and tribes along the way. Compared with the rest of the Potomac River Great Falls is a very unique area. Unlike the majority of the river, there is very little floodplain here, making it unsuitable for agriculture. Therefore, Great Falls functioned as a seasonal hunting and fishing area. Great Falls is also a point of constriction, going from 1,000 feet wide up river down to 50 feet just below the base of the falls. These unique geographic features allowed Indians to control regional trade by occupying this strategic location.

Great Falls has always been a meeting place throughout human history. Nowhere in the park is that more pronounced than the ruins of George Washington's famous Patowmack Canal. Before George Washington was the President of the United States he was the president of the Patowmack Canal Company. He had a vision to sew the newly formed United States

together using the thread of the Potomac River. The reality is that this river, the "nation's river," was uniting communities together before European colonists arrived and is still binding them together generations after the canal dissipated. This canal was one of the very first to link early America east to west.

In 1784 we had just come off the cusp of the Revolutionary War. Our new country remained extremely fragile. Without a strong government, leadership, and a connection with other American people George Washington was concerned the frontier might be lost to foreign powers in the years to come. Connecting people and unifying a country is part of the Patowmack Canal story. George Washington thought a strong transportation and trade link would "bind people with ties that cannot be broken."

234 years ago, we didn't have planes, trains, or automobiles. Our road system at the time was extremely rudimentary, making travel and transportation extremely slow and dangerous. We didn't have an interstate highway system, but we did have rivers. These bodies of water linked areas of great distance, and they became our highways.

Modern life is thoroughly enveloped by technology. When pressed most people think of computers or cell

phones. However, technology can be anything. Any knowledge or tool that makes life or a task easier is technology. The canal, especially in its present state, might not seem very impressive. However, it was an engineering marvel at its time. It was cutting edge technology. It was the iPhone or Samsung Galaxy of its era.

The construction lasted 17 years and was completed in 1802. It was the first of its kind in the United States and it linked the eastern states to the western frontier. The Patowmack Canal Company built improvements along the river that allowed for boats to navigate 180 miles of river between Cumberland, MD and Georgetown. Great Falls presented the greatest challenge. Here the Potomac River drops 76 feet, so an extensive canal and lock system had to be constructed to allow boats to safely navigate this section of river. By digging through earth and blasting through rock an intricate lock system allowed boats to safely pass.

The Patowmack Canal was hailed as a technological achievement, yet in the end it didn't work out. The river could only be navigated about 1/3 of the year. The Potomac River is a long, winding, shallow river – most of it vastly different than Great Falls. Most of the year the river was too shallow

for boats to use it. A system of bypass canals, although well engineered, and certainly a technological feat of the day, could not promise boatmen a safe or reliable journey the entire way. Eventually the canal went bankrupt and turned over its assets to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company in 1828. The river has always been and continues to be unpredictable, prone to seasonal droughts and large scale flash flooding.

On average, the Potomac River experiences a major flood about every ten years. Floods bring benefits as well as losses. They are important in maintaining ecosystem habitats and soil fertility. Due to the unusual hydrogeology, the Gorge is one of the country's most biologically diverse areas, serving as a confluence for more than 200 rare plant species and 30 biological communities.


The watershed is nearly 15,000 square miles, and comprises parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and DC. Floods can happen at any time of the year. As long as a large water event occurs within the watershed, a flood can happen. Sometimes it's caused by a hurricane or tropical storm, rapidly melting snow, or even just a lot of rain. Upstream of Great Falls the Potomac slowly meanders and winds its way towards the Chesapeake Bay. Suddenly, here at Great Falls the river picks up speed and intensity as it drops 76 feet. Just below the falls lies Mather Gorge, where the river narrows and chokes off. Imagine trying to force a bucket full of water down a funnel all at once. It can't all fit so the water backs up, fills the basin, and spills over the edges. Once the river spills over the banks, nutrient rich sediment and silt is deposited, and seeds that may have travelled hundreds of miles find new homes. A thriving riverside prairie

can be found along the tops of the cliffs here. Several grass species can be seen waving gently in the breeze. Wildflowers add splashes of color during the spring and summer. The tropical Pawpaw tree bears its fruit in early fall.

Just as the silt and seeds come from upstream areas, so does pollution. Everything upstream effects downstream. A rain storm to the west can wash excess fertilizer from farms and yards into the river causing deadly algae blooms hundreds of miles away. A plastic lunch bag, accidentally left by a careless visitor, can be blown from the picnic area or overlook into the river and be mistaken by a sea turtle and choke to death. The Potomac supplies drinking water to over 5 million people in the Washington, DC metro area. The Potomac flows into the Chesapeake Bay, which is one of the most productive estuaries in North America. It accounts for over \$6 billion economic output and nearly 70,000 jobs in fisheries and tourism. Restoring the river to full health is not just an environmental issue. It's a matter of public health. People's livelihoods depend on the water quality.

Over the course of time the Potomac River and the falls have connected the people to the environment. George Washington's vision for the canal may not have panned out as planned. The river did help to sew the nation together, just as the river continues to sew the watershed together today. At this juncture nature has dictated how people interact and come to know this place. Just as ancient peoples before you, the park today serves as a meeting place to connect with family, friends, and the environment.

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REAL SCIENCE

Protecting environmental protection laws

Michael Rosenthal

In the course of writing Real Science articles, I try very hard to stay away from political positions, but in writing about environment it has become impossible to do so. The current administration's policies day after day for almost four years have had negative effects on the environment, and we will discuss some of them here.

A very seriously dangerous gas released into the environment is methane, a simply structured molecule consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms, CH₄. In the previous administration the President developed rules to limit methane emissions into the atmosphere. Methane is a 'greenhouse gas,' one that contributes to global warming and has other toxic climate and health impacts. The current administration recently canceled these rules, despite the fact that the large oil and gas companies of the United States considered them reasonable and were willing to cooperate in the new policy.

The growth in natural gas extraction over the last twenty years has had a strong positive impact on our ability to move away from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal because it releases only about half the carbon dioxide that coal burning emits. Coal is the worst fuel as far as environmental impact goes. These benefits can be lost, however, if leaks in the fuel production process allow methane to enter the environment uncombusted. If I were still

teaching college chemistry, I would tell my students how practically useful studying chemistry is in understanding political and environmental issues. Hooray for the liberal arts and sciences! But I digress.

A study group called The Global Carbon Project found that methane emissions have increased almost ten percent in the last twenty years, and a leading cause is this methane leakage from the energy sector. Specifically methane emissions from drilling and transporting the fuel were up some 17 percent in this period. Though some drillers work hard to capture these methane emissions, it appears that other drillers are less responsible and do not work to contain the leaks.

The rules instituted in the previous presidential administration cost industry dollars, but responsible companies readily accept that expense, realizing that long-term protection of the environment is so very important. Isn't it a fact of human nature that some folks are more responsible than others? That in my mind is the reason that environmental protection laws must be passed and seriously enforced. The greedy and irresponsible, by no means the whole industry, can do a lot of damage. Such a consistent nation-wide law overrides the patchwork approach that would come if regulation were determined state-by-state. One of things that is so obvious in day-by-day news is the difference in approach to regulations between the previous and the current administrations. I believe, regardless of your political affiliation, one should support the policy that con-

siders long-term effects and supports the maintenance of a stable planet Earth. It's the only planet we've got.

This issue brings back memories of my childhood in Youngstown, Ohio, a city that was a leader in the nation's steel production. The economy was good, and my family and friends prospered because of it. But always in the background was the water and air pollution that came from weak regulation of the industry. The Mahoning River actually once caught fire! The cause was industrial emissions dumped into the river that were flammable. Air quality was always a problem, especially near the steel mills and their related industries. All that is gone now. The mills have closed.

The economy of Youngstown is different, the population is much smaller, and air and water pollution is down. If this history, where science and economics intersect, interests any of you readers, I recommend several books about Youngstown, especially *Steeltown U.S.A.* by Sherry Lee Linkon and John Russo (University Press of Kansas, 2002). They are the cofounders and co-directors of The Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University. I can't help but digress a bit. There is also a fascinating book entitled *Crimetown, U.S.A., The history of The Mahoning Valley Mafia from 1933-1963* by Allan R. May. There is a relationship. The steel industry's economic impact made organized crime a profitable profession.

As if that isn't enough to trigger environmental depression there has been a surprising record high found



If you are old enough to remember scenes of air pollution like this, then you know first-hand the basis behind clean air and water regulations. If you can't recall scenes like this, thank an older person for their actions.

in June in the amount of greenhouse gases actually in the air. The amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the air in May hit an average of 417 parts per million. This is the highest monthly average ever recorded in human history! To some extent this finding is surprising, because the pandemic impacts have led to a steep drop in greenhouse gas emissions in general. It isn't just human consumption that determines the total amount of CO₂.

It also comes from processes in the forests and oceans, such as El Nino and record high use of fossil fuels. Wildfires and deforestation also lead to increases in CO₂ as do the long-term effects of many years of previous emission. The increase in the last year slowed, but not enough to relax and stop being concerned. Experts say that levels will not decrease until human activities change so much that more greenhouse gases are removed from than are added to the atmosphere. And if that isn't enough to depress you, CO₂ can remain in the atmosphere for up to 1,000 years!

We've written in the past about nuclear energy, its pluses and its minuses, and events that have taken place in the industry. The United States, I remind you, has a very good record on nuclear safety. My family and I lived in southern Maryland near the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility, and it has had an impeccable safety and production record.

Nuclear reactors, like college professors, eventually get old and tired (a little joke!), and they have to be retired. The Unit 2 reactor at Indian Point Center on the Hudson River near New York City is closing for good, as well as Unit 3, which closes in April 2021. This plant generated a quarter of the electricity used in New York City and Westchester County, where the plant is located.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already renewed and extended (as of September 2019) the operating licenses from 40 to 60 years for 90 of the 98 operating United States nuclear reactors. There is consideration of renewals for up to 80 years of operation. There is not a universal agreement in the nuclear industry across the world on how many years a nuclear reactor can be productive and safe.

New energy producers such as natural gas and increased energy production efficiency will provide the necessary electricity upon the nuclear closings. When we lived in Dutchess County, New York, for 19 years, we frequently passed by the Indian Point facility. When we lived in St. Mary's County, Maryland for 19 years, we passed by the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant almost daily. In that period there was never a serious malfunction occurrence at either plant.

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.



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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

The blizzard of '67

Jack Deatherage

I was well into the 7th level of Hell, what my parents called "the seventh grade", in the Fairfield Area School System when a blizzard descended on south-central Pennsylvania and mid Maryland. The historical record shows the storm pounded us after first tearing through Chicago from January 26 – 27 where it dropped 23 inches of snow before reaching Baltimore where it dumped just over 10 inches of snow on February 7th. Our area got around 16 inches.

We were living along Crum Road, just off the Tract Road, between Fairfield and Emmitsburg. The winds must have howled for two weeks as snow piled up around the rancher we lived in. Eventually we awoke to silence and snow drifts that nearly reached the peak of our roof. The world was a sparkling wonderland of undulating snow flows! And the best part of that morning was the radio telling us the schools were still closed! (It would be at least another week before a snowplow managed to open Crum Road.)

The youngest of my five siblings (2 and 5 years old) were confined to a open area of frozen lawn that ran along the front of the house. The drift there was only head high on a 5 year old. It was days before Dad and us older kids shoveled paths around the house and tunneled through the larger drifts so the smaller kids could also play in the snow. Much of the digging had to do with reaching the pump-box behind the house so Dad could thaw the waterline.

Thinking back on that time, I marvel that Mom and Dad didn't kill us kids and, come the thaw, claim they did it because of cabin fever. I recall Dad running out of cigarettes and suffering more than a week of withdrawal as well as six 'trapped in the house kids', before he announced he was walking into Emmitsburg for smokes. Mom requested a carton of her brand as well and off Dad waded down the road.

Me and First Sister watched Dad until he disappeared behind some trees. I don't know what possessed me to follow him, but I do recall asking First Sister to tell Mom I was going after him. Yep. I was well established at age twelve as not being particularly bright. It was 3.6 miles by road from where we lived to my Grandmother

Deatherage's apartment on the town square. Piece of cake!

After making that first mistake, what followed was pretty mundane.

I lost Dad's track almost immediately. To this day I do not understand how I managed that, given Dad was 6'2" tall and weighed about 150 pounds in those days. Hell, the track I made could have been followed by a snow-blind drunk and I was no where near as big as Dad!

I later heard Dad had stopped at Wenschoff's house and had hiked with them out Wenschoff Road to check on their people before Dad continued on alone to Emmitsburg. I must have missed his track turning onto their property. I was close to being snow blind myself by that point of the adventure.

Having discovered the snow was deeper in front of Wenschoff's house, and no longer having a track to follow, I debated turning around and going home. Not wanting to set a precedent for making smart choices, I decided I'd cut across a cow pasture (1,100 feet according to Google Map) which seemed to be windblown clear of drifts and skip 1,400 feet of waist deep snow that covered the rest of Crum Road. I stepped gingerly onto the crusted snow between the road and a barbed wire fence. Upon reaching the fence, I only had to step over the top strand of wire and the rest was an easy amble to the Tract Road.

Fear is one of humanity's greatest motivators. Of course the crust gave way as I swung a leg over the fence. I don't remember how long I struggled to tear loose from the wire, but I do remember being terrified I'd fall down and not be able to rise from the drift again!

Once free of the fence, I found myself exhausted, soaked with sweat and on the Tract Road side of the wire. I had to soldier on. There was no way I'd get back over the fence and survive.

Eventually I reached the road, which was a wonder in itself- bare blacktop! Hell, I could do this! Until I couldn't. The snow rose straight up from the road, about 50 yards ahead of me, as a wall at least six feet high! Finally coming to grips with my inability to follow Dad into town, I gave up and turned around to walk the stretch of Crum Road I'd skipped by cutting across the pasture. Only another wall of snow greeted me before I even reached that road.

In a panic I walked back and forth

between the walls of snow trying to spot a way around either of them. I was standing in the middle of the road between Sanders' house and the barn when I experienced the second cold-induced asthma attack of my life. (Others would follow, but none would be as terrible as that one!)

Exhausted, unable to escape the trap I'd stupidly walked into, and now unable to breath, I realized I was standing where I'd been told Grandfather Deatherage had been killed in an accident two years before I was born. I began crying.

"Are you alright?" I heard Mrs. Sanders call from her doorway. "Ricky! Go get the boy!"

Ricky, probably a senior in high school, waded 200 feet through the snow drifts in the yard, scooped me up as if I weighed nothing and carried me into the house. I was stripped down to my long johns, wrapped in a wool blanket and set next to the wood burning stove in the living room, possibly the same stove that heated the house when Dad's people had lived there. Someone put a mug of hot cocoa in my trembling hands while Mrs Sanders called Mom on the phone.

Mom was rather surprised that I was at Sanders' house. First Sister hadn't told her what I was about, probably because she thought Mom would send her out to bring me back. First Sister wasn't stupid. If I got myself killed, she still had two other brothers.



Other than the fact that it has snow in it, this picture has no relationship to Jack's article, not that any photos we run along his do ... but given the heat, we thought we would remind you that winter is just around the corner.

It was decided I would stay by the stove until I was warm enough to make the trek back home. Mom had Last Brother in diapers so she couldn't go fetch me and none of the other three kids could have followed my path anyhow.

I can't remember leaving Sanders' house, though I suspect Ricky walked with me back across the cow pasture and got me across the barbed wire without much difficulty.

I don't recall Mom's exact words

when I finally walked into our house. More than likely she asked something inane, like, "What were you thinking?"

It sticks in mind that Dad, upon hearing the story, shook his head and grumbled something like, "You won't do anything that stupid again."

Ha! A precedent had been established!

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

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PETS

How life has changed

“Q”

It's just begun to rain. It's not so heavy that I need to seek out shelter yet. Instead, I think I'm going to lie under the big leafy shrub and reflect upon how much my life has changed over the past three years.

Lets start with the simple fact that today I have the option of lying under the shrub in the rain, knowing all too well that if the rain drops make it down to me, I can always run into the barn and settle down to enjoy the rain from the comfort of my blanket on the tack room counter and maybe grab a mouth full of food on the way.

Had I still been feral, I'd be scampering right now to find any place out of the rain and forget finding food! If I was really hungry, which I always seemed to be back then, I'd have to deal with getting drenched in hopes of finding something to eat.

Sleep listening to the rain?

That was a luxury unknown to me for the untold number of years I was a feral Tom Cat. Sure, being a Tom Cat had its benefits. The whole world was your home. The downside however was everyone was always trying to take my home away from me. I was constantly in fights. I could never let my guard down. I never had any downtime. If I wasn't patrolling my territory, I was hunting for food. I slept when I could, but I never slept deeply, or for long. I was always tired.

Now I have the luxury of sleeping as long as I want on a nice blanket. In the summer, my people put my blanket on the windowsill so I can enjoy the cool night breezes. In the winter, they plug it in - and I have to tell you nothing is better on a cold winter day than a heated blanket!

As for food, well let's just say I've gone from eating anything and everything I could, no matter how bad it tasted, to being a bit of a snob! I really like the dry crunchy food in the bowl next to my blanket - as hard as I try to empty it (a habit developed from my feral days of never leaving anything go to waste), it never seems to empty!

Every morning and every night the people come in and fill another bowl with food out of a can. I still remember the first time they did it. The food tasted great! Then the next day, they filled it with something that tasted different. But I didn't care; for the first time in my life, my food was being brought to me. I didn't have to worry about going out and finding it.

As time went on, I began to sense the differences in the taste and one I really liked. I would scoff that down in front of them, but I would turn my nose up and walk away at the sight of the others. I thought they might get mad, but it had the opposite effect! Soon that was all they brought me! Apparently, getting finicky has its rewards.

I still recall my last few days

being feral. I was sick and had lots of cuts and sores from fighting. In those days, I simply had to tough it out. I would go for days without eating as my wounds healed. Not anymore.

When they trapped me - yes, as smart as I thought I was, I fell for the stupid trap trick - they took me to the vet. When I woke up, I felt better, and in a couple days I felt better than I could ever recall.

Now, when I'm sick, I let the vet, who is a nice man, look me over. It was hard at first to trust him, but I've gotten used to him.

For the past month, my teeth have been hurting, which really cramps my eating style. As a result, my nice 'rounded' figure has sort of gone back to my feral lean look. The vet came and looked at me while I was sleeping on my blanket. As my person was with him, I let him look into my mouth and heard him say I had a broken tooth.

I soon found myself back in that scary vet office, but before I could freak out, I found myself dreaming about running after a mouse in a big open field. When I woke up, my teeth felt great! I heard them tell my people I didn't have a broken tooth, but my teeth needed to be cleaned. When I got home, I got a double helping of my favorite can food and went to sleep.

My ears however felt funny, and I couldn't make out what Will (my barn mate) was saying; he sounded like he had his mouth full of food. Apparently I had something growing in my ear, which is why I've been scratching them for the past few months. The vet put something in it while I was dreaming, so now they don't inch anymore and my hearing is slowly coming back.

Had I still been a feral, my teeth would still hurt and my ears would still itch. And those things would haunt me until I died.

But those concerns pale in comparison to the never-ending need to always look over my shoulder for other cats looking for a fight. Trust me, when you have to sleep with one eye open, your sleep is never long or deep.

Now my routine has changed. Instead of being up all night, I'm up all day. Yes, I have a smaller territory that I share with Will which we take shift patrolling, but at night, Will and I get locked into the tack room where no-one can come after us. As a result, I can close both eyes when I sleep, and I can sleep as long as I want. When I finally get up, I'm refreshed and ready not simply to face a new day, but to 'enjoy' a new day.

Enjoy. Now that's a word I never got to use in my feral days. In those days it was all about survival. But today, it's all about enjoyment.

When I was feral, grooming myself was a luxury I didn't have much time for; to say I was scruffy would be an understatement at best. My coat was so rough, that I think

people threw things at me to make me run away because they were scared I had some type of disease.

Now I have the time to make myself presentable. Even I have to admit I look good now! My coat is shiny and smooth, so smooth everyone wants to pet me and pick me up. I'm ok with the first, the latter I could do without, with the exception of my people of course.

Sometimes, late at night, especially on stormy rainy nights, Will and I talk about our past lives. When I ask Will if he misses bring a free cat, he always stops what he is doing - which is usually trying to ignore me - and heads to the food bowl. After he swallows a few mouthfuls, he takes a long drink of water and sits down to groom himself, all the while putting on the appearance of thinking long and hard.

Eventually Will finally answers. "Why would I want to return to that life? If I were to dream up the life every cat would want, it would never even come close to what we have here. We have the best of all worlds. We have the same beds every night, our stomachs are always full, every sunray is ours to bask in or play with and we haven't a care in the world. This is paradise."

Of course, Will is right. I have the opportunity to enjoy the rest of my life because two people took the time to notice me and chose to help me when I was sick. They could have chased me away like everyone else did, but they didn't. And now I have a home I can call my own.

I'm returning that favor by making sure they know I appreciate it. When I was feral, I would always run at the sight of a human. Now, I follow them everywhere. When the opportunity permits, I lie in their path and roll on my side. They always stop and give me a good long scratch.

At first, I would only do it once or twice a day. Now, no matter how many times I do it, they always stop and scratch me. Humans are such funny creatures. They never seem to get enough of a good thing.

When they sit down, I sit with them and simply purr. It seems to make them happy. So I make an effort to always purr for them. After all, they have made me happy, so I'm going to make them happy.

I would be wrong to end this story without mentioning that there are a lot of cats like Will and I waiting in shelters to find their own home. While being in a shelter is better than being feral, it's not as good as having a home to call your own.

So if you have it in your heart to share your home with a shelter pet, please do. There is an old saying: "No one is more appreciative of a second opportunity than a shelter pet."

Give one a chance; you'll never regret it.

To read other article by Michael Hillman visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Amara was brought into the shelter as a stray in May 2019 - she's been with us more than a year! We don't know a lot about her past, but she's a super sweet girl who loves a good chin scratch. She's a champion head "booper" and makes sure you know she's there butting you with her head. Amara is going to make someone a wonderful companion. Could that someone be you?



Ghost was adopted from the shelter a few years ago, but came back to us recently as a stray. We tried to contact his adopters, but no one ever came for him. So, Ghost is looking for another chance. He's a 5-year-old boy who loves attention and watching birds out the window. Could you help this sweet fellow out?



Kaci came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him, but this 2-year-old, orange-and-white boy is one sweet cat. He loves playing with catnip mice and talks up a storm. If you're looking for a great companion, Kaci just might be the one for you!

For more information about Amara, Ghost or Kaci call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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Billy

Kimberly Brokaw, DVM
Walkersville Vet Clinic

Anyone who has spent any time working with horses can tell you that they each horse has its own unique personality. While horses can be taught good behavior, their personality quirks are things to be worked with as they rarely can be eliminated.

