

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 14, NO. 5

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

MAY 2022

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Mount set to graduate Class of 2022

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

On May 14, Mount Saint Mary's University says congratulations and goodbye to her seniors as they graduate. While each have achieved something of considerable applause, three seniors walking across the stage are of particular significance not only to the Mount community, but to the community of Emmitsburg as a whole because of their active role with the Emmitsburg News-Journal. These seniors will be going in various directions post-graduation, and each are deserving of a highlight in this final May issue of the spring semester.

The first senior is Samuel Barber, who has been the Sports writer for the News-Journal for all four years of college. Barber's major is Communication, with a concentration in journalism. Throughout the years with the News-Journal, Barber has contributed significantly with his vibrant, articulate vocabulary describing the sports stories of the month, offering valuable

statistics and insight to allow for the readers to see the teams on a more robust level. For the Mount, Barber was a Division-I athlete on the cross-country and track & field teams. This experience set him up well for his post-graduation plan to attend Northwestern University's to pursue his Master's in Broadcast Journalism and Sport Analytics. Barber stated that he is “going to miss the close-knit community feel and the welcoming atmosphere that Emmitsburg presents to its students, staff and visitors.”

The next senior is Emily Jansen, who has been a prominent member of the “Four Years at the Mount” column for three years. Last semester, Jansen made the decision to graduate early because her hard-earned extra credit hours. Jansen is a double major in Conflict, Peace, and Social Justice and English, with a minor in Theology. Jansen served as the Mount's Student Body President while working tirelessly as Assistant Managing Editor of the News-Journal for over a year. Jan-



This year, the News-Journal says goodbye to three exceptional students who have kept the paper going through the pandemic: Harry Scherer, Emily Jansen and Samuel Barber.

sen is currently interviewing for publishing positions. She stated that she loves and will miss “all the people who've picked me up and carried me through these past three years.”

The final senior the Emmitsburg News-Journal is waiving goodbye to is Harry Scherer, who has been writing for the “Four Years at the Mount” column since his freshman year. Scherer is graduating with majors in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), History, and Latin. His work as the Managing Editor of the News-Journal in his senior year and the writing experience he has

cultivated allowed for him to be the editor-in-chief and cofounder of The Brownson Record. Scherer stated that “I used much of my experience through the Emmitsburg News-Journal as a model in the founding of this journal.” Post-graduation, Scherer will be an editorial fellow at The American Conservative through the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. As a new chapter begins and the Emmitsburg News-Journal's closes for him, Scherer stated, “I'm very grateful for the opportunity to lead the staff of the News-Journal over the past year. I will forever treasure this time.”

Watershed Alliance holds annual meeting

On April 13, the Watershed Alliance of Adams County held its annual meeting at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center in Gettysburg.

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County is an alliance of organizations working to preserve and enhance the cultural and natural assets of the South Mountain Landscape in Adams County. The main goal of the Alliance is to generate community involvement and education of the public on environmental efforts and resources. One of the principle missions of the Alliance is to monitor local streams to ensure continued safe recreation and clean drinking water to Adams County residents and downstream communities.

This year's meeting featured a presentation on the Watershed Alliance's water-borne pathogen-testing program. While most people know it can be unsafe to drink unfiltered water out of a stream or lake, even if the water is visibly clear, they may not know that wading, swimming, fishing, and playing in contaminated water can also cause illness, said Alliance President Pat Naugle.

Thanks to a grant from the South Mountain Partnership, the Watershed Alliance is launching

a water-testing program aimed at determining where Adams County's waters may be contaminated by dangerous pathogens, so that the public can make informed decisions about where to recreate in local waters, and in hopes that the findings will inform future water-quality improvement efforts, according to Communications Chair Chris Little. As part of this mission the Alliance will be testing approximately 30 sites to inform the public about where local waters may be contaminated.

At its meeting, the Alliance asked for community suggestions on where water testing should take place throughout the community. “We want to test where people are in the water,” including recreation spots, Alliance President Pat Naugle said.

Each location will get sampled five times in 30 days and volunteers are needed during the testing time of approximately five weeks in August, for as little or as much time as they can give. The average time for a location testing is a half hour a day once a week.

The pathogen-testing project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the



Students performing macro sampling to assess the health of Middle Creek from an aquatic life standpoint.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Over the years, the Alliance has participated in multiple projects focused on enhancing the environment, including the Middle Creek Assessment Project that, in partnership with Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve studied the health of the Middle Creek Watershed.

Also, thanks to the dedication of their all-volunteer organization, the Alliance is able to provide free trees to the community twice a year. In

April, the alliance distributed more than 9,000 trees over three days to 320 happy recipients. Planting trees and shrubs near waterways is particularly effective against storm-water runoff.

Alliance members participate in regular field trips, clean ups, and tours around the county highlighting environmental aspects and provides fun activities for kids to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards. For more information about the Watershed Alliance visit AdamsWatersheds.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Brookfield re-zoning approved

At its April 4 meeting, the Emmitsburg Town Council approved a zoning map amendment to change the zoning designation of two Brookfield parcels.

The rezoning from Neighborhood Commercial (B-1) to Low Density Residential (R-1) at the entrance of Brookfield on Timbermill Run allows for seven additional Brookfield single-family houses.

The developer intends to construct ten single-family detached lots, three of the lots are already under existing zoning. "It would be an addition of seven houses, it's a very modest request," said attorney Bruce Dean who represented Richard Demmitt of RJD Development, Brookfield's developer.

Demmitt has owned the property for over twenty years and noted the commercial component seemed exciting at first, but he had no luck in marketing the property.

"Through all these years we haven't been able to get anybody that had any interest," he said. The 2.5 acres that have remained vacant over 20 years, he said,

and was "undevelopable" with its current neighborhood commercial zoning.

Due to changes in the town, the properties were no longer suitable for commercial development and the town's local population growth did not support the need for additional retail space Dean said.

While the east side of town is currently seeing a significant amount of commercial development, the west side of town consists of almost exclusively residential development, Dean said.

There has been no commercial development in the vicinity of the property since the 2015 comprehensive plan was approved and the properties also have zero visibility from Main Street, according to Dean. "For a business to be viable it needs to be findable," he said.

At the public comment period, former town commissioner Dianne Walbrecker, who led previous comprehensive plans as chair of planning commission, said the B1 designation was intended to be neighborhood commercial district and the comprehensive plan's layout had anticipated to provide

residents the ability to walk to retail locations. Although the intentions were good, layouts of the town have changed since the comprehensive plan's implementation that could not necessarily have been foreseen, she said.

Commissioner Frank Davis noted residents don't go out to stroll town like they used to, and are now looking for one stop shopping.

The proposed rezoning to R1 will further the town's residential growth priorities as well as generate tax revenue and ideally address the town's decrease in population, Dean said.

However, Commissioner TJ Burns said that adequate infrastructure was not just water and sewer systems, but schooling as well. The housing development is guaranteed to bring in students, he said, and the Emmitsburg Elementary School is already currently at 92 percent capacity.

The Council urged a partnership between the developers and the town to put pressure on Frederick County to recognize that the Emmitsburg school system has not been updated in 20 years.

Property taxes to increase 3.7%

Property tax payments for residents of Emmitsburg who saw an increase in the assessed value of their property will go up an average of 3.7% this year. The increase is a result of the Emmitsburg Town Council unanimously approved maintaining the town's current property tax rate of .3464 per \$100 of assessed value.

According to the state, the estimated assessable base for 2022 increased for the town from \$205,155,221 to \$212,780,599, or a \$7,625,378. At the current tax rate, this will result in an increase of \$26,414 in tax revenue for the town.

According to Town Manager Cathy Willets, according to State requirements, if the tax revenue doesn't change by more than \$25,000, the town does

not have to hold a public constant yield tax rate hearing, and the 'tax rate' can remain the same without input from the community. As this was not the case this year, the council was required to vote on a new 'tax rate'.

In order to fully offset the effect of increased property assessments the 'constant yield' tax rate should have been reduced to .3340 per \$100 of assessed value. 'Constant yield' is the term applied to a tax rate that maintains the same level of tax revenue from the prior year. A decision not to apply a 'constant yield' rate results in an actual increase in 'out of the pocket' tax payments by town property holders.

Instead of going with the state's calculated 'constant yield' tax rate, town staff recommended that the coun-

cil maintaining the current tax rate of .3464, resulting in an additional \$26,414 in total property tax payment from town residents.

In January 2021, the state conducted its triennial re-assessment of the 'value' of property in town. Changes in a property's assessment value is phased-in over a three year period. Every year, the state notifies the town what the new total assessment is based upon inclusion of that year's portion of the phased-in assessment. Also included in the town's new assessment total are assessments from new constructions in Brookfield & South Gate.

Following the 2021 property re-assessments, the first of the 1/3rd phased increase resulted in the tax revenue increasing of \$27,870, based upon

the existing .36 tax rate. As a result, the state notified the town that the property tax rate should be reduced to .3464 to maintain the same 'constant yield' as the prior year.

Due to a variety of factors, Willets said, including COVID-19 and a delay in information, the town was unable to hold a public hearing and as a result, unable to keep the rate at .36. As a result, the town's property tax rate was reduced to the state recommend .3464, which while it cost the town \$27,870 in additional revenue, resulted in the homeowners not being hit with increased tax payments.

In justifying opting not to go with this year's state's proposed 'constant yielded rate' recommendation for the second portion of the passed-in assessment cycle, but instead, impose an increase in tax payments on property owners, Wil-

lets cited increases in the town's expenses, such as gas prices, which she told the council are expected to continue to skyrocket, which will negatively effect the town's budget.

While the new tax rate will result in a 3.7% tax increase on property owners, the proposed increase is only half the Consumer Price Index gage of inflation for 2021 that directly impacts the spending power of the town. However, Emmitsburg's .3464 tax rate is more than double that of Walkersville, which stands at .1600.

In 2023, the last of the 2021 tax assessment will be fully passed-in and the Town Council will have to decide again on what the property tax rate should be. The next re-assessment of Emmitsburg real property will be in January 2024 and the cycle will begin all over...

Tag readers coming

At its April meeting, the Town Council approved the purchase and installation of three advanced license plate readers on East Main street, West Main Street, and South Seton Avenue.

The license plate readers have cameras connected to the state system and will be

able to flag wanted vehicles and immediately notify state authorities of their presence in Emmitsburg. The camera are not speed enforcement cameras.

Purchase and installation of advanced license plate readers was awarded to Applied Technology Services of Middle

River for \$42,140.

Full funding was acquired with minimal assistance thanks to the tireless efforts of grant writer and former town clerk Madeleine Shaw.

Applied Technology Services was the only bidder with a software system compatible with the state police system at this time, Shaw said.

The tag reader system connects to law enforcement statewide, its transmissions are encrypted, and personal identifiable information is not transferred, according to Sergeant Keith Johnson with the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center.

"We take the security of the data seriously," he said.

The Town of Boonsboro has had a lot of success utilizing tag readers to solve crime and benefit law enforcement and Emmitsburg was encouraged to follow, Town Manager Willets said.

"The ability to share that data as part of the statewide system is impactful,"

Johnson said. "The readers are very reliable equipment and have a high life expectancy."

Because of the South Seton Street tag reader's close proximity to a school zone, there is a possibility for the speed enforcement cameras to be utilized there in the future, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

"This is a starting point, obviously we can add on as we go," she said.

Commissioner Joe Ritz voted against the tag reader, noting even if it was just a starting point the town needed a "bigger package" that included speed enforcement cameras in the areas as well.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Litterer in Liberty Township caught

At its April 5 meeting, Liberty Township Board of Supervisors heard that an alleged out of town litterbug potentially faces “hefty” fines as garbage was discovered dumped along the Middle Creek and Bullfrog Road area.

More than just a candy wrapper, two couches were recently discovered illicitly dumped along with a mattress and a port-a-potty, according to Chairman Walter ‘Mickey’ Barlow.

“Please don’t be dumping along our township roads, what’s really unfortunate about this is this was a non-resident,” he said.

Barlow hauled the items off to the dump and the cost to the township came to about \$259 which included labor cost, dump site fee, and township vehicle use, he said.

Residents witnessed the illicit dumping and assisted police in identifying the license plate and

contract information.

Upon a visit from police, the alleged confessed to the dumping and will have a hearing scheduled with the magistrate, Police Chief Sherri Hansen said.

Dumping is a summary non-traffic citation and has a sliding fine between approximately \$50 and \$300, along with costs paid by the township to clean up the waste and haul it to the dump themselves, she said.

The supervisors were disappointed someone from out of town would unload garbage into the community, noting for an individual to take garbage to the dump themselves costs considerably less.

“If he would just take it to the dump, it was \$13.25,” Barlow said.

In other news, Liberty Township road repair will move forward as the Supervisors approved adver-

tising bids for road work projects. Superpave asphalt will be applied on McLaughlin Road, around Water Street and Bullfrog Road, Barlow said. The funding will come from the state gas-tax fund.

It was also noted that the snow plow and salting equipment on the township Road Department truck has been removed in completion of the inclement season. The township staff is now preparing the tractor and mower for the upcoming cutting season.

Hamiltonban Park summer activities planned

This summer promises to be exciting at the Hamiltonban Fairfield Community Park. The Park Commission has received approval for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant in the amount of \$74,800 toward completing Phase 3 of the Park establishment project. The grant was matched by numerous donors including Adams Electric Cooperatives. The Commission is in the process of reviewing a contractor proposal to complete the project and work is planned to begin this summer.

The Phase 3 planned work includes

items that will enhance and expand the current Park facility, such as paving and lining the parking lot, expanding the walking path around the detention/runoff pond, construction of a pergola attached to the existing pavilion for additional shade, construction of a small pavilion near the natural playground area to house portable toilets, running water lines to the new pavilion and to the existing pavilion, and building a pickleball court.

Unfortunately, the grant and matching funds will not finance all the planned projects. According to the park commission, the pickleball court

will have to wait for a future grant or donations. The commission believes the pickleball court would be great for the community and is always open to working with prospective donors.

As in other years, the Park will continue to host seasonal activities including Kite Day and Music In The Park Sunday evenings. Kite Day was held April 23, as before, Competitive Kite Flyer, Joe Whitmore, was on hand to demonstrate his kites and skills and to help everyone get their kites aloft. Everyone was encouraged to bring a kite, create a kite from kit or use one available from the Commission.

Music in the Park will return for the fifth year with events planned for the third Sundays of June, July, and August. Music events are open to the public and aim to provide entertainment for families and the community. There are no rain dates scheduled.

Sunday, June 19, “Cumberland Shakedown” will return with their high energy performance of covers and beautiful original tunes. Bruce Rowland and Jimmy Wilkinson, who make up Cumberland Shakedown, have played together for over a decade. Both are accomplished guitarists that complement each other and are sure

to entertain throughout the evening. June 19, being Father’s Day, bring Dad out for great music and a special sweet treat.

Sunday, July 17, the Park will welcome for the first time “Seeds of Nostalgia” hosted by Joe and Betty Redding. Joe and Betty will be hosting their version of a closed performance showcase that includes live music. With a great following of singers and musicians, the evening promises to offer something for everyone.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Hamiltonban Township Office or Hamiltonban Fairfield Park Commission Chair John Strahler at 717-642-5858.

News Briefs . . .

Community Volunteers Honored

At its April 11 meeting, Carroll Valley Borough Council presented a certificate of appreciation to Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors’ ringleader Robin Dicken, “In recognition of the countless hours spent by them to help those in need in our community and for their acts of kindness given so selflessly,” Mayor Ron Harris said.

Harris credited Dicken in particular as the force behind Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors and bringing individuals together to make a difference in the community.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors makes a huge impact in the quality of life to those they help, Harris said.

The council honored all the volunteers of Neighbors Helping Neighbors for the work done to assist the less fortunate through food banks and donation drives as well as establish the Carroll Valley and Fairfield area as a place to call home.

Dicken insisted her name not be presented on the certificate, “Because there’s so many people in the community that helped make this happen,” she said.

Blessed to have such a supportive community, “We couldn’t do this without all the help from the community that come together, no matter what we’re getting involved with, they always come through and make it happen,” Dicken said.

Lake Carroll Spillway Repairs Underway

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved spillway repairs to Lake Carroll. The borough originally budgeted \$125,000 in the 2022 capital reserve budget to do both inlet and out-

let repairs on Lake Carroll, Borough Manager David Hazlett said.

Stabilization of the outlet structure where the water leaves the lake has been identified as the highest priority and repair work is already underway by Keystone Foundations Repair Inc. The work on the outlet structure will cost \$18,000. The repair involves pressurizing grout into the bank and behind spillway walls as well as pouring a new concrete slab over the existing spillway slab.

Inlet repairs are projected to be completed in 2023 by utilizing borough employees, and the total cost is estimated to be below the original budget.

Student Art Expo all Month

Members of the Carroll Valley Bor-

ough Office are excited to welcome the various student artists of the community with the first annual Fairfield Area School District Art Exhibition.

Throughout the month of May, the Borough Office will showcase the artwork of Fairfield Area High School and Middle School students.

The borough office is ecstatic to utilize the hangers on the wall for their intended purpose, to hang local art and welcome the community to the facility, Hazlett said.

An artist’s reception will be held May 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Daddy Daughter Dance Returns

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, one of the borough’s most popular events, the Daddy Daughter Dance returns May 14 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire Department.

Mayor Harris encouraged residents to dust off those boots and polish those tiaras, as this year’s theme is Denim and Diamonds and promises an old west style jamboree, complete with snacks, desserts, and a watering hole.

Tickets are \$40 per couple and \$10 for each additional child.

Help is always needed and appreciated for borough events, and anyone just a little too old to dance with dad is encouraged to lend a hand in preparations.

Registration and more information can be found at CVDaddyDaughter.eventbrite.com or by calling 717-642-8269.

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THURMONT NEWS

Proposed Master Plan workshop address concerns

At its April 20 meeting, the Thurmont Town Council held a workshop to address questions regarding the proposed Thurmont Master plan.

At its March 28 meeting, Thurmont residents came out in droves as the council discussed the town master plan and potential planning and zoning concerns. The majority of public comment expressed concern pertaining to property annexations.

The proposed master plan update has been in the works for two years under the auspices of Town Planner Chris Jakubiak, along with the Planning and Zoning Committee.

The town's master plan has to set boundaries where they think growth should go in the next 20-40 years as a long-term plan, Mayor John Kinnard said. A requirement of the town's master plan is to present potential project aspects for the town.

The council reiterated that annexation is always up to the property owners. The town is not in the business of plucking property away from unsuspecting owners and the only person who can provide authority to annex a property, is the individual property owner.

"If Thurmont grows out that way, it will be because property owners request their property to be annexed into the town of Thurmont," Mayor John Kinnard said.

Zoning changes year to year based on who owns the property, and anything to do with annexation or zoning, "All circles around the property owner requesting those changes," he said.

The community is encouraged to reach out to their town council before listening to potential misinformation on social media. "Once it is on there, people believe it," Commissioner Wayne Hooper said.

Citing his over 20 years of planning and zoning experience, Kinnard said the master plan gives the town better control of what can happen both inside and outside Thurmont. If a property is within a Thurmont growth boundary, Frederick County officials would have to approach the town and have discussions before subdivisions would be permitted.

Establishing potential projects helps keep county and state influence away from growth areas outside of town and can keep the county from swooping in with its own projects, he said.

Local towns might be the lowest rung on the ladder when it comes to government authority, Kinnard said, but he promised that local councils, like Thurmont, are the most involved with local resident's wellbeing.

"We work better at this level than any other level of government," he said.

Thurmont is unlike other municipalities, such as Frederick City, which will annex a property just for growth, Kinnard said.

The Town of New Market is a small municipality that is now surrounded by residential development that the town had no say in, Hooper said.

The town's proposed master plan is a cohesive idea for anything that comes in, "It's just a plan, nothing is set in stone," he said.

Any subdivision or annexation in Thurmont requires stages of planning discussion as well as review from multiple public facilities, Kinnard said.

Thurmont was the first municipality in Frederick County to require an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) that takes into consideration town water supply, wastewater capacities, stormwater, emergency response, and school districts. All these items have to be addressed, according to

Kinnard, noting it is a long process to be more than just a concept plan.

"We should be very proud of that," Kinnard said.

Thurmont strives to grow in aspects required by the state, but in a way that is responsible and maintains the character of the small-town, Jakubiak said.

"You won't find that in a lot of municipal plans, this is a unique and admirable attribute," he said.

The guiding principles of the Town's growth area involves long term planning, as it is important to have a continuation of policies so the community can expect a responsible census to be built over a long period of time.

"There are a lot of things that we have to look at, it may not be to the benefit of everybody, but we are compelled to look at every possible angle of everything that we have to get involved with," Kinnard said.

Thurmont once again named a Tree City USA

For the sixth consecutive year, the Town of Thurmont has been recognized as a Tree City USA. Dakota Durcho, Wester Region Forester with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, recently presented this recognition to Mayor John Kinnard, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick, and members of the Thurmont Green Team during the town's annual Greenfest.

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet criteria including, a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least two dollars per capita, and an Arbor Day observation and proclamation.

The Thurmont Green Team has continually surpassed achievements since its establishment in 2015.

In addition to achieving the Tree City USA accreditation, Thurmont was once again awarded the prestigious Growth Award for the second consecutive year. The Growth Award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories that combine to build sustainable community forestry programs over the long term. Thurmont is one of only nine communities in Maryland to receive the Growth Award.

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to

improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

In addition to being named a Tree City USA, Thurmont has also received numerous environmental stewardship recognition including the PLANT Award (People Loving And Nurturing Trees).

Despite limitations during the pandemic, not only has Thurmont's Green Team continued their dedication to sustainable planting efforts, but they also included safety protocols, social distancing and mask wearing while planting the parks trees.

On April 16, the Thurmont Green Team hosted the town's annual Green Fest, a "Waste Free Event" dedicated to the promotion of conserving water through fun and educational activities and information for the whole family.

Green Fest strives to provide information about electronic recycling and native pollinators to ensure a sustainable Gateway to the Mountains.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engage-

ment or public education."

"On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, we want to congratulate you for your hard work to continuously improve your community's urban forestry program in 2021...In times where community trees are more important than ever to combat climate change and make our cities more livable, your work will not go unnoticed," The Arbor Day Foundation stated in a letter addressed to the town.

"I am very pleased that we have achieved this level of tree care here in Thurmont. Our staff and volunteers have done a great job planting trees, maintaining them, and working hard to ensure that our trees remain healthy for future generations," Mayor John Kinnard said.

Microbreweries approved

At its April 19 meeting, the Thurmont Town Council approved a text amendment change to allow microbreweries into the general business zoning districts.

In February, Josh Bollinger, owner of Bollinger's Restaurant located at 210 North Church Street, presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee for the text amendment change.

The Planning and Zoning Committee found that microbreweries, breweries that produce less than 15,000 barrels of product a year, were found to be an acceptable use within the business zoning districts.

The Town Planning and Zoning Committee recommended approval to amend the ordinance to allow microbreweries, stating

that microbreweries are in the town's best interest and match the nature of the town.

Bollinger looked to establish a small-scale microbrewery at the restaurant and hoped to see growth from this addition. He has been home brewing for over a year and has been very happy with the results. Bollinger said he was not aiming to come anywhere close to the 15,000

barrels a year limit and looked to focus more on quality over quantity.

The Council unanimously approved the use of microbreweries in general business and town business zoning districts. Mayor John Kinnard in particular noted that microbreweries are a "Destination that people go out of their way to visit," and can only benefit the town by bringing in patrons to other businesses.

A public hearing was held in

which several members of the community voiced in favor of the microbrewery.

Bollinger has christened his tap label, "Uncle Dirty's Brew Works," and looks forward to serving the brew along with his restaurant's food.

Bollinger agreed with the town that microbreweries are "magnets" that attract customers and help other businesses in the area, he said. "I really think it will grow," he said.