My sister's horse, Billy, has lived with me for the last 9 or so years. At age 18, he has developed some arthritis and is basically a pasture pet who is only ridden occasionally on easy rides. Conformationally, he is probably one of the best looking horses on my farm, but he has a few personality quirks that drive me crazy. While he is overall a very nice horse, he has an uncooperative streak. He's also smart. On de-worming day I have to catch Billy first. If he sees me deworming the other horses, he will then refuse to let me catch him because he knows he's next.

Luckily, like my horses, he

stands perfectly for shots. None of the horses at my barn need halters and I can just walk up to them in the field and give them their vaccines. Fly spray, however, is another story. My horses stand and just let me spray them. Billy on the other hand hates fly spray. He makes me put the halter on him every time, just so I can keep him from walking off when I try to spray him. Once he's caught, he stands cooperatively for the spray. He now associates the halter with fly spray and starts sneezing when I put the halter on him. I've switched brands of fly spray so while I know one type makes all the horses sneeze, Billy just starts sneezing at the thought of fly spray.

Unfortunately, it's not just fly spray that Billy doesn't like. He doesn't like eye meds, he hates dewormer, and he doesn't like to eat medicine that I put in his food. Billy seems to think that any medicine in his food indicates that I am trying to poison him. I have even tried getting him apple flavored medications and adding molasses to it. He still absolutely

refuses to eat the medicine

Billy also likes to stand in the farm pond. Perhaps stand is the wrong word. Wallow and roll is probably a more accurate description. It makes him cool and happy and it's not like he needs to be clean for any horse shows. Therefore, I let him embrace his inner swamp creature role. Billy's pond wallowing tendencies result in him getting irritated and infected skin on his legs every summer. Usually it's pretty mild and a bath with anti-microbial shampoo clears it up. He's actually very cooperative for baths and scrubbing his legs.

Billy is not cooperative about allowing me to put ointment on afterwards. Most cases of dermatitis can be successfully treated with topical products alone. While the process is a bit tedious because it requires daily bathing and application of ointments, systemic medications are rarely required. A couple of days ago Billy developed cellulitis/swelling in one of his hind legs secondarily to the dermatitis.

Once cellulitis is present, topical treatments are not going to be effective and Billy was going to need more aggressive treatment. While I would have liked to have used a left over bottle of about to expire antibiotic on him, I knew



While access to a pond comes in handy on hot summer days for horses, it does have its downside - irritated and infected skin.

that Billy would not eat it. He'd already proven over the years that oral medications were not to his liking. So rather than use up the antibiotics I already had, I elected to go the injectable route.

In the end I'm glad I chose to give Billy the injectable antibiotic. It may have cost me more money but not having to try to disguise medications in his feed or fight with him while trying to squirt them in his mouth was definitely worth it. If your horse is uncooperative for certain treatments, tell your vet. I understand completely when a cli-

ent says they can't do the treatment that I initially recommend. Veterinarians frequently can offer alternatives to treat certain diseases.

If your horse is bad for shots there are often oral medications that will be effective. If your horses is a picky eater, some of the medications come with an apple flavor option or injectable form. Veterinarians want you to be successful when you are trying to follow a treatment plan. Most of us know at least one horse like Billy, and we will try to devise a treatment plan that will work for your Billy.

Managed Intakes – a year later

Linda Shea
Frederick County
Animal Shelter



Last August, the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center implemented a program that had been long established in adjacent counties. The program, Managed Intakes, tries to reduce the number of pets relinquished to the shelter by owners who may be unaware of alternatives to surrender or solutions to behavior issues. The process dedicates pre-planned time to collect valuable information, as well as pre-planned animal housing to ensure our shelter population is not overcrowded. It allows owners the opportunity to fill out pet profiles ahead of time, as well as collect veterinary records. We think the most important aspect has been the ability to provide resources to owners who truly want to keep their pet, but are unaware of options.

The COVID-19 pandemic makes it difficult to compare the past year with the Managed Intake in place with prior years. Since March, temporary operating procedures have affected our shelter being open to the public and all non-emergency situations are handled by appointment only. While we continue to evaluate the program overall, we have raw numbers to work with.

During FY2019, the shelter took in 3,783 animals. Of those, 1,562 (41%) were surrendered by owners who could no longer keep those pets due to allergies, moving, new baby,

landlord won't allow, can't afford, too much energy, kids won't help with pet care, keeps getting pregnant, and a myriad of other reasons. Between August 1, 2019 through July 30, 2020, we were contacted by 693 pet owners seeking information on relinquishment.

During FY2020, the shelter took in 2,675 animals. Of those, 855 (31%) were surrendered by their owners. Thirty percent fewer animals overall that include ten percent fewer owner surrendered animals is a great thing for any animal shelter. Of the over-600 pet owners who reached out to us, we have to believe that many utilized the resources we offered that enabled them to keep their pet.

We continue to encourage pet owners to contact us for resources that would allow them to keep their pets. However, we continue to be here a last resort for owners who have exhausted other options. Raja fell into that last resort category. She was very pregnant when she was surrendered by an overwhelmed owner in June. Now she (and her kittens) are back at the shelter and available for adoption.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Fall shrubs and trees

Mary Ann Ryan
Head Guru, Adams County
Master Gardeners

As fall approaches, we can reflect on the crazy spring and summer that we just experienced. There was nothing usual about it – our work environment changed, how we interact with friends and family changed, the way we shop has changed, and the weather was just terrible for a summer garden. But one thing is normal: autumn will come, as it has every other year, and the weather will cool, as it always does. So let's take a break as fall approaches and look at the beautiful gardens nature has provided. Ever wonder what those plants were that are holding their berries? Or the tree that has bark peeling from the trunk? How about those shrubs with red or yellow stems by the creek?

Many plants will come to life through colorful leaves and bark beginning in late September. Fall is the second best time to plant, so why not design a fall/winter garden? Many garden centers will receive fresh stock in August and September, so you may have a great selection to choose from.

It is important to carefully choose, place and plant your trees and shrubs. The trick is to know what the effect is that you may want, design the area for an all-season garden focusing on the fall and winter, and choose the right plant for that particular location.

We can create these gardens with just a few good choices of plants that will thrive in our climate. When thinking about designing a fall and winter garden, let's look at texture and form. Unless you choose an evergreen shrub, leaves will be leaving us this time of year. So bark, color and form become very important.

If you are in the planning mode, measure the area that you will be working and commit it to paper. This will allow you to see the space you are planting and work through the design of the garden. When you do this, it also allows you to learn about the plants, see on paper the potential size of the plants, and therefore determine the right plants for the location.

Visit nurseries and garden centers and check out what is available. Many trees, like sweetgum, sourwood, red maples and serviceberry offer wonderful color in the

fall. Shrubs, like oakleaf hydrangea and fothergilla are also beautiful during the fall and winter months.

Many shrubs offer beautiful berries, like red chokeberry, inkberry holly and callicarpa that may hold their fruit through the winter. Consider mixing plants that have fall and winter interest with the plants that you enjoy in the spring and summer. Here is a short list some plants you may want to try.

Hydrangea quercifolia, oakleaf hydrangea, is a large shrub that not only has summer interest with its big, white conical flowers, but also has terrific red to purple fall color. The bark on the shrub is a cinnamon color and peeling. A native shrub it is grown best in part shade, this plant will be generous with its fall color. Typically reaching a height and spread of 6', this plant should be sited in a shrub border or as a specimen plant. Dwarf cultivars are available as well. Well drained soil is its preference.

Fothergilla gardenii is a great native small to medium sized shrub reaching 4 -6 feet in height as well as spread. It's not only showy in the spring with its white, bottle-brush flowers, but the yellow, orange, and red fall colors are spectacular. This plant is a slow grower, making it a good choice for foundation plantings. It does prefer an acidic soil with good drainage and part sun to full sun.

Aronia arbutifolia, red chokeberry, has proven to be another spectacular native plant for fall and winter interest. You can enjoy this plant's bright red fruit from September through January as well as its red fall color in October. It tolerates most soil types, but does prefer well drained soils. It will reach 5'-6' and is a good selection for the shrub border.

Callicarpa japonica, beautyberry, is a shrub that will stretch 4' to 6' in height. It likes full sun to part shade and gets lovely purple berries in the fall – hence the fall attraction of this shrub, as purple is not a common color this time of year. Use this plant for a shrub border, or mix it in with some spring blooming plants. The



Red chokeberry has proven to be another spectacular native plant for fall and winter interest. You can enjoy this plant's bright red fruit from September through January as well as its red fall color in October.

stems with berries are great for indoor arrangements.

Lindera bezoin, spicebush, shows a great yellow fall color. This plant is known for its fragrant stems when broken. However, the yellow color mixes wonderfully with the oranges and reds of the fall palette. It likes part shade to full sun, but becomes more open and wild the more shade you provide it. It is a large shrub, potentially reaching 8', making it a good native plant for the shrub border.

Liquidambar styraciflua, sweetgum, is a large native shade

tree reaching 60-75' in height. The beautiful tree offers tons of fall color – colors ranging from yellow, orange, red and purple. It wants full sun and will grow well in most soil types. The star-shaped leaves give this tree an interesting texture through the summer months.

Nyssa sylvatica, or blackgum, is a tree often overlooked. This native tree has a habit very similar to the pin oak. The canopy is pyramidal in shape, like the pin oak, but the leaves are oval. The fall color is one of the best of our

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener September – A month of Anemones

Marianne Willburn

Sometimes a name is confusing. A few of you read the title of this column and immediately thought of ground covering masses of bright whites, reds, blues and purples that spring up early in the season and make such a great foil for fall planted bulbs such as daffodils or tulips. Anemone coronaria is probably what you're thinking about, and if you've grabbed a packet of these tubers as an impulse-buy from an end-cap, you may be wondering why they didn't work out quite as well as you've read in books or in the way they were presented on the packet. A. coronaria is only marginally hardy in Zone 7, but that's another story for another day, as are the many species worldwide of spring-blooming anemones.

When it comes to late-season display however, the fully hardy anemone putting on the show is usually Anemone hupehensis, A. tomentosa or A. x hybrida aka the Japanese anemone or windflower. As an aside, windflower is the common name for all anemones, which further illustrates why it's good to know the botanical names of plants as well as their common ones.

Regardless, windflower is an excellent name for these wispy yet vigorous flowers which top tall wiry stems held well above the lovely masses of lobed or dissected foliage. They are part-shade lovers, and therefore not only brighten parts of the garden that might feel a little dreary, but do so at a time when other better-known perennials have already come and gone. Because the blooms are very summer-esque and come in many colors commonly associated with the high season, you're likely to get a few "What are those?!" remarks from visitors.

Such remarks shouldn't be so satisfying, but sadly they are, so let's explore the windflower and how you can grow it in your garden.

First, pick a spot that is sheltered from heavy winds. Windflowers

may dance attractively in a breeze, but they're not going to be happy (read: erect) after a severe storm. They appreciate a moisture retentive soil that is rich in organic matter, and once they are planted they would really rather that you left them alone to take over that bit of the garden.

Each time I have divided windflowers I have regretted it, but then, each time I have done so I have sent the divisions off to live somewhere they have no business living – such as dry, silty soil or full sun in sand. Divisions are always slow to recover anyway – making it difficult on them with tough conditions isn't the brightest idea. Learn from my mistakes and give these plants the good soil they desire.

If you do, you will be rewarded with exceptionally vigorous plants whose foliage will emerge early in spring and could almost be classified as a ground cover throughout the growing season. You will also be rewarded with needing to divide them – as I didn't say 'vigorous' for nothing.

Windflowers prefer shelter from burning afternoon sun. Hence they are very popular with gardeners trying to extend the season in their lightly shaded spots. One of my absolute favorite combinations is the pairing of pure white 'Honorine Jobert' blooms (A. x hybrida) with low-lying branches of winterberry (Ilex verticillata) before the leaves have dropped on the winterberry yet the branches are laden with red fruit.

'Honorine Jobert' was the Perennial Plant Association's Perennial of the Year a few years back, but I am equally fond of the slightly shorter 'Andrea Atkinson' and the lovely pink 'September Charm.' Often times it is really about what I can get hold of easily during the spring planting season, and as a grower friend always tells me, it's tough to sell

something that doesn't bloom until fall. After a quick local nursery scan, anemone collectors might be better off using the services of Google to find those rarer cultivars.

Flowers can be single, double or semi-double and most often are found in deepening shades of pink or white. The sepals are most often contrasted with striking orange stamens, but some are quite delicate, like A. tomentosa 'Robustissima' that almost has a blueish cast to the sepals. If you play your cards right and mix your cultivars, you can have windflowers blooming from late July through late October.

In fact, you can have them blooming even earlier than that – 'Wild Swan,' an exciting new-ish cultivar selected by Scottish nursery owner Elizabeth MacGregor, starts blooming in late spring and features white sepals with lilac-blue backsides. It's absolutely stunning. I've killed it twice, but one lives in hope – I will no doubt try it again.

Other great pairings to try with Japanese anemones? Aster, Sheffield mums, pennisetum, panicum, aconitum, hosta, ligularia and just about anything else that can stand up to it and through which it can send those lovely wiry flowers.

Give it try next year if you haven't already. Meanwhile, look out for it in the gardens of others this month and into October.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

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native trees, changing from dark green in the summer to a brilliant scarlet in the fall. It will stretch to 30 – 40 feet, but is slow growing, making it a good street tree and nice large specimen tree.

River birch, Betula nigra, a native tree to river and creek banks as well as marshy areas, has interesting bark. The cinnamon colored peeling bark is exciting in all four seasons. The leaves on this tree are small, and the canopy is not dense, allowing the bark to be visible in and out of leaf. This tree will reach 50'. This tree will thrive in moist soils, but lucky for us, it is very versatile, adapting to drier locations as well. In a grouping of three or five, this selection is outstanding. Use it as a plant grouping in the yard, or as a single tree as a specimen in a foundation planting. Grown in clumps or single stemmed allows for a variety of design styles, from a more natural look to a formal appearance.

The paperbark maple, Acer griseum, is one of my favorite trees. This slow-growing tree offers a cinnamon colored, peeling bark on the trunk and branches. It is a slow grower that likes part shade to full sun and reaches about 20-25'. It's not fussy about soil, but don't place it in a really dry location. Well drained soils are best. This is a great selection for a specimen tree or focal point in the garden where the tree bark and color will be visited on a more personal level.

So why plant in September and October? Warm soils in the fall will encourage root growth of plants and typical rainfall in our area reduces the amount of watering that gardeners need to do - and - the weather is so

much cooler to work in the garden. Because of better root development in the fall, when spring arrives, the plants have a much better start when compared to plants planted in the spring. Then when the hot dry weather of summer hits, the fall planted plant will be well established and therefore, can withstand the tough summer environment.

Container grown plants as well as balled and burlapped plants do well planted during this season. If planting a container grown plant, be sure you break up the root system before placing it in the hole. This will encourage the roots to grow into the existing soil. A balled and burlapped and container plants can be planted well into the late fall until the ground freezes. These plants move best when they are going dormant, because the roots are disturbed when digging. Just be sure to roll back the burlap from the top of the ball, and cut all string from the ball, especially around the trunk.

Whether planting a container or balled and burlapped plant, be sure you don't plant it too deep, the top of the soil ball should be level with the existing grade. Be sure to water the plant well after planting.

Imagine your garden with a variety of plants for fall color. The plants discussed here are just the "tip of the iceberg"! Many more plants are available on today's market and many more selections will continue to become available to us. Enjoy your garden, whether old or new, and always continue to learn about nature's wonders!

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THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

My month without a horse

Emma Simmons

I always wanted to ride horses. I think I've always loved horses. My Mom loves horses. She says that her Dad, my Grandfather, loved horses too. So I think I was born loving horses.

When I was very young I played with stuffed horses and I rode a rocking horses when I learned to sit up by myself. When I learned to walk I graduate to stick horses.

But it was never enough for me. I knew 'real' horses were out there somewhere. For the next few years, I got to ride horses every once in a while, when we went to visit one of my uncles and at a friend's birthday party. But that still wasn't enough for me. I thought about horses almost all the time. Then it finally happened. My sister and I were at our school science fair and we were wearing our 'just a girl who loves horses' shirts. One of the judges came up to us and our parents and said he and his wife had a farm with horses. He invited us to visit and ride. I can't tell you how happy I was. Since I was at school I just smiled, but inside I was jumping up and down and screaming with joy.

That's how we met Mike. For the past year, Sarah and I have been in heaven riding at Mike's horse farm. His horses are the absolute best horses in the world. They are handsome thoroughbreds that are strong and fast. We have learned so much from Mike about horses. Not just how to ride, but how to care for them.

No matter what the weather has been this past year, I always loved riding. During the winter when it was so cold that there were icicles hanging off

the barn roof, I rode. This summer on days that it was so hot and humid that steam floated around in the air, I rode. When it rained cats and dogs and I was dripping wet, I rode. I just love riding. When I'm not riding, I'm thinking about riding. When I'm riding, I am as happy as a horse munching on tall green grass.

But then it happened. I don't really remember how it began, but about a month ago, things began to go wrong. . .very wrong. First it was Wesley, then Kit, then me, then Sarah.

It began when Wesley hurt his hoof. I couldn't ride him. Mike said it would be at least of couple days for him to heal. But when he didn't, Mike called the Vet out, who diagnosed Wesley with Cushing's disease. Mike told me it would take a month or two before I would be able to ride Wesley again, but I had Kit as a backup horse. Big sigh of relief that Mike has more than one horse. Then, Kit hurt his back and I couldn't ride him. So both Wesley and Kit were on the disabled list (DL). So for those weeks, Sarah and I went over to the farm and helped take care of the horses. We learned how to give them medicine and care for their injuries.

After a couple of weeks with no riding, Wesley was beginning to get better. I was so happy he was getting well because it's really hard to see someone that you love feeling bad. And yes, it also meant that I could ride again. But just as it was time to put Wesley back in the arena, he developed an abscess on his hoof. So he was back on DL. Mike worked with his vet and the blacksmith to help clear up the sore on Wesley's hoof. But that took another week or so. Again, no riding.

At this point, I missed riding so much that I began to think about digging out my stick horses. Let's face it, even a stuffed horse on a stick is better than no horse. I even thought about drawing a big horse head and attaching it to the handle bars of my bike. I was desperate.

Sarah and I continued to go over to Mike's farm to help with the horses. I have to say, even though we weren't riding, it was interesting to learn more about horse anatomy and the things vets do to help horses recover from injuries. Sarah and I want to become vets when we are older and open a veterinary practice together.

Finally, Wesley and Kit were both sound. Mike told my Mom that we could ride again and for us to come over on the weekend. Joy, joy, joy. A few days later, my Dad took Sarah and me bike riding. While bike riding isn't as much fun as horseback riding, it's better than nothing. I was getting tired of YouTube Kids.

It was a pretty sunny day and we where we were bike riding was mostly flat. But there was one big hill. Trying to ride my bike up the hill is kind of hard. But zooming down is super fun. It makes the uphill climb worth the work. It was getting time to go home, but I wanted to make one more downhill run. I remember being at the top of the hill and looking down. I was going to go so fast and it would be so fun. It would be like riding a horse again. I made it almost to the bottom of the hill. But I guess I was going too fast. I remember hitting the blacktop with my knee and hand and then sliding. My Dad said I slid about four feet. I didn't want him or Sarah to think I was hurt so I jumped up and said I was fine. But Sarah pointed to my knee and said I was bleeding. I looked at my hand and then my knee and sure enough, there as blood on my hand and blood streaming down my leg to my shoe. Well, I guess I wasn't completely ok. I made it back home and my Mom bandaged my cuts and scrapes. Luckily, nothing was broken. So glad I was wearing a helmet.

Now, I was on the disabled list. I couldn't go horseback riding that weekend. I can't tell you how bad I felt. Not only did my knee and hand hurt, but my heart hurt too. I wanted to ride so much. I had been waiting for so long.

My Mom says I'm a quick healer and



The upside of riding at a 'private' barn is that you learn that horse's break down. The care one gives during the recovery will help build a bond between the rider and their horse, which will one day make the difference between them becoming a upper-level rider or a passenger.

by the next weekend I could ride again. I could hardly wait. It seemed like it had been forever since I been horseback riding. But now everyone was healthy and we could get back to having some serious fun. Rights? Wrong.

Sarah and I love swimming. Not as much as horseback riding, but we really like the water. We swim, we dive, we race, and of course we play horse games in the pool. A couple of days before we were suppose to ride, we were playing a game in the pool seeing who could be the most graceful and talented dolphin. Well, when it was Sarah's turn, she was amazingly graceful under the water, but when she did her dolphin jump out of the water she landed on the side of the pool, face first. She said she was fine, just like I did when I fell off my bike, but her lip was swollen and her mouth was bleeding some. Luckily, she still has all of her teeth, but our Mom placed her on the disabled list for a few days. No riding. . .again!

Like me, Sarah heals quickly so it wasn't long before we could think about riding. It seemed like it had been forever since we had been on a horse. When it was finally time to actually go to Mike's farm, Sarah and I were so excited. We put on our best riding clothes. We shined our boots and cleaned our chaps.

We got our riding vests and helmets out of storage and dusted them off (it had been a while since we had ridden). We put ice water in our drinking bottles. And then we piled everything into the car. We were off to the farm!

My Dad has a phrase he uses sometimes: "the best laid plans." I've never been completely sure what that meant until now. When we got to Mike's he gave us the bad news. Wesley's hoof was acting up again. He said we could 'walk' Wesley around the arena, but no cantering or even trotting. Walking a horse can be lots of fun. Right? Well, maybe not lots of fun, but better than nothing. At this point, I was beginning to wonder if I would ever get to ride a horse again.

We eventually did get to ride and when we did it was like riding for the first time. I had almost forgotten how much fun it is to be on a horse in an open field, to trot and canter beside sister. The horses are all doing well now and Sarah and I are staying healthy too. But I'll always remember what Mike told me. This is all part of having horses and just part of life in general. Things happen. You have to be patient and try to learn some things along the way.

To read previous articles by Emma, visit the author's section of emmitsburg.net.

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- 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

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Magic numbers cloud retirement picture

Ryan Fox

The financial services industry heavily markets the theme asking, "What's your number?"

The number is the alleged amount of money one needs to save in order to retire. Focusing on this number can be quite intimidating and can truly get in the way of an enjoyable retirement.

Yes, the quantitative side drives so much in retirement but the quality of retirement, if properly planned, will be an enjoyable ride.

When I was wrapping up the spring of my junior year in high school, a band named Tesla remade the song "Signs" which was originally released by the Five Man Electrical Band in 1970.

The song is catchy and the writer of the song, Les Emmerson, was led to write the song partially because his road trip scenery was obstructed by too many large, obtrusive billboards.

Retirement planning's oft-used "number" is sort of like the billboards. The number obscures the true beauty of retirement.

When I'm asked by a client or potential client to participate in a retirement discussion, I like to kick around a few essential questions so we can hone in on a few items that are less financial and more lifestyle.

First, I ask whether you considered a second-act career in retirement. According to Charles Schwab, over 40 percent of people within five years of retiring, said they will continue to work after their initial retirement. So whether scaling back one's current work or pursuing a new part-time job, there are tangible benefits like staying active, earning cash flow, and helping to defer the need to withdraw from savings.

Second, there is an increasingly popular option of having a mini-retirement, which helps postpone full-time retirement. Taking time off for an extended period to travel, raise family, or just take a break is becoming increasingly common. In essence, this may delay future retirement but allows for immediate enjoyment. It can be risky financially, but for many, the need to recharge for a few months or even a few years can be planned for carefully. With the incredible demand for workers, this is an interesting time to take these gap-type years.

Also, regardless of the retirement plans a family wants to accomplish, all of us need to have our estate documents in order. This is exclusive of any discussion of savings, investing, and others. It is vital to responsibly plan for how assets will transfer and where the funds will go, such as family, charity, or some combination.

Last, for those in a relationship, there needs to be reasonably-shared vision of what retirement looks like. A couple might not see everything 20/20 when planning for retirement, and based on the first 8 months of 2020, that is understandable. But if not on the same page it's important to be within the same chapter or at least the same book. Items like residence, activities, and spending expectations all go into this decision.

While we need to save for retirement, don't let the signs cloud the scenery. Planning appropriately and honestly can blend the numeric with the qualitative aspects.

Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 717-398-2040 or Ryan@hustonfox.com.

Fort Ritchie's Semi-Annual Bass Fishing Tournament

The banks of Lake Royer will be lined with fishermen, fisherwomen and fisher-children on Saturday, September 19 for the Fort Ritchie Community Center's annual Bass Fishing Tournament from 7 - 11:30 a.m.

In a time when many events have been cancelled due to COVID-19, the Bass Fishing Tournament sponsored by Cobblestone Hotel and Suites, will go on! This family friendly event will join fishing enthusiasts of all ages while still allowing for social distancing measures to be practiced. Your registration gives you the chance to win door prizes, raffles, and even cash prizes! The cost to participate is \$25 per adult and \$10 for youth. This is



a catch and release tournament, and a Maryland Fishing license is required. For full rules and regulations, and to sign up, visit www.thefrcc.org or call 301-241-5085.

The tournament proceeds will support the programs and activities at the Fort Ritchie Community Center. For more information or to register for upcoming events, please visit www.thefrcc.org.



Deadline:
September 30th
my2020census.gov

2020
Census Emmitsburg

Dear neighbors,

I know I am nagging, but the 2020 Census is my first Census as your Mayor. Each year the federal government pays out \$675 Billion to communities based on Census counts. We lose \$18,000 per person over the next decade for those who are not counted. In 2010 we only had 52.6% respond. We are now at almost 69%, but let's not stop. Increased Census counts leads to community improvements and lower taxes. Let's do it.
Mayor Don Briggs

Your count means money for.....



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we lose \$1,800
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Participation is SAFE.

No questions about citizenship, Social Security or financial information. Census employees must keep your information confidential or they can be fined and jailed. Census Bureau doesn't share information with police, FBI, ICE or Welfare.



Please respond online, by phone, or by mail so a Census worker will not need to come to your home.



Answer online... by phone... or by mail

The Census is easy!

10 simple questions about your household as of April 1, 2020:

- whether you own or rent your home
- how many people live in your home
- who lives there and their relationship to you
- each person's name, sex, birth date, race / origin
- your phone number

Everyone Counts!

If you live here, **YOU COUNT.**

Respond to the Census!

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For more info: www.census.gov

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7 - 11:30 a.m.

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HEALTH NOTES

Back-to-school vaccinations and physicals

Heidi Winkler
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Is your child up to date on their required vaccinations and wellness visits? With school season upon us, it's important to make sure your child gets the physicals and immunizations they need, even if they aren't returning to the classroom yet.

Recently, FCPS decided to hold virtual instruction only for students during the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, beginning Monday, August 31. FCPS originally intended to hold a hybrid model of classes—both virtual and in-person—but amended their plans due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite classes being online at least until mid-October, it's still important to make sure your child is current on their vaccinations and physicals. Frederick Health is open and here to give your family the care they deserve, whether it's keeping your child current on their vaccinations, performing a sports

physical, or simply ensuring they're healthy.

The importance of vaccines

Vaccines are essential for providing immunity before you're exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases and infections. They help prevent infectious disease in those who receive them and protect those who come in contact with unvaccinated, infected people.

Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by working with your body's natural defenses to develop immunity to diseases safely. When germs like bacteria or viruses enter the body, they attack and multiply, causing an infection and leading to illness and its symptoms. The first time the body encounters these germs, it can take several days to make and use all germ-fighting tools needed to fight the infection. After the infection is gone, the immune system 'remembers' how to protect the body against that specific disease.

Vaccines help your body develop

immunity by imitating infections. They never cause illness, but they may cause the immune system to produce antibodies, which sometimes lead to minor symptoms such as fever or aches. Once the imitation infection is gone, the body is left with memory cells that will remember how to fight the disease in the future.

Vaccinating your child protects them in public and at school, where they are exposed to hundreds of other kids and potential illnesses. While students are not required to get a flu shot, it's highly recommended, especially this season as the COVID-19 threat looms.

COVID-19 and the flu

Fall isn't just back-to-school season; it's also the start of flu season. Make plans to get flu vaccines for yourself and your child in early fall, before flu season begins. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you get your flu shot by the end of October; however, getting vaccinated later can still be beneficial.



The CDC believes it is likely that both COVID-19 and the flu will be spreading in the coming fall and winter. Getting a flu shot will not prevent COVID-19, but it can reduce the risk of flu-related illness, hospitalization, and death. By getting the flu vaccine, you can also help conserve healthcare resources that are scarce due to COVID-19.

Flu vaccines are offered at your primary care office, at Frederick Health Urgent Care, and certain pharmacy clinics.

Required vaccinations

As of the 2019-2020 school year, the required student vaccinations are as follows:

Two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine for any student who has reached 5 years-old, including pre-k students.

Two doses of the Varicella vaccine for entry into Kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade.

One dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) for entry into seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade.

One dose of meningococcal vaccine for entry into seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade.

Where can my child get vaccinations?

Vaccinations are available at your primary care doctor, at the Frederick County Health Department, and at certain CVS MinuteClinics. The Frederick County Health Department provides free vaccinations for uninsured or underinsured children.

Many of the vaccines your child requires are provided at regularly scheduled well-child doctor visits. If you're not sure of which vaccines your child has received, you can look at their vaccine record or ask your healthcare provider.

If your child needs vaccinations, a physical, or a wellness visit, don't delay. Frederick Health continues to offer safe, exceptional care for the Frederick Community and beyond. Schedule an appointment today.



Because we want you healthy, Frederick.

In times like these, we need to rely on each other more than ever. That's why it's important that you take care of yourself. We're here to evaluate and treat your healthcare needs, and help you access exceptional care, safely and easily. It's as simple as reaching out to us.

We're right here. [FrederickHealth.org/GetCare](https://www.FrederickHealth.org/GetCare)
 240-566-HERE (4373)



COVID-19 update

As we go to press, the Frederick County Health Department is reporting 3,437 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 124 have died from it.

Test for the COVID can be taken at Seton Center every tuesday, noon to 2, or at the Thurmont Town office, September 4 & 21, at 5 pm

In Adams County 599 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 23 have died from it.

To track cases in Frederick of Carroll County, visit www.coronavirus.maryland.gov.

To track cases in Adams County, visit www.health.pa.gov.

COVID-19 may impact budgets

Edison Hatter

As the summer months come to an end and students begin to head back to school for the fall, albeit virtually in many cases, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact daily life. During the month of August, the state of Maryland passed the 100,000 positive tests mark, but the positive test rate continued to decrease, and hospitalizations stayed down. The positive test rate ranged between 2.5 to 4.5 percent during the month of August, down significantly from the 26 percent positivity rate seen in the middle of April.

Likewise, the total daily number of those hospitalized in Maryland with COVID-19 stayed under 500 for most of the month of August, well below the peak of 1,700 that were hospitalized at one time in late April and early May. Despite the positive trends being seen now, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet as Maryland remains in phase two of the reopening plan for the foreseeable future.

While the health and safety of all people remains a high priority, significant focus has shifted towards the short- and long-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well. At the county level, one of the big concerns going forward will be the impact of less tax dollars being received this year, as well as the later tax filing deadline of July 15.

According to Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner, all counties in the state of Maryland receive income tax payments from the state each month. However, Gardner noted that the distribution of payments is not evenly dispersed over the year; the largest payments usually occur in February and November. While Frederick County did see a reduction in anticipated income tax revenue payments from the state in June and July, Gardner said it is difficult at this time to determine exactly how the later tax filing date this year may have affected these payments. Gardner concluded by saying that, "we will likely not be able to fully assess the impact of the tax payment deferral and the impact

of the economic downturn until the end of September."

Similarly, the local governments in Thurmont and Emmitsburg are trying to understand what repercussions the COVID-19 pandemic will have on their financial situations. According to Linda Joyce, the Chief Financial Officer for the Town of Thurmont, the town receives local income tax distributions from the state of Maryland based upon projections for state income tax withholding and estimated payments due each year.

Due to the later filing deadline and the COVID-19 pandemic, Joyce said that the state anticipates a 13 percent decrease this year from last year's distributions. The business shutdowns, job losses, and work week reductions are expected to result in lower income tax receipts both this fiscal year and next fiscal year. According to Joyce, "projecting income tax revenues is difficult in the best of years and will be more so at this time."

Additionally, a property tax revenue decrease is expected as a result of job losses and work hour reductions. The town of Thurmont is also expecting possible increases in property tax delinquencies, property abandonments, and foreclosures. According to Joyce, there is a strong possibility that some businesses may not survive the temporary shutdown and that many more will experience lost business as a result of the pandemic. Furthermore, closed businesses do not generate Admissions and Amusement Tax Revenues.

Ultimately, the tax revenues decrease affects the operating budget of the town of Thurmont. "Local governments have balanced budget requirements," Joyce said, "meaning that declines in tax revenues, if not offset by increases in some type of federal funding, must be met by spending cuts or tax and fee increases." Nonetheless, Joyce, like Frederick County leadership, admits that the uncertainty surrounding the entire situation. Joyce cautioned that "the actual full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state distributions will not be known until the emergency is over."

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs



The Jubilee now proudly sports a American flag on the side of the building. In commenting on the flag, Jubilee owner Loren Peters said: "The Jubilee staff are First Responders - here to serve you seven days a week. I would personally like to thank the staff for working through the pandemic. Special thanks to Marty Mummert Studio and partner Ben for a great looking mural to add to our community. God Bless America!"

said that although the town budget for 2020-2021 was approved in June, there will be a six-month review in December for the first time in recent history. "Logistically it has been difficult," Briggs commented, "our office is located in a County-owned building so our office along with the building are still closed. We are rotating staff to keep them safe."

However, on the positive side, Briggs said that tourism is down, but is coming back. Furthermore, restaurants in town with carry out businesses have rebounded quickly. While Briggs said he believes overall that the town is still in a reactionary phase to the pandemic, he does believe the town has "counter punched" in many ways. He says the goal is to be flexible to stay ahead of the virus as possible future waves hit the area.

Across the state line, there is similar uncertainty about the long-term impact of the virus. According to Randy Phiel, Chairman of the Adams County Commissioners, the COVID-19 pandemic will obviously have an impact on county revenues. However, Phiel expressed optimism that Adams County is in a position to withstand the situation in the short-term. "COVID-19 has resulted in some reduced operating expenses and some increased operating expenses,"

Phiel said, "so it remains to be seen how those will balance out. Potential reimbursements may also play some role on the bottom line. Our County Financial Team is working diligently and pro-actively to evaluate our current and future fiscal situation."

As with other local governments, the Borough of Carroll Valley will not know the full impact of COVID-19 until after the budget process is complete. According to Mayor Ron Harris, this process is underway now and will continue through December; it will include gathering and analyzing the yearly budget revenue and expenditures to date and comparing the results to the initial estimates. The results of this comparison will determine how reasonable the estimate for the rest of the 2020 year and the beginning of 2021 are. The draft budget for the year will next go the Financial Committee for review and ultimately be presented to the Council. After a joint meeting between the Financial Committee and the Council, the budget will be available for public comment before being getting the final stamp of approval from the Council.

In addition to county and local governments, Volunteer Fire

Departments have also felt significant affects from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Sarah Ginn of the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department. "We have lost many opportunities to fundraise since March," Ginn said, "we have had to come up with other ways to raise funds, such as drive-thru dinner events and online ticket sales to comply with governmental restrictions." Nonetheless, Ginn said that community support has been amazing and appreciated during the uncertain times. Ginn says that support for Volunteer Fire Departments is needed now more than ever.

Ginn suggests following local fire departments via social media and their websites. Additionally, the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department will be having a fundraiser on Saturday, October 3. It is a "Wings & Shrimp To-Go Fundraiser" and tickets for the event are \$20 via advanced sales only. Included in a ticket is 10 chicken wings with your choice of sauce, 1/2 lb. steamed shrimp, a baked potato and applesauce. Pick up times are available from 3-6 p.m. at 106 Steelman Street in Fairfield. To purchase tickets, call 717-729-1998 or 717-642-8842. The event benefits the Fountaindale and Fairfield Fire Departments.



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Current Spring Fling ticket holders will be contacted by the Fire Co. for ticket exchange

HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman
Originally published in 1969

Chapter 17 Thurmont Moravian Church

From the records of the Graceham Moravian Church, we learn that at a Congregational Council, convened on February 15, 1874, it was resolved "That we, the members of this congregation, regard it as highly essential to the permanent well-being of our church in this portion of God's heritage, to have a permanent and suitable house of worship in Mechanicstown." As a result, a lot was purchased on Water Street and a church was built.

On Sunday, July 19, 1874, the corner stone of the new Moravian Church in Mechanicstown was laid by the pastor, the Rev. Clewell of Graceham. After the laying of the corner stone, there was a preaching service in the Lutheran Church which was opened to the Moravians for the occasion. The church was crowded with an attentive assembly. The deep interest manifested by all the people of the town and neighborhood was very marked. Rarely has such assemblies been gathered together on any occasion in Mechanicstown.

On December 6, 1874, the church was dedicated. The congregation gathered in the new sanctuary so that it was crowded to the utmost capacity, even up to the very steps of the pulpit. Large numbers were obligated to leave

the scene for the want of room.

The service was opened by the Graceham choir. Rev. Celwell led the congregation in prayer. A prayer by the Trinity Re-formed clergyman followed and the service was closed in the usual manner.

This new church was a small edifice, accommodating about 300 persons, but was, at the same time, a model of architectural taste. By common consent, it was regarded at the time, as the most beautiful church in Mechanicstown.

The exterior was painted a stone color; the interior was exceedingly attractive, with a convenient pulpit and a recess back of it. An appropriate steeple, in which swings a Troy bell, surmounts the edifice. The furniture was complete, including shades for the windows, matting for the aisles, a sofa, chairs and carpet for the pulpit platform, and very fine lamps.

The cost of the building and the furniture, part of which was presented by friends in Baltimore, was only \$2,400. Of this amount \$400 remained unpaid on the morning of the day of dedication. During the dedication ceremonies \$200 was raised and only \$200 remained uncovered. This, the pastor endeavored to collect as part of his duty of the new church.

For forty-four years the Thurmont Moravian Church served the community. On September 1, 1918, the last service was held and the membership was transferred to the Graceham Moravian Church.

The building remained idle until 1926, when it was sold to D. S. Weybright. He immediately made plans to allow for a basement and thus raised the floor about four feet. When the remodeling plans were complete, Mr. Weybright, together with Guy Hobbs and Lee Martin opened a store. Later, a dairy was started, the first pasturized dairy in the area, known as the Ho-Mar-Way Dairy.

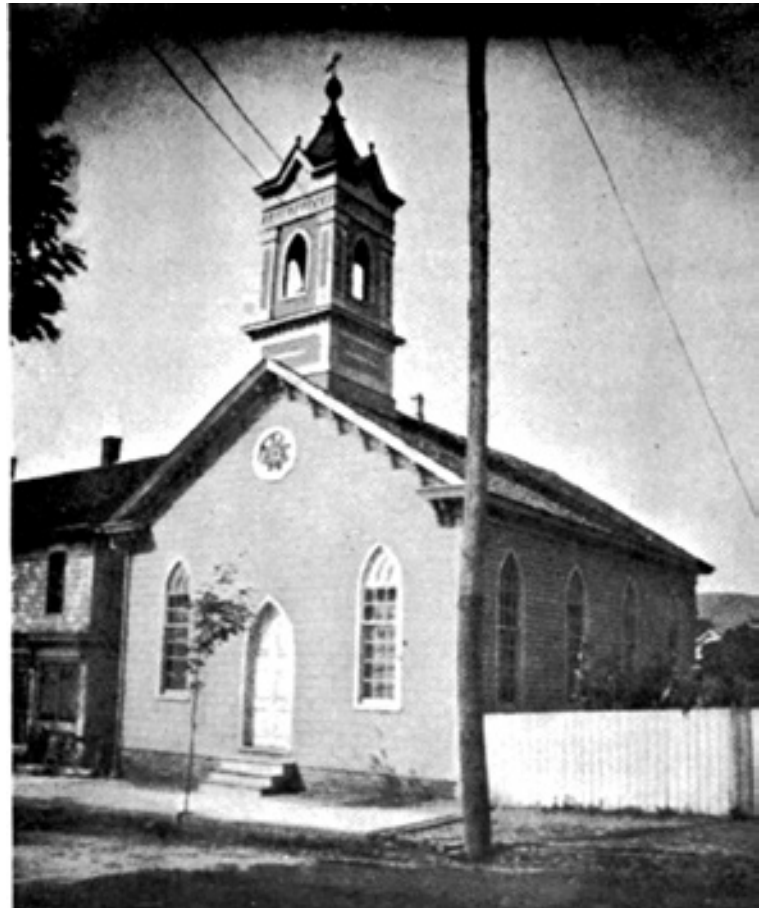
In 1932 Mr. Weybright sold the building to Gall and Smith who continued to operate a store and then later a feed business. After Gall and Smith discontinued the store, the building was leased to the American Stores Company who maintained it until early in 1967, when their lease expired.

The building was then remodeled and made into a recreation center for teenagers, known as 'Teentown.' It now serves as head-quarters for the Thurmont Public Library.

Chapter 18 Trinity United Church of Christ

Apple's Church, located about one mile east of Thurmont, was the mother church of both the Lutheran and Reformed denominations in this immediate area. Trinity United Church of Christ is a direct representation of the Reformed congregation at Apple's, having been organized on April 15, 1770.

The Reformed Church, notwithstanding its many adversities, still maintains a congregation at Apple's. The Centennial of that organization was celebrated in 1870, by the Rev. N. E. Gilds, who was the Reformed pastor of the congregation at the time. From his centennial sermon we learn that in 1857 the Lutheran congregation withdrew from Apple's and built for themselves a church in Mechanicstown. In the twenty-two years that followed, the Re-formed congregation struggled to hold its membership. The old church building was repaired at an expense of \$1,300, but even this improvement failed to hold the congregation in check. Many were being absorbed by the churches in the town and once there,



Thurmont Moravian Church

they could not be enticed to attend services in the country.

Rev. Gilds, in his centennial sermon said, "The time is here when we should go to town." It required but a feeble forecast of the future, to see what the end would be, if the congregation remained in the country.

Rev. Henry Wissler, of Duncan, Pennsylvania, was elected to succeed Rev. Gilds, who left Apple's Church in September, 1874. Rev. Wissler was installed on October 1, 1875 and by this time the congregation had begun in earnest to agitate the expediency of a change in location. Finally, on Christmas Day, 1877, Rev. Henry Wissler was authorized to call a special meeting of the consistory, when the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, it has become apparent that our church here, is not prospering as we would wish. And whereas, we believe it is owing to the peculiar location of the church, being situated aside from any central place of business. And, where-as, we further believe that it is our Christian duty to use honorable means, by which we may promote the prosperity of our church in this community. And, whereas, we further believe, that, by building a church in Mechanicstown, we will be able to

do more efficient work, and thus prosper more. Therefore, Resolved: That we forthwith, make every reasonable effort to secure the means, and build a house of worship for ourselves in Mechanicstown, Maryland."

After due consideration by all present for and against, the pre-amble and resolutions were adopted. A committee was at once appointed to select a site and to solicit subscriptions. This same committee was subsequently appointed as the building committee.

In the meantime, another move was on foot to build a church in Graceham. A lot had been donated by Dr. George Zimmerman, and over \$800 had been subscribed, but because of a forward circumstance, it was subsequently abandoned.

In view of the divided opinion prevailing in the congregation, the entire matter was laid before the Classis of Maryland, at its annual session, convened in Mechanicstown on May 31, 1878. The subject was put into the hands of a special committee, consisting of Rev. Kremer, Rev. Lake, and elder Griffith; who after a full and impartial investigation of all the facts, recommended that the Reformed congregation at Apple's be earnestly advised by the Classis, to continue, and carry forward to completion, the work of build-

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HISTORY



Trinity United Church of Christ

ing a church in Mechanicstown. The report was received and adopted.

The building committee met with considerable difficulty in securing the means and finding a suitable location. It was not until the spring of 1879, that they found themselves justified in commencing the work.

A lot situated on East Main Street, where the church now stands, was finally purchased from William Cover's estate, for the sum of \$900.00. On Monday, October 13, 1879, ground was broken and the work was commenced. On November 1, 1879, the corner stone was laid with appropriate services. The new church was dedicated on June 13, 1880.

Due to ill health, Rev. Wissler was forced to give up the ministry in 1884. In the four years under his leadership, the membership of Trinity church in Mechanicstown rose from 52 initial members to secure better Sunday School accommodations, even if it became necessary to remodel the whole church building.

The wisdom of this new organization was more than justified. During this brief period, Rev. Wissler had baptized 28 children, solemnized 9 marriages and officiated at 24 funerals.

On April 1, 1885 Rev. A. B. Stoner succeeded Rev. Wissler at Trinity. During his pastorate, which lasted only three years, Rev. Stoner added 24 new members and baptized 24 children.

The Reformed charge, consisted of six congregations; Trinity, Creagerstown, Rocky Ridge, Apple's, Sabillasville and St. Jacobs. It was during Rev. Stoner's pastorate that the charge was divided. Sabillasville and St. Jacobs were detached and a newly formed congregation at Highfield, constituted

a new charge known as the Sabillasville charge. This change, which also brought about the need for an additional pastor, was the direct result of Trinity congregation's determination to prove that the move to Mechanicstown from Apple's was justified.

Rev. Stoner closed his labors at Trinity on May 1, 1888 and the charge was vacant until January 1, 1889, when the Rev. George Whitmore became the new minister.

At this time a debt of \$500.00 still rested upon the church, but in the course of two years, through the liberality of a few faithful members, this debt was cancelled and a number of improvements were made. Repairs to

the parsonage, the removal of the fence in front of the church, the renovation of the church, new pulpit furniture, were but a few of the many improvements. A fine walnut library case and a secretary were added to the Sunday School. A pipe organ, the first one in town, was installed and new hymnals were provided, all at a cost of \$700.00.