 <p>WOODBRIDGE BY ROBERT MONDAVI SPARKLING INFUSIONS 750 ML 3 FLAVORS</p>	 <p><i>Leinenkugel's</i> SUMMER SHANDY 6 PAK & 12 PAK</p>	 <p>P PENELOPE BOURBON Available in 3 Varieties 750 ML</p>	 <p><i>Tanqueray</i> GIN COCKTAILS 3 FLAVORS 4 PAK</p>
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 <p><i>Captain Morgan</i> CHERRY VANILLA SPICED RUM 750 ML</p>	 <p><i>Paul's Pit Stop</i> DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262 Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p>ROGUE BEER 6 PAK CANS</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

Property tax revenue to increase

Property tax revenue for Taneytown will go up 3.5% this year. The increase is a result of the City Council opting to keep the town's current property tax rate of .37 per \$100 of assessed value. This will be the tenth year that Taneytown has held the line and keep its tax rate at .37 per \$100 of assessed value.

According to the state, the estimated assessable base for 2022 increased for the town from \$744,694,384 to \$ 771,047,393, or a \$26,353,009. The increase was a result of not only inflation, but on new housing in the City that came

on the books last year.

In order to fully offset the effect of increased property assessments the 'constant yield' tax rate should have been reduced to .3574 per \$100 of assessed value. 'Constant yield' is the term applied to a tax rate that maintains the same level of tax revenue from the prior year. A decision not to apply a 'constant yield' rate results in an actual increase in 'out of the pocket' tax payments by town property holders.

Instead of going with the state's calculated 'constant yield' tax rate, town staff recommended that the

council maintaining the current tax rate of .37, resulting in an additional \$97,506 in total property tax payment from town residents.

In justifying opting not to go with this year's state's proposed 'constant yielded rate' recommendation, Town Manager Jim Wieprecht said that though the town is always looking for efficiencies and cost saving measures that won't diminish the level of service we provide, costs for the City generally rise each year, Wieprecht said. "Just as most folks see household expenses increase, particularly considering

current the level of inflation."

"Taneytown's largest revenue source is that property tax, so lowering the tax rate to the constant yield rate would fail to recognize that the City isn't immune to cost increases most organizations must address, such as healthcare costs, trying to keep employee wages competitive, power, fuel, vehicle related expenses, materials etc." Wieprecht said.

"Fuel does have me a bit on edge as we budget for fuel at \$4 a gallon and are usually happy when we don't see it reach that point, at least not for long periods. In FY-23, I'm sure we'll be watching that line item very closely. As the City grows, we also

have more infrastructure to maintain, more streetlights to power and so on, so I'd hope it's understandable that City expenses will rise."

While retaining the current tax rate will result in a tax increase on property owners whose assessment increased, the proposed increase is only half the Consumer Price Index gage of inflation for 2021 that, as Wieprecht noted, directly impacts the spending power of the town.

At the same meeting, the City Council opted to also keep the water and sewer rates as they been for several years now. Water is \$7.25 per 1,000 gallons and sewer is \$14.24 per 1,000 gallons.

Main Street Advisory Board approved

A new Main Street Taneytown advisory board will kick off following adoption of an official ordinance by the City Council that codified the organization. Included in the ordinance is the process the board will utilize to organize and establish its internal operating procedures.

The ordinance clarifies whom the Main Street Manager reports to. The process employed by previous Main Street Manager and board was ambiguous, raising concerns from some taxpayers, as the

manager was a City employee.

Councilwoman Diane Foster noted the importance for roles to be clear and for members to understand who reports to whom.

Once the board members are identified and approved, they will establish processes and procedures they will work by. The process and procedures will have to be approved by the council. "The Main Street board will have a say in operations, but the council will make the final decision. "You all get to stay in the driver's seat of this one,"

Wantz told the Council.

Mayor Wantz stressed the importance of the Main Street program serving the community, and by holding it "a little closer to the chest... the town will be more cognizant of what it's doing, particularly the financial side of things. "The new ordinance will ensure the Main Street Program initiatives will align with Main Street Maryland and the goals of the city, he said.

Economic Development Director Jay Meashey will serve as Main Street Manager and while the advisory board

may advise Meashey, he will report to the city manager.

The board will provide Meashey with recommendations for Main Street and business improvements, the same way the Parks and Recreation Board advises Director Lorena Vaccare, Wantz said.

Advisory meetings will be organized and overseen by a Main Street Advisory Board Chair. As members come up with ideas to enhance Main Street, the Advisory Board Chair will bring them to the council for approval.

Any recommendations by the advisory board can be adopted and modified by the council.

According to Wantz, the purpose of the Main Street Advisory Board is to strengthen the economic potential of Taneytown's walkable central business district which is geographically defined in accordance with the determination of the Maryland Department of Housing and community development and to promote the purposes of the Maryland Main Street program.

More information about Main Street Taneytown can be found at mainstreettaneytown.com.

News Briefs...

Well Control System Purchase

At its April 11 meeting, the City Council approved the purchase of a well control system in the amount of \$68,680. The system will give public works supervisors the ability to remotely turn wells on or off without requiring someone to drive out to the location if issues arise.

Public Works Supervisors will receive alerts via their smartphones when there is an issue with a well, standpipe, or water tank, as well as be able to check the status of wells.

Supervisors will be able to remotely identify currently pumping wells in addition to pinpointing which individual wells are idling, he said.

The system will replace the current landlines the department utilizes for alert calls, so the city will be able to cross off some Verizon charges for some lines.

"Some of them are rather expensive, to the tune of \$900 a month... So there will be a cost savings going forward as well," City Manager James Wieprecht said.

The current auto dialers using the telephone system do not push messages through all the time and the new system will alleviate these issues with a control module that consists of radio transmissions and receivers.

In addition to the increased abilities granted to the public works department, the system will also save the City thousands of dollars a year and pay for itself in just over six years, according to cost estimates by Mayor Pro Tem Joe Vigliotti.

"It is a pretty robust system that can be expanded," Wieprecht said.

Additional equipment can also be purchased in the future to incorporate additional features and expand to areas such as

other city sewer pumping stations including the York Street Pumping Station, Carroll Vista Station, and Windy Hills.

Essay Contest Seeks Local Contributions Writers

Taneytown City Council seeks more local student participation

in a statewide municipal writing competition.

Every March, the Maryland Municipal League (MML) hosts an essay contest asking all fourth-grade students across the state to contribute their ideas of what they would do as Mayor of their municipality, according to Mayor Bradley Wantz.

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The fun and engaging "If I Were Mayor" writing contest is at no cost to participants and helps youths understand local governments and bring out their creativity to showcase what changes they would implement

to make their community a better place, he said.

For next year's contest, Taneytown Council would like to read the ideas of more local representation from Taneytown School District fourth graders.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Michael Blue

On Thursday, April 14th, the County Executive gave her proposed budget to the County Council. The County Council is scheduled to have a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating and Capital Budget at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 19th. Following that, we hold a hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm.

The Constant Yield Tax Rate is set by a complicated formula developed by the State of Maryland. This is one of the more confusing parts of our budget process.

Each unit of Maryland government (state, county, municipality), set property tax rates.

Assessments are based on the fair market value of the property and are issued by the Department of Assessments and Taxation, an agency of our State government. Property tax bills are issued in July/August of each year by Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, as well as the 155 incorporated municipalities in Maryland.

Our County contains three reassessment regions (cycles), which allows for approximately 1/3 of the property accounts to be reassessed each year, called Triennial Assessment Cycle. During the Triennial Assessment Cycle, a property is reassessed once every three years and

the property owner is notified of any change in their assessment in late December.

The Constant Yield Tax Rate is a Maryland State Law that exists for the education of the taxpayer. The constant yield tax rate is the amount that property taxes can be set to bring in the same amount of revenue as the previous tax year. The tax rate can stay the same, but the constant yield will increase or decrease due to the increase or decrease in property assessments. If the property tax rate stays the same but property assessments go up, this will result in an increase of County revenues. Homeowner's, please remember that you can

appeal your property assessment when it arrives from the state.

During this year's Maryland General Assembly session, there were two bills introduced that dealt with the Constant Yield Tax Rate. HB 508, sponsored by Delegate Mike McKay, proposed to modify specified advertising requirements that local jurisdictions must follow regarding the constant yield tax rate. Specifically, the bill requires local jurisdictions that propose a real property tax change from the prior year to advertise in the same manner as required if the local jurisdiction was proposing the tax rate as a property tax change as opposed to a real property tax increase, as required under cur-

rent law. HB 445 sponsored by Delegate Stephanie Smith (and cross-filed by Senator Antonio Hayes), proposed to modify specified advertising requirements that local jurisdictions must follow regarding the constant yield tax rate by establishing a separate notification requirement for jurisdictions that maintain their real property tax rate from the prior year. Neither of these bills made it out of committee.

I want to remind everyone that the Primary Election has been scheduled for July 19th. If you have not registered to vote, please do so as soon as possible.

You can call my office at 301-600-1034 or email me at MBlue@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

County Councilman Phil Dacey

The Frederick County Council has been busy in this, the last year of the term. We have passed a Police Accountability Board that will uphold public safety, begun work on the budget, and set a date for the Constant Yield Tax Rate public hearing.

I want to begin by reminding everyone that the elections are upcoming. The date of the primary election had been uncertain for some time due to court challenges to the redistricting maps. Well, the maps are now final and the primary election date was

moved to Tuesday, July 19. Frederick County residents will see quite a few changes from what they are used to as both the state legislative lines and the congressional lines have been changed. All of Frederick County is now in Congressional District 6, currently represented by Congressman David Trone. The County Council district lines changed the least, as only 2 precincts moved from District 2, to District 5. For more information about your new districts, you can visit the Frederick County Board of Elections website.

The County was required by the Maryland Legislature to create a Police Accountability Board which will investigate internal and external police complaints and make recommendations on policy and training. We received hundreds of comments, emails, and calls about this Board showing a lot of community interest in the makeup of the Board. There will be 11 members appointed by the County Executive; this will be in place by July and ready to take action in October. The bill passed unanimously.

The next issues are related. The fiscal year 2023 budget for Frederick County was unveiled. The Council is still examining the budget but at a high level, the county has proposed spending \$792 million representing a whopping 10.4% increase over last year's \$714 million budget. To remind you, last year's budget increase was nearly 9% meaning over the past two years, County spending has increased 20% and gone up by \$145 million in just 2 years. These are unprecedented spending levels.

Related to this is the constant yield property tax rate. Because property values have increased tre-

mendously over the past few years in Frederick, people are paying more in property taxes. This will affect everyone who lives in Frederick County, because property taxes are paid by all property owners and are a factor in increasing rents as well. Unless the Council acts to lower the tax rate, the amount paid by families in property tax will continue to rise each year.

The County Council has a hearing set to take public comment on the tax rate. This hearing will be May 3. I encourage everyone to call in, leave a message, or make comments in person with your feelings about the property tax rate.

Mayors

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs
Recently I had the opportunity, along with other county municipal leaders, to meet USDA Rural Development/Department of U.S. Agriculture, Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small. The event was held at a midday gathering at the South Mountain Creamery in downtown Frederick. The event was hosted by our to-be 6th district congressional representative David Trone who along with his staff was in attendance and members of his staff. Most of questions fielded by both, centered around scrambling to staff for, and pay for, the ever-increasing load of regulatory

demands being placed on municipalities.

The town project to replace 122 curb ramps throughout the town with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps project is now complete. It was about a yearlong project. Thank you to all for your perseverance. Added to the project, with efficient management savings, are funds for the storm water piping along Cedar Avenue (southside of Community Center) to South Seton Avenue. Installing a sidewalk over new piping is planned for town 2023-2024 fiscal year. The estimated project cost of \$623,000 will be funded by a state administered, federal community block grant. Congratulations to the town staff

for applying, assisting contractor, and overseeing the project.

The final phase of planting 250 trees of the town 3,300+/- native tree program was completed by approximately 50 volunteers on the beautiful, sunny Saturday morning, April 16th. This was the day the town designated this year to celebrate Arbor Day. All 3,300 trees are planted on eleven acres of town owned land by our wastewater treatment plant on Creamery Road (east side of US 15). Thank you to town clerk Julie Scott, and town planner Zach Gulcan for working with Streamlink Education who managed the plantings funded by a Chesapeake - Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund grant. The plantings are one of the town programs accomplishments to meet the state mandatory time phase MS-4 requirement.

Also in the planning is the North Seton Ave. Green Street project. The project streetscape is part of a beautification to replace bare open concrete/asphalt culvert with improvements to include sustainable plantings designed to impede the flash flood storm sheet flow that on more than one occasion over the years has contributed to flooding at the base of Federal Avenue and North Seton Avenue, limiting access through the area, and entry into the Northgate subdivision. Adding to the practical aspects of the design will be twenty-three designated on-street parking spaces. The estimated project cost of \$291,000 should be 100%

funded by a Chesapeake Trust Community Legacy Federal Flood grant. The Green Street project is planned for 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Pickleball is now part of the array of town outdoor activity offerings. The tennis court in Meyers Community Park has an overlay imprinted of the smaller 20" wide by 44' in length pickleball court over the tennis court. The lines are only visible from close-up and should not affect tennis play. It is a game, same net height as tennis, played with a wiffleball that has caught on with seniors.

New sidewalk connections, new bleachers at ball field, new family picnic gazebos, and now pickle ball. Soon a new paved parking lot at Memorial Park, while all the time continuing to work on the existing infrastructure.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird
Hopefully, we are now enjoying a beautiful Spring! As you are aware we had frost well into April and snow on the 18th. Mother Nature seemed to be having trouble deciding when to move on from Winter.

The improved weather will get everyone outdoors for yard work. The Town of Thurmont will be picking up grass clippings on Monday mornings. This pickup is for grass clippings and leaves only, with no sticks, root balls, dirt, or stones! Please have the yard waste in paper bags by 6 in the morning for pick up and keep the bags under 40lbs. The Yard Waste

drop-off site on Moser Road will be open from 8 until noon on May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, Aug. 14th, Sept, 11th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 13th, and Dec. 11th. The Yard Waste site accepts grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, sticks, and tree limbs up to 6" in diameter. We ask that you use paper bags or that you empty your plastic bags, then remove the bags. We do not accept tree trunks, large root balls, or fencing.

Our parks will also be getting busier with the nice weather. Picnic pavilions can be reserved by calling the Town Office at 301-271-7313. Please be watchful when driving near or through our parks, children are not always aware of their surroundings. The Thurmont Little League and the CYA are getting up to speed and offer great opportunities for our children to participate in group sporting activities. Be sure to stop and watch them play this season, the kids will be happy to see you in the stands. The Thurmont Little League is making much-needed improvements to the restroom facilities at Leisner Field. CYA Football recently completed the construction of a new field house including a meeting room, storage area, and a press box. The Town had the newest football field resurfaced and seeded in anticipation of this year's schedule. All of our youth sports organizations would be very appreciative of any financial support you can provide.

Continued on next page



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

May is such a beautiful month! Frederick County comes alive with bright colors as our gardens, forests and meadows spring into bloom. Take some time this month to appreciate the gorgeous county we all call home. Visit one of our fabulous parks, take your child or grandchild to an outdoor storytime at your local library branch, or simply enjoy the vistas as you move around town.

At Frederick County Government, Spring means it is time to plan the next budget. Last month, I unveiled my people-centered budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. I am excited that we are making historic investments in education, safe communities, and agriculture preservation. At the same time, targeted tax cuts will provide relief to 60% of all income tax filers in Frederick County. For the eighth straight year, there is no increase to our property or income tax rates. Here are the highlights:

Keeping the promise of public education with a record investment. The budget provides \$35 million in new funding, including \$1.6 million to provide Chromebooks for all elementary school students. The remaining \$33.4 million will ensure we have the best teachers in our classrooms, aid recovery from the pandemic, and

ensure the highest student outcomes. I also accelerated school construction projects. For the first time ever, nine school construction projects are advancing in the upcoming year.

Ensuring safe communities by investing in public safety. This budget includes funds for body cameras and the new Police Accountability Board that the County is required to establish.

Delivering a healthy Frederick with a full range of care for mental health and substance misuse. The County will expand our mobile crisis response team and allow us to build a crisis stabilization center.

Leaving a legacy of agriculture for future generations. My budget more than doubles the funding for agriculture preservation. This allows us to reach Livable Frederick's goal of preserving 100,000 acres as much as 10 years sooner!

Advancing Seniors First initiatives to support the fastest-growing segment of our population. We will deliver food to vulnerable seniors, expand paratransit to take seniors to medical appointments and dialysis, and make the popular Virtual Senior Center a permanent offering.

Valuing County workers. Our public servants are on the front line delivering effective and effi-

cient services each and every day. By providing competitive pay, we can attract and retain employees to our hard-to-fill positions, such as CDL drivers and nurses.

Providing targeted income tax relief for those who need it most, our seniors and ALICE households. Residents who file "single status" returns will qualify if they earn \$50,000 or less a year, as will those who file joint returns and earn \$100,000 a year or less. About 80,000 Frederick County tax filers will see a 7% reduction in their income taxes.

I am proud that Frederick County lives within our means while providing outstanding services. You can find a detailed copy of the entire budget at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget.

My budget invests in what matters most. We are keeping the promise of public education, ensuring safe communities, improving public health, valuing our rich history and protecting our agricultural heritage, and advancing the overarching vision and priorities found in Livable Frederick.

Community Partnership Grants We are blessed in Frederick County to have so many human service nonprofits working to make life better for everyone. Seven years

ago, I launched the Community Partnership Grants program to restore the county's longstanding partnership with these agencies. Working together, we can leverage resources, avoid duplication of effort, and establish a strong collaboration to meet the human service needs in our community. The county saves tax dollars working with these community organizations through early intervention and prevention.

This year, I was pleased to announce Community Partnership Grants to 27 nonprofits doing important work. For instance, the Mission of Mercy will use a grant to provide medical care for seniors. The Seton Center uses its grant for its DePaul Dental Program. Blessings in a Backpack provides food to hundreds of schoolchildren so they can eat on weekends and over school breaks. Lead4Life Inc. works to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The full list of grants is posted on the County's website, www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPGawardsFY23.

Our nonprofit partners are taking care of people in our community. By supporting these human services organizations, together we can make a bigger difference to people.

Election judges

The Frederick County Board of Elections is looking for people to serve as election judges for this summer's Primary Election. Election judges greet and check in voters, give directions, and oversee the procedures to ensure voters can cast their ballots securely. Judges are needed for early voting as well as on the day of the Primary, July 19.

Judges are paid \$175 a day, plus \$50 for training. Chief Judges receive \$225 a day and \$75 for training, since there is additional work involved. High school students can earn Student Service Learning credits if they work as an Election Judge.

The Maryland General Assembly passed emergency legislation this year that requires all counties to provide the same number of voting centers as they did in 2018. For Frederick County, that means there will need to be election judges at 63 polling locations, far more than the 37 voting centers that the Elections Board had prepared to open.

If you are interested in serving as an Election Judge, you can apply online at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Elections, or call 301-600-4141 to have an application sent to you. Working at a poll is a great way to serve our community!

Continued from previous page

The update to the Thurmont Master Plan is nearly complete and should be approved by the Board of Commissioners. This update is two years in the making and has involved many steps including more than a dozen dedicated Planning and Zoning Meetings several public hearings and reviews by the State and County. I want to thank the members of the Planning & Zoning Commission, our planner Chris Jakubiak and town staff members Kelly Duty and Jim Humerick for all the time and thought they have invested in this document.

The Board of Commissioners is wrapping up the budget considerations for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The budget gives us a fiscal plan for the year ahead based on expected reve-

nue and expenses for our General Fund, Electric Department, Water Department, and Waste Water Department. The budget is crafted with input from the department heads and our Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce. As Mayor, it is my responsibility to introduce the proposed budget

to the Board of Commissioners and after their review and recommendations, we will adopt the budget. The new budget will take effect on July 1.

Have any questions, suggestions, compliments, or concerns? I can be reached at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com.

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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Governor Larry Hogan Endorses Kelly Schulz for Governor

Governor Larry Hogan formally endorsed Kelly Schulz to succeed him as the next governor of Maryland. Schulz who served in the Hogan administration for seven years as the first female secretary of both the Department of Labor and Department of Commerce played a central role in Changing Maryland for the Better.

"If you approve of how we have led Maryland, then Kelly Schulz is your choice for governor," said Governor Hogan. "With all the progress we have made together, we cannot afford to go back to the days of 43 consecutive tax hikes with jobs and businesses fleeing to other states, and Kelly is the only candidate in this race running to continue moving Maryland in the right direction. She will fight to hold violent criminals accountable, cut taxes, and make sure our children can get the world-class education they deserve."

Governor Hogan continued: "As

a small business owner and Delegate, Kelly Schulz has a proven track record of creating jobs and getting things done. As a member of our cabinet, Kelly was an integral part of our success over the past seven years. I've seen firsthand how much she loves our state and how hard she will work for all of our people. I am proud to support her campaign to keep Changing Maryland for the Better."

"It is a great honor for me to receive the support of Governor Hogan," said Kelly Schulz. "The governor has been a transformational leader for our state and I thank him for entrusting me with continuing to build upon the tremendous success that our state has experienced and his legacy of accomplishment."

Schulz went on to say: "Our campaign is about making sure Maryland stays safe, steady, and prosperous while focusing on the issues that Marylanders really care about. Governor Hogan has proven what is possible when you make a commit-

ment to commonsense solutions and not partisan politics. If Marylanders want smart, pragmatic leadership in Annapolis, that is exactly what I am pledging to continue."

Prior to Governor Hogan's election in 2014, a majority of Marylanders were unhappy with the direction of the state. After 40 consecutive tax increases and an anti-business approach from state government, nearly half of all Marylanders stated that they would flee the state if they could. Since Governor Hogan took office, those attitudes have changed – Maryland is now open for business, and in poll after poll, the vast majority of Marylanders approve of the direction of the state.

Over the last eight years, Governor Hogan has been tested with the riots in Baltimore and confronting a worldwide pandemic, as well as a personal bout with cancer. He's overcome these challenges and Marylanders have overwhelmingly approved of his job performance,

awarding him with reelection and making him among the most popular elected officials in America.

Under the governor's leadership, and with Kelly Schulz as one of his trusted advisers, Maryland has become a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Tasked by Governor Hogan to serve as Maryland's chief regulatory and economic development officer, Schulz was instrumental in working to grow Maryland's economy and foster a more competitive business environment.

While working for the Hogan administration, Schulz partnered with the governor to advance a number of key initiatives. Working in tandem, Governor Hogan and Kelly Schulz fought for tax relief and advocated for the largest tax cut for small businesses in state history, the RELIEF Act, eliminated or streamlined hundreds of regulations, and established and grew nationally recognized job training and apprentice-

ship programs. Because of their work together, Maryland now ranks as the most improved state for business.

Prior to serving in the Hogan administration, Kelly Schulz was a successful small business owner and delegate who represented Frederick County. As a member of the General Assembly, Schulz introduced or co-sponsored over \$250 million in targeted tax relief that was enacted for Marylanders and focused on keeping communities safe, while expanding economic and educational opportunities for all Marylanders.

As Maryland's next governor, Kelly Schulz is committed to ensuring that Marylanders will have strong leadership in the governor's office so that our state can be safe, steady, and prosperous.

To learn more about Kelly Schulz, visit her campaign website at www.kellyschulzforgovernor.com.

Daryl Boffman (D), County Executive

Frederick County is at a pivotal moment in time with regards to the upcoming elections. County Executive Jan Gardner has laid a solid foundation for our county during her two-terms as Frederick County's first County Executive. However, we must forge forward with visionary leadership that can bring the community together as One Frederick. We need tenacious leadership determined to restore our public school system to a level of excellence, while creating an environment where businesses thrive and grow unhindered by burdening processes and fees.

We need mature leadership that understands that affordable housing, growth, financial stewardship, and a strong economy are all interdependent. We need caring leadership focused on creating

a community where our educators, emergency service personnel and medical staff can afford to retire for the evening in the county they serve tirelessly. We need responsible leadership that safeguards the environment, while respecting our residents' inalienable rights to pursue happiness and business owner's need for profit to be a going concern. We need executive leadership that understands that well planned and managed growth in every sense will ensure Frederick County can compete in this global society.