The steady growth of the congregation and the Sunday School made it fully apparent that a primary room suitable for the Christian nurture of the little ones was necessary. To meet this need, the gallery was fitted up, at a cost of \$100 more. This new arrangement proved to be inadequate and unsatisfactory.

Ground was broken for a new Sunday school addition on the September 1, 1901. Owing to the energy of the building committee, and being blessed with favorable weather, the work was pushed forward so rapidly that on October 26, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

When the work was completed the congregation was more than pleased with the results. A new auditorium, a main Sunday School room, a primary and two bible class rooms had been added at a cost of about \$8,000.

During the construction of the building, the Methodist Church had made available their facilities to the congregation, and Trinity services continued, uninterrupted. They used these facilities for about three months, when

the main Sunday School room was sufficiently completed to enable them to occupy it, until the church was ready for dedication.

The dedication services were held on July 20, 1902, twenty-two years and one month after the dedication of the first edifice. All due preparation was made for this occasion. The services were largely attended and the offerings were liberal.

As mentioned before, the entire cost of the improvements amounted to about \$8,000.00, over \$5,000.00 of which had been provided for and raised on the day of dedication. The remainder was assumed by the consistory and the various organizations of the church.

Thus, in the course of twenty-five years, the congregation had practically built two churches, at a cost of over \$11,000, and in addition, raised for benevolent and congregational purposes over \$20,000 more, which amounted to an average of over \$800.00 per annum.

In 1906, Guy P. Bready was installed as pastor of Trinity and remained until 1909. From 1909 to the present, the church was under the leadership of a number of fine ministers and the membership enjoyed a steady growth along with the community.

During the pastorate of Rev. Samuel Moyer, the Evangelical and Reformed Churches merged with the Congregational Christian Churches and became known as The United Church of

Christ. The local church maintained the original name, Trinity, adding the words 'United Church of Christ' in place of Evangelical Reformed.

Trinity had grown considerably during the years that followed World War II. As a result of this growth the Sunday School facilities became inadequate and it was necessary to provide additional accommodations. Under the leadership of Rev. Samuel A. Moyer, Trinity congregation met this challenge.

The new facilities, erected in the rear of the church, was completed in 1958 and consisted of a large auditorium, complete with stage, a kitchen, five classrooms and a study for the pastor. Once again Trinity had fulfilled its responsibility in providing proper facilities for its children and youth, in an age that needs so much.

A history of Trinity church would not be complete without mentioning the Aid Society and The Gleaners Beneficent Association, known as the Missionary Society, both of which have rendered splendid service in their time. The King's Daughters, organized in 1889 and still very active, has been most helpful through the years, raising funds for various church projects and helping with charitable work in the community.

With these splendid facilities now at hand, Trinity United Church of Christ renews its pledge of allegiance to the building of God's kingdom here upon earth.

Continued next month



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The life & times of Andrew Ege

David Buie

While many in Carroll County know the name Antrim 1844 as a nationally recognized bed and breakfast in Taneytown, very few know the story behind the man who built that handsome home.

Andrew Galbraith Ege was born to Michael and Mary 'Molly' Ege of Boiling Springs, Pa. in 1812. He was educated at the Academy of Dr. McGraw in Cecil County, and later at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. His father was the prosperous owner of the Carlisle Ironworks in Boiling Springs which he and a brother inherited in 1827 upon their father's death.

In 1834, at the age of twenty-two, he ventured south to Frederick County, and married Margaret Ann McKaleb, daughter of Major John McKaleb, one of Taneytown's successful merchants. After their wedding, the couple returned to Carlisle where Andrew became very active in Whig Party politics. An article appearing in the June 3, 1835, Carlisle Weekly Herald noted that A.G. Ege had been appointed as secretary of a group of Whigs opposed to

"corruption and misrule."

The Eges were still in Pennsylvania in 1837 and Andrew continued his involvement in politics including a celebration the 61st anniversary of American independence. Andrew was listed as the 'Secretary' representing Dickinson College at the celebration. Four years later he participated in a funeral procession honoring the memory of Wm. Henry Harrison, late President of the U.S. Presumably his income during his years in Pennsylvania came from operation of the iron furnace he inherited. It wasn't sold until sometime in the late 1840s after he moved to Maryland.

Tragedy struck the Ege/McKaleb family in 1841 when Margaret's only brother died. In January 1843 her father died leaving Margaret as the sole heir of his 420-acre estate in Taneytown. Also included in her inheritance was a home built in 1803 by her grandfather. It is unclear exactly when the young Ege family began life in Taneytown, but by August 1845 Andrew, Colonel James Shellman, and Colonel Thomas Hook, all of Carroll County, intended to run for the

Maryland House of Delegates on the Whig Party ticket.

A Baltimore newspaper referred to Ege as "Major A.G. Ege," but a search of military records provides no insight into a military career unless he was active in a local militia group at some point. Later in life he was referred to as "Colonel." He attended a picnic in Kansas in 1859 where he "and several Mexican War veterans made speeches telling that peace was here at last, and there would be no more wars." That implies that he might have been a Mexican-American War veteran, but during those war years 1846-1848, he seemed to be living in Maryland.

Once Andrew and Margaret settled in Taneytown, they began construction of an impressive home which took several years. Benjamin Forrester, a talented Baltimore builder, and sculptor William Henry Rinehart were involved in creation of what became known as Antrim. No longer owner of the Carlisle Ironworks, Andrew's life was that of a lawyer and gentleman farmer who operated a large plantation with slave labor.

According to the agricultural portion of the 1850 U.S. census, Ege's improved land alone was valued at \$15,000 and another \$5,000 for the unimproved acres. He owned 14 horses, 12 milk cows, and 18 other cattle with a value close to \$2,000. His acreage yielded 900 bushels of wheat plus rye, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay, while the cows produced 1,000 pounds of butter during the prior year.

By 1850, 38-year-old Andrew had built a solid political reputation in Carroll County and among Maryland legislators after serving a term in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1845 - 1846. He was active in a movement in the state "urging reform and adoption of a new, or alteration of the constitution of Maryland. He gave a decided preference to conventional reform."

In 1851, tragedy again struck the Ege family when Margaret died at age 37. The following year Andrew married Matilda Hester "Hetty" Craighead (1826-1898) and in 1854 he moved his family west to the border between Missouri and



The Antrim was the elegant home built by Andrew and Margaret Ege

Kansas. His steamboat and stage journey ended in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he quickly entered into a partnership in the real estate business with Gen. Meriwether Jefferson "Swamp Fox" Thompson, of Confederate fame. Over the early years, as settlement of Kansas grew, he became very successful and eventually the owner of over eight thousand acres of land and other valuable property. Among other real estate ventures, he laid off an addition to the city of St. Joseph, MO, just across the Missouri River from Troy, Kansas, which he called home from 1856 until his passing in 1876.

The 1850s were a tumultuous time in Kansas as the settlers who wanted it to enter the Union as a slave state crossed ideologies with Free Staters. The land that became Kansas Territory had been off limits to slavery until 1854 under provisions in the 1820 Missouri Compromise. Ege, a slaveholder in Maryland and Kansas, actively supported the spread of slavery. In fact, he and several other Carroll Countians went to Kansas with that goal. In 1855, the Daily American called for him to run for Governor of Kansas in case of the removal or resignation of then-Governor Reeding, stating that "he is the man for the crisis in that territory." Ege never served as governor and the Civil War ended slavery altogether.

What more do we know of Andrew Ege as an historical figure?

A 1906 article in a Kansas newspaper entitled 'Makers of Kansas History,' offers a glimpse of the man. "He was what may be denominated as a typical gentleman of the old fashioned southern school...and belonged to the higher or aristocratic circle of society. He was well educated and was a lawyer by profession." The article continued, describing Ege as, "a man of fine presence, a good lawyer, and an orator of much ability, [who] at once took a place in the front rank, and soon became one of the acknowledged leaders of the pro-slavery party in Kansas. He was the heaviest slaveholder in the new territory, and while a strenuous advocate of that institution, he was always fair and just to his political opponents."

After Andrew G. Ege died at his eastern Kansas home on November 24, 1876, an obituary in the Weekly Kansas Chief noted he "was once wealthy, but of late years had become poor. His style was...hospitable, chivalrous, and [he was] never so happy as when engaged in the chase. He was generous to the last degree." Perhaps through 20 years of observation, his Kansas neighbors caught a hint of the lifestyle he left behind when he and his family left Antrim in 1854.

David Buie is a Taneytown resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

September 5

Vote Registration of Women Heavy

Early reports from some of the county towns indicate that a high percentage of women have registered to vote. Conservative estimates from Fairfield indicate that 135 women have register against 123 men. The large number of women registering in the country districts comes as a complete surprise to local politicians, for sometime previous to the registration day, the general attitude of Adams County women seemed to be hostile to the suffrage amendment. However, according to women interviewed that have registered, that perception comes from the fact that all the politicians never bothered to ask a woman their opinion. Had they, they would have know that the women in the countryside felt that women could do a better job running the country.

Community Show in October

The Emmitsburg Community Show for 1920 was assured at a meeting of the General Executive Committee held in the high school building. The dates selected for the show was October 28th, 29th, and 30th. That the show will surpass the affair of last year was indicated by the statements of some of the members of the committee who have been arranging for features that should prove entertaining. It is expected that some events, such as 'Mash making', 'How to properly squeeze corn', 'How to hide your hooch from your wife' and, 'Getting your wife off the gossip line and into the garden to grow your vittles', would draw hard working right-minded men from near and far.

Dies of Typhoid Fever

William McCleaf, of Fairfield, died at his home Thursday afternoon from typhoid fever. He was 58 years old. Mr. McCleaf had been ill for a period of about eight weeks. He is survived by his wife, six sons and seven daughters.

September 12

Fairfield and Emmitsburg Boozers to Hold Joint Rally

Dr. Brokaw, President of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former-Former Boozers Association, has announced that the Emmitsburg chapter will hold a joint rally with the Fairfield chapter, September 20th. The purpose of the rally, Dr. Brokaw said, will be to get men in both towns to register to vote in order to prevent their womenfolk from taking over the government and ruining everything. The rally will be held at the Boozers' secret still just behind the barn on Mayor Annon's farm on Annondale Road. Every man who brings a voter registration card will be given a pass for two free drinks during the rally.

Emmitsburg Street Plans

In order that something should be done towards improving the road on East Main St., from the

end of the State Road to the Public Square, Burgess Stuart Annon and the town commissioners agreed that due to the heavy traffic through Emmitsburg improving this piece of road was a necessity and every effort should be made to try and get the road improved this year. The Commissioners agreed to submit the following proposal to the State Road Commission: the town would supply water for the concrete free of charge and pay half of the increase costs of building the road 18 feet wide instead of the standard 15 feet. The Town will pay for the additional 3 feet of concrete, which would amount to \$550.

Youth, Who Stoned Autoist Arrested

Clarence Oland, about 17 years old, of near Emmitsburg, was arrested for throwing a stone from a bush and striking Mr. James Boyle's car two weeks ago. The Sheriff's Department has been following clues, which eventually led them to Oland. Mr. Boyle had been visiting relatives in Emmitsburg and was returning home with a party of friends in the automobile. As the car was passing a clump of bushes along the road between Emmitsburg and Taneytown, Oland, hurled a rock weighting about one and a half pounds at the car. The missile struck Mr. Boyle on the chest causing him to return to Emmitsburg for medical treatment. After considerable investigation, the Sheriff's arrested Oland and his brother Guy. At the hearing, Clarence declared that he had hurled the stone at a dog and did not intend to strike anyone.

September 19

Surprise Incident in Barlow

Pastor Leslie Young, of the Mount Joy Lutheran Church was surprised by donations last week from about 25 families of the Mount Joy congregation and about the same number from St. Paul's in Harney. The visit was so unexpected that the coolness and self-possession for which Rev. Young is noted escaped him. Initially unsure as to why his parishioners where at his door, he barred the door and all the windows. When he learned that no harm was intended he soon recovered and open all the doors and invited everyone in and examined the gifts they had brought him.

The donations included two cords of wood, 15 bushels of potatoes, one bushel of peaches, one bushel of green beans, 38 chickens, 2 gallons of lima beans, one and a half bushels of tomatoes, 13 heads of cabbage, one peck of red beets, 2 bushels of apples, 10 bushels of squashes, 2 1/2 dozen cucumbers, four large cakes, and just about anything else a person would need to make it through the winter. In addition his parishioners presented him \$2,800 in cash. The gifts left Reverend



Young speechless. The evening was spent in social enjoyment and all felt that it was good to be there.

Seriously ill As A Result Of Shock

Oliver Currens, who lives on the Fairfield Road, is in serious condition from an attack of bronchitis believed to have been brought on by the shock he received when he jumped to the side of the road to escape being struck by an automobile. Mr. Currens who is more than 70 years of age, suffered a sprained ankle and minor bruises. On Sunday, bronchitis developed.

Mr. and Mrs. Currens had just returned from Gettysburg Saturday night and he started to walk across the road to his mailbox when he was blinded by the light of a touring car coming from Gettysburg. As a result, he did not see the car bearing down on him from the west. When he saw the second car he jumped, the machine barely grazing him. His injuries were not considered serious, but he suffered from the effects of the shock. And bronchitis set in.

September 26

Boozers' Rally Backfires

The much anticipated joint rally between the Emmitsburg and Fairfield Chapters of the Former-Former Boozers Association, to overcome the plurality of women voters, backfired when members showed up with

blank registration cards or worse, cards filled out for their wives or other women in the towns.

When reminded that the purpose of the rally was to get men to register, many boozers stared blankly, and several complained that the word on the street was to bring a registration form, "Nottin said anything about filling it out."

Apparently the women of both towns, upon hearing of the intent of the rally, and knowing their husbands would be too drunk to read the names on the registration cards, organized themselves to take their husband's blank cards and use it to register themselves, or women who's husbands had forbid them to register.

As a result, the number of women registered to vote in both towns now is double that of the men. Upon hearing the result, the wailing on the men was pacified by extending the night's drinking until first light. Meanwhile their womenfolk celebrate their nefarious victory by polluting the evening air in both towns with God-awful suffragettes songs.

Lobbies For Canonization Of Elizabeth Seton.

The promotion of the cause of an American for the honor of being canonized as a Saint was considered at a meeting in Washington of 62 bishops and archbishops. At the last meeting held a year ago, Cardinal Gibbons had been requested to convey to the authorities in Rome of the unanimous desire of the Amer-

ican hierarchy for the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton of Emmitsburg, founder of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. Cardinal Gibbons said he had laid the matter in the hands of the Secretary of the Congregation of Rites.

Farm For Sale

Property known as French Creek Farm located about 1 1/4 miles from Zora, 4 miles from Emmitsburg and 4 miles from Sabillasville. Fruit farm containing 130 acres. Buildings consist of a four-room house, summer kitchen barn corn-crib. Farm is divided approximately as follows. 60 acres in apples, consisting of 400 trees of the following varieties; Wealthy, Jonathan, Starks, Stamen, Wine Shoppe, Roman Beauty, and Black Trick; seven and eight years old in good condition. 30 acres cleared farmland and about 20 acres of young timber, also small orchard containing 75 apple and 12 peach trees. Orchard as well located, having southern and eastern exposure, with several springs located in orchard. This is an exceptional opportunity to secure an orchard just ready to bear fruit. The farm also has a well constructed still that can turn any waste apples into the finest moonshine this side of the mountain. Still is well hidden in the thickets allowing men to avoid attention of revenuers.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

Tony Little & Jane Moore

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MOM'S TIME OUT

Uncharted territory

Mary Angel

Here we go! We are entering into more uncharted territory. Most students are gearing up for online learning. Parents are preparing for kids to learn from home. Teachers are making arrangements to teach from home and some from their empty classrooms. Coffee is being brewed and plans are being made. Some questions remain: are we ready, are the school systems ready, is this for the best, and what can I do to make this transition easier?

As most of you know, this article is just opinions, suggestions, and hopefully encouragement. Those opinions and suggestions are definitely based on experience and always research. I have a degree in anthropology so research is in my blood. As this pandemic has unfolded, I have seen a plethora of comments, opinions and copies of articles and scientific studies that are against all of this. That includes returning to school in person, not wearing masks, and throwing social distancing out the window. Putting aside the comments and opinions, when I look into the citations in the articles that are against mask wearing and social distancing, I have found a combination of outdated scientific research from the 1970s

and later, current research that has been misquoted or taken out of context or research studies from disreputable sources. All of that being said, as I do not want to get into another mask debate, the bottom line is that school is online for the foreseeable future and we need to figure out how to navigate that.

This isn't as big an issue for parents of older children or parents of younger and older children. My kids are in 8th grade and older and therefore are able to stay home and work fairly independently as my husband and I both search for jobs. If one or both of us are blessed enough to find jobs during all of this, my kids have enough wisdom and responsibility built into them to complete the work that is placed before them. Furthermore, if the youngest has any questions, or needs any sort of assistance, she has a sister in high school and two college-aged brothers who will be at home completing their classes. Many people are in this same circumstance and have the blessing of older responsible students at home. However, many of you are trying to navigate a different situation altogether.

For many of you, besides the impromptu, rushed introduction to homeschooling you received in the spring, this is your first experience with homeschooling. For those of you who

already have one parent staying home or working from home, this transition might be easier. Many schools are attempting to do part of their classes as a live online class through a source like Google Classrooms or Zoom. If this is the case for you, then you are in luck. Assuming you have the appropriate internet connection, this means that your child's teacher will be teaching them the basics and your job will be to make sure they complete their work and turn it in. This does not mean that your student won't need your help to explain or guide them through something with which they are struggling. This simply means that the core instruction will be given by their teacher. Some schools, however, are continuing with the format that provides the student with their assignments for the week and all assignments are due on one day (usually Friday). If this is your situation, you will have a bit more work ahead of you. In my experience, it is best to spend about a half hour every evening reading over the work you expect to be completed from your child the next day. This will help you be more prepared for any questions that might arise the next day.

If your child is in elementary school and much of middle school you probably won't have any problems helping them with their work (except for maybe common core issues, but that is a whole other argument). Please do not forget that your child has a teacher who is being paid to help them and in most cases is totally willing and available to offer that help. If you look over their work at the beginning of the week, you will be able to email a teacher with any concerns or questions you might have for that week.

At this point, it is just about making sure your little students finish their work and turn it in on time.

So, what happens when both parents work outside of the home and have small children? There are a few options (and probably more I am not even thinking of). Some people are utilizing a family member, close friend or neighbor who is already home and there are daycares that are still running. I have also seen many ads for nannies to help with the children who have to return to work and those that have to work from home. This is the most difficult of all the situations. I truly sympathize with anyone who is trying to navigate these specific circumstances. A final thought, and probably a long shot, would be to mold all of these together. Go to your employers and see if you and your husband could each work longer hours a day and consequently each get a day off every week. Or, perhaps you could each work from home a day or two every week. See if you can find a relative to watch them for a day or two every week. Maybe your solution will be in finding a combination and balance for your family.

Lastly, everyone needs to have activities and chores for their at-home students. There will be down time and none of us want it to be spent completely on video games and television. Have chores for them to complete on a daily or weekly basis. Have websites that they can use to play learning games or get help with topics of which they do not have a solid grasp. I keep reading that these are unprecedented times and there could not be a truer statement. I will be praying for all of the parents who

are trying to navigate their new teacher and assistant teacher roles.

Here are a variety of websites and apps that might help fill the time, learning gaps and make learning a little more fun. Some may charge a fee to use. Surf the web and find more that suit your specific needs and desires and check with your specific school as some schools have memberships for their students.

- Khan Academy
- Khan Academy Kids
- BrainPop
- Quizlet
- Game Classroom
- ReadWriteThink
- Discovery Education
- Smithsonian Education
- National Geographic Kids
- PBS Learning Media
- DreamBox Learning Math
- GoNoodle
- Flocabulary
- Raz-Kids
- Scratch
- Starfall
- TypingClub
- ABC Mouse
- Adventure Academy
- Duolingo
- Epic
- Quick Math Jr.
- Stack the States 2
- Lightbot: Code Hour
- Starfall ABC
- Brainpop Jr.
- Swift Playground
- Nick Jr.
- PBS Kids Games
- Math Tango
- TABI Learning

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



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		8	9 Relaxer \$45 (Reg. \$90) STYLE NOT INCL.	10 All Cuts \$12	11 \$20 Off Color Services Cannot Combine w/other offers	12
		15 \$30 Root Retouch Single Color Only	16	17 All Cuts \$12	18 Blow Outs \$40	19
		22 Blow Outs \$40	23 Relaxer \$45 (Reg. \$90) STYLE NOT INCL.	24 All Cuts \$12	25 \$20 Off Color Services (\$60 or more)	26
27	28	29 \$30 Root Retouch Single Color Only	30	1	2	3

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COOKING

Fall treats

Rheta Thola
Hollabaugh Brother's Orchard
and Farm Market

In a world where social media is now easy to access constantly throughout the day, you sometimes read or see something that sticks with you. Here is one such phrase that has really stuck fast in my mind: "In a world where you can be anything, be kind." This phrase has a lot packed in it and yet is so simple that it is almost absurd, and maybe that is why it has made an impact on my thoughts. Although there are many modifications that you could make to this short phrase, I usually like to add the word "choose" and rephrase it to say: "In a world where you can choose to be anything, choose to be kind."

Autumn Fruit Salad with Cinnamon Greek Yogurt Dressing

- Ingredients**
- 2 medium Bartlett pears (or other ripe but firm pears), diced
 - 2 medium apples (a fresh, crisp variety like honeycrisp or pink lady is best), diced
 - 1 cup red grapes, halved
 - 1/3 cup Greek yogurt (plain or vanilla)
 - 2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest
 - 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
 - 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup (can substitute honey)
 - 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 - 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoons ground nutmeg
 - 1/3 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

Preparation: Place pears, apples, and grapes in a large bowl. Toss gently to combine. Set aside. To a small bowl, add the yogurt, lemon zest, lemon juice, maple syrup, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Use a wire

whisk to blend well. Drizzle dressing over the fruit. Toss gently until fruit is coated. Scoop into bowls and sprinkle with pecans. Serve immediately.

Apple Spinach Salad with Sweet and Sour Dressing

- Ingredients**
- For The Dressing (Yields 1-1/2 Cups):
- 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
 - 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
 - 3 tablespoons spicy mustard
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 3/4 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper
 - 1/4 cup honey
 - 1 teaspoon poppy seeds

For The Salad

- 1 (8 ounce) package fresh baby spinach, washed and stems removed
- 2 large Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced
- 1 cup toasted walnuts
- 1 1/2 cups golden raisins
- 2 cups sliced red onion
- 4 ounces crumbled blue cheese

Preparation: Pour all dressing ingredients into a medium bowl. Whisk until combined. Set aside.

Toss all salad ingredients until incorporated. Pour dressing over salad when ready to serve.

Brussel Sprout, Apple and Walnut Salad

- Ingredients**
- 3/4 pound brussel sprouts
 - 3 cups shredded red cabbage
 - 1 large apple
 - 1/3 cup chopped walnuts
 - 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 tbsp honey or maple syrup (or 1 tsp orange juice)
 - 1 tsp mustard
 - 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
 - 1/4 tsp salt

Preparation: To shred the brussel sprouts, start by cutting off the

hard stem and remove any outer damaged leaves. To save time you can shred the brussel sprouts in a food processor using the thin slicing blade, or alternatively shred them using a knife. To do this cut them in half lengthwise and then shred as thinly as possible. In a bowl whisk together the olive oil, honey, mustard, vinegar and salt.

Core the apple, cut into slices and then cut each slice into thin matchstick sized pieces. Add the shredded brussel sprouts, cabbage, apple and chopped walnuts to a bowl. Toss with the dressing and serve.

Apple Butter Pie

- Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup apple butter
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1/2 cup white sugar
 - 2 tablespoons cornstarch
 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 - 2 cups whole milk*
 - Pastry for 1 9 pie crust

Preparation: Beat eggs in a medium size bowl. Add the sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and apple butter. Mix well. Add milk and whisk together. Press the pastry into a 9" pie plate that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Pour the filling into the unbaked pie crust. Use a spoon to mix the filling once it is in the crust to be sure all of the ingredients are equally distributed. Bake at 375 for 60-65 minutes, or until the center is set. It will still seem slightly "jiggly" in the very center, but a knife put in the center should come out nearly clean. Cool in the pie plate on a wire rack. Do not slice into the pie right away, as it will continue to set as it sits.



Store the pie in the refrigerator once it is cooled.

Apple Peanut Butter Cookie

- Ingredients**
- 1/4 c. shortening
 - 1/2 c. chunky peanut butter
 - 1/2 c. sugar
 - 1/2 cup brown sugar packed
 - 1 egg
 - 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 c. all purpose flour
 - 1/2 tsp baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 2/3 c. peeled apple chopped

Preparation: Cream the shortening, peanut butter and sugars together in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Then beat in the egg and vanilla until well combined. In another bowl combine the dry ingredients together. Add to the creamed mixture gradually and mix until

well blended. Stir in the apple. On greased baking sheets drop rounded tablespoonfuls of dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool 5 minutes on baking sheet. Remove to wire racks and let finish cooling.

Upcoming Events

No Bake Veggies Cooking Class – September 15th 7 – 8:30 p.m. Cost \$30. Pre-registration required.

Left Behind Mom and Tots Coffee Hour – September 25th 10 – 11 a.m. Free.

Johnny Applesed Celebration Family Cooking Class – September 26th 10 – 11:30 a.m. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Fairfield School District to reopen

As schools nationwide struggle with re-opening safely, if at all, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fairfield Area School District voted at their virtual August meeting to bring the students back, while enforcing state-mandated safety guidelines. The school year is set to commence on September 8.

Two options were up for consideration for adoption by the school board. The first option, which had been the principle plan that had been under development for weeks, would re-open the schools, while reducing classroom sizes, enforcing mask-wearing, and maintaining social distancing.

Under this plan, the student body would be divided into two groups, A and B, which would attend in-person classes on separate days, thus reducing the number of students in the school at any given time. Group A would be present in the buildings on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Group B would be present on Wednesdays and Fridays during the week. All students would have a virtual on-line day on Mondays, via zoom, recorded lessons, and assignments.

A third group would essentially consist of students whose parents do not want them to attend in-person classes during this stage of the pandemic. The school would also provide Chrome Books to students who have no computer of their own.

Reducing the number of students in school at any given time would also result in less-crowded buses and allow for social-distancing to be enforced during transit. The finer details of this plan entail cleaning/disinfecting procedures and enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing in the classrooms and halls.

But district Superintendent Michael Adamek appeared to have thrown the board for a curve when he introduced a new second option, that being simply to hold a virtual school for all grades with all students attending virtual classes from their homes.

Adamek told the board he was concerned that the number of COVID-19 cases in the Fairfield zip-code area continue to rise and are not leveling off. He said rather than bringing the students back into the school, which could potentially trigger a spike in infections, he was recommending that all students take their classes virtually for at least the first marking period of the school year.

He noted that, under state mandates, if two to four students appear in the school with the virus. That the entire district has to be shut down for three days. If five or more students contract the virus, the district has to be shut-down for two weeks. His reasoning behind the all-virtual learning was to avoid the risks of

exposure, and the possibility of multiple shut-downs during the course of the school-year.

However, at the end of a three-hour meeting, the majority of the board voted to proceed with the initial option of opening the school, using the reduced-attendance plan.

More than 130 district residents logged-into the virtual ZOOM school board meeting to hear the board consider its options, or to add their own real-time comments to the conversation. Despite of the fact that discussions of school re-openings have often been contentious, everyone involved in the Fairfield meeting, board-members, school staff, parents, and residents, were surprisingly civil and respectful, even when disagreeing with one another.

FCPS virtual for 1st semester

Brad Young
Frederick County School Board

The Board made the decision to go forward with the Full Virtual Learning Model for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of virtual school for students will be on Monday, August 31. The Board also decided that Fair Day Friday, September 25 and Election Day Tuesday, November 3 will now be instructional days.

The Board also changed the second term end date from Thursday, January 28 to Tuesday, January 26.

This past Spring FCPS had to transition into virtual learning quickly with little time to get prepared. We realize that there were

many things that needed to be improved. During the closure, FCPS gathered student, parent and educator feedback and has worked to improve the virtual learning experience through the following enhancements:

- Increased live virtual interactions between students and educators
- A single digital platform for students and parents to access instruction, communication, and feedback
- Robust professional learning opportunities for educators to increase their skill set for teaching in a virtual environment, which includes on-demand

professional learning videos and courses for educators

- Student training videos that will enhance their abilities to access and learn in a virtual environment
- Strategies to focus on individual student needs
- Continued efforts to ensure every child can connect digitally

Our staff was also given significant professional development in new technologies and virtual teaching practices. In the FCPS Full Virtual Learning Model, students access learning online instead of face to face in a school building. They will engage in a combination of real-time virtual

instruction, instruction on an individual schedule, and completion of assigned tasks. In addition to teachers and school counselors, online learning mentors will also support students, offering designated office hours.

The full virtual model differs from the Continuity of Learning format in effect last spring when grades were either Pass or Incomplete. In the 2020-21 school year, FCPS expects more rigorous coursework with the full grading system in effect.

FCPS is strongly positioned to teach students in a virtual environment and looks forward to further preparations for a safe and productive 2020-21 school year. We will continue to provide more details in the coming weeks.

Starting Monday, August 31, Frederick County Public Schools

Food and Nutrition Services will provide 'to-go' breakfast and lunch. Students eligible for free meals will receive meals at no cost. Students eligible for reduced price meals will be required to pay the reduced price to receive meals. Students not eligible for free or reduced price meals will pay full price for their meals. Meals will be available to all children enrolled at an FCPS schools. Meals will be available for 11 to 1 at Emmitsburg Elementary and Thurmont Middle schools on Mondays & Wednesdays ('to-go' breakfasts and lunches for two days) and Friday ('to-go' breakfasts and lunches).

The Board unanimously adopted the 2021-2022 academic calendar with a student start date of Wednesday, August 18 and end date of Wednesday, June .



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SCHOOL NEWS

Rae Gallagher, candidate for School Board

In December 2019, when I applied for the vacancy on the Board of Education left by Joy Schaefer's departure, I knew there would be big shoes to fill if selected. I could not have imagined what the next months would hold. My decision to apply for the opening, and to run to hold that seat, are based on my experiences working with school systems around Maryland and advocating for positive changes. After being appointed to the BOE by County Executive Gardner in January, I filed my paperwork to fight for the needs of Frederick County students, teachers, and families as a 2020 candidate. After listening to and hearing from families, teachers, and students, my campaign platform focuses on the issues of resources, access, and equity – three tenets most critical in improving all student outcomes.

Frederick County's average cost per student as calculated by the Maryland State Department of Education last year ranked 2nd from the bottom. Despite starting to recover from drastic under-funding, our sys-

tem simply does more with less. More dollars allocated does not automatically equate to improved outcomes – I argue for fiscal responsibility with the dollars that we do allocate – and yet, under-spending in FCPS during past years forced prioritization that resulted in significant inadequacies in important budget items.

When the BOE approved the 2020-2021 school year budget, we made tough decisions about halting planned program expansion, reducing the numbers of specialized staff to be hired, while expanding access to technology given the virtual learning environment of COVID-19. However, additional resources and programming to meet the unique needs of students is needed – not just now in the midst of the pandemic, but upon return to school buildings – including mental health programming, restorative practices, programming to reach learners with limited English proficiency, and wraparound support services.

I believe strongly that expanding access to programming, especially

high-quality career and technical programs also offer additional pathways to success for our students. While the 26 CTE programs currently in place within FCPS offer excellent opportunities, I would like to prioritize the expansion of Construction Technology Programs like Carpentry, Mechanical Programs like Collision Repair, and Service Programs like Cosmetology. Our schools must acknowledge that every child is not collegebound, and make efforts to remove the stigma of pursuing alternative post-secondary options. Ensuring access to career technology programming during COVID-19 is challenging given the hands-on nature of lessons and experiences. FCPS is exploring face-to-face instruction in some CTC programming during small group instruction this fall.

In March, when students and educators exited their school buildings, focus shifted to the immediate needs of reimagining education during the global pandemic. During the BOE meeting on July 29, we heard from the Health Department's Dr. Brook-

myer, to hear medical advice on social distancing, masks, and quarantine procedures in the case of positive COVID-19 cases. While no one on the BOE is a medical expert, the health and safety of all staff and students is the true "north star" guiding decision-making. At that meeting, members voted to start the school year virtually, with small groups of face-to-face instruction led by teachers and support staff who will opt in to provide these services.

The decision to implement a virtual-only first semester was not taken lightly as we received many emails of concern from students, educators, and parents. School is much more than a building where students come to learn – the social-emotional connections developed in classes are highly linked to mental health and wellness; school cafeterias provide meals that some students might not otherwise eat; and the robust discussions that occur in class can be difficult to achieve online. There are still families that lack access to technologi-

cal devices and high-speed internet – making virtual learning a challenge. FCPS deployed thousands of laptops and hot-spots around the County in the spring – and will do so in the fall – and worked with Internet providers to increase connectivity, though gaps still persist. For students, parents, and educators – this back-to-school season will be unique beyond measure and not without challenges. FCPS continues to prioritize the skills, knowledge, and well-being students will need to be successful – academically, socially and emotionally.

My eight-month tenure on the Board of Education is unlike any other in the history of Frederick County. My experience, like that of my children, thousands of teachers, and ultimately, the people of Frederick County as a whole, will provide tremendous insight into the system of education the next Board of Education envisions in the aftermath of the pandemic. Beyond the current crisis in front of us, my hope is that the BOE will further reimagine education, to increase resources and access for all students with equity behind all of our decisions.

Dean Rose, candidate for School Board

Hello Northern Frederick County! My name is Dean Rose and I'm running for a seat on the Frederick County Board of Education.

By the time you read this article, Distance Learning for students in Frederick County will be in full swing.

FCPS developed a schedule and program that provides the best educational experience to our students in the safest environment possible. It's not perfect and I know there will be challenges ahead but I am certain that teachers, staff and administrators will address these issues to ensure that our students progress both academically and socially.

There will be life and education post pandemic. As new FCPS Board members are sworn in this coming December, they will immediately be faced with decisions regarding when and how our students will return to the classroom. Let me assure you,

the safety of our students, teachers, staff, and their families will be one of my top priorities.

Once we are able to return to the classroom, my focus will switch to how we reintegrate our students to in-person learning? How do we deal with the social and emotional issues we know our children have experienced during this pandemic and the subsequent quarantine?

I will work to ensure that all of our students have access to mental health services and our teachers are trained to recognize the signs that might require intervention. Considering that FCPS does not currently have enough mental health professionals on staff to provide these services, it will be important that teachers are trained as the first line of responders and that we develop relationships with local mental health providers like Frederick Health Hospital and the Mental Health Association of Frederick County.

Also at the top of my list will be making sure that all of our students have access to an equitable education. It will be more important than ever that we recognize the students who need us most and provide them the additional services required to put them on a level learning path with their peers. Studies have already told us that right here in Frederick County children of color and those living in poverty have been most affected by the equity gap. Again, FCPS cannot do this alone and it will be necessary for us to collaborate with a number of community organizations that are capable of providing before and after school support for these children. Partnership and collaboration will be necessary to make sure FCPS and these partner organizations are on the same page as we assist these children.

Another equity issue that will need to be addressed and one that I'm sure all of the readers of

this article are aware, is the geographic challenges we face in Frederick County. Frederick County is the largest geographic county in Maryland and with that comes challenges in providing all of our students' equity within the services they deserve. We must make access to our Career & Technology Center programming more accessible to our students in the northern part of our county. That starts with offering entry level CTC courses at our local middle schools and offering satellite programs to our high school students' right where they already attend school.

Honestly these are just a few of the many challenges the FCPS Board of Education will be facing as we look forward to 2021.

For over two decades I have been involved in mentoring and working for positive change in the lives of young people. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County

for 5 years, currently serving as Board Chair. I have spent 13 years volunteering as an Assistant Varsity Basketball coach at both Urbana and Oakdale High Schools. Professionally I have worked for a Fortune 100 company for 35 years and for the past 20 years I have owned and operated a small business in Middletown.

I have been engaged in the state of education in Frederick County for many years. I have attended dozens of Board of Education meetings and community forums. I have spoken publicly at Board meetings on a number of occasions and met privately with Board of Education members, Central Office staff, parents, students, community leaders, and teachers. I have also spent a number of days in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill advocating for education.

I believe my commitment, passion and experience will make me a valuable member of the Board of Education, I hope I can count on your vote.

Dean Rose

Frederick County Board of Education

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our students to reflect on how they felt going to back to school amidst a pandemic. What was different from last year, and what was the same.

Sophomore Year

Too far apart

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

There is absolutely nothing normal. Friends who have been separated for six months are seeing each other for the first time, yet they cannot hug. We either sit in class with the professor seemingly a mile away or are watching from our dorms like it is a TV show. Syllabus day has quickly become a laundry list of COVID regulations. You need a reservation to pick up food from the dining hall and if you eat there, it can only be with two other people. When I smile and wave, I have to scrunch up my eyebrows, so people know what emotion I'm trying to express.

But the sun is still shining. When I look around campus, there are very few signs that anything has changed. The trees are the same. The buildings are the same. Mary still stands tall on the mountainside. The stray cats control the parking lots at night. You can hear friends laughing, boys skateboarding, and public safety driving by on rounds. Physically, not much is different.

Mentally, it is a much different environment. The perpetual fear in the back of everyone's minds is that of being forced off campus and back to the houses we just recently escaped from. Every person you pass on the sidewalk is carrying this tension and stress; it is overwhelming. There is a general sense of the unknown ever present. No one knows what the next two weeks will bring. It is absolutely terrifying. We sit in class wondering if the final exams the professors are including in their syllabi will actually happen. The uncertainty is killing us faster than any virus could. It is the second day of classes and I worry it could be my last.

Aside from the future, there are massive complications in the present. Where is the line between the safety of others and my quality of life? Many people have taken a liberal approach to this line, with parties in the dorms where disease can be easily spread take over. Some are on the opposite end of the spectrum, with strict rules for themselves and anyone they encounter. Freshmen who have never experienced college life want to dive in headfirst

while upperclassmen, who know what they lost by being sent away in the Spring, are hesitant to do anything that might repeat the past. Everyone is at a different comfort level. Everyone is processing the virus differently. But we are all scared of something: contracting the virus, being sent home, or living a life not worth living.

But there is something that makes it all worth it: being back on campus. That was the one thing that I wanted more than anything since March and it feels unreal to have it become reality. I am having to learn new skills: how to recognize people I haven't seen in months by only their eyebrows, how to understand words when I can't read someone's lips, and how to do a Zoom class when my roommate is doing hers at the same time only six feet away. Professors are having to pick up new technology on the spot and struggle to stand inside their taped off area of the classroom because they are used to pacing up and down the aisles in heated discussion. Staff involved in sanitation are working longer and harder than ever before. Club and organization leaders have to come up with new ways to reach their members when they aren't allowed in the same room. Adaptation is the goal of the semester because that

is the only way we will be able to succeed. For the first time in our lives, we have to live completely in the moment and not spare a second to think about what could happen next. Because no one knows the future. No one saw the virus coming, no one knows when it will go. For a society that is always moving to the next big thing, we are struggling to stay still and wait. Patience has never been our virtue. All of a sudden, it has become our lifeline.

I am reminded of the history of the Mount. Through two hundred years, the university has experienced a lot. During the Civil War, it was a battleground. It survived the two World Wars. Nestled next to Camp David, the Cold War must've brought tension to the campus just as the virus has. A hundred years ago, the school faced the flu of the early twentieth century. It has survived bankruptcy, scandal, and death. Nevertheless, the Mount has persisted. There is something to say about a college that has existed relatively unchanged for more than two hundred years. There aren't many schools that hold the same record. With Mary looking over us, it's hard to believe the school could ever disappear completely. She will always get us

through. The panic and uncertainty still exist, but maybe we can find some sort of peace in knowing how we have overcome the past.

No one has been spared in the midst of all this. There is not one soul this virus hasn't touched. This is a collective sort of trauma that we will not completely heal from for a long time. No one has any control over this situation or the greater pandemic. All we can do is wait, which will prove to be one of the hardest things we've ever had to do.

But it isn't the waiting that is the saddest part. It isn't the distance or the dining hall at half capacity. It isn't even the Zoom classes. It is the fact that when I am sad, no one can hug me. And I cannot hug them. We will cry silently into our face masks and sanitize afterwards. We will hide our sniffing, so no one thinks we have symptoms, when in reality we're just struggling with the current state of things. And no one can hug us.

I am willing to do whatever it takes to stay on campus and ensure my semester happens in person as much as it can. But even I have my limits. Even I am wondering if this is a life worth living.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior Year

Such are the good times

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

The strangeness of these times is palpable; you've probably been told. These times are unprecedented; you've probably been told. We're all just going day by day; you've probably been told.

As we begin this new semester and new academic year, I am comforted by the words of St. Augustine: "Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying; but let us live well and times shall be good. We are the times: such as we are, such are the times."

I do not see these holy sentiments of hope as out-of-touch words, separated from reality but full of rhetorical strength. On the contrary, the statement finds its strength in its truth. Our lived experience confirms this impulse; when something unfavorable happens to us or to a friend, do we ponder this occurrence or the "times"? One should confirm that the former is the case. This response does not suggest an inordinate selfishness or a self-centered lack of concern for that which occurs around us. Instead, it confirms that the "times" about which we are always so concerned are perpetually formed by our lived experience and that of everyone around us.

Many times, I have a tendency to separate this reality of lived experience from the dark and gloomy reality of the "times", an invisible entity that is constantly prepared to pounce and disintegrate my tranquility. Unfortunately, I would venture to guess that my perception is common among my peers, especially for these times which are so often viewed as "bad" and "hard."

It is with the attitude that "we are the times" that my friends and I begin this junior year. Connected to this attitude is the sincere hope that we are able to complete this semester on campus. A shared anxiety and fear that we will be sent off campus seems to affect all of us, to varying degrees. Many conversations among friends, acquaintances and strangers occur during which a prediction is offered about the nature of our fall semester. It is certainly unfortunate that this concern is so common, especially for the majority of us who are in the position of receiving news instead of delivering it. In addition to the common cares of classes, relationships and family back home, we are mentally affected by the possibility that the spring semester will repeat.

From those to whom I have spoken about the subject, few are concerned about contracting the virus. This lack of concern is expected and seems to be warranted, especially because the virus seems to leave our generation unharmed, with exceptions. At the very least, they are more concerned about the individual and social effect of receiving a positive test result. The primary effect is the relegation to an isolated state for approximately 14 days. For many, a positive test result will mean an assignment to isolation without the psychological comfort of actual symptoms of sickness.

Even with these policies and regulations, the common consensus among those on campus is a general relief to be back in Emmitsburg. The delight of seeing old and new faces, developing and sticking to a rigorous schedule of academics and extracurriculars and having the opportunity to sit and talk with friends is a joy that we were not able to experience for the past five months. Perhaps we would not appreciate these delights so much

if they had not been taken from us so rapidly and without any warning.

As my peers and I start to hear of cases and communications with contact tracers, we are all concerned that our full participation in campus life this semester will be hindered. I am sorry for all those for whom this is already the case. We have been repeatedly warned that participation in off-campus events like parties will only harm our ability to continue life as we have slowly become accustomed to on campus. Many students will not be happy with those who decide to leave campus and go to a party; as one of my friends put it, "I'm not having fun at the party and I'm getting sent home!"

This semester, we are all either learning or being taught the necessity of trusting and relying on our peers to achieve a similar end. In other words, we are being reminded of the importance of defending and always keeping our eyes on the common good. This insistence on the common good is not a communistic preoccupation with the collective over the individual, but a solemn recognition that the goals of the individual will be fulfilled most effectively when they are attempted to be accomplished through the lens of the group. This year, we are being told to wear masks, physically distance ourselves from others and limit group activities. While factors like external optics and liability are certainly present and significant, it seems that all of these guidelines have been offered with the goal of staying on campus for the duration of the semester.

Of course, it should be noted that this article was written on the 19th of August. Much could potentially change between the time it was written, the time of publication and the few months between the former and the end of our fall semester. Much

can happen that will inevitably affect our relationship with God, each other and the ways in which view ourselves. This possibility for growth is exciting, especially for college students. Sometimes, it seems that the practical consequences of embarking on the journey in search of this potential growth are too much to bear. I see this uncertainty as the time during which sacrifice enters into our individual and collective minds. While very little about this semester

will fit into our plans or our desires, "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). While this good might not seem evident to our eyes right now, I am of the firm belief that, by the grace of God and by our response to this grace, we shall see the Good in His full glory.

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

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RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC

Senior Year

Virtual presence

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

August used to be the most exciting month of the year for me. I was one of those kids who asked for notebooks and new pens for Christmas. I loved the idea of school.

I found a certain happiness from the feeling of new books, and I looked forward every year to choosing a new backpack. My mom thought I was so weird.

But for me, going to school each August was the start of a new adventure. For a good chunk of the first 17 or so years of our lives, we spend most of our day in school. The walls of my classrooms felt like home, and I spent more time sitting at a desk than I did lying in bed at home.

This year, I am not going to experience any of those things. Going to school amidst a pandemic is really quite a unique experience. Especially for me, being a completely remote student.

Mount St. Mary's University is one of the few colleges in the area that chose to open for on-campus learning. Due

to certain circumstances, I am taking all my classes completely online. It was such a strange feeling, logging on for my first Zoom class of the semester. In fact, I distinctly remember thinking to myself, "This must be what they meant by the 'new normal'".

After each class, during the time I'd usually be walking through the halls to my next subject, I instead found myself wandering to my fridge for something to snack on. And this year, I had no need to buy a backpack since I wasn't going anywhere, so I sort of just sat around, and honestly felt a bit uncomfortable since my back didn't hurt from carrying a ton of heavy books.