According to Frederick County's Charter (the official document establishing the governance and regulatory guidelines and roles associated with Frederick County's transition to a Charter form of government), the County Executive directs, supervises, and oversees Frederick County Gov-

ernment departments and agencies, establishes policies, and proposes budgets. The County Executive's ability to lead and manage a County is remarkably like a Corporate Executive Officer's (CEO) responsibility to lead a business.

I have been asked why I am the best candidate to serve as the next County Executive of Frederick County and my response is that my life's journey has prepared me for this moment in time. I am by nature, a servant leader who has served the people of Frederick County for 30 years.

During the progression of my professional career, I have served as a manager, director, executive director, vice president, president, and CEO. I reached the level of vice president for two different companies prior to starting Acela Technol-

ogies (Acela) in 2002 and served as President/CEO for 15 years. Acela was the first company to successfully design and deploy a converged wireless infrastructure for the hospitality industry which allowed guests to use their cell phones in large hotels. Acela received awards over the years, including "Creative Firm of the Year" and "5 State Region Top 100 Minority Business Enterprises." The Maryland Technology Council selected me as "Entrepreneur of the Year" and "Executive of the Year," and twice the Maryland Business Gazette selected me as a "Top 25 CEO's You Need To Know", while I earned Presidential, Congressional, State, and local recognition for community service.

In addition to my executive level experience in the business industry, I have also volunteered to serve on

several boards in Frederick County to include the Heartly House, Eliminating Achievement Gaps (EAG), UNESCO Center for Peace, Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, Hood College's board of associates, and Frederick Health Hospital. I feel my experiences as a corporate executive combined with my knowledge and experience serving on boards for organizations that serve as the cornerstones of the community have prepared me to serve as the next County Executive.

Frederick County needs a leader who cares about every resident and who is willing to Listen, Learn and Lead the County into the future while promoting prosperity for all. I would be honored to serve Frederick County as your next County Executive. Please visit our website at www.friendsofdboffman.com for more information.



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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Brad Young (D), County Council-At-Large

The filing deadline has passed, and I will not have to run in the July Primary. I now can focus on the general election in November. This spring and summer, I will be out meeting voters through door-knocking and attending many events such as carnivals and parades. I am looking forward to the Fall and having the opportunity to debate with the other candidates for the position on County Council at large. I am pledging that I will run a civil and respectful campaign with all the candidates for council.

Over the next few months, I will start to outline some of the priorities that I will have if elected

to the county council. This month I will talk about education. Our county is facing historic growth in enrollments as more people move to our great county. That growth is putting pressure both on the operating and capital budgets for the school system. Frederick is one of the only counties in Maryland that increased in enrolled students this school year. That growth is expected to continue for years to come. We are going to have to make sure that schools in those growth areas do not become overcrowded. We also need to make sure that we can keep up with the renovations needed at our older schools as well. Schools like

Walkersville High, Catoctin High, Middletown High, and others have not seen renovations in many decades and cannot be overlooked. More capital dollars will have to be dedicated to accommodating growth.

I am also a huge supporter of our Career and Technology Center (CTC) and CTE programs. As a county, we need to find a way to expand the CTC and its program offerings. Almost every program at the CTC currently has waiting lists to get in. The CTC gives students the opportunity to get career training where they can make a good living. Every student does not need or want to go to

college. Many students just want to get an employable skill. The CTC provides those opportunities and we need to support expanding those opportunities.

Regarding the operating budget, Frederick County is at the bottom of the list for how much is spent per student in the State of Maryland. The current county administration under County Executive, Jan Gardner has been very generous in increasing FCPS' budget over the past 8 years, but we are still playing catch-up. I am committed to supporting increased funding for education. Education is the great equalizer in our country, and we must support it.

This is also true of our great community college, Frederick Community College. FCC provides our county students the opportunity to get a great education right in our county at a much-reduced cost to universities. Frederick County is also blessed to have 2 great private Colleges in Hood and Mount St. Mary's. I have been honored to be an adjunct faculty member at the Mount over the past 19 years.

I am deeply committed to making sure that Frederick County residents get the best education possible, and that Frederick County government is a great partner with our public schools, and our colleges and universities to make that continue to happen!

Colt Black (R), U.S. Congress

No one likes the idea of paying taxes, although it is one of two certainties in life. In thinking about taxes, many questions come to mind such as why do we have to have a tax code so complicated that a cottage industry of "tax preparation" has developed over time? Why does only a small percentage of people contribute to the tax base? How is it fair for someone involved in illegal business to avoid paying taxes?

These are among the common questions that come to mind yet we have never had a tax code that

addresses the fairness, efficiency, or simplicity that so many Americans would prefer.

Enter the idea of "Fair Tax". A method of taxation which would enable the individual to retain their entire paycheck, create a broader base to stabilize Social Security & Medicare, capture revenue from previously unavailable sources, and abolish the Internal Revenue Service.

Fair tax simply put would eliminate all federal income tax among other taxes. Instead, a national retail sales tax would be implemented on new goods and services

with protections of purchases up until the poverty line and on certain necessities.

One of the most noticeable benefits of the "Fair Tax" is every citizen would bring home the actual amount of money they make per pay period including what you would have paid in federal taxes.

Social Security and Medicare will receive more funding than ever before. Instead of relying on taxes from only those working which is a small number under the "Fair Tax" plan, the funding would come from a much larger group includ-

ing those in illegal business and illegal immigrants.

"Fair Tax" gives the individual the ultimate control on how much in taxes they pay, as each individual controls their own purchases.

"Fair Tax" also includes a "prebate" which provides for advance refunds to legal resident households on items up to the poverty line each month preventing burdens on low-income families.

Last but not least the tax being collected by businesses across America would be directly remitted to the US Treasury and the retailers and states collecting the tax would be given a fee for their collection efforts. No more com-

plicated forms and law means no more IRS. We can abolish the IRS.

While no taxing at all would always be better, without taxes our collective governmental functions would cease. But that does not mean we have to be stuck with the same miserable way of paying them.

That is why I am pleased to join with other colleagues across the nation to sign the Fair Tax Candidate Pledge. Because no one should pay more tax than their fair share. If you'd like to find out more about fair tax visit www.fairtax.org. To support our campaign and find out more about our platform go to www.coltblackforcongress.com.

Dylan Diggs (R), County Council-at-Large

Running for County Council-at-Large has afforded me the duty and opportunity to reach out to voters from all across our county. A campaign is opportunity for candidates to express their message, but I have always found voter contact to be critical to the education of a candidate. There is no substitute to talking to folks and hearing from them about their priorities.

In this important year both parties in Frederick want change. After two terms of Charter Government, indications suggest that we will see a further leftward lurch from the Democratic Party. Conservatives want change too. It'll be incumbent on Republicans to articulate our alternative vision for Frederick.

Seeing competitive visions is critical not because it matters who sits in what chairs. Partisan point scoring doesn't help citizens better thrive in our community. This is important because local government decisions have such an impact on our lives. We've seen that even more on

display over these past years.

The tasks before the next council are significant. The next county government will have an opportunity to find a balance for how our county grows. Frederick has seen rapid growth and increased density, while also experiencing sky rocketing housing prices and increased traffic woes.

Growth is not necessarily a bad thing, but everything should be dosed with moderation. Frederick is a wonderful county and folks want to live here. A healthy pipeline of development can ensure that housing prices are more reasonable for citizens and that we grow responsibly.

The task before decisions makers is to provide stability. We cannot thrive flipping between dramatic differences in land use. Livable Frederick was supposed to deliver in this regard. For a variety of reasons, we haven't yet seen it do so. Sustained public policy is not about plans. Strategy is important, but good governance is forged through practice.

What I'm hearing from voters is that the next council will have to find a better balance that provide clarity and certainty for citizens, communities, families and businesses. It's a chorus singing in tune: better roads, infrastructure, safety and business opportunity. A chief part of balancing growth is securing a reliable path forward for business development in the county.

Everybody says small and medium business is the backbone of our economy. But our approach to business has to be more than just a talking point. Free enterprise is among our greatest strengths. Bureaucracies are not great at assessing the needs of folks in the community. Consumers know their needs more than any

government plan, or even the negotiated tastes of big business. Businesses closest to the community are more likely to grasp and respond these needs.

Competition is the process of discovery, learning and adaptation, and small and medium business play a critical role in our community because in a world of scarcity, they have to be flexible and move like water to meet community demand. The entrepreneurial spirit keeps our community vibrant and dynamic.

I'm the son of a small business owner. I've seen the struggle to meet a budget while innovating to keep afloat. This is at a moment when our county's small and medium businesses are on the ropes.

Over the past two years, we lost 13-14 percent of small businesses in our county. It's a devastating blow. The next county government will be tasked with figuring out how our county can create an opportunity framework that allows entrepreneurs to innovate, grow and rebuild.

Business development needs to be woven in government planning. County government must invest in more and better conversations with small, medium and agricultural businesses across the county. While acting as honest brokers, let's remove barriers and move fast on opportunities to attract business. Let's be forward thinking to how an opportunity framework can support a thriving middle class.

To learn more about Dylan's positions, visit www.dylandidiggs.com

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FREDERICK COUNTY

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is May. Hopefully, we are not expecting a snowstorm in the middle of the month. With that said, there are several important dates in May. The Adams County Chiefs of Police Association will host the Adams County Fallen Officers Memorial Service on Friday, May 6th, at 10:00 am at the Adams County 9-1-1 Center. May 8th is Mother's Day – a day we should all remember those “mom moments” that made us who we are today. Remember to exercise your right to vote on Primary Election – May 17th. Voting starts at 7 in the morning and ends at 8 at night at the Borough Office.

For more voter information go to adamscounty.us > administration > elections and voter registration. You can also call 717.337.9832. Armed Forces Day, May 21st, honors all people currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. Memorial Day, May 30th, is a day set aside to remember those who have died in military service for our freedom.

On March 24th, the American Red Cross held a Blood Drive. Thirty-eight donors were seen, and 21 units of blood were collected. This donation will lead to saving 78 local lives. Thank you for your donation. The next blood drive will be held on Thursday, June 23rd, at noon at the Borough office. During the

April 12th Council meeting, I had the privilege of presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to the Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (F-NHN) to recognize the countless hours spent by their volunteers to help those in need in our community and for their acts of kindness given so selflessly.

F-NHN does make a huge difference in the quality of life for those they help. Accepting the plaque on behalf of F-NHN was Robin Dicken, one of the planning group members. The other F-NHN members that meet monthly to discuss how to help others are Susie Gills & Doug Lichty (Iron Springs Brethren in Christ), Missy Miller (Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church), Earl Connelly (Liberty Worship Center), Tammy Deardorff & Dee Dee Mezger (St. John Lutheran Church), Linda McMullen (Ruth's Harvest), Colleen Rebert (Fairfield Elementary School), Gayle Marthers (Carroll Valley Borough) Susan Strahler (Meals on Wheels), Carlos Wampler & Pastor Mark Englund-Krieger (Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church) and Demetria & Robert Hensley (Fellowship Baptist Church). Thanks to all the volunteers who help others.

On April 16th, at 11 in the morning, approximately 500 children suc-

ceeded in hunting for and picking up 5,000 eggs in less than 5 minutes – a record! The Easter Egg Hunt was successful. To see pictures go to the Borough website, and for the mayor's views, go to ronspictures.net. Thanks to the CVB Parks and Recreation Committee, Borough staff, maintenance crew, 11th grade of the Fairfield High School, Tara Phillips, Spanish Teacher, Fairfield High School Baseball Team, and their coaches Dave Hazlett and Steve Bell, Easter Bunny photographers Jim & Jeni Jarrell and special helpers Pat Feeser, Jayden Bell, and Josh Hazlett.

The 2022 Carroll Valley Borough Waste Contract was awarded to our current Park's Garbage Service (Apple Valley Waste), selecting Option 1, which includes bi-weekly recycling. This contract runs for three years with an option for a fourth year. The service price has increased, and the yearly total is \$303, with a quarterly breakout of \$75.75. The wheeled toter annual cost is \$24.00 or \$6 per quarter. If you do not want to pay \$75.75 per quarter, you can purchase a standard per-bag service (12 tags) for \$60. Additional bags are \$5 per bag. As before, the basic service includes weekly trash pickup with one large item pickup per week. The contract allows trash pickup to begin at 5 am and continue to 11 pm

to minimize pickup and delays. Collection days remain the same. If you have any questions, call the Assistant Borough Manager, Gayle Marthers, at 717-642-8269 extension 103.

The community is invited to the 1st Annual Fairfield Area Middle and High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Carroll Valley Borough from May 1st to May 31st. Approximately 200 pieces of artwork will be displayed on the walls and hallways of the Borough office. On Friday, May 6th, a reception will be held from 4 to 6 pm to meet these young artists. Covered Device Recycling will be hosted by Freedom Township and is being held on Saturday, May 14th, from 8 to 11 a.m. at 2184 Pumping Station Road. This event is open to customers of Park's Garbage Services who live in Carroll Valley and Fairfield Boroughs and Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty Townships. No appointment is required. Electronics recycling includes cell phones, computers, copiers, gaming equipment units, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo equipment, telephones, and televisions. If you have any questions, call 717.642.8269.

The Carroll Valley Parks and Recreation announced they plan to bring back their successful Daddy Daughter Dance (D3) event on May 14th from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire Department banquet hall. This year's

D3 theme is Denim & Diamonds. Register at CVDAughter.eventbrite.com. The cost is \$40 per couple and \$10 per additional child. For further information, call Gayle Marthers at 717-642-8269 Ext 103. Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. Be sure to come a little early to get a good spot for your blanket to watch “Encanto” under the stars. Encanto won the 2022 Academy Award for the best computer-animated musical movie. This movie is being provided in cooperation with the Fairfield Elementary PTO. Antietam Dairy and Cub Scout Pack 76 will be providing light refreshments. On Saturday, May 21, from 8 am to 1 pm, you can turn in (recycle) your old tires. The Adams County Conservation District is holding a Tire Recycling event. For details, 717-334-0636 or email canders@adamscounty.us on how to register.

The May Borough meetings are Planning Commission (Monday – May 2nd); Borough Council (Tuesday – May 10th); Sewer & Water Authority (Monday – May 23rd); and Parks & Recreation Committee (Wednesday – May 25th). All meetings start at 7 pm. The Borough Office will be closed on Tuesday, May 17th – Election Day, Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day. If you have any questions, contact me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or 301-606-2021.

Adams County Republican State Committee

Virginia (Ginny) Martin, Richard Mathews and Lindsay Krug announce their candidacy to fill the available three Adams County seats on the Republican State Committee. The vote to fill these positions will occur during the May 17, Primary Election. Voters will choose one male and two females or one female and two males to the positions. They

humbly request your vote.

These positions are important because the Republican State Committee, also known as the PAGOP, conducts all business for the Republican Party at the state level. Duties include electing leadership, vetting candidates, providing training in grassroots efforts to elect Republicans and, at times, putting candidates on the statewide ballot when openings occur

after the primary. The state committee also maintains a dialogue with Republicans throughout the state. Martin, Mathews and Krug believe more can be done to communicate with Adams County Republicans and commit to doing just that. They can provide the strong leadership Adams County Republicans deserve.

Ginny Martin, Biglerville, is in her

16th year as a member of the state committee and has been involved with local politics for the past 20 years. She has served as regional captain and secretary on the Adams County Republican Committee and assisted with many campaigns. “I believe strongly in the conservative Republican values of defending all life, preserving the Second Amendment, and limiting government,” Martin said. She is committed to faithful participation in all aspects of the office and believes that State Committee members should be willing to do the hard work in the county party as well.

Ginny holds a bachelor's degree in education, taught in Christian schools, and homeschooled her own four children. She has resided in Adams County for the past 35 years.

Richard Mathews, Carroll Valley, has served as executive director and vice chairman of the Adams County Republican Committee. As a staunch Republican, he believes in fiscal responsibility, states' rights and government within the bounds of the constitution. “If elected, I will work to promote the ideals that our country and party were founded upon: freedom, liberty, personal responsibility and accountability,” Mathews said. “I will work to grow the Republican Party and

elect Republicans to national, state, county and local offices.”

Richard, Carroll Valley Borough Council President, has a master's degree in general administration and extensive training and experience in leadership. He is currently retired. His experience includes various USDA positions and programs, organic food sector consultant, and executive director of a non-profit corporation.

Lindsay Krug, Conewago Township, is new to the political arena and brings an abundance of positive energy and enthusiasm. After several years of maintaining her independence, with core conservative principles aligning with the Republican Party, Krug has continued advocating for individual independence. She wants to see information go from the citizens up to the state and federal government instead of the other way around. Lindsay recognizes that citizens feel disconnected from their political leaders and aspires to “be the bridge”. She believes in promoting the principles of free enterprise, personal responsibility, pro-family values, and the Republican Party.

The candidates ask that you please vote Martin, Mathews and Krug on May 17, for PA Republican State Committee.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Jim Martin

May 17, Primary Election Day will be upon us in several weeks. The Adams County Voter Registration and Elections Office has been carefully preparing and will continue preparing for that important day.

All Pennsylvania legal citizens who cherish their constitutional right to vote need the assurance that they will be voting in a trusted, accurate and secure process. Following the November 2021 General Election, Lawrence Tabas the Chairman of the PA State Republican Committee went out of his way (unsolicited) to comment on how well Adams County conducts elections. By the way Mr. Tabas regularly reviews all PA counties election details. He personally thanked me for the excellent work of the Adams County Election Office and support staff. In his opinion Adams County has the best performance of any office in the state for accuracy, maintenance of records and adhering to the highest standards of integrity.

Mr. Tabas's independent analysis speaks volumes to those seeking confidence that their vote is properly received and securely managed. Months before election day I regularly review our Elec-

tions Office as they prepare to conduct the coming election. I always come away assured that Adams County will be initiating an election of integrity. For the 2022 Primary our Elections Office is preparing to strengthen the chain of custody from the precinct poll to the courthouse. Every exchange of ballot boxes and poll accounting records will be an unbroken chain of custody, accompanied by a signed receipt. This eliminates the caddy of a poll's election material from being the sole handler from drop-off (courthouse sidewalk) to the election office. Before the ballot boxes leave the polls with the judge of elections, they are locked, and seals affixed to secure all ballots. Additionally, security officers will be overseeing this exchange until all polls have reported.

As most voters are aware, a ballot scanner is used to electronically count ballots. This scanner is a standalone device having NO wireless or internet connection. To detect any tampering of the scanner, seals are placed at all possible access points. Broken seals indicate possible tampering and will initiate being replaced. To ensure that no votes were downloaded, a test count printed

tape is run from the scanner before the polls open. All candidate positions on the tape will be checked for a zero reading. All zeros verify no downloading has occurred.

Voters will find there is an alternative means to vote at the polls, the Express Vote machine. The Express Vote machine will be available primarily for vision impaired and blind voters. It too is furnished with seals to detect tampering. It may be used by other voters if not being used by impaired voters. By using this machine voters may not have to wait for an open voting station. The Express Vote machine prints its own ballot after the voter's choices are made on the touch screen. The ballot that is produced (printed) is then run through the scanner the same as the pre-printed ballot, even though it is much narrower. This machine is mandated to be furnished at each poll per a special congressional act. Some precincts pass through an entire election without anyone using the Express Vote, so please feel free to vote by this process. Before printing the ballot, a review of all choices can be made; when satisfied then press "print".

Detailed training sessions will be con-

ducted for all poll workers so they are knowledgeable of various situations that arise during the voting process. When someone over votes (too many votes for a particular office), too many stray markings on the ballot, or the voter damages the ballot, it can be declared a spoiled ballot. In this situation a new ballot is issued. The spoiled ballot is then retained in a designated envelope to account for all ballots used. There is also a provision for a voter to surrender a mail-in ballot (along with its envelopes) should the voter decide to vote at his precinct. Some less common situations may necessitate the use of a Provisional Ballot. The above situations are covered in training to ensure all eligible votes are counted.

Returning to our discussion about the over voted ballot. If the mail-in ballot is over voted it cannot be returned to the voter as it can be when casting the ballot at the poll. The over voted mail-in is not discoverable until after the ballots are counted. Once the ballot has been counted it cannot be changed and the over-voted office receives no votes. That is a situation mail-in voters must overcome by carefully reviewing the ballots before mailing.

An important help to the crew

counting mail-in or absentee ballots is to minimize folding actions of the ballots. Excessive folding creates wear marks that make processing the ballots much more difficult. Also, keeping the ballot clean can aid machine processing. If you are concerned about the effect of any stains, markings or damage to the ballot, call the elections office for advice.

As we approach election day I am often asked, does the County website have information about the candidates running for office? The answer is no; we cannot post information about the candidates because it would be considered promoting the candidate. By law, counties must remain neutral and must avoid posting anything regarding a candidate.

Something that may be helpful to voters is a sample ballot. As we get closer to election day, sample ballots for each precinct will be posted on the county website. Since the coming election is a Primary Election, ballots will be printed by party. Review the sample ballot for the party you are registered under. You may even print it and carry it to the poll when you go to vote. I challenge all voters to be prepared and adequately informed before casting their vote. Finally, be sure you know which poll is your voting location.

Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

At our last meeting, we voted to update our ordinance to address subdivision issues that the township has encountered over the last few years. We proposed a revision requiring new deeds be presented as part of the subdivision approval process. This is to ensure accurate recording of property changes and that the subdivision is properly reflected in the new deeds and at the tax office. It was also brought to our attention that the recently adopted solar panel ordinance contained language that prohibited mounting solar panels on the roof of homes. The Supervisors voted in favor of removing that restriction. The original ordinance was to prevent any negative impact from solar farms within the township. The fee schedule was updated for 2022 to reflect increased costs from vendors.

A resident spoke during public comments at the April meeting expressing concerns about fire protection on the

private roads in the Rist Trail area of our Residential Zoning District. This is an ongoing concern for the township, the fire department, the police department, and all emergency services. The resident indicated that all Rist Trail residents have agreed to allow the township to come in and address the issues. He suggested putting in a water tower and fire hydrants to service that area. With no current source of funding available for this project, we are hesitant to use funds from all taxpayers for a project that would benefit only a small portion of our residents. Safety of our residents is a serious concern, and we need to explore feasible solutions that will address the needs of all township residents. We are more than willing to consider this and other options as the Board of Supervisor with the understanding that needs of the entire township will be met.

In response to one of our residents

expressing concerns over the dangers that some roadways may pose to drivers, we have an upcoming meeting with a PennDOT Engineer to review curves and sight visibility on our township roads. We intend to obtain a professional assessment to identify any areas that need corrective measures. At the request of another township resident, an application to PennDOT was submitted to install additional signs on PA Route 16 to address truck traffic issues on Orchard Road. McGlaughlin Road has been marked and PA One Call has been contacted in preparation for ditching along McGlaughlin road. Bids have been advertised for work on McGlaughlin Road, Sanders Road, Bullfrog Road and The

Old Waynesboro Road Bridge and are due on May 10 at noon.

We addressed recent illegal dumping along Bullfrog Road which was resolved in a quick manner by our Police Department. I would like to thank several residents who reported the illegal dumping to the township. We thank our Police Officers for doing a great job every day. Please acknowledge the officers for the job that they do and for protecting Liberty, Freedom, and Highland Townships. We continue to hear great remarks from everyone about our Police Department. We commend them for doing a great job and representing Liberty Township in a professional manner. Additionally, we had someone last week going around the township pulling out STOP signs and throwing them into the woods. Signs were replaced on Bullfrog, Water

Street, Topper Road, and Orchard Road. This is an additional cost to the township in labor, and replacement of the damaged signs. These are costs to all our taxpayers. If you see such criminal activity occurring, please notify the township Police Department or Roadmaster.

Parks Garbage was awarded the solid waste management contract for the next three years in the township. As part of the contract, there will be an e-cycle event on May 14 for Parks Garbage Customers in our area. Details are available on our website.

We invite you to come to our Board of Supervisors meeting on first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.. The meetings are open to the public with no restrictions. We appreciate input from our residents. We look forward to serving you in the best manner we can.

MELISSA M. WETZEL CPA, PC
Certified Public Accountant



Happy Mother's Day to all!

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Choices and Decisions

Shannon Bohrer

“Good Decisions come from experience and experience comes from making bad decisions,”
—Mark Twain.