There are a few good things that have come from attending school online, and that mostly has to do with time. I was a commuter when classes were still on campus and spent a good two-plus hours driving to and from school. Now, I find I am able to use that extra time I've saved getting homework done or taking a nap.

The cons of being a remote student mainly have to do with loneliness. But I believe that issue stems from the pandemic in general. I spend the entire day sitting in the exact same chair, surrounded by the exact same walls, with absolutely no one to talk to, except of

course for the occasional family member. But let's face it, I've spent six or so months with them as my only human interaction, so we don't have anything more to talk about.

Now with the classes themselves, the experience has been peculiar to say the least. Most students get a least one day where the professor is able to see them in person. And I believe that that in person interaction is important for a student to be able to create a connection with their professor.

Being that there are students in the classroom each day, and most online students are usually only seen on the computer, there is a clear disadvantage for remote students. Oftentimes, due to habit, professors ask questions, and receive answers from those in the classroom, sometimes forgetting the handful of students hovering on their monitor.

This hasn't been too much of a problem in my own experience however, since many professors take the time to direct questions solely to those attending online. However, it has made participating in class unique, if not slightly more difficult.

Actually attending class online is a completely different experience as well. Since, mainly I am at home, there are certain factors that can affect

my day that haven't been a problem for me before. In fact, on my very second day of class, I've had issues with my internet. Since the connection wasn't strong enough to accommodate video calls, I was unable to attend my classes.

It is issues such as these, those especially concerned with technology, that make me wonder about those without proper access to working electronic devices or Wi-Fi. Ever since the pandemic hit, there has been an increased reliance on technology. I believe there are opportunities for development in options students are given to be able to obtain a proper education.

Students shouldn't have to be forced to attend on-campus classes because they don't have the proper resources to take classes online. Since the Mount has so far been so innovative with the adjustments to campus living during a pandemic (evident through their delivery system and hybrid classes), I believe they should provide extra assistance to those off-campus without the proper equipment but who are still interested in learning as much as possible.

Going to school in the middle of a pandemic is not what I thought I'd be doing this August. But I do believe it has opened up our options. While

before, remote work and study was available but not as encouraged and accepted, today we are able to choose to work from places other than the office or school.

I believe this will shape the way things are done in the future. As time goes on and more and more people get used to working remotely, I believe it will one day become the new norm. And just as online shopping led to the downfall of shopping malls, I believe remote work will lead to the reduction of office buildings and schools. Though that day is still far into the future.

Today, I am still getting accustomed to this new normal. And, if I am being completely honest, I am not sure whether I like it or not. As with most things, there are pros and cons. And so far, one does not outweigh the other, at least for me. I am excited to see what this semester holds, even if I only witness it through my computer screen.

Hopefully, by next semester, I am able to sit at a desk in one of the classrooms at the AC, with new books and pens tucked inside my brand new backpack.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Graduate

A new beginning

Morgan Rooney
MSMU Class of 2020

For the first time in seventeen years, I will not be starting this fall by going back to school. It is crazy to think about because getting an education is the only thing I have ever known other than part time jobs just to keep me going. My last semester in college was cut short and I was able to join the workforce back home in Texas with my bachelor's degree benefiting me already. Being able to get a job lined up in the midst of a pandemic was super exciting and I'm so grateful that everything worked out how it did.

I remember the moment I got the email that instructed everyone to go home if they were able. I attended the career fair in hopes of making some network connections and getting an idea of what opportunities were out there. I knew in the back of my mind that I may not be returning, and I booked a flight to go back home to Texas the very next day. It didn't hit me until later that I wouldn't be seeing the friends that I made in college anymore. There would be no more Wednesday nights spent at the local pub, no more mass in the beautiful chapel on Sundays (which was a big factor in my attendance at the Mount), and no more walking around aimlessly while enjoying all of the beautiful scenery from the entrance of the grotto. As much as I felt like I was ready to graduate and move onto the next chapter of my life, I wish I got to cherish my last weeks on campus and do everything one last time without the fear of illness of future plans being crushed.

It has been great to continue

writing in my career, especially in new formats that I have never put too much thought into before. However, looking around me hasn't done much good in terms of optimism or encouragement. I am grateful that I could start my career in such a comfortable environment, but I'm saddened that I have to put other important aspects of my life on hold due to the pandemic. My heart will ache every day until it comes to an end.

I imagine how strange it must be to return back to campus during this time. Graduation was strange enough. Four different ceremonies were scheduled on weekdays over the span of two weeks. I wasn't able to attend because there were no weekend dates scheduled and I had to put travel time into consideration all while I'm starting out my career. It would have been great to finally wear my cap and gown (and mask), but this year just hasn't been ideal in terms of planning.

Even though I've finished my education for the time being, I am not blind to how further education has been affecting young adults. I've watched my younger sister prepare to move into her very first dorm and start attending college courses with more and more things changing. My family spent a weekend in Arkansas helping her to move all of her things into the small space that she is given. Over half of her courses are being taken online and there are so many limitations in the ways she's able to celebrate her coming into early adulthood. Socializing is all so much different. Students aren't allowed as many guests into their rooms. You cannot be without a mask. I have heard of friends who

are being offered alternative housing options and others who have made the decision to live off campus because of the need to spread out. Boy are things different from four years ago when I started out. Still, even with all of these circumstances, I miss the excitement of going away to college each year and I am even more encouraging to continue my education in the future.

While this is something that I'm sure so many college students are experiencing as the school year commences, I have also noticed the workplace to be much different than I ever imagined it would be. I pictured spending much more time in the office. I thought that I'd be exploring the area around my office more to find the best places to eat lunch and make new friends and acquaintances. However, so many days are spent at home to protect others around me. This has allowed me to only appreciate the one day each week I'm able to drive twenty minutes to the office and sit at my desk to work at my monitor. I know things will change in the near future, but the eagerness I feel is becoming more prominent as time goes on.

It's great that our technology is developed enough where we are able to continue to move forward in our education and career. I am grateful that I can work from home and continue to make a living even while the country is so hectic.

To those returning to campus, I wish you the best of luck. It may not be the learning environment that you thrive in the best, but I believe the quality of professors at the Mount is the best part about it. They challenge their students, but with proper communication, they are almost always happy to work with you in order to give you what you need to become suc-

cessful. Communicating with professors about difficulties you are having always goes a long way. Most of them are there to help you and want you to succeed.

We may not see an end in sight right now, but just like everyone else, I'm eager for things to come to a close. With so many exciting plans and hopes to build myself a bright

future, the elimination of this handicap would be a blessing that I never could have planned that I needed. For now, I just do my best with what's given to me, take each day as it comes, and pray that things get better.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HOME DECOR

'Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice'

Jessica Crawford
Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique

It's hard to believe that the seasons are gearing up for transition and change. While this year has felt long and relentless, it's also ironically flown by at the very same time. I've lately been waking up and enjoying cooler mornings and hot coffee on the porch swing, before the kids wake up. The trees in the shop's parking lot are starting to show early signs of Fall color. And I can't say that I'm disappointed to welcome the next season. Because Fall is my most favorite time of year.

Our vendors have been getting ready to switch the shop over for the changing of the seasons. And we've been working with some of our local Maryland companies, in our Maryland General store,

to bring in some Fall Favorites. Pumpkin Spice this and that will be hitting the shelves soon. Warm, earthy tones will soon appear all over the shop. We're working on putting together a beautiful outdoor living space too. Perfect for shopping with friends and family, and spending time reconnecting.

In retail, we generally tend to delegate September through thanksgiving for Fall, and quickly slip into the Christmas season. Fall is wonderful, because it truly is a long season to decorate for. You can really get a bang for your buck, so to speak. When starting to plan Fall decorating, Pumpkin Spice and everything nice is a great place to start. Because there really is no such thing as too many Fall pumpkins.

We'll be working with one of our favorite local farms to provide natu-

ral, authentic pumpkins and gourds again this season. Both traditional and standard pumpkins, as well as the knobby, intriguing varieties of gourds and squash, that are full of color and texture. Real pumpkins are fantastic for decorating porches, patios and decks, as well as incorporating into fall tablescapes. Or helping to adorn an entry way or focal point in a home. Wiping down a pumpkin with a 3% bleach solution will also help vastly extend the life of a natural pumpkin and gourd. And many of these gorgeous specimens, are not only beautiful, but edible. Perfect for pies, breads and preserves.

Then there are the faux pumpkins and gourds. Made of many material and textiles, they definitely are a Fall must-have. I personally love a stash of velvet pumpkins. They add a rich, regal pop to a vignette or room. Full of deep color and great texture, they make quite the statement. Many of our vendors carry an array of these cuties. I'm also a fan of pumpkins made from alternative materials too. Depending on your style, there's wood, cast concrete, resin, burlap, fabric, wood, etc.... One of my favorite vignettes that I created in my own home last year, was pairing a few mismatched pumpkins, of varying sizes and materials (teal velvet, concrete with a brushed gold stem, wood, and resin) together, with a few Fall floral sprays, to fill in the gaps. Dried



Warm up any space with the richness of victorian crushed velvet

and preserved grasses and cotton are a great compliment too.

Fall is also the beginning of the months of coziness ahead. If Fall had a smell, it would be pumpkin pie, campfires, and damp fallen leaves. We support a few local lines of soy candles, that encompass these scents. They'll be coming

into the shop shortly, and available to warm up a crisp, Fall evening on the back porch or patio. We've also started carrying a line of boho inspired throw blankets, perfect for outdoor evenings with friends around a campfire. Textiles such as light blankets are a great way to add a Fall touch to a room.

Lately, I've really gotten carried away with vintage and antique crushed velvet. Arguably my most favorite textile at the moment. It's left me dreaming for the comfy, cooler months to come. Reminiscent of coziness and softness; perfect for snuggling up. I've been incorporating crushed velvet into all of my staging lately, and I just adore it. It has this ability to be rich and bold, but earthy and warm, all at the same time. And is an amazing way to make a huge statement in a room, without doing a total overhaul of a space. Unless of course you want to. Speaking from experience as someone that just scored an amazing, luxurious 1800s coral pink set for their own home. And has now planned an entire room around it. Paired with lush and green house plants, an antique velvet loveseat makes a bold impression in a space. We have multiple pieces in multiple colors and styles in shop right now.

There are no words to really, fully describe this year. But the changing of seasons brings me peace and makes my heart happy. Fall will always be my favorite season. And it leads directly into the season of giving and love and togetherness. Another favorite season. As always, if you need help finding inspiration for your home, space, vignette, etc... we are always happy to help.

We're open every weekend at Cotton & Co in Keymar, Friday – Sunday. Cheers to the kickoff to a happy Fall everyone.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

County Councilman Phile Dacey

The County Council continued to work throughout the summer on various issues facing Frederick County including working on impact fee exemptions for in-law suites, impact fee exemptions for farmers who add a housing unit for their families, permitting farmer's markets, and debate over extending the distance from which a structure can be built from a stream or river.

Taking these issues one by one, first there was much discussion and debate over how to encourage Frederick County to make use of accessory dwelling units (sometimes known as in-law suites). We heard from the county that only a handful of these have been approved over several years. Especially in these times, we need to keep families close. A bill passed unanimously a few weeks ago that allows these in-law suites to be up to 1,000 square feet and exempts things like porches and patios from that limit. I am proud to sponsor another change that will exempt all in-law suites from the impact fee. This legislation is still being debated, but the penalty for not exempting these units is severe. If my amendment does not pass, residents putting in these in-law suites will be forced to pay over \$7,000 in fees, which is a huge disincentive and will push up the cost of housing even further.

The Council is also debating how to exempt farmers from having to pay this more than \$7,000 impact fee for housing that they build on their own farms for family members. I would like to see the exemption expanded and allow more families to live together without

having to face these significant fees. I have several amendments pending that will make it easier and cheaper for families to live together in this way to support the farming community.

Council Member McKay has introduced a measure that would permit farmer's markets in certain areas of the county explicitly. There are farmer's markets in towns and in Frederick city, but it is somewhat unclear how to set one up in the county. This legislation will make it official that farmer's markets can operate in the county and is

one small way to help support community agriculture.

We have debated the issue of water body buffer extensions. The Council is discussing a proposal to extend the distance that one cannot build a structure on one's own property by 25 additional feet (from 150 feet to 175 feet). I am a strong supporter of property rights. I don't believe that there is any science to the 175 feet being the magic number. I believe that it is another step in a continual encroachment on property rights. There's nothing to stop 175 feet

from becoming 200 feet or 500 feet. While final action needs to be taken on this bill, I am very skeptical.

Finally, we heard from our Elections Director in Frederick County about the upcoming general election in November. There will be a number of early voting sites and election day sites, but they will be different sites than the ones voters are used to. Addi-

tionally, every registered voter will be receiving an absentee ballot application in the mail by the first week of September. Voters wishing to vote by mail will have to fill out the application and mail it back in order to get a ballot in the mail. Please continue to check your mail for the absentee ballot application, and the up to date voting information. Make sure your voice is heard.



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ARTS

Arts go on in spite of pandemic

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2018

The tentative reopening of schools and workplaces with the understanding of future closures has theatres, galleries, and other art community hotspots reconsidering their year of performances. A summer has gone by filled with rescheduled dates and cancellations. Now that fall approaches, many have made the transition to virtual platforms, allowing these institutions of the arts to stay alive.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is pleased to announce that the 23rd annual art auction will still be taking place this year; however, a significant change is underway in response to COVID-19 concerns. As it moves to a virtual platform, the auction continues to bring together artist and patrons alike. The event will begin on September 4 and has a close date of September 23 at 6 p.m.

The auction features artworks such as paintings, ceramics, jewelry, and a variety of other work donated by local and regional art collectors. The proceeds support the rural land conservation in Adams County which is the mission of the host of this event, The Land Conservancy of Adams County, an accredited, member-supported nonprofit.

Bob Properi, auction chairperson said, "While we're disappointed that we can't gather for our traditional art auction this year, we're excited about the opportunities presented by this online format." Properi went on to add that another benefit to the new approach, besides health and safety, is the ability to reach a new demographic, namely people out of state or those otherwise unable to participate.

The traditional First Friday Artists' Reception is canceled. However, the gallery will be open that evening, implementing social distancing guidelines. Auction artwork will be displayed online at BiddingOwl.com/LCAC and in person at the Adams County Arts from Sept. 4-23.

The Adams County Arts Council is also showing the work of Dan Mangan's. The collection is titled *The Face of Nicaragua* Mangan says, "The people of Nicaragua are its strength. An American friend of mine says he has returned time and again to this small

place in the heart of Central America to re-connect to the human race." He goes on to say, "These photographs were taken when I accompanied a citizen delegation to Nicaragua under the auspices of Gettysburg College's Project Gettysburg-León. PGL has done invaluable work in that country, the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere, by involving hundreds of volunteer students and local citizens in its ongoing mission to help provide sustainable empowerment to the Nicaraguan people." The show will remain up through September.

To place a bid, please visit BiddingOwl.com/LCAC from noon on Sept. 4-23. For more information about *The Face of Nicaragua* and the Land Conservancy Auction, as well as other upcoming Arts Council exhibitions, or art classes at the Arts Council's Arts Education Center, visit www.adamsarts.org or call 717-334-5006.

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater, closed March 13 in response to the COVID-19 quarantine and though it remains closed, it has announced two new programs to bring the magic of the Majestic to the homes of its patrons. On September 1, the theater launched its 'Majestic Movies at Home.' This program allows patrons to stream online, first-run independent art films. 'Majestically' delicious popcorn will also be available for purchase under the marquee First Fridays throughout the fall season, beginning September 4, 5-7 p.m. Additional curbside popcorn dates are October 2, November 6, and Dec. 4, 5-7 p.m.

"The last five and half months have literally been a return to the 'dark ages' for cinemas and live theaters. The pandemic has put tens of thousands of artists and theater employees out of work across the United States," explained Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director. "Streaming new films not available anywhere else at least allows the Majestic' show to go on' again, and give us all hope that one day soon we'll all be able to again experience the joy of watching films on the giant screen in the company of our friends and neighbors."

The Gettysburg Community Theatre has also been closed since March, and its doors continue to remain closed. However, the the-

atre is providing live streaming of performances. Over the past several months of COVID closures and quarantine, the GCT has been offering online classes, improv shows, Shakespeare readings, and other online performances streamed to their audience via zoom. While the theater will remain closed for the remainder of the 2020 season, it has shifted its program of in-person camps, classes, rehearsals, and performances onto an online platform.

It has been a problematic fiscal year for many small businesses, especially those in the arts. Ticket sales cover 70% of the GCT, and the theatre hopes that the shift to the virtual platform, along with community support, will help make up that cost.

The GCT will start live streaming virtual performances to their isolated audience to support the theatre during this time. The actors are from all over Central PA and rehearse the performance via zoom. The live stream link arrives via email to any patron who donates directly to the theatre using the website www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org. Any amount will grant you access to the link which acts as your virtual ticket to the show.

One of the shows coming up this month is the play *Wellness Check* by Christian Kelly, airing on September 4 at 7 p.m. During this short one-act play, three characters struggle with wellness in uncertain times. "A teacher tries too hard by calling herself 'Friendly.'" A high achieving student has memorized the wellness check questions but isn't doing so well. An underachiever needs to improve their grade, which is kind of hard with nine suspensions. What all will they discover during their virtual education project?" If you're interested in seeing these and other performances, please donate before September 4.

As reported last month, the Totem Pole Playhouse has rescheduled its 2020 season, 70th anniversary, and will be offering the same line-up in 2021.

The Weinberg Center for the Arts, located in Frederick, is another theater adapting to the current climate and moving to an online streaming platform. The public has access to shows ranging from music to the-



The Adams County Arts Council will celebrate two art exhibitions with an opening reception for Dan Mangan and the LCAC Art Auction artwork on September 4. *The Face of Nicaragua*, a collection of photographs on metal by Dan Mangan chronicles the rich vein of humanity that flows through this proud, intriguing country

ater performance to film and comedy shows. Many of the virtual art experiences are available at a free or low cost. To begin streaming, visit the theater website: weinbergcenter.org

The Way off Broadway Dinner Theatre suspended their performance back in March and recently postponed the season indefinitely.

Bill Kiska, the theatre's Executive Producer and CEO released the following announcement, "From the very beginning of this unprecedented crisis, all of us here at Way Off Broadway stood behind Governor Hogan in his efforts to combat and contain the Coronavirus. Throughout most of the summer, we understood the importance of the mandated shutdown and agreed with it because we were receiving so much information and guidance. However, now that Governor Hogan can declare '98% of businesses are open,' it seems the remaining 2% of businesses have been forgotten. Where once we used to be bombarded with new information, no further word has been uttered about when the remaining businesses that are struggling to survive will be allowed to reopen."

In the statement, Kiska also explained that the theatre has incorporated the health and safety guidelines from the start of the pandemic and integrated them into its operations and is prepared as of now, to open. However, the current regulations extend to theaters to, not dis-

criminating or noticing the difference from a large proscenium theater and a small local dinner theater capable of accommodating an audience safely. The postponement is a bitter double standard as Kiska went on to say that, "as restaurants, bars, and other venues have reopened and are offering entertainment, because we are a 'theatre,' we are forced to postpone our performances indefinitely."

Kiska remarked in his closing statement, "We have contacted the governor's office, as well as members of his administrations to try and obtain any information they can provide so that we may be able to plan for the future. Having received no response and no further guidance or information, we cannot set even a tentative date for Way Off Broadway to resume performances."

Art is meant to be enjoyed and shared. Even in times of uncertainty, when art and artists appear to fade into the noise that erupts around us, art still finds a way to reach people and bring them together. So to echo a sentiment made in the previous issue, and one I will probably repeat in future ones, consider making a donation to your local art community. Even if you are unable to immediately enjoy a performance, or a show, or a gallery, you will undoubtedly benefit from supporting a community whose mission is to benefit society by bringing entertainment, beauty, and joy.

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MOUNT ARTS

Visual and Performing Arts

Chloe Corwin
MSMU Class of 2020

Looking downward onto the campus of Mount St. Mary's University is the beautiful, golden image of Mary, Mother of Jesus, protecting and welcoming with open arms to all those in her wake. A short, steep walk down the mountain from Mary's pedestal is the incredibly ornate Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. The IC Chapel is a space of profound worship, intricate architectural work, and an acoustically pleasing open space. These two locations are landmarks on the campus of MSMU, and are well known to those living nearby as well.

What does not get nearly as much recognition, though, is the little building a stones throw away from IC Chapel known as the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. Located right in front of the church, many students and visitors walk by without giving it a second look. What they don't know is the amazing work that the Visual and Performing Arts Department creates in this space.

The three artistic disciplines, fine arts, music, and theatre all share this building. While the art subject area branches into the Barret center and music into the Knott Auditorium, the theatre subject area dedicates all of its time at Delaplaine.

The tradition and role of Mount Theatre is a mystery to some. As a recent graduate of the program, I wanted to delve into the impact Mount Theatre can have on an individual.

I began my research by contacting the Associate Professor of Theatre, Dr. Kurt Blaugher. He is one of two professors of the discipline. Dr. Blaugher is accompanied by Benjamin Buhrman, lecturer in Theatre, as well as the Theatre Technical Director of the Horning Theater.

Dr. Blaugher has been teaching at the Mount for over 30 years, and has seen this program develop as the years continued on. It is important to emphasize how the Visual and Performing Arts program compares to other institutions. As a small, liberal arts university, Dr. Blaugher and the staff in Delaplaine have worked to integrate the lessons in the core curriculum into their major-specific courses.

Upon reflecting on the changes Mount Theatre has experienced over the years, Dr. Blaugher states, "Well, there have been many changes, but in many ways, the foundation of teaching and producing theatre in a liberal arts college environment hasn't really changed at all. By that I mean that theatre in a liberal arts environment is considerably different than teaching theatre to prepare students for life as a professional theatre artist. As you know, the program's mission (as well as the mission of the entire Visual and Performing Arts department) is to teach theatre as an integral part of the full liberal arts education, and not just as professional training. Over the course of my time at the Mount, I have tried to maintain

the connections between the entire Mount curriculum and what we do in Mount Theatre. What does that mean in practice? It means that we've tried to maintain connections between our production schedule and various parts of the curriculum. For example, we've probably done more Greek tragedy than most programs our size. That connects directly to a course like Origins. We try to do classical theatre-- Shakespeare, Molière, and so on. Obviously, those productions connect to courses like Western Imagination. Contemporary plays -- that's Modernity. And so on and so on... What I'm saying is that we want to make sure that everything we do in Mount Theatre is both artistically and academically valid."

With this, I thought it appropriate to reach out to alumni of the program. Hannah Opdenaker, class of 2018, she offered some noteworthy insights. When I asked her how the professors in the theatre subject area influenced her experience, she sung praises of Dr. Blaugher, Buhrman, and former adjunct professor, Tabetha White. She described how each professor enhanced her experience differently. Dr. Blaugher pushed her to question what is presented to her and become a professional in the industry, Buhrman taught her how to become a better artist, as well as showing her the vulnerable side of theatre, and White seemed to be an incredibly impactful teacher, as she was a woman in the male dominant field of technical theatre.