Every day we make decisions that affect us. We often view and critique the decisions made by others, as well as decisions made by our government from our own perspective. The perspective of what decision we would make if we were in an equivalent situation. It is relatively easy and without any consequences to critique the decisions of others.

We often think that our decisions and choices are critical and yet many are not. I remember a professor telling his class that we think of decision making as akin to intelligence, but in reality, many of the decisions in our lives are trivial. He used the example of choosing what to eat for lunch. Most often the choice is inconsequential. How many times have you said, or heard someone say, they could not remember what they had for lunch two days ago?

While many of our choices may seem trivial, we do have a hierarchy of choices, and at the topmost for many of us is our marriage. It is difficult to lessen the importance of the

choice, of whom we share our life.

On an individual level, our choices can seem almost insignificant compared to choices that government leaders make. The choice of Russia, really Putin, to invade Ukraine could turn out to be a success for him or a colossal failure, depending upon the outcome. The unknown that exists is how Putin's choice will affect the world going forward.

Just as important, or maybe more important are the decisions governments are making in responding to war in Ukraine. The choices are deadly serious, complex, and not without unknown consequences. There appears to be a large segment of the world that believe we should be doing more, sending more equipment, more defensive weapons and even creating a no-fly zone over Ukraine. Opponents of the no-fly zone believe that if we become directly involved, there is a possibility that World War III would start. However, if we do not sufficiently engage and Ukraine falls, what happens? Would that be the beginning of World War III? Will Putin stop his aggression? Will he invade other nations?

While authoring this article, the war is raging, and there is a possibility that it may end before the article is published. However, the article is not really about the war. It

is about decisions we make, including our government's decisions about our involvement in the war. Making decisions on information with a probability of what will happen or what we think will happen, is like gambling. How do we measure what we think will happen? If losing the war in Ukraine is not an option, how far do we go to win, without the possibility of creating a broader and more deadly conflict? Is that possible?

Our intelligence agencies were exceptionally good at predicting Putin's actions, especially where and when he would invade Ukraine. They also predicted that Ukraine would fall rather quickly. Since that did not happen, was the strength of the Russian army overestimated? Or was the strength of the Ukrainian army, underestimated? The importance of relying on intelligence information, when making decisions about the level of support for Ukraine, cannot be understated. And conversely, sometimes our intelligence is not accurate, or just incomplete. Decision making can be complex and challenging and yet, the unknown consequences of making those decisions could change our world, and not in a good way. Perfect information, that we would like to have, does not exist.

History, specifically Europe's his-

tory of war, is a large consideration. Another consideration is Vladimir Putin, his stability and mind set. If our assistance with defensive weapons and humanitarian aid, is not a cause or factor for him to elevate the conflict with chemical weapons or tactical nukes, then we have made a reasonable choice. If we raise our assistance with aircraft and a no-fly zone and Putin responds with tactical nukes, would the world believe we made a bad choice?

The unknowns that exist include the fact that if we do not elevate our assistance, or if we do not create a no-fly zone, Putin may still use tactical nukes, regardless of our choice. Conversely, there is no guarantee that elevating our assistance and creating a no-fly zone, will influence Putin's decisions in either direction.

While most seem to agree that we should be sending weapons and humanitarian aid in support of Ukraine, we have also heard from some that we should not interfere. Others actually support the Putin regime. A few of the FOX news opinion pieces, and others, that support Putin have been re-broadcast on Russian state television. The idea of individuals with free speech supporting Putin in a country where free speech is verboten, seems incongruous. But that is another story.

As a person that grew up during the cold war, I have a tough time understanding why anyone would

support a dictator who is a bully and attacks a sovereign neighbor. The bully says that the Ukrainians are Slavic and Russian and wish to be liberated and become part of Russia. If, as reported, his intention is to have more people in Russia, maybe we could broker a deal and offer him our Putin sycophants. I think that would be a good decision.

Many of us at one time or another have been asked if we have any regrets, which equates to our past choices and decisions. Should be we asking the same question of our government? Evaluating our individual past decisions is easy, or it seems that way. With our government's involvement in Ukraine, what will the experts say in the future about those decisions. Like taking the road less traveled, we do not know how our governments involvement will affect our future. It is the unknowns that we cannot answer, we can only speculate.

As to our personal choices, we think we are making the right decisions, but only time will tell.

“Choose your life's mate carefully. From this one decision will come 90 percent of all your happiness or misery.”

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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

Tumbleweeds

Fuel wars

Mark Greathouse

Fossil fuels are today's bedrock issue of “climate change.” At present, we face what I call a “fuel war.” Oh, and while I won't speak here to nuclear energy, it's a very viable alternative eschewed by both the slogan-wielding left and gelded right.

In the Old West, forage was king. Horses, oxen, and cattle had to be fed. After all, they were pretty much either transportation or sustenance. Grassy areas were the “service stations” of the Old West. If a traveler came upon a ranch or a town livery stable all the better. They could not only get feed for livestock but get repairs made not unlike today's auto mechanic. Worried about climate change? You'd better believe it. Whoa! Not so fast. For them, climate was reactive, not predictive. They didn't have high-falutin' scientists or meteorologists to turn to. Cold wind and dark clouds could spell blizzard or hot broiling sun might bring a dry spell or even drought. Around 1884, barbed wire was invented, and ranchers and farmers could partition off the best grasslands and water sources. They couldn't worry about what sort of climate next year brought much less next century. They had livestock to feed. “Advancing environmental justice” as based in being “guided by the best science” was of no concern. Yes, they also burned wood, kerosene, animal fats and dung, and whatever else it took to keep warm in winter.

Oh, and the indigenous tribes across the Old West were fuel users, as seldom they camped more than 3 days in any one place. Their huge pony herds required fresh forage and their people required water, firewood, and game.

Today, nations play a dangerous game with fossil fuels. Make no mistake; it's a war. Despots use fuel as leverage for their devious purposes. Self-serving politicians and their ideologue acolytes seek to use them as a means to retain their elected office. Artificially-high fuel prices can be used to blackmail users to limit use and turn them to alternatives acceptable to climate ideologues. It's a technique similar to how in the 1870s many folks justified the slaughter of the buffalo as a way to drive indigenous tribes to reservations to become tillers of the land.

Fuel wars can get nasty. Back in the Old West at about the time barbed wire was being strung across open ranchlands, a Texan found with fence cutters could be charged with a felony. The conflict between folks needing to move cattle to market or find better forage and folks looking to protect their valued resources was splattered with blood and mayhem. Land and its assets were so valued, so sought after, that charlatans were known to sell the same piece of land simultaneously to unwary buyers. Shucks, oil hadn't even been discovered yet!

Lush verdant prairies were fought over in the Old West, much as nations today fight over fossil fuel deposits. No matter how dirty Vene-

zuelan oil might be or European coal or...you get the picture. All sorts of wrangling occurs to control the world's fuel assets.

Perhaps, it's time for an inconvenient truth. Economist Ludwig von Mises in his 1947 essay “Planned Chaos,” suggested that people in charge often invoke science as a tool to tell folks what to do. He cautioned, “The planners pretend that their plans are scientific and that there cannot be disagreement with regard to them among well-intentioned and decent people.” When folks say “follow the science,” they're really saying “follow our plan” or more correctly “follow our agenda.” Science has become the barbed wire of the Old West.

Let's be clear. The green in the “Green New Deal” that certain vested ideologues espouse is greenbacks...money, lots of money. Most could care less about folks being inconvenienced or even killed, so long as the planet is supposedly saved by their settled-science couched in specious ideology. As thousands of folks died in the Ukraine, the first thoughts of America's “Energy Czar” were of the war's impact on climate change. There's a hypocrisy about it all, as so many “greenies” have the means to not be inconvenienced. They can afford the electric cars while flying carbon-emitting jets and sailing gas-burning yachts or sitting in air-conditioned urban offices around the corner from their rent-controlled apartments. Meanwhile, nations like India and China unabatedly pollute our atmosphere. If you want to be driven bat-guano crazy, look up the U.N. Agenda 21. Fuel wars, indeed!

Who suffers in the fuel wars? In the Old West, it was often ranchers, as range wars over forage access stymied cattle drives. Today, it's the commuter paying sky-rocketing fuel prices while financially shackled by the figurative barbed wire of runaway inflation caused by out-of-control printing of money. Folks past and present suffered.

Fuel wars? Don't blame the Russians. For a brief couple of years in 2018 and 2019, America actually achieved the original mission of the Department of Energy established in 1977 to make America energy independent. Energy independence is seen as critically important for economic and national defense security. America depended for decades largely on Middle Eastern, Mexican, and Venezuelan oil to supplement its own production. Fossil fuel price wars have long been in play. Whereas fuel supply and demand of past decades have been subject to the dictates of the Organization of the Petroleum Producing Countries (aka, OPEC), today's prices are an artifice applied by our own government back in early 2021 by making the oil and gas financing and permitting process a prohibitively expensive and risky business for oil companies. Remember, you have to find the oil and gas before drilling, pumping, transporting, refining, and distributing.

These days, minimum wage folks and retirees on fixed incomes are held hostage to energy alternatives that are out of their reach. It will be decades before electric vehicle charging stations are read-

ily available; centuries before sufficient cobalt and graphite are mined to meet global green infrastructure needs; and still more decades to erect enough unsightly wildlife-killing windmills or install sprawling acres of solar panels. Meanwhile, large segments of our population are forced into needless economic suffering. Heaven forbid that the greenies should wait for alternate energy sources to become sufficiently economically feasible before attacking fossil fuels and their users.

While folks in America's heartland are pumping gasoline at \$5.00+ per gallon or heating their homes with ever-more-expensive propane, they might think on how the world is being held hostage to green ideology through what amount to fuel wars. Think on it especially at the ballot boxes of America. Meanwhile and with deference to von Mises, the greenies can stop insulting our intelligence by invoking their supposed science. Mark Twain nailed it with, “The truth has no defense against a fool determined to believe a lie.” That cuts to both sides of the fuel wars. Pray that U.S. fossil fuels will yet again be produced sufficiently to bring down prices to 2020 levels and achieve energy independence again.

Foragers in the Old West eventually accommodated barbed wire by finding more convenient ways to feed and bring livestock to market like building roadways and railroads. Today, folks worry about too many cow farts. Just sayin'.

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

Country First

Weak free press = weak America

David Marshall

When it comes to current events, politics or even the state of American democracy, not every person has an opinion. While an individual's opinion typically represents their personal viewpoint or judgement, it may not necessarily be based on actual facts or the benefit of pure knowledge on a particular subject. A key element in a democracy is the active participation of its people.

Citizens have an obligation to become informed about public issues, to carefully watch how their political leaders and representatives use or abuse the authority given to them and to ultimately express their own opinions and interests in the form of voting. Therefore, a citizen having no political opinion is just as bad as those whose opinions are shaped and formed by lies and misinformation. In both cases, a person can easily be manipulated and exploited by those who have little regard for a healthy American democracy. We have to come to the realization that not everyone who claims to love America supports true democracy. The free press always be under attack because it serves as a critical piece in any democracy. Authoritarians who oppose democracy by their actions will also oppose the free press.

Professional journalists are one of the keys to any society with a free press. Journalists can easily be taken for granted, but they have become effective watchdogs for the public and we should accept them with appreciation as they serve that capacity. A watchdog, in the truest sense, will make "noise" when they sense incoming or

present trouble. Journalists as watchdogs have a vital responsibility to not only reliably inform the general public, but to protect the public from ineffectiveness, corruption or wrongful practices from those in positions to represent the people. We have traditionally received much of our news from trusted sources who investigate, fact check, obtain multiple confirming sources and report actual news by following a set of standards and ethical guidelines.

America's free press is becoming weaker. The goal of journalism is to give citizens information that can be used to make smart decisions, but scare tactics and sensationalism by way of the news media can destroy that goal. They are justifiable limits regarding the freedom of the press and sometimes those limits are crossed. There are times we see sloppy journalism, ethical lapses and cases where journalists have invaded the private lives of citizens. As a counter, there is a system of accountability where news outlets make corrections and amendments to stories in an effort to remain transparent. Informing the public based on the truth is not everyone's objective. As a result, there is a difference between a professional journalist and a partisan pundit. Many TV and radio pundits who are more focused on ratings can often drift away from providing viewers information that follows a strict code of practice. We should regard those particular pundits as the entertainers they are rather than professional news journalists. But can the general public continue to have trust in the free press while it is clear there are those whose goal is to silence the free press as watchdogs for

the sake of making profits or maintaining political power?

Having a free press without interference or fear of retribution facilitates the citizen's ability to formulate their own opinions. The Internet and social media have been major game changers when used as a means of preventing the free press from meeting its goal. The Internet and social media sites has open the door to a new way to circulate and receive information and news. Unfortunately, there is little regulation or editorial standards. It has become more difficult for people to tell if stories they are reading are credible or false information. False information is news, stories or hoaxes created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers. Because these stories are created to either negatively influence people's views, push a political agenda or cause confusion and misunderstanding, it undermines the goal of a free press and informed citizens by giving people a distorted picture of the truth.

Some will call it "fake news". But experts are now recommending avoiding the term "fake news" as it has political connotations that is often abused. Regardless of your political affiliation, informed citizens must be aware of how the term "fake news" is negatively used to automatically cast doubt against the free press. Any form of watchdog group, whistleblowers or any person performing ethical review and oversight are often seen as "the enemy" to those who deliberately misinform and deceive the public. This includes professional, respectable and ethical journalists who fulfill their purpose of warning, educating and informing the public with truth. People with ill-motives will use the term "fake news" as a broad stroke to reduce the impact of credible news.

It is common to label professional journalists upfront as "fake news". Therefore each time, in the future,



Pillars

when they report accurate and factual stories that may contradict lies and misinformation being told, the work by creditable journalists is automatically dismissed as being untrue. Painting the media as "the enemy" becomes dangerous because it promotes deep mistrust and an unnatural hate toward people of a particular profession. Using the term "fake news" as a political weapon weakens America's free press. But will credible journalists be silenced?

Another means in which the general public has been informed is through presidential debates. The 1960 debate between Senator John Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon was the first time the public could watch presidential hopefuls compete on television. It was watched live by 70 million Americans. The debates turned out to be the turning point of the campaign. Polls revealed that more than half of all voters had been influenced by the debates. Today, we take these debates for granted. Before the 1960 debate, most voters never had a chance to see candidates in a close, personal way, giving them the opportunity to form an opinion about

the next president based on their looks, their voice and their opinions. Sixty-two years later, the future of presidential debates is uncertain.

The Republican National Committee announced that it has officially withdrawn from the Commission on Presidential Debates, which sponsored presidential and vice presidential debates for decades. Potential voters today are no different than those in 1960. We deserve every opportunity to learn as much about each person hoping to be president and vice president. When each method used to provide the public a true representation of facts regarding those who hold office or wish to hold office is taken away, we take another step backward and America becomes weaker.

David W. Marshall is author of the book "God Bless Our Divided America" and member of Country First. Country First is focused on recognizing that Republicans, Democrats and Independents don't have to be enemies because they have different experiences and perspectives. To learn more about Country First visit www.country1st.com.

Down Under

How to prolong life

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

Expect the Unexpected
— Proverb

There's some terrible things going on in countries who are ruled by one person: Wars, retraining camps, genocide, cruelty, but none of them are concerned about climate change.

That is the opposite to those other countries who are called western democracies, and not even all of them. Western Europe, the northern states of the Americas, Australia and New Zealand. These are the ones who rant and rave, call conferences, invest in solutions, and plan to turn the tide.

That is both scary and ironic, because they also know that all their talk, all their conferences are rubbish. Climate change is here to stay.

There is no way out, and hasn't been for at last twenty years. It was then that the IPCC (Intergovernmental panel on climate change) introduced the concept of tipping points, meaning that at some particular point things would change so much that they could not be reversed.

They took the idea from work done

on waterway pollution, that showed that if a certain level of contaminants was passed, the waterway would never recover, irrespective of what was done, and in the case of climate, they at first predicted that the tipping point would be 5 degrees Celsius, and about ten years later altering it to between one and two degrees.

The only 'greenhouse gas' is carbon dioxide, and today all gasses contributing to climate change are turned into greenhouse equivalents.

Back in 1860, physicist John Tyndall suggested that slight changes in the atmospheric composition could bring about climatic variations, while in 1896, a seminal paper by Swedish scientist Arrhenius predicted that changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide could substantially alter the surface temperature through the greenhouse effect.

In 1938, Guy Callendar connected carbon dioxide increases to global warming, and the Carbon Dioxide theory of climate change was formulated by Milutin Milankovic in 1956.

So where did all this CO2 come from? Initially, animals, especially humans, but that was soon overtaken by the burning of fossil fuels. In 1927, carbon emissions reached one billion tonnes per year, and in

1930 the population of the globe reached two billion.

In 1987 the population had reached five billion, and today the CO2 emissions have reached 50 billion tonnes per year, and there is 416 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere. This is predicted to rise to 1100 ppm by 2100, when the temperature rise would be eight degrees Celsius, which is enough to cook the oceans.

Scary? Only if you think about it, which a lot of people are doing, all of them if the democracies of western Europe, North America, Oceania. This group includes the people of the drowning islands in the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

It is also the place where leaders are elected, meaning they have not only a responsibility to their citizens, but a desire to stay in office. This means they cannot tell the truth, even if they know it, but every other nation doesn't want to know, and are never reminded of it.

How different that is in dictatorships, in countries that put growth above everything, and who simply don't care.

Dictators, especially in China and Russia make the rules and say what they want. Others, like India, ignore it and go on adding to the gasses. Africa, South America go on burning forests, fossil fuels.

Now here's the biggest irony that

has ever occurred: In a perverse way, the dictators are right. This problem is insoluble, and there is only one rational thing to do: Put the billions of dollars that are being spent on ways of trying to remove the problem and put them towards making it possible to live in the new environment.

OK, that is not going to happen, because the system and the politicians won't allow it, they don't have the nous to understand, so the useless rhetoric persists.

But there is one way that has already worked, for a different problem. It is called 'Percolation theory,' and shows how small things, when collected together, have their own tipping point.

The illustration used is this: It rains, and some of it hits the window, forming drops. Slowly, one drop will move down under the force of gravity until it joins another drop. Somewhere else on the window the same thing happens, and soon those drops merge. Should they meet another group of four, a much bigger drop forms and it suddenly runs all the way to the bottom.

In practice, the same thing has happened in Hong Kong, where it's always possible that the government will close down the networks. To avoid this, citizens have turned to 'mesh' networks that let one or two people talk to each other without any record. If another two join this group, the con-

nectivity grows until it reaches the critical point. This effectively is under the radar, unseen and unrecorded.

The same process is being used in medical areas, weather forecasting and so on - it's the equivalent of crowd funding. This could be pertinent in the area of forming citizen groups to force governments into finding a way to protect us from this ongoing disaster.

I haven't heard of any better ideas, but if you ave, please let me know.

Climate change is the existential threat to end all threats, but there is another threat that is more immediate, and could well upend the whole of civilisation. This is the growth of the dictator, the alliance between China and Russia. In their own ways, they are spawning more far right governments, subverting democracy wherever they can, and I doubt Mesh groups will be effective.

Now to a different matter. In three weeks' time, Australia has a federal election. Labor vs Liberal. Neither leader is liked - one totally distrusted, the other inaudible. It is the number of independent candidates that will turn the tide.

Let me know when you mesh.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The hand that rocks the cradle

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

Mother's Day is really a day that ought to be celebrated every day. In fact, for the follower of Jesus, even though it's not a biblical holiday, from a biblical perspective it's a day of extreme importance. The Lord who said, "Love the Lord your God" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" also said, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" which is the first commandment with a promise "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Mark 12:30-31). And so, to be a mother is an extremely important job, and a great responsibility, one from which there is no retirement, often no thanks or acknowledgment, but it is essential and important nonetheless.

William Ross Wallace first published his poem praising motherhood in 1865 from which we have coined the proverb, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." And that is so true, it is more than just a complement, it is an acknowledgment, and a foundational understanding that mothers are a preeminent force, a catalyst for change in the world. And so, it is on this special day that we have the opportunity to honor mothers in a culture that has greatly trivialized motherhood.

I personally consider myself to be extremely blessed to have been raised by both a mother and father,

as well as to know my maternal grandmother, my paternal grandmother and great-grandmother. As a child I remember gathering around the kitchen table at my great-grandmother's house enjoying cookies and Coca-Cola out of those long-forgotten glass bottles. My childhood was rich with memories of spending summers at the beach with both of my grandparents. And today my heart is filled with countless memories of my own mother who poured into me and my brothers and sisters to make us who we are today. Even though I have always loved my mother, I appreciate her even more today, because of the many things she taught me and the values she instilled in me, most of which didn't fully awaken until I was raising teenagers of my own.

Even though I am not yet 60 years old, I have known mothers from an era when they had no voice, power, or influence, to a time today when a woman can be a viable candidate for president. I have had the privilege of having an amazing mother, mother-in-law, as well as being on the front lines to see my own wife model the gift of motherhood in my own home. The Lord has given me the opportunity to see mothering from a lot of different perspectives and I have a deep appreciation for what it means to be a mother. Most recently I have had the honor to experience my eldest daughter become a mother herself and so the memories of my great-grandmother have now been surpassed

by the privilege of seeing my own daughter mothering my grandson Carter.

And yet, I recognize as we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, that we live in a day when the world is continually redefining what it looks like to be a mother. Not to mention the fact that as we celebrate Mother's Day it comes with a smorgasbord of emotions, and so for many it can be a hard day because everybody's experience with motherhood isn't the same. For some of us Mother's Day is a reminder of the mother we wish we had, the mother that we lost, and even those who desperately want to be mothers, but their hearts and bodies are not in agreement. It's not the same day for everybody, and yet all these feelings converge on this one-day because we are either celebrating, remembering, or wishing we had what so many other people take for granted.

In many ways, Mother's Day is a reflection of everything right and everything that is wrong in our society, but for the most part it's a celebration of heroes. Mothers who are raising their children alone, working full time and mothering part-time, having to be both father and mother, doing whatever they have to do to make things work out for their children. Mothers are a constant stabilizing force, at her best she holds the house together, keeps everybody secrets, carries everybody's burdens, holds things together and makes it work even when it doesn't work. Mothers are a blessing, courageous enough to go to the first, second, and third trimester. Some mothers are courageous enough to birth their baby in less than desirable situations and against all odds. Strong enough to push that child from one world into another, simply because they were determined enough to choose life. And so, to all mothers, married or not, who made the choice to have your baby, just the fact that you brought that child into the world ought to earn you some respect, because if you didn't do what you did, we wouldn't be here today.

Mothers are the gateway into this world, so highly valued that when



God got ready to come into the earth he chose a mother, a young woman named Mary, and said I'm going to come through you. She was courageous enough, in spite of the ridicule and mockery of her society to say, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). She was strong enough to make this decision and courageous enough to carry it out even though it was said, "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:34-35).

The mother of Jesus raised him up and when she had recognized that she had done all she could do, she let him go. That takes a lot of courage to recognize your own limitations, knowing that you are an instrumental part of the plan, but you are not the whole plan, and so Mary started it and then she released him into the hands of God. She was confident that he who began a good work in her would carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). That is important for all mothers, because you've

got to know when to back up and take your hands off the situation. Sometimes the wisest thing a good mother can do is recognize when enough is enough and turn their child over to God.

Certainly, mothers know a lot, definitely more than their children think, but they don't know the whole story. They don't know what is hidden in that child, they don't know who they will become, but they are faithful when everybody else runs away. It wasn't until I was 40 or 50 years old that I began to appreciate all that my mother prepared me to deal with. It takes some life experience before you recognize all that your mother did to get you ready to be strong enough and tough enough to withstand the loneliness, the heartbreak, and the misfortunes of life. Today I realize how God used my mother to get me here, she didn't understand how, she didn't know who I would become, but she knew that God had a plan for my life. She believed in me and prayed for me because she knew that God would get me where he was trying to get me. That's why even though it's Mother's Day, we've got to give God all the glory, because it was all God. Happy Mother's Day!

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Fairfield community vacation bible school

The Fairfield Area churches will be holding a free vacation bible school, entitled 'God's Wonder Lab' June 13-17 for children ages 5-12. Students will have a great time with fun science crafts, delicious snacks and a Bible story of God's wonder - Jesus does the impossible. The VBS location will take place at the Hamiltonban Community Park. To register visit www.vbcmate.com/Fairfield, or call 717-977-1739.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Machiavelli



What an unenviable immortality is that of Nicolas Machiavelli! Out of his surname has been coined a synonyme for treacherous craft; and some antiquaries hold with Butler, in *Hudibras*, that—'Nick Machiavel . . . gave his name to our Old Nick.' But like many other high coloured, popular beliefs, that of Machiavelli's unmitigated diabolism does not endure critical scrutiny.

Machiavelli was born, in Florence, in 1469, of an ancient, but not wealthy family. He received a liberal education, and in his 29th year he was appointed secretary to the Ten, or committee of foreign affairs for the Florentine Republic. His abilities and penetration they quickly discerned, and dispatched him from time to time on various and arduous diplomatic missions to the courts and camps of doubtful allies and often enemies. The Florentines were rich and weak, and the envy of the poor and strong; and to save themselves from sack and ruin, they had to trim adroitly between France, Spain, Germany, and neighboring Italian powers. Machiavelli proved an admirable instrument in such difficult business; and his dispatches to Florence, describing his own tactics and those of his opponents, are often as fascinating as a romance, while furnishing authentic pictures of the remorseless cruelty and deceit of the statesmen of his age.

In 1512 the brothers Giuliano and Giovanni de Medici, with the help of Spanish soldiers, re-entered Florence, from which their family had been expelled in 1494, overthrew the government, and seized the reins of power. Machiavelli lost his place, and was shortly after thrown into prison, and tortured, on the charge of conspiring against the new regime. In the meanwhile Giovanni was elected Pope by the name of Leo X; and knowing the Medicean love of literature, Machiavelli addressed a sonnet from his dungeon to Giuliano, half sad, half humorous, relating his sufferings, his

publication, but for the private study of the Medici, to commend himself to them by proving how thoroughly he was master of the art and craft of Italian statesmanship.

About 1519 the Medici received him into favour, and drew him out of his obscurity. Leo X employed him to draw up a new constitution for Florence, and his eminent diplomatic skill was brought into play in a variety of missions. Returning to Florence, after having acted as spy on the Emperor Charles Fifth's movements during his descent upon Italy, he took ill, and doctoring himself, grew worse, and died on the 22nd of June 1527, aged fifty-eight. He left five children, with little or no fortune. He was buried in the church of Santa Croce, where, in 1787, Earl Cowper erected a monument to his memory.

The Prince was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death, when it was printed at Rome with the sanction of Pope Clement VII; but some years later the Council of Trent pronounced it 'an accursed book.' The Prince is a code of policy for one who rules in a State where he has many enemies; the case, for instance, of the Medici in Florence. In its elaboration, Machiavelli makes no account of morality, probably unconscious of the principles and scruples we designate by that name, and displays a deep and subtle acquaintance with human nature. He advises a sovereign to make himself feared, but not hated; and in cases of treason to punish with death rather than confiscation, 'for men will sooner forget the execution of their father than the loss of their patrimony.'

There are two ways of ruling, one by the laws and the other by force: 'the first is for men, the second for beasts;' but as the first is not always sufficient, client, one must resort at times to the other, 'and adopt the ways of the lion and the fox.' The chapter in which he discusses, 'in what manner ought a prince to keep faith?' has been most severely condemned. He begins by observing,

that everybody knows how praiseworthy it is for a prince to keep his faith, and practice no deceit; but yet, he adds, we have seen in our own day how princes have prospered who have broken their faith, and artfully deceived their rivals. If all men were good, faith need never be broken; but as they are bad, and will cheat you, there is nothing left but to cheat them when necessary. He then cites the example of Pope Alexander VI. as one who took in every-body by his promises, and broke them without hesitation when he thought they interfered with his ends.

It can hardly excite wonder, that a manual of statesmanship written in such a strain should have excited horror and indignation throughout Europe. Different theories have been put forth concerning The Prince by writers to whom the open profession of such deceitful tactics has seemed incredible. Some have imagined, that Machiavelli must have been writing in irony, or with the purpose of rendering the Medici hateful, or of luring them to destruction. The simpler view is the true one: namely, that he wrote The Prince to prove to the Medici what a capable man was resting idly at their service. In holding this opinion, we must not think of Machiavelli as a sinner above others. He did no more than transcribe the practice of the ablest statesmen of his time into luminous and forcible language. Our feelings of repugnance at his teaching would have been incomprehensible, idiotic, or laughable to them. If they saw any fault in Machiavelli's book, it would be in its free exposure of the secrets of statecraft.

Unquestionably, much of the odium which gathered round the name of Machiavelli arose from that cause. His posthumous treatise was conveniently denounced for its immorality by men whose

true aversion to it sprang from its exposure of their arts. The Italians, refined and defenseless in the midst of barbarian covetousness and power, had many plausible excuses for Machiavellian policy; but every reader of history knows, that Spanish, German, French, and English statesmen never hesitated to act out the maxims of The Prince when occasion seemed expedient. If Machiavelli differed from his contemporaries, it was for the better. Throughout The Prince there flows a hearty and enlightened zeal for civilization, and a patriotic interest in the welfare of Italy. He was clearly a man of benevolent and honorable aims, but without any adequate idea of the wrongfulness of compassing the best ends by evil means. The great truth, which our own age is only beginning to incorporate into statesmanship, that there is no policy, in the long run, like honesty, was far beyond the range of vision of the rulers and diplomatists of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Machiavelli was a writer of singularly nervous and concise Italian. As a dramatist he takes high rank. His comedy of *Mandragola* is spoken of by Lord Macaulay as superior to the best of Goldoni, and inferior only to the best of Moliere. It was performed at Florence with great success and Leo X. admired it so much, that he had it played before him at Rome. He also wrote a *History of Florence*, which is a lively and graphic narrative, and an *Art of War*, which won the praise of so competent a judge as Frederick the Great of Prussia. These and other of his works form eight and ten volumes octavo in the collected editions.

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



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ECOLOGY

In defense of dandelions

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

This time of year always reminds me of the moment after the tornado in The Wizard of Oz, when Dorothy first opens her door and steps out into the magic of Technicolor. After months of drab browns and grays, the world suddenly comes alive with color once again. Clear blue skies return, trees blossom in pinks, whites, yellows, and greens, yards perk back up a brilliant verdant as grass grows and the smell of the first cutting of the season wafts through the air, and everywhere you look, pops of bright yellow dot the landscape. Dandelions have returned.

Dandelions are a part of the species *Taraxacum*, a group of perennial herbaceous plants with a large, centralized dominant root, or taproot.

The bright yellow flowers are actually a composite of many tiny individual flowers or florets. When the flower fully matures these florets transform into what are known as achenes; the tiny, parachute-like structures that make up the familiar white puffballs that many a child has made a wish upon. They grow and develop quickly, going from flowers to seeds in a matter of just a few days, and individual plants are incredibly hardy, easily living for years.

Dandelions can be a divisive figure in springtime landscaping; the bane of golf courses and many an HOA, with some homeowners fighting a constant (and often losing) battle to keep them away. The common dandelion is an invasive species and, in some areas, considered to be a noxious weed. They can quickly spread and take over a yard, with low to the ground leaves

that keep other plants from growing nearby and hundreds of seeds they can produce asexually that can travel over half a mile on the wind. Dandelions may have a bad reputation with some today, but dandelions play an important role in the ecosystem, and humans have been benefitting from this abundant plant in a myriad of ways for thousands of years.

The name “dandelion” comes from the French *dent de lion*, or “tooth of the lion”, a reference to its coarsely serrated leaves. Other common names for this plant include faceclock, puffball, monk’s head, and pee-a-bed (most likely a reference to the diuretic properties of its roots). Dandelions can be found growing on every continent except Antarctica, and thousands of microspecies variations exist.

The common dandelion (*T. officinale*) likely originated in Europe and



The benefits of dandelions to humans, wildlife, and the environment are many, but their reputation as an undesirable weed and an eyesore won't likely disappear overnight.

was intentionally brought over to the Americans, as well as Australia, New Zealand, India, and many other places worldwide. Dandelions are entirely edible, and humans have been using them for thousands of years as both food and medicine. Their leaves are a staple in many traditional cuisines. They can be eaten raw or cooked, and are high in iron, calcium, and vitamins A and K. The roots are equally nutritious and have diuretic properties. Roasted and ground dandelion roots can be made into a beverage that has often been used as a coffee substitute, including by Southern soldiers during the Civil War, when rations were often cut off by Union barricades and real coffee was hard to come by. Some say the milky sap found in its hollow stem can repel mosquitos or even heal pimples and warts. Scientists in Germany and China have invested in research to utilize the natural latex found in the dandelion’s stem. Even structurally, dandelions have benefitted humans; engineers have used dandelion seeds

as the inspiration for lightweight, passive drones.

Dandelions have many uses for humans, but they are of critical importance to the ecosystem, acting as one of the most important food sources for springtime pollinators. Though invasive, thousands of species have evolved to use dandelions as a food source. Many types of birds will eat their seeds; an even greater variety of insects utilize their nectar, and the larvae of butterflies and moths will eat their leaves. Their root system makes them beneficial to the soil they grow in; breaking up overly compacted earth, aiding in erosion prevention, and drawing up nutrients from deep down, making them more readily available to other plants.

The benefits of dandelions to humans, wildlife, and the environment are many, but their reputation with some as an undesirable weed and an eyesore won't likely disappear overnight. If you really cannot stand the sight of these cheery yellow flowers in your yard, there are some eco-friendly approaches you can take to discourage their growth. One strategy is to limit your fertilizer use—dandelions are often better at soaking up fertilizers than grass and other plants and will take advantage of the added nutrients to ramp up their growth. Another is to avoid cutting your grass too short or cutting too much off at a time. Removing the top layer of grass will allow more light to reach areas lower to the ground, and dandelions will take the opportunity to grow. Some researchers have even observed that in areas where the grass is regularly cut short, the dandelions seem to have adapted and evolved to grow and bloom just below where the grass is typically cut; an excellent example of natural selection in real-time.

Even with these strategies, dandelions are a tenacious plant, and without constant management it's almost impossible to remove them from an area entirely. A much easier approach would be to shift your perspective on dandelions. Dandelions have existed on this earth for about 5 times as long as humans have, and they aren't likely to disappear anytime soon. Next time you find a new patch has popped up in your yard, save yourself a lot of weeding and enjoy these sunny flowers for the bright pop of color they add to our landscape, and the many benefits they hold for humans and nature alike.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Flying high - America's Eagle

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Our nation's bird, the Bald Eagle, sometimes called the American Eagle, has a storied past. They're the comeback kid. They were as abundant as the stars in the night sky at one time. In the mid 20th century they faced near extinction, but through effective management techniques, habitat restoration, and protection have rebounded back to a healthy and stable population with ever increasing numbers. They can be seen locally in the wild and up close and personal at local zoos and aviaries. Historically people have been part of the problem, but today are an integral part of the solution.

Bald Eagles are known for their distinctive white heads, white tails, golden yellow beaks, and dark blackish brown bodies. Before reaching maturity their bodies, including heads and tails, are predominantly a mottled brown with white streaky speckles. Around four to five years of age they will develop their characteristic feathering. Life span for a wild bald eagle can be as long as 20 years old, but in captivity have been known to live up to 40 and older!

Bald Eagles are only found in North America, which is why they're often called The American Eagle. Typically, they are found in wooded areas near bodies of water. Eagles are known to migrate too. Eagles that reside within the central part of the United States and Canada occasionally move to a seacoast during colder winter months. Usually their nests are located adjacent rivers, lakes, bays, reservoirs, and marshes because eagles prefer to eat fish. Like other birds of prey, Eagles have strong feet with talons they use to capture prey. Their hooked beak works like a fork and knife, and they use it to tear apart their meal into smaller bite sized pieces. Their vision is excellent and with their frontal facing eyes have great binocular and peripheral vision, which makes them pretty fearsome predators.

When you're the king of the skies you take what you want. Eagles notoriously rob other raptors of kills, and either eat the find themselves or return to their nest to feed their young. Benjamin Franklin was displeased when the eagle was elected to become our symbol. He commented, "For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labor of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish...the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him... Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country."

Eagles aren't totally devoid of morals. Once they reach maturity and select a mate, they will remain together for life. Courtship displays involve some serious high flying acrobatics. They will loop, swoop, and cartwheel around with each other. They'll ascend to blistering heights, lock talons, and free fall through the air separating just before hitting the ground. They will produce one to three eggs in a given year, generally laying them towards the end of February. Eggs will hatch sometime between mid-April to early May. The eaglets will begin to fly in July, and leave the nest between August and September.

Their lives haven't always been easy ones. Population numbers dramatically declined in the mid 20th century, from a combination of factors. One leading cause was the widespread use of the pesticide DDT. DDT didn't necessarily harm healthy adult birds, but rather their ability to reproduce or produce healthy offspring. DDT occasionally made eagles sterile, but usually affected calcium production creating weak egg shells that failed to protect the eaglets within. It is estimated that in the 18th century populations were between 25,000 - 75,000 pairs, then approximately 10,000 pairs in the 1950's, and endangered levels of just 412 by the early 1960's.

Through effective management techniques, habitat restoration, and the banning of DDT eagle populations have rebounded significantly. According the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service populations are estimated at 10,000 pairs in the 48 contiguous states, as of 2006. In 2007, they were

removed from the federal endangered species list, and in 2010 Maryland followed suit and removed them from the separate Maryland Endangered and Threatened list. In 1977 there were only 44 nesting pairs within Maryland. As of 2004 there were at least 390 pairs, and today there is at least one nesting pair in every county.

Some eagles still face challenges. Cunningham Falls State Park recently acquired a non-releasable eagle that will make its official public debut in May. A call was referred to the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service in southern Maryland about a bald eagle seen on the ground. The bird was picked up by one of their technicians and taken to a highly reputable vet, Dr. Gold of Chadwell Animal Hospital. This eagle was found to have a broken right wing, is partially blind due to a laceration on its eye, and brain damage. This male eagle was also underweight and malnourished, as it had likely been scavenging on the ground for some time. Due to these factors it can never survive on its own in the wild again.

The Scales & Tales program offered by the Maryland Park Service will give him the best possible quality of life and use him to share conservation messages to help people protect wildlife and wildlands. His atypical gentle spirit and calm demeanor makes him a great program bird, and will continue to inspire Marylanders to make a lasting impression. Aviary visitation hours will reopen in May, and are 8am to sunset. It is recommended to call the visitor center at 301-271-3676 prior to visiting to ensure the aviary will be open. Sym-



Thanks to its protected status, the once mighty American Bald Eagle is rebounding. The Catoctin region has several nesting pairs, the offspring of which can often be seen hunting in the fields along Rts. 15. & 340

bolic animal adoptions are also available. Funds generated through this program go directly to the care, rehabilitation, and enrichment program for the Scales & Tales animals.

Bald Eagles, locally and nationally, have faced a tumultuous past. They have come back leaps and bounds from their precarious situation of the 1960's. Raptors and other birds of prey are often attracted to road sides due to increased litter which attracts prey species scavenging for a meal. Motorist are encouraged to hang onto trash, including biodegradable things like apple cores and banana peels, until they can properly dispose

of them to help reduce and prevent future injuries to hawks, eagles, owls, and all wildlife. While the Maryland Park Service offers this incredible program to Marylanders they prefer to let wildlife be wild, and don't have the capacity or ability to care for all animals that suffer this fate. You can be of most help to these birds and other wildlife by taking trash with you, animal adoptions and donations, or donating your time by volunteering at an aviary or park near you.

To read past articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.



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SCIENCE MATTERS

When personality and anatomy disagree

Boyce Rensberger

I want to tell you about my transgender grandson, but first I must back up and give you a sense of how I came to think about people like him.

Like most of you, I grew up thinking that people came in just two sexes—male and female—and all the members of each sex knew that they belonged to the sex indicated by their genitals and behaved pretty much the same way toward the other sex.

Then I learned about homosexuality. Labeled many decades ago as a perversion, it was thought to be a choice. Research, however, showed that sexual orientation was built into the brain. Somehow a switch in the anatomical development of gay and lesbian brains, like a switch on a railroad track, steered some part of the growing brain down one path instead

of another. If not for something unusual in their rearing (smothering mothers, was one hypothesis, long since discarded), they would be just like everybody else. Eventually it became clear to researchers that homosexuality was not a product purely of environment and not a choice, but something built into the brain that could show up even in young children.

There are many more switches in the human brain's growth and development than scientists once assumed. There are switches after switches. One set of switches, it appears, can make a toddler a musical prodigy, playing Mozart on the piano in kindergarten. Another path of brain development yields a gift for mathematics. Or chess, and so on. Most of us, however, simply grow up average in everything. So it seems to be with sexual orientation. The part of the brain that feels roman-

tic attraction can turn out to focus on the same sex.

I had come to appreciate the research showing all that and then learned about yet another condition that psychiatrists and psychologists now call gender dysphoria. The official manual used by psychiatrists to classify mental conditions defines that as "a clinically significant distress or impairment related to a strong desire to be of another gender," especially in a world that does not accept such desires as natural. Kids with this condition are deeply unhappy when their brain tells them they are one gender and the world treats them as another. The suicide rate among these young people is very high. In one study about 40 percent of trans boys report having tried to kill themselves.

Let me back up again. As should be clear, the human brain is not simply one homogeneous structure like chocolate pudding but, instead, is made up of many different substructures, more like a salad. There is a part of the brain that tells us our gender, and it is entirely different from the organs of our embryonic bodies that guided formation of our sex hormones and our genitals. Sex and gender are not the same thing.

In other words, our brains are aggregations of different neurological components, each with its own function and effect. There is a tiny region that controls the right index finger. A different region handles our ability to speak, which is different from the part that understands the speech of others. There is a part of the brain that receives signals from the eyes and shows us the world outside our heads. There's a place that records the name of a childhood friend whom we haven't seen in decades. And so on. The separate parts often communicate with one another, but some parts function quite independently.

Unless you keep all this in mind, it's hard to appreciate how a



person labeled at birth as a boy or a girl might grow up with a component in the brain that tells them they belong to the other gender or to neither. It's a component that developed independently of the genes for forming sexual anatomy. Usually, we inherit both together and they are in synchrony, but sometimes not.

We have no problem understanding that a child could inherit his father's blue eyes and his mother's curly hair. But if a child has the genital anatomy of one sex and the personality—including self-image—of the other, that challenges our assumptions.

Scientists have not yet found specific genes or parts of the brain that determine gender, but they have found some clues during autopsies. I've reviewed some of the scientific literature on this and learned, first of all, that there are small differences between the brains of men and women who are not transgender. Interestingly, the brains of transgender people often more closely resemble those of the average person of the opposite anatomical sex.

One of the differences—just to show you how detailed this brain anatomy is—involves "the central subdivision of the bed nucleus of

the stria terminalis and the third interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus."

I learned much of this only after learning about my transgender grandson. This is a person, now 18 years old, whom we all thought to be a girl throughout most of childhood. But as a pre-teen she (as we then spoke of her) was deeply troubled. She would fly into rages, refuse to get out of bed to go to school, be angry or sullen with her parents. Years of psychologists and psychoactive drugs had no good effect. She was one deeply disturbed teenager, especially as her body became more obviously female.

Then it came out. This youngster had felt for years that "she" was a "he." This "girl" told us that she had always felt she was a boy. When we all accepted this news and assured him (as we now speak of him) of our love—there was a profound personality change. Overnight, this troubled teenager turned into a happy, polite, intelligent, well-behaved delight to have around. The change has stuck for the last few years. He has been taking testosterone and another drug to block estrogen. His voice has lowered a bit. He is happy at school. He has lots of friends. He has an after-school job that he loves. And he is considering which colleges to apply to.

Are we all prepared to accept this young man and the others who have come out as the gender that lived inside them? There are hundreds of thousands of others around the country. Is hostility toward transgender people a new recognized realm of prejudice in our society?

Interestingly, the transgender condition has long been accepted in traditional cultures on several continents, even though their westernized governments enact laws against it. Doctors now understand it is real. The Pentagon regards it as real. It's real.

Boyce Rensberger is a retired science journalist for The Washington Post and The New York Times. He welcomes feedback at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

2022 community garden

Jack Deatherage Jr.

Mom's people have lived around here since at least the late 1800s. Dad's people, since shortly after World War Two. Growing up on family stories about "old Emmitsburg" I was made aware there were families I shouldn't associate with. There were also shops I was not supposed to set foot in because our family "did not do business with those people". What I didn't understand was why I was supposed to avoid "those" people and places.

The first clue I got as to the why, was when Dad stopped doing business with a local shop after coming home from work fuming over a disparaging remark made by one of the shop's owners about Dad's professional diagnosis. (Dad was correct.) Years of being a loyal customer were undone in the blink of an eye. (Oddly, Dad never objected to my doing business with that shop until the day it closed.)

My first story, which I passed on to the offspring, is about a garage my future father-in-law sent me to to get a machine part repaired. This was back in the mid 1970s when I wore my hair down to my shoulders. The garage owner took a look at me and started cursing before I could explain why I was there. Once he knew who'd sent me, he calmed down and did the repair. I never set foot in that place again. The disgusting treatment of a stranger was so deeply burnt into my brain that I refuse to set foot in the new business that now occupies that lot. (Following my Dad's example, I do not object to the DW patronizing the new business.)

It took decades, but I'd begun to understand my relatives' taboos.

Moving into town, I've had to change the way I think about people I

can't avoid. Other than the business that sits where that garage was, I thought I'd shook most of my families' dannish thinking. Ha!

Last gardening season I came up \$200 short of my needs. The DW had come to her senses after I'd blown through \$500 and told me, "Enough!". In a panic, I leased a community garden plot for \$20.

We planted over 100 gladiolus corms in that plot! A few days later I met one of the gardeners working the other plots.

"That is supposed to be my plot." I'm told as I'm watering said plot. "I've planted it the last several years." The gardener was not pleased.

"Oh?" Says I politely. "I was told it's mine for the season and I've already planted glad corms in it."

The gardener was even less pleased, but didn't push the issue, allowing someone at the town office must have made a mistake. We went on to have a pleasant chat about gardening.

I didn't see that gardener for the rest of the season, though a cucumber and a red pepper growing in tomato cages in their plot mysteriously appeared in my bean plot (I'd leased four plots by then) a day or two after one of my bean rows had been stripped of beans. I put the cuke and pepper back in their plot.

As I read my lease agreement - we weren't supposed to touch other gardeners' plantings. I didn't bother reporting the theft of my beans because I honestly couldn't say who'd stolen them.

I hadn't planned on ever leasing a plot at the community garden again. However, several passersby, that stopped to admire the giant sunflowers we'd grown, expressed a hope we'd plant even more interesting flowers the next year. Coupled with the hubbub the sunflowers seemed to cause at the library - the giants

could be seen from the library's windows - we decided we'd lease as many plots as we could get in 2022. We'd plant some real oddballs (heirlooms) for people to look over on their ambles through the park. Entertaining people was more fun than the actual gardening. Hauling ten to twenty gallons of water to the plots every day or so was a bear!

So, 2022. I finally get around to playing with heirloom pea cultivars I've had for eleven years. No one had planted peas in the community garden last year, so I figured I'd chance growing some there and hopefully keep the strain pure. I contacted the town earlier than I had last year and was told we could begin planting the first of April - a good time for the peas. I sent \$20 and a signed lease agreement to the town office. I was told the plot that had been disputed last season was available. The DW said "Take it." She wasn't sure she'd managed to get all the glad corms out of it during the October cleanup. She'd pull any that popped up this year.

We weeded that plot and sowed two short rows of presprouted 'Dwarf Gray Sugar' peas (an heirloom dating from the 1800s) along one end of the plot on the 5th of April. I pegged the empty seed packet to the ground with a metal staple so I'd know what we'd planted, and to alert any other gardener that we were working that plot. On the 14th we stopped by the garden to see if the peas were up. They were. However, someone had removed the seed marker and



To ensure his plot is not poached this year, Jack assigned night watch duty to Wanda. He, of course, took the day shift ...

tossed it over by the fence. Two familiar tomato cages were in our plot.