As a student, Opdenaker was a double major, in Political Science and Theatre. I asked her to reflect on these seemingly opposing schools of thought. She responded, "I honestly think that the two went hand in hand. In Political Science, we learn about the social, economic, and political movements that inspired the world and changed policy. We learned about dictators,

environmental impacts, campaign scandals, and discourse that has influenced the way that we live and vote for hundreds of years. In the Theater, we live them."

She continued, "We read the experiences and stories of the playwrights' characters. We see the playwrights' lived experiences through them. We see ourselves. I think that is what makes theater so controversial, so raw, and sometimes so uncomfortable. It forces an audience to see and feel the humanity of the political movements that they refuse to hear about on TV. It is hard not to sympathize with PTSD when we watch the characters in Bandstand, The Musical struggle with making it home after WWII. It is hard to close your eyes to systemic racism when watching A Raisin in the Sun. And how do we feel when Nora slams the door on her husband and family at the end of A Doll's House? Or when she re-opens it in A Doll's House: Part II? I think if anything, my theater major made my PoliSci major easier, because I had something the other students didn't - a learned experience."

I then asked Opdenaker on how her experience with Mount Theatre has aided her professional career. Her response did not disappoint. She currently works in the business as the Director of Programming for the Christ Church Neighborhood House Program in Philadelphia, PA. In her position, she works directly with theatres and the arts in the Philadelphia area and draws on her experiences at the Mount often.

I concluded our interview with asking if she thought it was the right decision to be a part of Mount Theatre. She responded, "Yes! The Mount offered me so many opportunities that I would not have received at another institution. I look back fondly on my time at the Mount - the devised theatrical pieces, the social discourse, the community. While it's not a big



Professor Nick Hutchings. Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, is one of the many exceptional arts instructors that call Mount St. Mary's home.

program, or the most well-funded, it provides a home for every misfit that walks onto that campus - no matter what size, shape or color."

As a recent alumnus of the program myself, I agree with Opdenaker and have chronicled my own testimony of the impact this program has had on me over the last few months in these articles.

To conclude, Mount Theatre has a special place in the hearts of its members, former and current. Dr. Blaugher and the professors alongside him have ensured the academic and professional training to ensure preparedness for their students as they head into the work force. I believe Opdenaker says it best by

stating, "Mount Theatre was a small part of campus for many, but for those who needed it most - it was always there."

The Mount St. Mary's University Department of Visual and Performing Arts is located in The Delaplaine Fine Arts Center and can be contacted by phone at 301-447-5308. Like our Facebook page @msmuva for more updates. For more information about the department, search for Visual and Performing Arts on the Mount St. Mary's University official website www.msmu.edu.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Outstanding CHS Senior Athletes

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

As our Catoctin student athletes of the class of 2020 move on to the next phase of their career, we are excited to see the ways in which their legacies and skills have paved the way for inspired young athletes.

Kallan Latham received the CHS Sports Boosters Scholarship. She has been a part of the CHS varsity basketball and field hockey teams for two years, and the varsity lacrosse team for four years. She has been playing basketball for 12 years, and lacrosse for 13 years. She may continue to participate in club sports in college. She will be attending Ohio State University to major in Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering with a specialization in Ecological Engineering.

Latham was awarded the Governor's Merit Scholastic Award along with Bubczyk. In addition to the Sports Booster Scholarship, she also received the Astrazeneca Pharmaceutical Scholarship and the Wiley Family Scholarship. She was a member of several national honor societies and also participated in FFA and Envirothon. Latham has received honor roll for all four years of high school and graduated with highest honors, and was voted Class 2020's "most likely to succeed."

Latham's most memorable achievement in basketball was becoming regional champs this past winter season. She also takes pride in her first victory in lacrosse after several years, as well as this year's victory at her field hockey senior night game after two overtimes and a shootout. The bonding moments within the team is what she believes she will miss the most, as she describes, "Being able to form connections with a variety of people from the many teams I was a part of is a great feeling." Her advice to younger athletes is, "In order to improve, focus

on what you like about the sport. Once you have a reason to play, you have a reason to persevere and improve. Everything you do in life will have its ups and downs. Maybe you had a rough practice or game. Maybe you aren't doing as well in your sport as you want to. Instead of letting those obstacles stop you, focus on what you like about the sport, the reason you play, and you can find strength to overcome your hardships and improve yourself."

Gage Frantz is the recipient of a lacrosse scholarship from Wheeling University. He has been a part of the CHS lacrosse team for all four years, and has been playing lacrosse for ten years altogether. He will continue to play lacrosse at the NCAA DII Level at college. He will be attending Wheeling University in the fall to major in Engineering Science and pursue a career in engineering.

Frantz has also received the 168 Thurmont Sons of the American Legion Scholarship and the Emmitsburg High Alumni Scholarship. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, and participated in Chess Club and Philosophy Club. He received honor roll all four years, and graduated with highest honors.

Frantz was selected to play on the U18 USBOXLA Team America for the USBOXLA Nationals Tournament in California for two years, and this would have been his third year if it weren't for COVID-19. He has been captain of the lacrosse team since sophomore year. "My most memorable achievement of my high school career was each time I was voted team captain by my teammates," Frantz explained. "It meant a lot to me that they had the faith and confidence in me to help me lead the team." His advice for younger athletes is, "Allow yourself to be coachable and don't view yourself as a player but a student of the game. Try to get exposure to different coaching

styles wherever you can, whether it's clinics or other teams. It is not one point of view or method that will elevate your understanding of the game, but rather a blend of several points of view and methods."

While our graduates move on to the next phase of their career, we are excited to see the ways in which their legacies and skills have paved the way for younger CHS athletes.

Graduate Karsyn Shugars has been a part of the Catoctin golf team for the past three years. She hopes to continue to play in college. She will be attending FCC in the fall and plans to work in the field of education and with students who have special needs.

Shugars has been on the honor roll for all 4 years of high school. She received the Edgar and Mildred Larson Scholarship upon graduating, and was selected as a County CTE Scholar. Having completed the Child Development Class, she has a passion for working with children. Shugars served as an intern to the Cougar Cubs, as well as an intern at the elementary and middle schools working with children. She has earned her go-hour Maryland State Child Care Certificate. She has also participated in FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), as well as Catoctin Crazies and the National English Honor Society.

Shugars' most memorable moment of her high school athletic career took place in her sophomore year when she was just starting out. "I'll admit I was terrible," she explained, "But with hard work and dedication, I made it to the district tournament and missed the state qualification by two strokes and then one stroke my next two years of golf." Even though she didn't play in a state tournament, she cherishes her hard work and how much it paid off. She is grateful for Coach Ausherman, Bub Wivell and Derek Rivera's contribution to her success. "All three of them never gave up on me and encouraged me all the way to my senior year when I then had the opportunity to mentor my underclassmates." Shugars explained. She will miss being a part of a high school team most of all. Labeled as "Team Mom", she hopes to set an example for younger girls interested in playing golf in future years. She would like younger athletes to know that, "golf can be a very frustrating sport. But there is no reason to get down on yourself and doubt your abilities. It's amazing what hard work and dedication can do to a player's game."

Alexa Hopkins has been playing CHS volleyball for all four years of high school, and has been on varsity for two years. She has experience with beach volleyball as well. She expects to play on the volleyball club team in college, where she will be attending the University of Coastal Carolina to major in marine science.

Hopkins has received the Thurmont High School Alumni Scholarship, Joseph Donald Brewer Scholarship, and the Sandra Crist Scholarship for pursuing a career in animal welfare. She graduated



Karsyn Shugar (L) and Gage Frantz (R) and two of the many Catoctin High graduates who will be biting their fingers this Fall hoping the Spring will find them once again on the 'field.'

with High Honors, and has participated in the National Honor Society, ROAR Club, Catoctin Crazies, and has been a part of the yearbook staff.

Hopkins feels her most memorable achievement of her high school athletic career was when she made her first spike and kill. "I remember looking over and seeing Coach Wes and Coach Dave jumping up and down, and I remember just how happy I was in that moment." She explained that Coach Wes has contributed a lot to her athletic success throughout high school, and he always made sure that she was going to play the following years. Hopkins feels that she will miss Coach Wes and Coach Dave the most upon leaving the team, as well as the team bond she had with the girls. Her advice to younger athletes is to have fun! "Yes, it may get very competitive," she reminds them, "but you still need to remember to have fun."

Jake Baker has been on the CHS football and wrestling teams for four years. He has played varsity football for three years, and wrestled on varsity for four. He wrestled and played football on the CYA teams prior to entering high school. He will continue to play football in college and is pursuing a career in the sport. He will be attending Clarion University to major in marketing.

Baker was recently selected to the Frederick's All-County 1st Team Defense and the All-MPSSAA 2nd Team Defense for football. He was named Most Athletic and Most Artistic in the senior superlatives. He has been on the honor roll all four years of high school, and graduated with Highest Honors. Baker also participated in the National Art Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta.

Baker's most memorable achievement of his CHS athletic career is winning the Maryland 1A State Championship with his team this past year. He feels that he will miss his coaches and teammates the most upon graduating, and the "high and low moments that the team bonded over." He feels he has his coaches, teammates, family, and the weight room to thank for much of his athletic success. His advice to younger athletes is to, "get in the weight room and keep your grades up!"

Emma Appel has been a part of the CHS field hockey team for four years, and has been playing for six years altogether. She hopes to continue to play in college, where she will be attending Towson University to major in nursing.

Appel has earned honor roll all four years and graduated with Highest Honors, and has received the Engelbrecht-Degrange Scholarship as well. She has participated in the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Catoctin Crazies, Senior Club, and Environmental Conversation. She has also been honored to be selected as team captain on the field hockey team for three years.

Appel's most memorable achievement took place at one of the last games of her senior year, a home game against Brunswick. The game had gone into double overtime, meaning both teams had a chance to take a shot. She was one of the last girls to shoot, and she made the shot, breaking the tie and winning the game. Appel feels she will miss her high school games most with her friends and teammates. "We had a great positive energy no matter how our seasons went," she stated. She is thankful for those who mentored her and personally contributed to her athletic success. "I learned a lot from senior players while I was a freshman and sophomore. My coaches also helped me out a lot by teaching me how to master and perfect skills that improved my performance. My dad, however, consistently made me want to work harder and get better. He was my personal critic and always gave me pointers on how to improve." Appel's advice to younger athletes is to appreciate the game and the team, but also to focus on constantly improving yourself. "Hard work really does pay off, and people will notice when a young athlete is paving the way to success for his or herself and the team," she instructed. Most importantly, she wants young athletes to appreciate the sport itself and the time they have to experience being a high school athlete. "It's one of the biggest things I miss about my high school experience."

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Catching Up with Basketball Coach Dan Engelstad

Samuel Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

With almost every aspect of the sports world being at a standstill due to the Coronavirus pandemic, there is one thing that shows no signs of stopping, conference realignment. Flagship Northeast Conference (NEC) member Robert Morris announced they would be joining the Horizon League in 2020 while their football program joins the Big South Conference. The Colonials' exit marks the end of 39 years of membership for the school.

This is the first time a school has left the NEC since the Conference Realignment Boom of 2012-13 when Monmouth and Quinnipiac left to join the MAAC. So, who will replace the Colonials? Rumors have been circulating into three potential scenarios. The first is to bring in Delaware State via the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). Another avenue is to target Division II schools, which is how they most recently expanded with Merrimack. The third and final option is to remain at an even 10 schools and forgo replacing the departed school.

With all the ramifications of conference realignment put aside, the most important question is yet to be answered, how does this affect the Mount?

The men's and women's basketball teams will feel the brunt of the move. In recent years, the Mount St. Mary's women's basketball team has seen tremendous success on the hardwood. Under third-year head coach Maria Marchesano, the Mountaineers have improved their win totals in the past three seasons. The Butler alumna guided her team to their first winning season since 2013-14, and their first 20-win season in more than 20 years.

With increased success, comes better chances to begin new rivalries. Much like the men's team, the women's team over the past three seasons have spawned a rivalry with RMU. This newfound rivalry heated up during the 2019-20 season, where games between the Colonials and the Mountaineers played a pivotal role in deciding the NEC regular-season title.

The men's team will see an immediate impact. For the 2020-21 regular season, the Mountaineers were slated to begin the conference portion of their schedule in December with Robert Morris. This leaves the team searching for two new opponents in December. The Mount will have to pay close attention to which schools they schedule, as long-distance travel is expected to be kept at a bare minimum.

Dan Engelstad, who will be entering into his third year at the helm of the men's basketball team offered his thoughts on the latest conference shakeup in a July 8 interview. "I wasn't shocked, there had been some rumblings for quite some time that they were looking to try to leave the NEC. I think a lot of it revolved around basketball", said Engelstad.

Robert Morris has made a name for themselves within the conference over the better part of the last decade, especially with Andy Toole as head coach.

The Colonials have captured the NEC Tournament crown three times in the past ten years, most recently in 2020.

However, the loss goes further back than the upcoming season. For the better part of the 21st century, Mount St. Mary's had built one of the most exciting and heated mid-major rivalries in the country.

One of the most memorable games between the two storied programs came in the 2007-08 season during the NEC semifinals where the fourth-seeded Mountaineers steamrolled top-seeded Robert Morris on their home court. The Mount would go on to capture their third NEC title, as Engelstad was in his first season as an assistant coach for the Mount.

RMU will never again be on the conference slate, however, the memories will last a lifetime. Fans of both squads will have to wait until at least the 2021-22 season to see the two schools play each other again.

Although the latest conference shuffling has been on the mind of Coach Engelstad, this pandemic has allowed for more family time, which is a rarity for coaches across the NCAA, especially when coaching at the Division I level.

Since the beginning of this medical mayhem, in-person meetings between athletes and coaches have been non-existent. However, communication remains at the forefront. This is where social networking platforms such as Zoom are vital. "We're still trying to communicate as much as possible. Zoom has been popular with coaching and recruiting. We've had very powerful conversations and are creating a dialogue and building the comradery," according to Engelstad.

Throughout all of the various media outlets, the ramifications from COVID-19 have flooded the headlines daily. Regardless of the current state of intercollegiate athletics, there needs to be a concrete plan for the future of college sports. A plan in which every single conference across the three divisions can agree upon.

Despite the grim state of not only

the world but the sports world, the young coach is still optimistic about the upcoming season and thinks this season could be the year that the Mountaineers finally move up the NEC ladder.

The fans that follow Mount St. Mary's have an array of reasons to be excited, as the Mount returns six of their seven scorers from a season ago.

Damian Chong Qui and Vado Morse will look to build on the success from their sophomore seasons. The rising junior guards averaged 12.2 and 10.8 points per game (PPG) respectively during the 2019-20 campaign. Chong Qui has evolved into a versatile player who can be relied on both the defensive and offensive sides of the court.

Chong Qui and Morse will play a pivotal role in how far the Mount's success reaches next year, however, that is not the biggest storyline in Emmitsburg. The development of the team's bigs, how the incoming freshmen adapt to the fast-paced coaching style of Engelstad, and the waiver decisions of two transfers will decide how far the Mount's success will go.

Jalen Gibbs, Malik Jefferson, and Nana Opoku all stand at 6-foot-3 or taller. Much like many big men in college basketball, Gibbs, Jefferson, and Opoku struggle somewhat to get up-and-down the court. If those three can continue to mold themselves around the fast-paced offense that's emerging at the Mount, then getting second-chance opportunities will become that much easier.

Successful programs are built off experience and longevity, and those are two things the Mountaineers will see out the Class of 2020 signees.

The Mount extended their recruiting trail to the Czech Republic with Franta Barton. The 6-foot-8 forward will add immediate depth to the frontcourt of Jefferson and Opoku. He scored in double-figures while playing overseas. Dakota Leffew, the Georgia native had a prolific presence on the glass, grabbing 6.7 rebounds



Mount St. Mary basketball coach Dan Engelstad.

per game (RPG) and is sure to make himself known in the paint.

Quinton Mincey is destined for success in the NEC. The Eleanor Roosevelt alum guided his team to a Maryland 4A state title during his junior year. Mincey is a versatile player that will have a presence on both ends of the floor. Prep school players are known to have success at the college level and that is sure to be the case for Josh Reaves. During his time at South Kent School, he bolstered a strong offensive repertoire, as he averaged 25 PPG and 9 RPG.

The uncertainty of college sports has led to transfers not knowing whether they will be granted immediate eligibility or not. That decision affects the Mount as well.

Mezie Offurum comes to Emmitsburg via George Washington, who is under the direction of former Mountaineers coach Jamion Christian. The 6-foot-8 forward looks to

fill the scorecard while also adding depth to the team's bench. The second transfer, Deandre Thomas, enters the NEC after playing two seasons in the Southern Conference (SoCon) at Samford. Like many of the new additions in the Class of 2020, Thomas brings a strong presence on both sides of the ball.

As there is no timetable on when athletes and coaches can take to the court again, there is only one thing that Coach Engelstad and the Mountaineers can do. They can only continue to grind on and off the basketball court and the gym. After all, the athletes, coaches, and conferences do not decide when life will return to a sense of normalcy, the virus does.

The 2020-21 college basketball season is scheduled to kick off on November 10.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Good grief

Jefferson Breland

The other day I did an internet search for “When does Fall start?” Apparently, there is not one answer. Not only that, there are many different calendars. One source cites twelve different calendars each with similar and different numbers of days of the year. Essentially, the calendars differ based on beliefs and location. Since that is the case, we could have twelve different dates when Fall starts. This is very confusing to me.

The generally accepted answer to “What is the first day of Fall in 2020?” is September 22nd. This is based on the Autumnal Equinox, the day when day and night are equal lengths. As a kid, I thought Fall began when school started. School marked the end of Summer vacation. It meant the end of riding my bike all over the town, the end of little league baseball, the end of movie nights on Monday at the local ball field, it meant the end of camping trips with my family, the end of the ice cream truck driving through my neighborhood. Basically, it meant the end of my favorite things. Thus, for me, the arrival of Fall bore a sense of sadness that one could call grief.

Now, dear reader, since this is the Complementary Corner, you may be wondering what do my childhood feelings about Fall have to do with complementary medicine. I am glad you asked. The answers relate to how Fall shows up in us on the body, mind, and spirit levels. These answers will help us to live a more balanced and healthy life.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the seasons represent energetic shifts in Nature. These shifts are the foundation of a cosmology called

the Law of the Five Elements. In brief, TCM divides the year into five seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Late Summer, and Fall. To each of these seasons they assigned a name that represents the energetic movement of that time of year: Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, and Metal respectively. These names are referred to as elements or phases. The founders of TCM used their observations of Nature to make associations to how humans reflected these energetic shifts in each season. These associations include color, sound, odor, emotion, body parts, and internal organs to name a few.

The Fall season is associated with the Metal element. Why Metal? The season of Fall represents the end of the harvest season. When this cosmology was developed, China was an agricultural society. Metal represents the minerals in the soil that are deposited by crop residues as well as color of the left white ashes of the burned crop residue after harvest.

Therefore, on the physical/Earth level, the Metal Element refers to the richness of minerals in the earth, the plants, and the bodies all living beings. On the emotional or mental level, Metal represents the intrinsic value of all things in life, that which is precious: for instance, the core values that lie within us, our families, our communities, and our societies. On the Spirit level, Metal represents our interrelationship between Heaven and Earth.

On the physical level, in the Fall season, Nature reveals the energetic movement from the peak of Summer toward the depth of Winter, in a number of ways. The hours of daylight are decreasing. There is a shift in temperatures. The air is increasingly drier. The quality of light is changing due to the drier air and changing the angle of the Sun.

Leaves change color and begin to fall to the ground. It is the end of the growing season and time to harvest the last crops before winter. Overall, there is a sense of letting go in Nature.

On the physical level, we may notice this shift in nature in ourselves in a number of ways. We may wake up earlier in the morning. We can feel the cooler air against our skin and begin to wear warmer clothing. Our skin may become drier. We may be able to breathe the cooler and drier air more deeply. We may feel hungrier, craving fatty foods to prepare us for the cold of Winter.

On the mental or emotional level, I can't speak to the seasonal shift in a tree or a crop in a field, and since we are Nature, I can turn inward to observe nature's energetic shift in ourselves by observing my thoughts and emotions.

Returning to my reflections about the beginning school and Fall, my feelings were mixed. There was an excitement about going back to school because I like learning and seeing more friends. Simultaneously, there was a profound sense of loss for what no longer was. Each Summer is unique and will never happen again in exactly the same way.

As we get older, life generally becomes more complicated. We lose the simplicity and innocence of youth. We may lose our favorite stuffed animal, lose jobs, grow apart from friends, and loved ones may die to name but a few of the circumstances of loss. These feelings of loss are called Grief.

Grief is the emotion associated with Fall and the Metal Element, to describe our relationship with the natural process of loss and letting go. We grieve that which has value to us and is no more or will never be. It is an opportunity to honor whom we love or what has served.

Grief is an expression of Love. It is necessary to acknowledge love in order to move forward. Our honoring and offerings of respect allow us to begin the process of healing. This is why we have funerals and memorial services: to begin the healing processes for each person, family, community that has experienced the loss.

I offer here, it is important to have a ceremony for any loss, small or large. Ceremony is an important way to also



Clancy was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we know very little about his past. He is a true Coonhound in that he likes to howl and follows his nose. He came into the shelter in October 2019. We think he's a little more than a year old and can jump fenced-in yards. Clancy is a love bug and enjoys having his ears rubbed. He does know sit, down and paw, but ONLY if you have a treat. Clancy is a big goofy guy so he may be too much for small children in the home if they are not used to larger energetic dogs. Because of his energy level, he is not in our adoption kennels and will require an approved application for a meet-and-greet. Clancy would love to get his second chance with you.

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

let go of anything that no longer serves, i.e. an old story or belief about ourselves, which limit possibility in our life. It is through ceremony that we are able to connect the emotion of grief to the Spiritual aspect of Fall.

The Spirit level of Metal or Fall is that part of us that helps us endure the hardships of life. It is our connection to Heaven and our life's purpose that help us to not only survive, but grow our wisdom from the great losses of our lives. Through loss, we are reminded of the impermanence of all things, especially of our limited time here on Earth. We see that like Nature changes, we change and only Spirit endures.

To weave together the Body, Mind, Spirit levels of the season of Fall and the Metal Element, I am going to introduce one of the more interesting components of the Law of the Five Elements: the associated internal organs. In this cosmology, the Lungs and the Large Intestine are associated with the Fall and the Metal element.

Through this pairing of organs, we can see a relationship between Heaven

and Earth. On the more earthly physical plane, the respiratory and elimination function of the Lungs and Large Intestine reflect the gathering/growing and letting go cycles of Nature. We inhale air to fuel cellular function and exhale the by-products of that function. The Large Intestine releases the unused food and drink of our digestive system.

Through our thoughts and emotions, we connect to Heaven on a more conscious level. As we breathe, we receive the inspiration of Heaven. Similarly, the Large Intestine allows us to let go of what beliefs or ideas no longer serve.