I replaced our row marker, but decided to contact the town office before I removed the tomato cages. I was sure a simple misunderstanding was under way.

Well, I was sure until I thought I saw the other gardener at the post office on my way home. The person stared at me as I tried to puzzle out where I'd seen them before. As they passed me, their lips curled into a self-satisfied smirk. If that was the lease jumping gardener I knew the town was probably going to take their side in any dispute I might pursue, and I'd not argue the point.

I've been on good terms with the town staff and won't ruin that over some odd duck's need to garden a specific plot. Hell, I'm a weirdling, I get it. I ended up sending an email to the town office explaining the situation and asking for my lease payment to be returned. Which is ironic given I'd planned to

lease more plots if they were available when I began the walk to the garden that morning!

The town Office Coordinator and Town Manager (may the gods bless them and theirs) apologized for the inconvenience and offered me the pick of the remaining plots. Had the suspected lease jumper not smirked in passing, I'd have taken the offer and leased as many plots as I could. But that smirk is snuggled up against the garage owner's cursing.

The dannish reaction to even slight offenses runs marrow deep after all. The gardener and the community garden are dead to me. Which brings to mind something a local farmer has said to me more than once - "It is what it is. But why the hell do you live in that town?"

Well, I am an idiot. Ya know?

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Sages and daisies, who knew?

Denise Dornbush & Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardeners

It's hard to say when my love affair with Sage began. It could have been when I smelled the crushed leaf of a Pineapple Sage. It could have been when I read the old Chinese proverb "How can a man grow old who has Sage in his garden?" Or maybe it was when I saw the hummingbirds flock to my Sage plants.

Sage is a well-known herb. It adorns the pages of cooking magazines, in bottles of vinegar or gracing the turkey platter. What does all this talk about Sage have to do with Salvias? The truth is that all Sages are Salvias. Salvia is the Latin name, or genus, given to all these plants. Over the years the term Sage has been associated with cooking or medicinal use and the term Salvia has been given to the ornamental members of the genus. So when you hear someone talking about their Salvia officinalis Tricolor, don't

be afraid; they are talking about Tricolor Garden Sage.

The genus Salvia offers one of the largest and most versatile groups of perennials. The Roman scientist Pliny the Elder was the first to use the Latin name Salvia, meaning to heal or save. The common name Sage started in England and referred to Salvia officinalis, a plant used long ago as a household remedy.

Salvias are adaptable to almost any garden condition. Rabbits and deer don't bother with them and neither do most insects. They are a major source of nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies and goldfinches love the nutritious seeds.

There are 900 recognized species of perennial, biennial and annual sages. All sages have similar flowers in any color you like from white to black and every color in between. What is not to love about these wonderful plants?

Some of my favorites include:

Hot Lips, a variety released in 2002. It has bicolor flowers of white

with red lips. This attractive plant requires full sun and can reach 30 inches tall.

Salvia coccinea "Cherry Blossom" is a new addition to my garden this year. I started these, quite easily, from seed. The flowers are a very pretty light pink, and the catalog promises that they will flower for a long period.

Salvia nemorosa "Sensation Rose" makes a compact clump of quilted green leaves with branching flower spikes of bright pink. The flowers appear in spring.

Peruvian Andean Silver Salvia is a tender perennial. This is a beautiful plant with purple-black flowers and lime green calyces (the little cups that hold the flowers.) The leaves are silvery and the stems are cloaked in woolly, white hairs. This plant grows to about 18 inches tall.

Black and Blue Salvia or Blue anise sage is a tall plant that will reach 2 to 3 feet in height. The bi-colored blooms appear in both the spring and the fall. The calyx is unusual in that it's black instead of the usual green and the deep blue blooms are a favorite of hummingbirds.

Another plant I started from seed this year is Salvia argentea "Artemis." In the first year this plant makes small rosettes of soft grey woolly foliage. This plant just begs to be touched. Next year the plant will have tall silver spikes with pinkish-white flowers. What an added bonus! I'm happy with it now; it doesn't need to do anything else next year.

The list of wonderful sages to grow in the garden continues with:



Sages come in all shapes and are a year-round source of color for your garden.

Salvia lyrata "Purple Knockout" (Lyre-leaf sage) is grown mainly for its leaves. Burgundy leaves turn deep purple in the summer. Spikes of pale lilac flowers appear in spring and summer. This plant self-sows.

Russian Sage is graceful and airy, growing 3 to 5 feet tall, topped with lavender flowers. These are very easy to grow. They tolerate poor soil and drought.

Tricolor Sage has green leaves with white margins with pink or purple. This woody stemmed plant can be trimmed back in the spring. In early summer it sends up lavender-purple spikes. These last a long time in cut arrangements.

Pineapple Sage is a fun plant to have in the garden. Not only do the leaves smell like fresh pineapple, the plant provides color in the late summer and fall garden. Pineapple sage will wilt and lose leaves during droughts. It is grown as an annual in this area and overwinters well indoors.

Victoria Sage is a small plant that is big on color. This was one of my first sages and I was happy to find

out that it overwinters in this area. Spikes of stunning violet-blue flowers in the summer make this well worth growing. The upright plant is moderately fast-growing and has green lance-shaped leaves which are covered with fine hairs. This is wonderful in cut arrangements and lasts a long time.

Few groups of plants add as much to a garden as salvias. They are as different in fragrance as they are in bloom, habit and color. The hummingbirds and butterflies will thank you by gracing your gardens.

In addition to the summer beauty of salvias, an all-time favorite summer perennial is the Shasta daisy. Scientifically speaking, Shasta daisy is known as Leucanthemum x superbum. The development of this perennial began in 1884 by a man named Luther Burbank. Many crosses were made before the ever popular Shasta daisy existed.

Burbank loved the oxeye daisy. Seen in the fields of New England in his day – the mid to late 1800's – as well as today, this plant has often been considered a weed in turf and fields. Nonetheless, it was his favorite. But he thought that a perennial with a large flower that looked like the oxeye daisy would be spectacular, hence the succession of crosses.

The first cross was between the Oxeye daisy, Leucanthemum vulgare, and English field daisy (Leucanthemum maximum). Burbank was not happy with the size of the daisy flower, so he selected the best of this cross and crossed it with L. lacostre (Portuguese field daisy). Happy now with the size of the flower, but not the white coloration of this cross, he selected the best again and then crossed it with the Japanese field daisy (Nipponanthemum nipponicum). Finally, he had a plant that he could be happy with, and called it the Shasta daisy (L. x superbum), naming it after Mt. Shasta in California because of the snow caps on the mountain.

Generally speaking, the Shasta daisy is very easy to grow. The flowers form individually on erect stems with white rays and yellow centers. They typically bloom in June thru July. Depending on the cultivar, the Shasta daisy can be as low as 12 inches or as tall as 4 feet. It likes to grow in full sun and well drained soils. It makes a great cut flower and the butterflies love it. Typically, it should be divided about every three years, as the center of the plant may die out as it ages.

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daisy, many varieties have been developed. One of the most common and oldest of these varieties is 'Alaska' selected by Burbank in the early 1900's. This is a tall perennial, reaching as much as 3 feet high and a spread of 24 inches. The flowers get as large as 3 inches across. It requires no staking, a real plus, and will re-bloom in August if dead-headed, which is the practice of cutting the old flowers off after they are finished blooming.

'Becky' is the tallest variety of Shasta daisy reaching 4 feet in height. This one will spread up to 3 feet across. One plant can make a spectacular show in your garden once established.

Some of the shorter varieties include 'Little Princess' and 'Snow Lady.' Little Princess gets 12 to 15 inches tall and about that wide. It will bloom through September if deadheaded. 'Snow Lady' gets about 8 to 12 inches high and wide. Its flowers have large yellow centers and shorter, white petals. The flowers are about 2 inches in diameter.

Two of the newer selections

include 'Crazy Daisy' and 'Broadway Lights.' Both of these varieties are quite different than the ones mentioned so far. 'Crazy Daisy' has double blooms with white petals. Also different is its growing habit, which results in many flowers being produced on one stem. Most Shasta daisies have only one flower per stem. 'Crazy Daisy' gets to be about 24 to 30" high and about 18" wide.

'Broadway Lights' is a daisy sporting pale yellow flowers that turn shades of butter to cream to pure white as they open and mature on the plant. It reaches 24" tall and about that wide. Both of these selections are on my list of new perennials to try.

Daisies and sages, two old-time flowers that have been around for quite a while and continue to intrigue us, to the extent of new cultivars introduced frequently throughout this century. Try some of the new introductions and enjoy "new" plants in your garden!

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

Small Town Gardener

For a lingering May, start with the garden

Marianne Willburn

"A long lingering May...how wonderful that would be," I said to a friend in April, as we hunted ahead for a space on joint calendars to place a simple get-together. A simple, quiet get-together during the most beautiful of months.

Between us there were few empty spaces, and staring at my calendar made me feel vaguely uneasy, painfully aware of the many activities and apps that conspire to keep us treading water and further from what Cal Newport terms 'deep work' in his 2016 book of the same name. I expressed my concern over the pace of modern life, social media, virtual meetings, definitely the advent of email, and to my friend's surprise, the amount of garden tours and sales I would be attending as spring rocked gently into full swing. So many distractions.

Dedicated gardeners might also question the idea of garden tours and sales categorized as a "distraction," but before my gardener's license is summarily revoked for heresy, I offer the defense I offered my friend as we compared schedules.

Crucial to becoming better at what we do as gardeners, is the time needed to settle into a contemplative state – stretching your mind and limits within your own garden. In the pursuit of outside garden-related activities, we can easily ignore the central point and allow ourselves to become [quite innocently] distracted.

May is the month in which I struggle the most with this problem because it is at once a month that invites us to observe, contemplate and get better, AND a month awash in sales, tours, activities and obligations. Keeping all of it balanced is challenging. There is just so much on offer.

Do you dare say no? Do you dare step back? The lusty month of May is all about yes. After all it's been a long winter. Two years long. To feel overwhelmed by commitments is surely to feel ungrateful for your place in that modern machine. Or is it?

My friend smirked at my tendency to think deeply on things he does not feel warrant much thought, but then he doesn't garden as much as I should like him to, and worries far less, so May must be much like other months in his mind – prettier than August and buggier than April with a dogwood or two thrown in for good measure.

So, fast forward two weeks (how else should we do it?) and here we are. May. The month upon which we focused February hopes and dreams. And, we must guard every moment fiercely against pointless distraction, lest they all become hazy in a mad rush of What Must Be Done.

Cultivating a calm spirit in a digital world which is shouting at you most of the time can be extraordinarily difficult. I don't have the answers (which should be painfully obvious from the words above), nor do I say "no" nearly enough yet; but I can offer one point which I find to be consistently helpful if I am equally consistent in its undertaking: My days are more centered when, in their earliest hours, I head straight outside, coffee in hand...to the garden.

Of course this begins with ignoring the first and easiest distraction – my phone. And that is far easier to ignore when it is charging in my office, rather than by my bedside. A quick check the night before to see the when and the weather of the following day is sufficient, I don't need a reminder turning into a rabbit hole in the morning, and the alarm pulling me out of bed is set on a digital clock (a dime a dozen in local thrift shops these days).

There are no headlines in the garden. No news, no weather, no inflammatory posts from people I thought I liked, no reminders, no Wordle temptations that never end, no attachments with four dates that need to be entered into the calendar, no bills to pay, no articles to read that I've just been forwarded, no spam, no DMs, no tags, no last-minute requests, no volunteer mandates, no trips to be planned, no difficult emails to be written. No mind-altering, day-altering, mood-altering distractions. Whether good or bad.

Nothing more but me, my plants, and strong russet-black coffee in a

favorite ceramic mug. This is the time that I grow the closest to my garden – observing, contemplating, deciding. It's that Deep Work time. These are the moments I can take a hard look at wonky lines, or bizarre color combinations, or something that has never, ever, ever, worked and that I can ignore during the rampant growth of summer.

When I can think about what I want – whether specific ideas or plants – and what I wish to solve, the season's tours and plants sales that I do attend are made so much more useful. Instead of wandering around with a plant looking for a space, I recognize the space looking for a plant.

It is also a time to contemplate what is working. What is surprising me and exciting me. What's making me feel like I know what I'm doing. We all need that feeling to keep moving forward.

When mornings are wet, as they sometimes are in spring, I can replicate that quiet contemplation with a browse through a few choice design books. Books, unlike digital media, provide a finite experience. I can open and close them at my whim – and will not find myself subject to cookies, ads, inducements, and clickbait that distract better minds than mine.

May will be busy. Some of it wonderful and some of it wearing, but those early hours are ours – the day will start soon enough. I can't completely escape the insanity with which it will greet me, but I can change the way I open the door.

I hope we all claim our Mays this year, morning by delicious morning. It's easier to be calm when you begin with quiet. And it's easier to be quiet when you begin with the garden.

Marianne Willburn is a Virginia-based author, speaker, and writer at GardenRant and TheSmallTownGardener.

Marianne is the author of *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them* and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read and follow at www.smalltowngardener.com.

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PETS

The Tomcat

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Lying on Mom's bed in the sun today, I realized I'm one of the lucky ones.

My name is Winchester because my mom loves some show on television that she goes on and on about with these two guys who drive some car from the 60s and she found me at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

I'd been there for a while by the time Mom came through the doors. I'm just an old tomcat. I've been on the streets for most of my life. When someone found me and brought me to the shelter, I figured it had to be some kind of cosmic joke.

Here's the thing. I'm not pretty. Never have been. I know this. I've got scars and scabs and I'm just a dull gray color. Even my fur isn't the best. It's not soft or luxurious or ever will be.

I had a hard couple of years on the streets, so when the staff at the shelter set me up in a cage with food and water and a warm blanket and scheduled me for surgery, I was seriously waiting for the punchline.

I know what I am and I know what I'm not – and I am not the kind of cat anyone would want to come home to.

At least that's what I thought.

People have been mean to me all my life. I've been doused in water, kicked by boots, swatted at with a broom and (my personal favorite) shot with a paintball gun. It took a long time to get that purple color off

my fur. It tasted terrible, too.

I remember looking around the shelter at all the other cats preening for attention and I laughed to myself. Yeah, like anyone would even give me a second glance. No way.

But she did.

It was a random Tuesday when Mom walked in. I barely picked my head up. I'd gotten into a nice schedule of napping after breakfast and even when people walked through the cat adoption area I knew better than to think for a second that they would ever look at me.

With Mom it was different. She not only looked, she actually stopped in front of my cage. I stretched a little bit, but curled back up to continue with my nap.

I think she may have whispered something like, "Playing hard to get, are you? That's cool. I like a challenge."

She rubbed her fingers between my eyes and when I exhaled, I will admit, I purred a little.

The next thing I knew she was taking me to some place the humans call a bonding room and we were getting to know each other. I didn't perform any tricks. She tried with the toys, but when you've spent most of your life attempting not to get killed by stray animals or cars or humans, somehow a stuffed mouse on a string doesn't really do it for you. You know what I mean?

Oddly enough, Mom wasn't discouraged, and by the time I realized she had filled out the adoption paperwork, I had pretty much figured the whole thing was some kind of anom-

aly and chalked it up to a full moon or something.

The day she took me to her home and showed me all the cat beds and incredible blankets and more of those ridiculous mouse toys, I seriously thought I was dreaming. This kind of thing doesn't happen to an old beat-up tomcat. It just doesn't.

When she put me on her bed that first night and draped the covers over me and kissed me on my head, I purred the entire eight hours we were there. No joke. I hadn't purred that long in my entire life.

It was the best night of sleep I ever had.

Now Mom snuggles me just about every day and tells me I'm a Supernatural cat, which seems bizarre, but I let it slide because being in her arms is hands-down the greatest experience of my nine years on this planet.

She jokes around that we're going to get married some day and I have no idea what it means, but the laugh she huffs against my fur when she says it makes me purr even louder.

I may not be able to understand how this happened, but I will be grateful for every, single day I have with her.

So I'm lying in bed – Mom left for work a few hours ago – and the sun is warming the whole area and everything smells like Mom and I can't get over how different my life is from what it's been.

I know it's because of her.

And because of everyone at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.



Butterball is a 7-year-old gray tabby boy who came into the shelter because his owners were moving and couldn't take him along. He's a super laid-back guy who just likes a sunny spot where he can nap. Do you have the right place for Butterball?



Conway came into the shelter as a stray and was named after Conway Twitty because boy, does he like to sing! He's a 4-year-old hound mix who jumped into the car with someone and they brought him to the shelter. Conway was covered in ticks and scratches, but with some TLC, he's doing okay. He has tested positive for Lyme Disease and is on antibiotics to take care of it. He's a playful guy who loves to follow his nose. Conway must meet all potential family members who live in the home and he does like to bark and bay. Could you give this guy the second chance that he needs?



Waylon came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about his past. He's about 7 years old and is one sweet fellow. He loves attention and enjoys going out into the play yard to run and take in all the smells! Waylon would do best with someone that understands coonhounds and coonhound behaviors. Waylon must meet all family members that reside in the home. Do you have the right place for Waylon?

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



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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

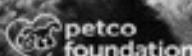
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



Spring wildlife

Linda Shea
Frederick County Animal Control

“Encountering wild animals usually fills people with excitement and wonder. However, there are times when being face-to-face with nature poses a new set of problems.” (Maryland Department of Natural Resources website, Wildlife Problems).

It's that time of year again, when the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center gets questions about baby wildlife. Sometimes, those questions accompany a shoebox brought in by a desperate finder pleading our help for the fat, happy baby bunnies the family Labrador just discovered. Other times someone had acquired a baby Blue jay from a neighbor and called us for guidance. Our response to those questions is often met with disbelief or disappointment. In most cases with healthy newborn wildlife, we will tell you to “put them back where you found them.”

While this seems harsh, think about it. Wild animals, despite how small and delicate the species, survive quite well without human intervention. We witness that every spring when baby squirrels, bunnies, and birds appear. If your Labrador is too interested in the new squealing occupants in the backyard, we will recommend you keep the pup on a leash and avoid their nest. Alternatively, you can put up a temporary barrier in the form of garden fencing or something similar. While we are the county's animal professionals, we experience the same challenges in our homes and find ourselves returning fallen nests to tree limbs and performing wildlife guard duty.

If you believe young wildlife have been abandoned by Mom, think again. Animals like raccoons, squirrels, and bunnies may leave their young alone for most of the day to search for food. If you are uncertain, you can cover a nest with a small piece of string in a pattern and check at a later time to see if the string has been disturbed by Mom.

Wildlife rehabbers may be an option, but they are often overwhelmed with injured animals and unable to assist with nuisance newborns. Unfortunately, unweaned wildlife brought to the shelter must be euthanized. Which

is why we tell finders to “put them back where you found them.”

To find a wildlife rehabber or damage control cooperator, permitting, or for the answers to wildlife FAQs, visit the Maryland DNR website at www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife.

To report nuisance, injured or sick wildlife, call toll-free in Maryland: 1-877-463-6497.

Unintended Consequences

Jeremy is a stray that was brought in by a citizen who found him at the intersection of Fingerboard Rd. and Green Valley Rd. We scanned Jeremy for a microchip, but he did not have one. We checked reports of lost animals, but there was no match. Since we did not know his background, we provided preventative vaccines. The protocols we have in place ensure proper care for animals in our shelter.

In addition to our Animal Shelter side that provides care for stray and owner-relinquished pets, the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center also provides Animal Control services for the entire county. Periodically, we engage with citizens who are unaware of the Codes and Ordinances related to pet ownership, and the fees associated with providing services that keep our community safe. Here are just a few of the basics:

Rabies vaccination—The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.02 dictates the rules on Rabies. In the state of Maryland, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated by

the time that animal is 4 months old. Rabies vaccines must be boosted every 1-3 years, established by your veterinarian.

Pet Licensing—Frederick County Codes §1-5-33 and §1-5-34 reiterate the requirement of a current Rabies vaccine for pets, and state that all dogs and cats in Frederick County must be licensed. The specific licensing fees, \$15 per intact pet and \$7.50 for pets that are spayed or neutered, are defined here as well.

Running At Large—Regardless of whether the landscaper left the gate open, or your toddler opened the front door, Fluffy and Fido are considered to be “at large” if they are off your property. While we are sympathetic to those situations, we are responsible for enforcing Frederick County Code §1-5-24 that states animals running at large to be a violation.

Microchipping—In 2006, Frederick County Government approved a policy that allows us to microchip all stray pets before they are returned to their owner. Microchips help reunite lost pets and owners—ultimately saving lives. Jeremy will be microchipped prior to leaving here—whether he is adopted or reclaimed by his owner.

Responsible pet ownership includes being compliant with established laws and policies, avoiding the unintended consequences of fees and distress that accompany non-compliance. We thank those citizens who are compliant, and those who understand Animal Control's role in keeping pets—and our community—safe.

Help us adopt Marco



Can you help Marco find his next home? He arrived at Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center over 260 days ago through no fault of his own. Marco greets visitors at the front of his cage and is outgoing when comfortable with his surroundings. He loves to play, however, at times he can be a little rough and may be best suited for a family without very young kids. So who is now the oldest resident?

Golf tournament for petsforvets.com

Good news for all News-Journal Readers and Golf Fanatics everywhere!

The Thurmont American Legion, Post 168, is putting on our first annual golf tournament. The tournament will be held at Maple Run Golf Course on Friday (yeah, all golfers now have an excuse to take a day off from work), June 24.

It will be a four-person scramble, \$300 per team, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9 a.m. We are accepting only 20

teams this year, so make sure to register early. Any registrations received after June 1st will be \$340, so don't be late.

The tournament will benefit a wonderful organization called Pets for Vets (petsforvets.com) and other veteran programs. Not a golfer, but want to participate for this wonderful cause? There are three levels for Hole sponsors, which are greatly appreciated.

\$375 Your Business name/logo will be displayed at one of the holes on the course,

included in all advertising, and listed on a banner at the event

\$100 Your business name/logo will be displayed at one of the holes on the course.

On-The-Course Competition and Raffle Sponsor: Merchandise, Gift Cards, Gift Baskets, etc. are some of the items needed to reward the winners for: Raffle, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin.

Beer, did I say Beer? Two will be provided with your registration and a Beer Cart will be present on the Golf Course. We will be having a wonderful meal at the Legion after the tournament. Prizes! Yes there

will be lots of prizes including 1st, 2nd, 3rd and maybe last place. Try not to be last. There will also be closest to the Pin on all Par 3's and for all you hammers, longest drive for men and the ladies.

For registration forms contact Rick Hall at 240-626-4660 or email Rick at foundconfused@yahoo.com The American Legion is always trying to help our fellow veterans any way we can. How about you?

Come play golf, have a good time and help our veterans who all gave some and some gave all?

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HEALTH

Frederick Health named #1 stroke care provider

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in Frederick County, was recently named #1 in the state of Maryland for stroke care. This ranking, which comes from the nationally recognized and respected Healthgrades America, considers several factors when putting together its rankings. Patient outcomes and their overall experience are the largest factors, alongside specific healthcare, and treatment data, but the news is welcomed by both Frederick Health representatives and the general population at large. The timing of the award is even more relevant and celebratory when you consider that May is National Stroke Awareness Month in the United States.

“This is a huge honor for Frederick Health,” said April Fogle,

Stroke Program Coordinator with Frederick Health.

“There are a lot of quality hospitals in the state of Maryland, so to be given this recognition by Healthgrades America is a testament to the hard work of our team and a clear indication to residents of Frederick County that they have the best care right here in their community,” continued Fogle.

Healthgrades, which reviews performance metrics and patient data for hospitals across the country has also presented Frederick Health with numerous other awards. Top among these was Frederick Health being named a recipient of Healthgrades’s 100 Best Hospitals in the Nation. In addition to this honor, Frederick Health has also received the following awards from Healthgrades America:

- America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Spine Surgery for four years in a row (2019-2022)
- America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care for three years in a row (2020-2022)
- America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Prostate Surgeries for three years in a row (2020-2022)
- America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Gastrointestinal Care for six years in a row (2017-2022)
- America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Gastrointestinal Surgery for two years in a row (2021-2022)
- Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award for four years in a row (2019-2022)
- Neurosciences Excellence Award for two years in a row (2021-2022)
- Pulmonary Care Excellence Award for seven years in a row (2016-2022)
- Critical Care Excellence Award for seven years in a row (2016-2022)
- Surgical Care Excellence Award in 2022

On top of being named #1 in stroke care in the state, Frederick Health was recently presented with two nationally recognized awards from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. These awards were given to Frederick Health for their implementation of specific quality care improvement measures associated with strokes and stroke care. Both awards recognize that Frederick Health is working to reduce system barriers to prompt quick, reliable, treatment for victims of a stroke.

One of those awards, known as “Get With The Guidelines – Stroke”, was developed to assist healthcare

professionals to provide the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines for treating stroke patients. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and speeding recovery times. Frederick Health met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients.

“We are so pleased to be recognized for our dedication to helping our patients have the best possible chance of survival after a stroke,” said Fogle.

As with other life-threatening health issues, such as a heart attack, seconds count when diagnosing and treating stroke patients. It’s estimated that for every second an individual experiences a stroke, they lose roughly 32,000 neurons. That number increases to 1.9 million neurons lost for every minute. These long-term effects on your brain can be fatal. Healthcare experts encourage the public to remember the Be Fast model to spot the signs of a stroke in an individual: Balance Lost, Eyesight Changes, Face Drooping, Arm Weakness, Speech Difficulty, Time to Call 911

Fogle expressed the importance of quick action.

“Our aim is to make it easier for our teams and the general public to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes for stroke patients.”

There are certain factors, such as genetics, age, family history, and race that can play a factor in the likelihood of having a stroke. Despite these, strokes remain a serious threat for Americans. Someone in the United States suffered from a stroke every 40 seconds and, unfortunately, someone dies from a stroke every four minutes. Nationally, strokes are the 5th leading cause of death and the 3rd leading cause of death for Marylanders. When those numbers are examined even further, it is revealed that strokes are the 3rd leading cause of death for residents of Frederick County.

While these numbers are daunting, there are several steps that can be taken to help limit your risk of stroke. Experts say that healthier diets, not smoking, and watching your blood sugar and cholesterol are key steps in reducing your risk of stroke.

To help reduce stroke deaths, especially in Frederick County, Frederick Health partnered with County Executive Jan Gardner and the non-profit Stroke Smart organization to have Frederick County named as the first Stroke Smart County in the United States. This effort results in additional training for first responders, medical professionals, and County staff on how to recognize and respond to strokes.

“What’s really important is that people know we are here for them,” Fogle stated. “And that Frederick Health really does offer the best stroke care available.”

For more information, please visit www.frederickhealth.org/pmdcrefferal.

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Frederick Health

Shamrock torn down

It took just less than an hour for the wrecking crane to finally put the once proud Shamrock Restaurant out of its misery, and with it, close a long chapter in Thurmont's history.

The Shamrock Restaurant was on its way to hitting its 60th anniversary, but fell short in 2018 when Donna Demmon and Dawn Knox, both of whom worked at their parents' restaurant since its inception, opted to retire.

The Restaurant formally closed December 30, 2018, and in March 2019 was sold for 3.95 million dollars to Two Farms, Inc., of Baltimore, which runs a chain of Royal Farms gas and convenience stores.

Royal Farms was attracted to the site by the direct access off Route 15 the property afforded drivers in both directions, as well its access to Franklinville Rd.

Expectations that the building would quickly be raised to make way for a new Royal Farm convenience store, proved false, and the once bustling restaurant has stood silent and vacant awaiting its fate.

Its destruction came in fits and pieces. Last year the building roof was torn off, exposing the plywood roofing foundation to the winter elements. A few months later, the kitchen area was torn down. The derelict building soon attracted the attention of local graffiti artists, who sullied its once pristine face with foul messages.

For many, the short work of the wrecking crane on a cloudy and rainy day was a welcome end. In addition to the restaurant, the six-room motel that sat just to the south of the restau-

rant was also torn down. The only thing remaining of the restaurant complex is the Pin Oak that Mike Fitzgerald, the founder of the Shamrock planted in 1967, which greeted visitors.

In the spring of 1963 Mike took over what at the time, was an abandoned and neglected restaurant situated beside the then two-lane Route 15. He initially called his new restaurant the Casablanca, and in 1964, it became the first restaurant in Frederick County permitted to serve cocktails. Eventually the name was changed to the Shamrock and over time the restaurant became a regular destination for people near and far.

While the loss of the Shamrock saddens some, the thought that the area will, with the completion of the Rutter's gas & convenience store in Emmitsburg, have two major gas out-



In just a matter of hours, the once proud Shamrock restaurant was reduced to a pile of rubble.

lets, three if one counts Sheetz, has many hoping for good old fashion 'gas price' wars between the stations.

Historically, in areas where Rutter's and Royal Farms compete head to head, the price of gas can be any-

where from 10 to 20 cents a gallon less than at stations without competition. While construction of the Rutter's gas is well underway in Emmitsburg, no date has been set for the start of construction of the Royal Farm station.

The 2022 carnival season

This season, some organizations are ready to go forward with their annual community fundraisers, others are holding a collective breath.

For the past twelve years, the lead stories in the Emmitsburg News-Journal's May editions have always been announcements of the year's annual carnivals throughout the community held on various dates.

However, as it's been for the last couple years with the COVID-19 restrictions in place, annual carnivals are falling by the wayside. Typically, Mother Seton School has begun the carnival season, but chose to cancel their event this year out of an abundance of caution of COVID-19, according to Terry Smith, school administrative assistant and carnival chairperson.

Instead, the Thurmont Ambulance Company will kick off the annual carnival season May 31 through June 4 at the Thurmont Event Complex.

Instead of temporary tents for vendors, permanent outdoor structures have now been installed to better accommodate festival needs. Graham Volunteer Fire Department will also have its own booth at the carnival.

On the heels of Thurmont comes the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company, June 13 through June 18, which will be followed by Thurmont Guardian Hose Company's, June 20 through June 25. The Company's Firemen's Parade will be June 23.

The hugely popular Harney Fire Department Carnival will be held June 22 through June 25. In years past, the department's carnival traditionally ran an entire week, but cutting back to four days of festivities has been easier on the volunteer team. "Things went very well last year with three days, so we decided to extend it to four days this year. We are hoping for another good turnout," department representative Sam Perry said.

The Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company Annual Carnival will be held from July 4 through July 9. The carnival's famous gigantic fireworks show will be held Friday, July 8. Cancelled in 2020, the department only had six weeks to get the 2021 carnival fundraiser up and running after a decision was made for it to be held, "However it turned out to be our biggest carnival week ever," department chairman Vaughn Zimmerman said.

"We believe that our community loves our Carnival and looks forward to it each year," With plenty of free parking, free admission, and band entertainment each night, "Everything will be about the same

as last year. We don't mess with success," Zimmerman said.

South Mountain Fair, which historically closes out the carnival season, will return in full force in time to celebrate its centennial anniversary this season. Kicking off July 26 through July 30, patrons can expect a new breath of enthusiasm this year with five days of festivities.

The Fair was cancelled in 2020 and held in 2021, albeit with an abundance of caution and considerably less fervor, according to coordinator Joanne Irvin. "I don't think most people realize how much work and how many hours goes into preparing for the Fair and the work doesn't end on the last day of the Fair either. We work at it all year. There is always something that needs to be repaired

or painted or mowed or cleaned. The average person doesn't see all of those things, but they all need to be taken care of throughout the year and not just Fair week. In 2020 when the Fair and all of our other rentals were cancelled, those things still had to be done. The grounds had to be mowed. We still had to pay the electric and phone bills even without any income," she said.

Now the organizers are ready to put on a 100th anniversary worthy of South Mountain. "This year is going much smoother I think, and we are excited to celebrate our 100th year. It wasn't a happy time, but we made it through it and I'm glad we did. Maybe that's why we're looking forward to celebrating our 100th year. We made it," Irvin said.



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HISTORY

The Fall of the Banking House of Annan Horner

Editor's Note: While doing this month's 100 years ago research, we came across the following entry:

Union Bridge Bank Closed; Big Shortage

E. O. Olmstead, Cashier of the First National Bank of Union Bridge, has confessed to the Board of Directors that he is the defaulter to an unknown amount. He said that he used the money in speculation. Neither the bank officials nor the central treasure officials, who are reviewing the accounts, will approximate the shortage, which is in the savings department, but they say it is in excess of \$75,000.

James Cash, who is one of the largest stockholders in the bank, became suspicious sometime ago that all was not well with the institution. Two weeks ago, he was elected President of the bank, and immediately began earnestly reviewing the books.

His investigation showed that there was something wrong, but the shortages at first seemed to be only about \$4,000. On Saturday the directors on their own, closed the bank pending further examination and requested the Comptroller of the Currency to take charge of the bank.

It is said that individuals in the community may sustain considerable loss through the disappearance of their savings, which they had entrusted to Mr. Olmstead for safekeeping. Members of the community, who made deposits to the bank, for which no receipt was given, have been told that the bank will not be liable for those deposits.

Union Bridge is a prosperous town and the deposits in the bank run well over \$300,000. The Tidewater Cement Company is located here, as are the repair shops of the Western Maryland Railroad, which make heavy weekly payments. All the Board of Directors are residents of Union Bridge.

Olmstead has a wife and several children. He received a salary of \$1,500 a year, and it is said that his scale of living, which seemed beyond his modest salary, caused suspicion among many. It is thought that some of the money, which he admits having taken, has been recovered from brokers who he dealt with.

Which got us thinking, May 2022

marks the 100 anniversary of the fall of the Banking House of Annan Horner. And while we ran this article at the conclusion of our series covering World War One, we thought it fitting to run it again to remind people what life was like in Emmitsburg 100 years ago.

The end of 19th and the beginning of the 20th century marked the most promising and prosperous period in Emmitsburg's history. This high watermark owes its thanks in many ways to two families: the Annans and the Horners, whose names and good work have all but been forgotten.

In 1882, Andrew Annan, with his sons Isaac S. Annan, James C. Annan and son-in-law, Major O.A. Horner, organized the Annan-Horner Bank. For 40 years, through diligent loans and investments, the bank brought prosperity to the community. Sadly, these great families lost everything, including their reputations, following the collapse of their banking house in 1922.

Very little is known about Andrew Annan other than that he followed in the footsteps of his father and became a physician in Emmitsburg. Andrew's son Isaac was educated in the public schools of Emmitsburg and became a clerk in the general dry goods store of George W. Rowe. Following Rowe's retirement in 1856, Isaac became the store's proprietor and changed its name to I.S. Annan & Company [now the site of the Ott House Restaurant]. In 1880, Isaac organized the Emmitsburg Water Company. In 1858, Isaac's brother, James C. Annan, joined the firm and the store became known as I. S. Annan & Brother.

Oliver Horner is best known for his role as leader of Company C of Cole's Maryland Cavalry. Under Oliver's leadership the exploits of the Emmitsburg-staffed company became legendary throughout the Union army. Promoted repeatedly for efficiency, bravery and meritorious conduct, he ended the war with the rank of Major. In 1882, Oliver was elected president of the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners. The formation of the Banking House of Annan & Horner

In 1882, Andrew Annan, Isaac S. Annan, James C. Annan, and Oliver Horner, organized the Annan & Horner Bank and built a stately three story building on the north-west corner of the square to house its offices. In the early 1900s, the original founders of the bank were succeeded by their sons: Edger Annan succeeding his father Isaac, Andrew Annan Horner succeeding Oliver Horner, and J. Stewart Annan succeeding his father James.

In addition to being on the board of the Bank, J. Stewart Annan was also a director in the People's Fire Insurance Company of Frederick County, the Emmitsburg Water Company, the Emmitsburg and Frederick Turnpike Company, and in 1907, he was elected to the office of Commissioner of Frederick County for a four-year term. He was re-elected for a second term in 1911.

In 1896 J. Stewart Annan married Elizabeth Morrison. Shortly after their marriage, the pair purchased the old Horner home place, "Fort Henry," a tract of land which encompassed the present day Jubilee Market area and Silo Hill development.

A wealthy man, Stewart and his wife were the closest thing Emmitsburg ever had to royalty. They lived extravagant lives, funded by the profits they received from all their business investments. Elizabeth was a frequent visitor to the most prestigious stores in Baltimore and the couple thought nothing of paying more for a simple light fixture than most residents in the town earned in a year.

Under the tutelage of these three men, the bank prospered. They loaned liberally to friends and neighbors and reinvested their profits back into the community. In a short matter of time, the Annans and Horners became controlling stockholders in the Emmitsburg Water and Turnpike Companies and, following the bankruptcy of the Emmitsburg Railroad in 1897, they assumed a significant financial holding in it as well. They also invested heavily in local farms and orchards.

World War I — Boom in the American Farming Communities
When the First World War began



At one time the Banking House of Anna-Horner was the most eye-catching & prestigious building on the square. Fitting for the leading role it played in the development of Emmitsburg in the early 1900s.

in 1914, the United States was in a recession. European need for goods such as food helped end the recession and set the stage for a long economic boom. The destruction of European farms benefitted American farmers. Excited by the rise in prices for food, they borrowed heavily to buy more crop land and expand production.

America's entry into the war unleashed a torrent of Federal spending, most of it funded by Liberty War Bonds. To ensure the Liberty Bonds sold well, the federal government pressured the newly founded Federal Reserve to keep its lending rates low, creating an environment where banks could borrow cheaply to buy the Liberty Bonds. Looking to cash in on the higher returns on the Liberty bonds, many small banks, including the Annan-Horner Bank, borrowed heavily from larger banks and invested the proceeds in Liberty Bonds.

In addition, many Annan-Horner Bank customers withdrew savings from lower yielding savings accounts and purchased their own bonds. In withdrawing their funds, the bank's customers had a significant impact on the working capital of the bank, making it harder for the bank to finance its day to day operations.

As in any economic bubble, as long as interest rates stayed low, the bubble in the Liberty Bond market remained strong. Unfortunately for the Annan-Horner Bank, as well

as individual Emmitsburgians who held Liberty Bonds, the decision of the Federal Reserve to hold interest rates low led to a rapid growth in the money supply, setting off an inflationary spiral.

The Bursting of the Liberty Bond Bubble

Following the cessation of hostilities in Europe, the untested Federal Reserve took action to reign in inflation, starting with a series of rapid increases in the prime lending rate which dramatically affected the value of the fixed-interest Liberty Bond. As interest rates rose, the value of the bonds plummeted.

As the Federal Reserve began to enact its second phase of its deflationary plan, the calling in of loans, the Annan-Horner Bank found itself forced to sell its Liberty Bond holding at below face value in order to raise the cash to repay its loans.

As interest rates continued to increase, small banks across the county, including the Annan-Horner Bank, were forced to sell their Liberty Bonds at whatever price they could get. Needless to say, the actions by the Federal Reserve had a chilling effect. Adjustments throughout the economy were sudden, erratic and severe. By Dec. 7, 1920, the value of Liberty Bonds hit a record low and newspapers were filled with stories of bank failures.

While all Liberty bondholders suf-

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HISTORY

ferred, farmers were especially hurt. Wartime demand for food and agricultural raw materials had increased the prices of farm products. Higher prices had stimulated local farmers to borrow heavily and invest in additional land and equipment — most of this purchased on easy credit that was meant to be guaranteed by the rising farm incomes.

Farms, however, were the first thing to recover in Europe following the end of WWI and, with them, the need for American food stocks evaporated almost overnight. Shut out of the European market, the domestic oversupply of food stocks led to a drastic fall in the prices of farm products, which directly translated into declines in farm income in the United States. The fall in food prices undercut the farmland prices and meant that many Emmitsburg area farmers had difficulty paying interest on their loans. The number of farm failures and foreclosures in Emmitsburg soon became a ground swell.

Already pressed by losses from Liberty Bonds, many small banks in farming communities were unable to bear the brunt of the failed mortgages and failed. The Annan-Horner Bank did not escape this fate, and according to its own records was insolvent at the close of 1920. The bank 1920 statement showed that the bank was \$40,000 short in accounts. As bad as this might sound, this loss was only a paper loss and would

only become actual if the bank was forced to sell its Liberty Bonds at the depressed prices.

Word of the condition of the Annan-Horner Bank was kept closely guarded and few knew of its dire straits. The Annan-Horner Bank families placed their hope in the return of the bond market; the profitability of their orchard and the water company investments; and the continued loyalty of their customers. These were customers who, in spite of declining farm incomes, had heretofore not succumbed to withdrawing their savings from the bank. As long as depositors did not need to withdraw their money, there would be no need to cash in the Liberty Bonds and the bank would survive. However, time and weather were not on the bank's side.

The Perfect Financial Storm

On April 1921, two nights of freezing temperatures destroyed 75% of the county fruit crop. The cash crops many farmers depended on to fund themselves until the fall harvest were wiped out. The entire cherry, peach, pear and plum crop, along with most varieties of apple were hit the hardest. The late frost also killed the winter wheat crop, which placed additional financial burden on local farmers.

Robbed of their spring cash crops, farmers began to withdraw savings to cover operating costs. To cover withdrawals, the bank was forced to sell more of its Liberty Bonds at

depressed prices, forcing it deeper into a financial abyss.


To add insult to injury, the late spring frost was followed by drought that lasted well into August and was described by many as the worst drought ever experienced. In July, the area received less than one inch of rain versus its normal six inches. Hay crops, a vital staple for livestock, produced only stubble. By August, the drought was being called the worst in three years, and water use restrictions were put into effect throughout Frederick County.

To limit its losses, the bank began to call in loans. About the same time, in an attempt to raise badly needed capital, Annan-Horner Bank filed for a charter as a state bank. It was to have a capital of \$50,000 with a surplus of \$25,000. The money was to be raised by the selling of stock at a subscription price of \$15, though the face value of the stock was only \$10 per share. The extra \$5 was to be used to establish a surplus fund.

Shares for the bank were heavily marketed to the residents of Emmitsburg. For many, this was the first opportunity to hold a share in a company. Many residents who bought shares did so by paying for their shares by drawing upon savings in their savings accounts. In doing so, they inadvertently helped convert a significant portion of the bank's outstanding debt. In this case, it was converting money owed to its depositors to shareholder equity.

Now exchanging debt for equity is a frequent strategy used in resolving high profile bankruptcies today. Creditors agree to trade what is owed to them in exchange for shares in the

Robert Hays



brother worked tirelessly in his father's water company business. After graduation from Emmitsburg high school, he attended Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. He met the love of his life, Terree Webb, when he returned home for a college break. Their 61 years of married life began at the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church and ended with her death in February of 2021. Bob's greatest joy was life with Terree and their two sons. Reunions and holiday celebrations were a huge priority for him along with endless practical jokes and fun with friends and neighbors. His wife was quoted saying that Bob was her "ray of sunshine". Bob loved to play tennis, golf, and a competitive game of Hearts. A celebration of life service will be held at 1:30 PM on June 11th at the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church.

Robert Hays (Bob) 84, of Jacksonville Florida, passed away on Nov. 29, 2021.

He was born in Emmitsburg in May 21, 1937, to parents Samuel and Mayme Hays. He spent his early years on a farm where he learned the value of hard work and long hours. However, the center of family life was a high regard for laughter and good fun. After moving from the farm, he and his

company. Whether the residents of the town who traded their savings for stock in the Annan-Horner Bank understood the risk they were taking will probably never be known. However, it is reasonable to ask whether they would have been so willing to part with their hard-earned savings had they known the true status of the bank's financial condition.

Unfortunately, since the Emmitsburg Chronicle, which had so effectively chronicled the events of the community for the past 32 years, had ceased operation the year before, the

outcome of the stock offering was unknown, as well as what happened over the next two months. It is only through later court testimony and newspaper reports that we learn that the Annan-Horner Bank suspended operations on August 24, 1921, and on October 21, its accounts were assumed by the Farmer's State Bank. Like any modern corporate takeover, the takeover of the Annan-Horner Bank was mostly a paper exercise, as the bank continued to operate under its own name.

continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

May 5

Emmitsburg Youth Real Hero

Presence of mind and quick thinking on the part of Master Joseph Frizell, 13 years old, no doubt saved the life of Master Paul Humerick last Monday evening at the Emmitsburg Railroad Station. Frizell with several youngsters was waiting for the evening train to arrive. Walking along by the side of the track some few yards from the station they saw the baggage car approaching young Humerick. The baggage car had become detached from the train and was rolling freely down the rails with little sound. Frizell called to Humerick to jump off the rails but evidently not knowing the car was rolling along alone he gave a little attention to their warnings.

Quick as a flash, Frizell realized the danger and ran after the car, which was moving slowly, pulling Humerick off the rails and down to the earth. The car was only a short distance from the embankment when the boys made their getaway and no one was more surprised than Humerick when he heard the detached car go smashing over the embankment into a tree. The large tree hit in just the place Humerick was standing and eyewitnesses say that had the young boy held his place he would've been badly mangled if not killed outright. Frizell has been a hero in the eyes of his friends during the week and rightly so as it was not only a brave deed, but showed that his mind was working fast to take in the situation.

The train had stopped at Saint Joseph station before arriving in Emmitsburg and it is understood that while the conductor was assisting the passengers off at that station, someone uncoupled the connection to the baggage car, which might have resulted in a serious accident. The case is being investigated and the railroad officials say the offenders will be taken to account. The car was somewhat damaged but there was no loss to the baggage or other contents.

Taneytown Tea Garden

The summer Saturday night crowds

for which Taneytown has a reputation, started for the season, last Saturday night. The wide streets and sidewalks of the town help greatly towards comfortably accommodating great crowds. The band concert helped attract even more patrons.

Meanwhile, Amelia Annan and Claire Brining will open a tea garden on the lawn at the Brining home, East Baltimore St., chiefly for the purpose of serving late lunches and refreshments to automobile tourist, afternoon and evenings throughout the summer. When it becomes known to the traveling public, it should become popular. The location is ideal for the purpose.

Heavy Thunderstorms

Sunday afternoon a heavy thunder and rain storm passed over this section of the county. Rain fell in torrents for a time and the lightning and the thunder was severe. One of the flashes of lightning struck the barn of Luther Keilholtz, located about a mile east of Graceham and it did considerable damage. A fire started, but prompt action and hard work by Mr. Keilholtz and other saved the building from being burned.

In the evening another thunderstorm came this way. The thunder was very heavy as was the rain. The lightning struck in, or near, the electric light wires about Thurmont and put the street lights out of commission. Churchgoers went home in the darkness and rain. Fuses were blown in a number of homes.

On Monday about 5 o'clock a light shower of rain fell in Thurmont. To the north, around Franklinville and the mountains, hail is said to have fallen, but not in such quantities as to do damage to the tender vegetables.

May 12

Emmitsburg Election

Last week was held the election of the officers for the Corporation of Emmitsburg, 83 votes were cast, Harry Stokes for Burgess, received 78 votes, Milton Shuff, 4, and Mrs. Andrew Annan, leader of the nefarious Emmitsburg Suffrag-

ette movement, voted for herself. Burgess Stokes and Commissioner Rhodes, together with holdover members William Morrison, and Charles Rotering, will constitute the town's government for the ensuing year.

Permits To Build

Beginning June 1st every person before erecting or repairing any building in Frederick County worth \$250 or more, will be required to procure a permit from the Board of County Commissioners. When applying for a permit, which will be issued free of cost by the commissioners, every applicant will be required to give the dimensions and the estimated cost of the proposed buildings. Permits will have to be secured before the work can be started. In order not to create a hardship on persons living in remote sections of the county, it will not be necessary to apply in person for a permit. Persons desiring a permits can write to the commissioners setting forth the necessary information and in return the permits will be mailed directly to the applicant.

Any persons failing to comply with this new law will, upon conviction, will be fined no less than \$10 or more than \$100 and cost for each offense. The object of this law is to get the names of owners of new buildings on the assessment books for the purpose of taxation. Heretofore persons have been erecting buildings and their names never get on the assessment books until several years afterwards. As the county is so large it has been most difficult to get all the names of owners of new buildings and by the passage of this act it is thought that this trouble will be over come.