On the Spirit level, the Lung helps us connect to our divine purpose as the Large Intestine helps us extract the gifts buried in a loss or a difficult situation. Both the Lung and Large Intestine allow us to let go of what has served its purpose to get us to this point in our life.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

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Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

This time of year I am usually writing about the kids going back to school. They would normally have gym class for their exercise activity but this year, as we know too well, is very different. Some students will be going back to the school building while others will be attending online classes. It is very important to keep children active and interested in participating in exercise and healthy activities.

Gym is part of their online school but sometimes they may not get as much exercise as they normally would if they were in school. It is important to find activities that your children enjoy so they will look forward to doing them. Scheduling a time of day just as they would have gym class on certain days at a certain time will help them stay in a routine. This way they will know when gym class will be just like the time you schedule for math, history, science or any other classes they have. Hopefully, the school will have suggestions of what to do for gym class which may help the students because they know it is their school assignment. I'm sure the teachers will help you if you are having a problem finding activities for gym.

Not only is it important for the kids to keep active but it is also important for your health to keep up with your exercise routine. I know this quarantine has been a challenge to many people in many ways. For some it has been the end of their exercise program and for others, the beginning. Whatever the case, now is a good time to examine your health,

your new schedule and what you want to do for the future.

Summer seems to be the time more people are outside and manage to get more exercise because of yard work and the warm weather for walks, biking and swimming. The weather is still usually nice through September and October and sometimes into November. This nice, cool weather is just the time to think about making a schedule to walk or bike. I know how hot and humid this summer has been and for many that could be too dangerous to be out doors. When the temperature is nicer it is much easier to talk yourself and your family into an evening walk. Walking is something you can do with others and still be able to keep a safe distance.

No matter what returning to school looks like for your family or what your current situation for keeping yourself safe, you can find an activity or exercise that you and the kids will enjoy. Suggestions I have made in the past were videos, TV shows, dancing to music to name a few for indoors. Things for outdoors can be walking, biking, swimming, playing ball with your family. I'm sure you can come up with something to keep you interested and keep you moving to keep you healthy.

This time has been upsetting and challenging for everyone. Your health is still important and taking care of yourself will enable you to take better care of your family. Fall and winter are just around corner. Don't let them sneak up on you before you are ready. Take some time to think about what you would like to do during the cold weather to keep up with your exercise program or what you can do

to start a routine to keep you active.

Exercise and social engagement are very important for mental as well as physical health. This time of uncertainty is stressful for all of us. That's why it is more important than ever to take some time for yourself. Refuel and refresh your needs so you can help others. You may just find that in helping others you benefit as much or more than they do. Don't beat yourself up if you have strayed from your previous exercise routine. It's OK to take a break just remind yourself not to stay away too long and set a date to get back to your program.

Remember to Keep Moving and when we get back to some type of normal again, you will be in the best shape you can be. Take care and stay safe.



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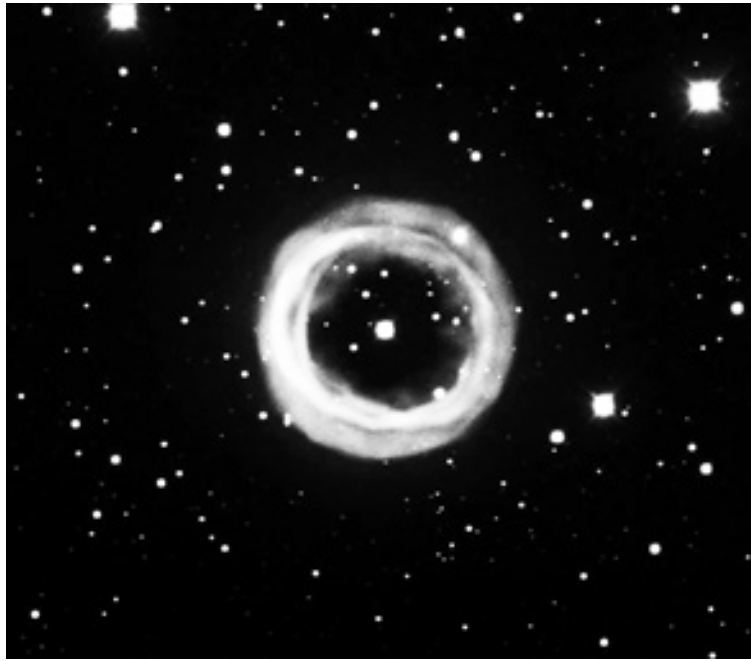
The night sky of September

Professor Wayne Wooten

For September, the moon is full, the Harvest Moon, on September 1st. The waning gibbous moon will be in the dawn sky just above bright red Mars on September 6th. The last quarter moon is September 10th, rising about midnight. The waning crescent moon passes just north of Venus in dawn skies on September 14th. The moon is new on September 17th. The Autumnal Equinox begins fall at 9:31 a.m. on September 22nd. The first quarter moon is on September 23rd. The waxing gibbous moon is to the lower right of Jupiter on September 24th, and to lower left of Saturn on the following evening. The Full Moon, the Hunter's Moon, is on October 1st.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about August 31st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for September 2020.

Mercury is out of view, too close to the Sun in September. Venus dominates the dawn, a waxing gibbous phase in scopes. It passes just above Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, on September 30th. Mars is being overtaken by us, and grows bigger and brighter in the late evening skies. It comes to opposition on October 13th, giving us our best views of it for



Epsilon Lyrae, which is known as the Double-Double star, is easy to locate due to its nearness to Vega, the brightest star in the northern half of the sky. Through binoculars, what appears as one star to the unaided eye resolves into two. And through a telescope, each star in that pair resolves into two again, making four stars. In the mid-1980s, astronomers detected a fifth star in that system. These five stars, bound together by gravity, are about 162 light-years from us.

a decade. Jupiter is overtaking Saturn in the southern evening sky in September, east of Sagittarius. They will be closest at the end of the year. Jupiter features its four Galilean moons in small scopes, all in a row around its equator, and its Great Red Spot is still active. At dusk, Saturn lies due south, farther east of the teapot of Sagittarius, and its rings are tilted widely open for great telescopic views now. Its large and fascinating moon Titan is also easily seen in small scopes.

From the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Spike south to

Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. Jupiter is just NW of Spica, a little brighter and more yellow in color. Note that Spica is now low in the SW, and by September's end, will be lost in the Sun's glare due to our annual revolution of the Sun making it appear to move one degree per day eastward. To the Greeks, Spica and Virgo were associated with Persephone, the daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. In their version of "Judge Judy", the beautiful young daughter falls for the gruff, dark god of the underworld, Pluto. He elopes with her, much to the disapproval of mother Ceres, and they marry in his underworld kingdom of Hades...a honeymoon in hell...really, he does love her as well,

and the marriage itself works well. But it is the reaction of Ceres that creates alarm. Very despondent over the loss of her young daughter to a fate as bad as death, Ceres abandons the crops, which wither.

Soon famine sets in, and humanity appeals to Jupiter to save us all. Calling all together, Jupiter hears that Ceres wants the marriage annulled, Persephone loves them both, and Pluto wants his mother in law to stop meddling. Solomon style, Jupiter decides to split her up, not literally, but in terms of time. In the compromise (aren't all marriages so?), when you can see Spica rising in the east in March, it means to plant your peas. For the next six months, she visits upstairs with as very happy mama, and the crops will prosper. But now, as Spica heads west (to the kingdom of death, in most ancient legends) for six months of conjugal bliss with Pluto, it is time to get your corn in the crib. This simple story, told in some form for as long as Noah's flood, was one of the ways our ancestors 7,000 years ago knew the solar calendar and when to plant and harvest. As you watch Spica fade, thank this star for agriculture, and even our own civilization.

To the south, Antares marks the heart of Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Romans) 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! Near the tail of the Scorpion are two fine open clusters, faintly visible to the naked eye, and spectacular in binoculars. The clusters lie to the upper left of the bright double star that marks the stinger in the Scorpion's tail. The brighter, M-7, is also known as Ptole-

my's Cluster, since he included it in his star catalog about 200 AD.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. East of the teapot are the two bright planets Jupiter and Saturn in the fall of 2020.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, 'The Double Double'. This is fine sight under steady seeing conditions over 150X with scopes 4" or larger. Between the two bottom stars; the Ring Nebula, marked 'M-57' on the Skymap, is a smoke ring of gas and dust expelled by a dying red giant star while its core collapsed to a white dwarf. A similar fate is expected for our own sun in perhaps five billion more years.

To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. At the other end of the "northern Cross" that makes up the body of Cygnus is Alberio, the finest and most colorful double star in the sky. Its orange and blue members are well resolved at 20X by any small scope. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear September evenings. Binoculars should be taken to the deep sky gazes to sweep the rich portion of the Galaxy now best placed overhead in this area.

To read past editions of the night sky, visit the author section on emmitsburg.net.

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"Happy we who can bask in this warm September sun, which illumines all creatures, as well when they rest as when they toil, not without a feeling of gratitude; whose life is as blameless, how blameworthy soever it may be, on the Lord's Mona-day as on his Suna-day."

—Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Storms, cooler (1, 2) turning fir and warm (3, 4, 5); periods of storms (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) again, turning fair and quite warmer (13, 14, 15, 16) with periods of storms (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23). Fair and cooler (24, 25) with yet more storms (26, 27) turning fair and mild (28, 29, 30)

Full Moon: September's Full Moon has been famously-known as the Harvest Moon. It is the Full Moon that falls closest to the Autumnal Equinox. During this time, the moon would rise soon after the sun would set on several successive days, giving the farmer a few extra hours of 'light' and more time to finish up their daily chores. This year, the Autumnal Equinox will occur on Tuesday, September 22nd and signals

the beginning of Autumn. The Full Moon closest to that date will occur on Thursday, October 1st and is therefore, the Harvest Moon of 2020.

Holidays: Labor Day falls on the first Monday of the month, which is September 7th. We must always remember those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001 and to also honor all of the brave first-responders as well. These heroes ran into danger, some sacrificing their lives trying to minimize the loss of life and those who suffer to this day with long-term life-threatening health effects. Citizenship Day is observed on Thursday, September 17th and Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday, September 18th at sunset.

The Garden: Make a long-range plan to gradually convert your current landscape to the one you desire. Don't forget to consider what your flower garden might need. Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips 6 to 8 weeks before the first frost. Don't pull out any ornamental plantings until you have the time and resources to replace them. Start taking cuttings of your annual plants to bring indoors and carry through the winter. Geranium, coleus, fuschia, and other plants do best when stem cuttings

are rooted and kept in pots indoors through the winter.

Be sure to place pots where they receive plenty of light. Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Inspect every plant very closely for any hitchhiking pests! Don't allow leaves to accumulate on the lawn. Rake them up regularly, and store in a pile for use as mulch in your garden next summer. If leaves accumulate on your lawn and become matted down by rain, they may kill the grass.

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (6, 7, 8); weeding and stirring the soil (14, 15); planting above-ground crops (20, 21); harvesting all crops (4, 5); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22); transplanting (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the harvesting and storing of grains (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"If you are going to do a good thing, do it now; if you are going to do a mean thing, wait until tomorrow."

COMPUTER Q&A

Does your computer need maintenance?

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

Most people won't go for an extended time without getting their vehicle maintained. While it may not be quite obvious to maintain your computer if you aren't the most tech-savvy and haven't had maintenance you should consider it! As you use technology, devices become bogged down and inundated with updates, pop-ups, and other annoyances that if fixed, would reduce stress and increase productivity! It's not that the physical devices are no longer working properly, it's more so like changing the oil in your car, it will continue to run when it's low or dirty but it won't run well and bigger problems could arise that may be avoidable with regular care. We've included information about a few of the things that we at Jester's Computer Services recommend you maintain and are included in our clean-up service which we offer for a discounted price every March and September.

Unwanted Programs whether installed intentionally or not are often set to run at startup which can hinder performance. If you allow children on your computer, you may not know what the programs are that they have installed or whether if that software could cause harm to your device. Sometimes you can just uninstall the program but other times it may take a skilled technician to locate and remove malicious software. Many of these programs run in the background using up your computer's resources which can also affect your internet connection data usage and speeds.

Updates are important to keep your device running smoothly. Updates help to ensure that any security risks that have been found and resolved are applied to your device. If your programs are out of date they may not function properly and sometimes they can even negatively affect the performance of your computer. Many dislike updates because the result can sometimes include change however, you have to weigh it out which is worse, a little change, or keeping your device at risk? During our Clean-up, we update both your operating system and popular software to the latest versions.

Hardware, or your device's physical equipment, can wear out over time. Most commonly we see hard drives (where all your personal data is stored) fail after 5-7 years but they can certainly break down sooner. When you have your computer maintained, good technicians will check your hard drive to see if any corruption is found and if necessary, recommend a replacement before any data is lost.

Temporary files that can include files you opened but did not save, old update files that no longer have a use and temporary files created while browsing the web. None of the aforementioned include your personal data files and are simply taking up storage space on your hard drive. Data files won't slow your computer down but they do take up storage space and when a hard drive becomes too full the operating system will stop functioning properly.

Registry errors can be caused when you install and then uninstall a program or perform software updates. Since

both happen regularly, these errors are unavoidable. You may not even notice that there is a problem but once the errors are resolved, background operations can run more smoothly resulting in a better user experience. Even with yearly maintenance most computers we see accumulate over a thousand or more registry errors, just another example of why regular maintenance is a good idea.

Malicious software that is installed on your device may not be obvious to the average user. While viruses and potentially unwanted programs can appear unexpectedly on your computer, often users unknowingly allow them in. An active antivirus no matter how good, won't always prevent a user from installing software that could have legitimate purposes but that most would consider an unwanted or malicious program. At Jester's Computer in addition to our technicians removing any viruses or malicious software we provide educational materials to help you prevent common issues and, for those than need more help, we offer one-on-one remote support for both computers and mobile devices.

Pop-ups, errors & conflicts that you encounter can often be resolved by regular maintenance as well. Often,

we remember how simple computers used to be while ignoring how frequently we use and rely on our devices today. Since most of the things we use computers for also incorporate using the internet, maintenance is more vital than ever before.

If you haven't had your computer maintained in the last year, Jester's Computers would love to support your technology needs! All September long you can take advantage of our clean-up special which provides a \$20 discount off our regular \$99 price. To reach us find us online at www.jesterscomputers.com on Facebook or by calling us at 717-642-6611. We are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday with extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Due to COVID-19, we are scheduling contactless pickup and drop-offs to our shop by appointment only. Most of our services are completed within 24 business hours or less!

If you have questions about upgrading your machine or are in need of technology support contact Jesters Computers at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web. Our website is full of great technology tips and troubleshooting guides!



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HUMOR

The antics of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former Former Boozers Association. As originally published in the Emmitsburg Chronicle.

1917

January 5 - Boozers Drink In New Year

Boozers turned out in force to "drink in" the New Year at the Hotel Slagle's Bar. Between countless rounds, Boozers exchanged plans for building stills in the Mountains. At the tolling of the Lutheran Church bell, the Boozers spilled out into the Square where they proceeded to make sure everyone in the town knew their opinion of what they thought of prohibition. The Boozers then broke into their favorite drinking songs and made a general nuisance of themselves until the early morning hours in front of the homes of the women who had browbeaten their spineless husbands into voting to take away their God-given and constitutional right to drink.

January 5 - Discovers Pot Of Gold

Samuel Klein of Harney, uprooted last week an old stump in a field on his farm, and found beneath an earthen jar filled with money.

The jar contained gold, silver and greenbacks to the value of \$1,344. The money was principally of the date of 1882. It is thought it was put in the earthen pot about 30 years ago and hid beneath a large chestnut tree that then stood on the farm now owned by Mr. Klein. All the money is in a good state of preservation, the gold and silver being untarnished and the bill showing no wear.

January 12 - Boozers Celebrate Pot Of Gold

The discovery by Former Former Boozers Samuel Kline last week of a pot of gold finally blew away the melancholy mood that had occupied the superior minds of the members of the Former Former Boozers Association following the victory of the Prohibitionists in the recent election. Boozers turned out in force to celebrate Klein's good luck. A Boozers was chosen at random to reach into the pot and withdraw a coin or bill without looking - the number of rounds bought was based upon what was pulled. Upon hearing of her husband's actions, Mrs. Kline, along with local nefarious members of the prohibitionist and Suffragette movement, stormed into the bar and retrieved the pot. Thoroughly inebriated Boozers were in no condition to

battle the member of the weaker sex, nor did they really care, as at the time every Boozers had almost 9 drinks in front of them to consume.

February 16 - Frederick To Revive Whipping Post

The revival of the whipping post, the registry of purchasers of revolvers, the utilization of convict labor and the elimination of street corner loafing were among the recommendations made Wednesday by the Frederick County Grand Jury to the Frederick County Commissioners. The whipping post was suggested for the numerous petty cases, including wife beating, drunkenness, etc. It is expected that the County Commissioners will look favorably upon these recommendations in hopes of addressing the growing drinking "epidemic" in the northern part of the county.

February 23 - Boozers' Wives' Endorse Whipping

Wives' of Former-Former Boozers rallied on the Square Sunday calling for the Frederick County to endorse whipping for public drunkenness and suggested that Emmitsburg alone could keep the whip hot. The rally was led by Anna Kline of Harney, whose husband spent the jar of cash discovered in their field last month buying round-after-round for Boozers all month long. "I've nagged and nagged that man better than any women can nag a man, but he still will not listen," she told the assembled crowd of whining prohibitionist. "Maybe a good whipping with a 'cat-o-nine' tail will get through to him."

Boozers sat impassioned on the steps of the Hotel Slagle, passing around a bottle, trying to ignore the women. But apparently, calling for whipping was one thing, subjecting the men to the singing of prohibitionist songs was too much. Cat calls of "stop beating those cats," and "put some grease on those bearings," soon put an end to the prohibitionist rally, and the men returned to their God-given, constitutional, right drink all they wanted.

April 13 - Boozers Rally To Support War Booze Tax

Following the announcement from Washington that the Administration will be taxing booze to help pay for war preparations, members of the Former Former Boozers

Association held a rally on the square calling for every able body man in town to support the funding call by drinking as much booze as they could every day. Boozers President Dan Shorb said that the county should immediately repeal the impending start of prohibition, warning that the loss of tax revenue from end of booze sales played into the hands of the Germans and could undermine the war effort. "Those too old to fight," Shorb said to a thoroughly enumerated audience, "should do their part by drinking for victory."

June 29 - Boozers' Protest Prohibition Elements Of Food Bill

Members of the Former Former Boozers Association turned out on force Thursday night on the Square protesting current wording in the National Food Bill now before the Senate, prohibiting the use of all grains for the production of fermented liquors and beer. The speakers lucidly pointed out that just last month the Government had instituted a tax on alcohol consumption to help fund the war effort. The speakers pointed to the thoroughly inebriated crowd and congratulated them doing their utmost to raise as much tax revenue as possible. Nearly drowned out by boos and chants of "down with suffragettes," the speakers warned that if the Food Law prohibiting the production of alcohol products was passed, the German's would soon be marching down Main Street. Upon conclusion of the speeches, the Boozers retreated into the Hotel Slagle's Saloon and went to work generating tax revenue for the war effort.

August 3 - Boozers Protest Prohibition Amendment

When word was heard that the Senate was considering a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for prohibition, the members of the Former Former Boozers turned out in force on the Square to protest the amendment. Said one boozers: "Here we are at war to defend our right to make our own choices, and yet the nut heads in Washington want to strip that right from us. I've half a mind to root for the Germans - if they win, at least we'll know the national drink will be beer!" Following the protest, the boozers assembled in front of the house of the

notorious Sufferget and Prohibitionist Mrs. Andrew Annan where they emptied their bladders on Mrs. Annan's prized flower garden.

September 7 - Re-opening Of Women's Exchange

In response to the gracious and much appreciated demand of many friends and patrons, the woman's Exchange will reopen on Saturday. This demand, the committee said, is very timely; for the library needs funds where written to pay for new books just ordered. People have been good enough to say that, in many instances, they have had to rely upon the Exchange for delicious pastries and for very attractive and useful articles in hand embroidery. This is gratifying to the committee and argues well for a successful season.

September 14 - Boozers Tries To Exchange Wife

Samuel Welty, a charter member of the Former Former Boozers' Association, showed up at the opening of the Women's Exchange and attempted to exchange his wife Emma for a new wife. The matrons of the Exchange were less than polite in informing Mr. Welty that that was not the purpose of the Exchange. A thoroughly inebriated Welty cursed the organizers for misleading advertising and said that if they "really wanted to raise funds for the library they should allow men to exchange their womenfolk for women who would not interfere with a man's constitutional rights to drink."

Nov 16 - Boozers' Stuck With Liquor For Troops

The movement of troops from their camp at Gettysburg and the lifting of the Federal order on Friday which stopped the sale of liquor within a half-mile of the camp, closing all of Gettysburg hotels' bars, threw a real loop into the plans of the Former Former Boozers to cash in on the troops' unquenchable thirst for John Barleycorn. Stills in the area have been going full tilt for the past two weeks, taking up much of the areas prized corn, and the first shipment of "hooch" was being readied for delivery. A meeting was held at the Hotel Slagle's saloon to decide how best to utilize the excess booze. The results of the meeting were not available before this edition of the chronicle was printed.

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HUMOR

November 23 - Boozers' Corn Squeezing Contest

We apologize for this paper being issued a day late. On Friday, just as we were getting ready to go to press, the Chronicle office was inundated by Former Former Boozers bringing into our office their corn squeezing for us to judge. A table was set up outside our offices and all the honorable men of the town were invited to join in the judging. Apparently this was the option taken by the Boozers last week to dispose of their excess hooch. Some on

the entries were as smooth as honey, others tasted like gasoline, but all has the same effect – killing any motivation we had to get the paper out. After our tenth sampling round we found ourselves on the Square entertaining ignoring please from disgusted wives, girlfriends and on looking suffragettes with obscene drinking songs and generally made a nuisance of ourselves into the early hours on Saturday. So please excuse any spelling errors in the paper as we are in no condition to catch them this morning.

Dec 14 - Send Your Soldiers Lucky Strike Cigarettes

Send your soldier boy a box of cigarettes for Christmas. There is nothing

better for his health than Lucky Strike cigarettes. Each box contains twelve packs ready for mailing at Matthew store. For under a dollar a

box, you can send him a present he will treasure.

Continued next month

Thurmont's Annual Gateway to the Cure Covered Bridge 5K Run/Walk!
Sun., Sept. 13
8:30 a.m.

Eyler Rd. Park, 15 Eyler Rd., Thurmont

1. Register at RunSignUp.com & enter Gateway to the Cure
 2. Call Thurmont Municipal Office M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 301-271-7313
 3. Download an application at thurmontmainstreet.com

\$35 Per Person

Social Distancing Guidelines Will Be Followed!

All participants will receive a T-shirt. Pre-registered entries will receive their shirt at the event. Sign-ups 10 days or less prior to the event will have their shirts mailed.

All proceeds benefit the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health Group/James Stockman Cancer Center.



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