Knitting Mills Close

The knitting mills of the Union Manufacturing Company in Thurmont and Emmitsburg closed down Wednesday for an indefinite period because of the shortage of storage facilities and cancellation of delivery dates on orders. Approximately 300 employees, mostly women, will be affected by the order

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May 19

Battle Of Gettysburg To Be Re-Enacted.

The Marine Corp, 4,000 strong, will conduct practice maneuvers this summer on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The maneuvers will embrace sham battles in which the historic three-day struggle at Gettysburg will be refought with modern implements of warfare. The 4,000 men expected to participate will march to Maryland into Pennsylvania and to the scene of the battle. The Maryland points that will be touched on the march include Frederick and Emmitsburg. Some of the Marines will also go through Taneytown and Harney.

Oil Drill Reaches 1,000 Feet

The Annie Laura Oil and Gas Company of Thurmont's drill has reached 1,000 feet. Drilling has temporarily been suspended until casing can be inserted to stop the flow of water. Oil soil, with no oil production, was struck at 730 feet. The company's drilling equipment is prepared to go 3,300 feet. Work will resume in about 10 days or two weeks—as soon as the new casing arrive and it's adjusted. Water has come up within 9 feet of the top of the drill hole. The pressure of the water retards the stroke of the drill so it is necessary to stop the inflow of water. The new casing will prevent water from coming into the hole and after work has been resumed no further trouble from this source is expected.

Typhoid Fever

Arthur Gilliland, age about 22 years old, of Hamiltonban Township, 2 miles from Zora, died Wednesday morning from typhoid fever. Ralph Brown, son of Harry Brown of Fairfield, is confined to his home with typhoid fever.

May 26

Ground Broken For Memorial Park

The ceremony of breaking ground for Thurmont's Memorial Park took place Tuesday morning. Mrs. Charles Waters, chairman of the committee, turned the first spadefull of earth and Mayor Rouser the second. The work of transforming the meadow into Memorial Park was begun and there will be no let up until it is finished. Two stone pillars will mark the

entrance to the park. These pillars which will be 2 feet square and 6 feet high, will be built on green stone secured in our mountains, and each will have embodied therein a bronze tablet containing the name "Memorial Park." These pillars, together with a 40-foot flag pole, two flowerbeds, and the grading and ditching will be done by May 27, Memorial Day in Thurmont.

Bridge Repaired

The bridge on the state road over Toms Creek at Emmitsburg, which was condemn by the State Roads Commissioner, is again open to travel. The bridge was condemned as being unsafe for travel and was closed on Friday. On Monday, workmen started to repair the bridge and on Thursday it was again open to travel. A new concrete foundation was erected at the bridge and other improvements made.

Auto Overtumed

On Sunday morning while on their way back to the state sanatorium, four men in a Ford car came to grief while making the turn on Water Street in Thurmont. The driver of the car evidently failed to start making the turn at the proper time. A quick turn of the wheel landed the occupants on the sidewalk in front of Mr. Mackley's home. Mr. Mackley gave them aid. Bystanders, in exchange for the remaining hooch the occupants had been enjoying, helped right the car, and the patients of that institution, who were eager to return before their absence was noticed, were soon on your way back to the sanatorium.

Harney Is Just Fine

Joseph Claybaugh and Lake Ridinger, who went to Illinois sometime ago to seek their fortunes, have returned home perfectly satisfied that Harney is plenty good enough for them. They reported having a fine trip. They traveled over 3,000 miles on the round-trip, without having any problems, not even a puncture.

Falls From Rocking Chair

Last week, William Forney, the oldest man in Harney, had a bad fall. Mr. Forney is 89 years old and weighs 250 pounds and while trying to get out of his rocking chair, both rockers broke off at the back post, throwing him backwards to the floor, causing painful bruises.

To read past 100 years ago, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Bruceville

David Bule

Those of you who recognize the name Bruceville may have traveled down Bruceville Road, near Taneytown. In the past, Bruceville Rd was the bustling village founded by Norman (a.k.a. Normand, Normon) Bruce. A vital element of the town's significance stems from its association with two highly influential Carroll County families, the Bruce's and the Key's.

These families were instrumental in founding the community. In addition, these families contributed significantly to county, state, and national histories. This article contains much information from two pieces. One was published in The Carroll Record during its inaugural months in 1894 by E.H. Sharretts concerning Bruceville's history and another published by the Carroll County Historical Society, "The Carroll Record Histories of Northwestern Carroll County Communities."

Norman Bruce, the founder of Bruceville, built Myrtle Hill. It is significant for its architectural components - the large stone and frame house, the stone meat house, and the remains of the single large span stone arch bridge that connected it to "Good Intent" on the north side of Big Pipe Creek from within the town of Bruceville.

There are many important links between Bruceville and Keymar,

which feature the original settlers and founders of Bruceville. Early records indicate that Bruce immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1762 and settled on Pipe Creek. In 1763, Bruce and Diggs received five thousand, three hundred and one acres, extending from Keysville along Big Pipe Creek north of Bruceville. The region was known as "Bedford."

The land south of the creek belonged to John Ross Key (1754-1821). Bruce desired the Key property for erecting a mill on the Big Pipe Creek; thus, he entered negotiations with Key, resulting in their estates' exchange.

In 1758, Norman Bruce married Susanna Gardner Key (1742-1811), the daughter of Philip Barton Key (1757-1815). Philip Key had six children, the third; John Ross Key was the father of Francis Scott Key (1779-1843). Susanne received 1,400 acres of land, one-third of "Terra Rubra." Bruce would acquire land throughout his life, accumulating 14,089 acres in total. In the late 1800s, Norman Bruce built "Myrtle Hill" as the centerpiece of a large estate, including at least one mill, housing many additional structures.

Norman and Susanna had five children: Betsy, who was born before 1761 and possibly died in infancy, Andrew (1761-1814), Upton Scott (1762-1829), who settled near Cumberland on land called the Glades; Charles Key (1764-1826) who according to

Mimi Ashcraft of the Historical Society of Carroll County, "went to Scotland and studied medicine, sailed to India where he spent many years as a newspaper editor.

When Normand died in the early 1800s, in order to lay claim to his share of the property, Charles returned from India and lived the rest of his life on Long Island"; Elizabeth Key (1772-1862), a beautiful girl who attended the assembly balls when her father represented his county in the Legislature in 1778. The dresses she wore are still preserved, together with china bearing the Bruce coat of arms. She married John Scott, the nephew of Dr. Upton Scott of Annapolis.

After John Scott married Norman Bruce's daughter, Elizabeth Bruce, John Scott built the large stone house on the Hill naming it, "Good Intent." "Good Intent" was made about the year 1812 and cost ten thousand dollars. John and Elizabeth had five children. Upton Scott, Susanna, who died in infancy, Mrs. John Brooke Boyle of Westminster, Mrs. Daniel Swope, and Dr. Norman B. Scott still survive. John Scott died of sciatic rheumatism, February 28, 1841. Elizabeth Bruce Scott, his wife, died in 1864 in Westminster, aged 84 years. After Bruce exchanged property with Key, he built a dwelling house passed and occupied by Frederick Mehring and his sisters. He also erected a large stone mill, owned later by George Mehring, which stood until 1881 when it was destroyed by fire.



The Norman Bruce home, located at 1340 Bruceville Road, Keymar, is privately owned and visible today, though substantially rebuilt after a fire in the 1800s.

It is clear from his diverse interests and skills as a farmer, miller, Revolutionary War officer, sheriff, and judge that he had the knowledge and skills required by early colonists. However, Bruce's financial condition became problematic toward the end of his life due to the country's economic conditions. In the aftermath of his death, the "Myrtle Hill" became a tavern. Eventually, it was owned by the Mehring family, which transformed it into a centralized mining town.

Today, a look at "Myrtle Hill" reveals that its architectural form and individual features represent a historical resource for learning about life and culture during the Revolutionary War.

David Buie is a volunteer at the Historical Society of Carroll County and can be contacted via e-mail at teambuie05@msn.com.

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

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COOKING

Let the grilling games begin

Sonya Verlaque
FCC's Culinary School

Resting between spring and the official beginning of summer, May brings beautiful new plant growth, gentle rains and warmer weather. Memorial Day is the fourth Monday of May to honor our armed service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It also unofficially marks the beginning of grilling season. So, get out your grass stained white dad sneakers and click your tongs because it's time to dust off some of our favorite pieces of culinary equipment: the grill and smoker. These recipes, in part or whole, can be made ahead of time so you can enjoy the holiday with friends and family.

Grilled Watermelon Salad

Typically grilling is thought of in the context of hamburgers and hotdogs, however grilling fruit caramelizes the natural sugars and changes the texture. You will probably have some watermelon for Memorial Day weekend, so try grilling some with this recipe.

Ingredients:

Juice and zest of 1 lime
1/4 c. honey
1 tsp. olive oil
1 small watermelon, cut into 1" thick rectangles - rind removed
4 cups arugula
Freshly torn mint leaves
4 oz goat cheese.

Instructions: Heat grill or grill pan to medium heat. In a medium bowl, whisk together lime juice and zest honey, and olive oil. Brush lime juice mixture all over watermelon wedges

and place on grill. Cook until grill marks form and fruit softens slightly, about 2 minutes per side.

Remove from the grill and cut into 1" cubes. Add to a large bowl along with the goat cheese, mint leaves and arugula, and gently toss together. Divide between salad plates.

Tony's "Turbo" Smoked Pork Butt

Grillmaster Tony recommends seasoning your pork the night before by smearing the pork with yellow mustard that acts to bind or glue your seasoning to the meat.

One day before cover your pork with mustard and seasoning of your choice, Notorious PIG by PS Seasoning is recommended. Then tightly cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Think of when you need to stick your meat in the smoker, it usually takes about 45 min per pound. So, if you have an 8 pound piece of pork, it will take about 6 hours to smoke. Plan ahead so you and your guests are not eating at 10pm. Also, make your BBQ sauce - however, if you have a favorite bottled BBQ sauce, use that to make your day go smoothly.

Day of the big BBQ

Ingredients:

Seasoned pork from the refrigerator
1/2 cup of butter, cold, cubed
Cherry wood chips
BBQ sauce (bottled or recipe below)

Instructions: Warm up the smoker to 350F, and remove the pork from the plastic wrap. Once up to temperature place the pork on the smoker and don't open for 90 minutes, then open

quickly to spray with apple juice every 45 minutes. After 4 hours, take the pork off the heat and place it in a foil pan with your butter and a generous coat of BBQ sauce. Tent with foil and place back in the 350F smoker for the rest of your cooking time, to a final internal temperature of 205F. After removing from the smoker, let the meat rest for 30-60 minutes - if you can fend off your guests for that long.

Easy Tangy BBQ sauce

Ingredients:

2 cup ketchup
1 cup white vinegar
1/2 cup brown sugar
4 tbs yellow mustard
4 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
2 tbs onion powder
1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp. teaspoon kosher salt

Instructions: Combine all the sauce ingredients in a small saucepan, over medium low heat. Stir to combine and bring to a simmer. Simmer 10 minutes and then remove from the heat. Pour into an airtight container and refrigerate up to 3 days.

Elote (Mexican Street Corn)

Husk your corn but keep the husk attached to the cob for an instant handle. Make the sauce and refrigerate the day before and you will continue on your way to easy entertaining.

Ingredients:

8 ears corn
Vegetable spray oil
1/2 cup sour cream or Mexican crema
2 tbs mayonnaise
1/2 cup queso fresco
1/2 tsp. chili powder
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. cumin
1/4 tsp. salt



Lime wedges, for serving
Cilantro, for garnish

Directions: The day before: In a small bowl, mix the sour cream, mayonnaise, feta or queso fresco (crumbling any large chunks into smaller chunks with your fingers), chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, and salt. Cover and refrigerate.

BBQ day: Heat a grill to medium high. Shuck the corn by peeling down the outside layers one at a time and keeping them attached, facing downwards away from the cob. When you've finished, use kitchen twine or string to tie the leaves together to make your handle. Spray the corn lightly with neutral oil. Place the corn on the grill and cook until it begins to blacken, then turn. Cook about 12 to 15 minutes total, until slightly charred all around. Transfer to serving tray or baking sheet. Put your cheese mixture in a loaf pan or other shallow pan and dip and turn your corncobs to coat. Place back on serving tray and top with a squeeze of lime juice and chopped cilantro.

Lemon Square Bars

Make these a day ahead and then cut the next day for an easy handheld desert.

Ingredients:

3 cups all purpose flour
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 cups of butter melted

Directions: Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees. Sift or wish the flour and powdered sugar together, then pour the butter over the dry ingredients. Mix together gently, until crumbly. Prepare a 9x13 pan with parchment and spray oil. Press the crumbs firmly into the pan in one layer. Bake for 15 minutes at 350.

While that's baking, make the lemon curd:

Ingredients:

6 whole eggs
3 cups white sugar
1 cup flour
1 cup lemon juice
2 tbs of lemon zest

Direction: In bowl or mixer, whip the six eggs until light. Add the sugar and flour, and stir to combine well. Add the lemon juice and zest and mix well. After 15 minutes, pull the crust from the oven, and pour the curd mixture over the hot crust. Pop it back in the oven for 30-35 minutes, or until set and it doesn't jiggle in the center. Let cool completely on the countertop and then refrigerate overnight. Dust with powdered sugar and slice for desert.

To read other cooking articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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MOMS' TIME OUT

TV families of my youth

Mary Angel

Have you ever been half way into a conversation and wonder how you got there? This happens all the time in our house. I have walked into a room where a conversation is going on and had to ask, "How did you end up talking about this?" The answer is usually a resounding, "No clue!" or some form of that. Recently we ended up in the middle of one of these conversations that had no recognizable or memorable beginning. The conversation itself was a total blast though.

The question that was posed was, "What television family most reminds you of ours?" This of course led to all of the little disclaimers and questions. If I pick a family, will anyone get offended? Can I pick members of different families to match up to each individual member of our family? Things like that are what led to the ground rules for this conversation/ game show! In hindsight I should have stopped the conversation and saved the topic for one of our out-to-dinner quizzes. Too late!

The first person to begin was my husband, who cracked some jokes about the Addams Family or the Muensters...hahaha! He felt we were probably most closely comparable to the Huxtable family (remember we are talking television characters not the actors who portray them). According to him, my sharp with was on point with Clare Huxtable, our second son was charming and lazy like Theo, Our oldest daughter was a bit of a wild child and beautiful like Denise. Our youngest was adorable and spoiled like the Rudy Huxtable, and although they didn't have 2 sons, our oldest boy was intelligent and well-spoken like the oldest daughter Sondra. I was not sure anyone could top that choice. Luckily my kids have grown up on older sitcoms so the conversation was well rounded.

I jumped in and offered up the Cunningham, Nelson, Cleaver, Ricardo, and Bunker families. I joked that my parents might like to call my hubby "Meathead" now and again and that led my husband to mention my dad could definitely act a bit like Archie Bunker. As much as we all loved my mother-in-law, there has been a few jokes made that she acted a bit like Marie Barone. She would have been offended, but there were some episodes that were uncanny. Let's be honest Marie could be, well, Marie, but she did love her family with all her heart. I also mentioned that when I was pregnant with the first child I had grand dreams that we would be the Waltons, when some days I think we are more like the Bundys or the Simpsons.

My second born was what you might call a "busy" boy when he was little. He was always getting

into something, a little like Bart Simpson. I am just grateful that we didn't have an Eddie Haskell, as far as I know. Although my second son had a friend who I am sure was an Eddie Haskell. He would yes ma'am me and yes sir my husband, but one day, when he didn't recognize my car, he proceeded to curse at me excessively (that's when I knew). My youngest has been referred to as Jack-Jack by all of her siblings. Jack-Jack, spider monkey, and honey badger have all been used to describe her, as she is as sweet as can be most of the time, until she is NOT! They all agreed that the oldest is a cross between Richie Cunningham, Wally Cleaver, Carlton Banks, and Beast Boy (and a little Fred Jones). He chimed in to mention that he would look great in an ascot!

When it came time for the kids to name their family sitcom characters, shots were definitely fired. One of the boys mentioned that an outfit their sister wore the other day was one they definitely saw on Kelly Bundy. They all acknowledged that we had used the Cosby line, "I brought you into this world and I'll take you out", to the point that the kids had begun reciting it before us. My oldest daughter pointed out that we had gone so far as to plan out how we would turn our house into the "Real World" apartments for our second son if he didn't get his act together.

The boys mentioned that my youngest could definitely relate to Vanessa Doofenhmirtz in both dress and personality. She started to argue, and then stopped and said, "Yeah, you're right!"

Overall, I would say our family and most of those in the world are a crazy, funny, and awkward, messed up combination of all of these families. That is why these shows are so popular, because we see ourselves both good and bad in them. We see what we would like to be, we see what we have been, and we see them overcome obstacles that we are struggling with. There is a reasons there have been over 30 seasons of the Simpsons and it holds the record for the longest-running prime-time sitcom in the United States. We love the fact that they are imperfect and have problems and flaws. We love that they struggle at times, but still remain close and overcome.

There are brief moments in time when I can remember our family, our life, being like the Cleavers or the Bradys, but those are fleeting moments. They are usually quickly followed by a Simpson's moment, or a Bundy moment, or even an Addams Family ooky moment. On any given day we can look like the Clampetts, or the Munsters, or even the Tates or the Campbells (look it up), but never perfect and always changing. It is a blast to talk about which television



The Munsters were a family of friendly monsters that have misadventures, never quite understanding why people react to them so strangely - or in other words, your typical family.

character your family members resemble, but it is even better to realize they are all individuals and way more challenging, amazing, and funny than any sitcom character. So which family is yours most like? Have some fam-

ily television nights and introduce your kids to families they have never met!

To read past editions of Moms' Time Out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Fairfield Area School District

At its April 25 meeting, the Fairfield Area School District School Board welcomed their newest board member. Lisa Sturges, of Fairfield, is a former district teacher for first and third grade, gifted students, as well as an instructional support team teacher.

With over 30 years of teaching experience, Sturges brings the insight of day-to-day life within the classrooms, including what is needed and what may be overlooked, she said.

Sturges has been an active representative of her grade level in the local teachers association, including stints as president and vice president. "I am excited to represent all parts of the community," she said.

Sturges has spent nearly her entire education career in the FASD community and noted there are few communities in which you can teach a student and then later on see that student as a parent and teach their own child in the same grade, she said. "The school community is wonderful," she said.

As a district basketball coach, Sturges always advocated for good sportsmanship, and instructed her students to be representatives of not only their school, but their entire community.

Sturges' main focus as a school board member will be listening, she said. No matter what the discussion topic, it is crucial to under-

stand where the other person is coming from, and that is always a way to find common ground. "Try to find out their views, just so you could find out the total picture," she said.

Adapting is also important for Sturges, noting that the pandemic has changed a lot of ways schools operate and including evolving with new technologies. "We have to learn how to mesh technology and the students and how they are learning today," she said.

The challenge for all school districts will be "determining what we keep that is good that has been in the past, but we embrace the change that we've seen," Sturges said.

Sturges was the only candidate for the open chair position following the resignation of former member Richard Phillip. Her board seat term runs until December 2023.

In other business, the school board approved Sonja Brunner as the new Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Education, and Student Services starting in June.

Currently the Bermudian Springs School District Director of Special Education, Brunner brings student service involvement and extensive special education. Brunner has always loved special education and FASD's mission of "student's

first" aligned with her personal philosophy to meet student needs, she said.

Brunner said she has always been a problem solver who thinks outside the box and looks forward to working with the district through curriculum, professional development, and student services.

"I'm really looking forward to this opportunity, I'm honored to accept this position and I'm excited to get started," she said.

In other business, the technology project to upgrade the district's network cabling to Category 6 Ethernet Cables has been completed, according to Kaleb Crawford, Coordinator of Technology Services. Now all network devices, including printers & desktop computers, are operational in both district buildings.

The project began before Crawford even started with the district in September, he said. "It took a little while, but we finally made it," he said.

The board also approved a three-year land lease agreement between the school district and P&B Farm LLC., effective March 7 through January 1, 2025, with an annual rent of \$810. The 16-acre property is located on the hill behind the baseball field and has been leased by the organization for several years, according to William Mooney, Building and Grounds Supervisor.

Thurmont High School alumni reunion

The Thurmont High School Alumni Association will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, June 11 at the new Thurmont Event Complex, located at 13716 Stratford Drive, which is just off of Lawyer's Lane, from Route 550 South of Thurmont. This year we will recognize all basketball players (male & female) to stand at some point in the program. Social hour will begin at 4 p.m., with the meal served promptly at Five.

This year, the anniversary classes

are those that end in 2 and 7. Several basket raffles and a 50/25/25 raffle will take place. Special scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors, related to Thurmont High School Alumni. The cost for the evening is \$23 per person, which should be mailed to Viola Noffsinger, 131 Cody Drive #33, Thurmont, MD 21788 (before May 25). All alumnus of Thurmont High School and Catoctin High School classes (1969-1974), and friends, are encouraged to attend.

FCC to hold open house for career training programs

Frederick Community College is holding its Career Exploration Open House and Workshop on Tuesday, May 17 to introduce attendees to a variety of flexible career training programs. The open house is free to attend and will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the FCC Monroe Center.

"We are proud to invite the community to our state-of-the-art training spaces in the FCC Monroe Center," said Dr. Molly Carlson, Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development. "Our programs provide students with short-term, low-cost training that can lead directly to careers in Frederick County. Open house visitors who aren't sure of their next career move can participate in free career exploration activities."

The open house will cover programs that prepare students for employment in high-demand industries including:

- Logistics & Production
- Real Estate & Home Inspection
- Trades & Vocational Training

Attendees will have the chance to meet program staff, review upcoming course options, and discover multiple tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities for students enrolling in continuing education and workforce development programs. Attendees can also partake in 30-minute workshops that will discuss career-planning tools and advice on specific careers. FCC Admissions and Career Services staff will be available to answer any questions.

Light refreshments will be served, and attendees will receive an FCC bag with a free t-shirt and additional items, while quantities last. Registration is encouraged and can be done online through the event page.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development programs are enrolling now for classes starting early this summer. If you have any questions regarding the open house, please contact workforce@frederick.edu.

- Business & Careers
- Computers & Technology
- Early Childhood Development
- Healthcare Careers
- Hospitality, Culinary & Tourism Institute

FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Karen Yoho

Before I even retired from teaching for FCPS in 2018, I began to run as a school board candidate. I made it through the primary and was honored to receive the second highest number of votes in the general election. The four elected members were sworn in early in December. I felt our Board was working well together to accomplish goals for our students and staff. I greatly enjoyed attending myriad events as a Board of Education member, as well as preparing for and attending our regular meetings and committees. I became involved with our state organization, Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) which allowed me to network with school board members

from across the state. Things were moving along nicely, and then a little more than a year into our term, Covid struck.

Things moved rapidly. One minute our Board was at our early March meeting; the next everything was shut down. We then proceeded to enter the most difficult time most of us could ever remember. Healthcare workers and first responders quickly earned our accolades for their heroism on the front lines of a deadly pandemic. Teachers and other school personnel joined the list of those we put on a pedestal for stepping up to do what they could for students.

As the pandemic wore on, our collective patience ran out. Suddenly,

those school and healthcare personnel had to do more with less. That included the support of the public. Decisions were either taken out of our hands by other governmental agencies or officials, or alternately, and often unexpectedly, thrown back to us with little warning. We made the best decisions we could with the information and knowledge available at the time. Any decision we made, we knew about half the people affected would be unhappy. Believe me, no one signed up to be in a decision-making position while dealing with the worst pandemic the country had experienced in over one hundred years. But we persevered because that is what we were elected to do, and we all took our responsibilities seriously.

While I am extremely pleased that

we did not lose any of our students or staff to Covid in our schools as they did in other states, I appreciate that our students and staff did not come out of the past two years unscathed. On the contrary, there is much to be done in this "new normal". I was there during the hardest of times and I would very much like to be there to help with the recovery process.

Since I was a kindergarten aide at the local elementary school as a high school senior, I have devoted my life to advocating for and helping students. Whether as a volunteer (PTA, girls youth softball, and Scouts), an employee of a school system (media aide, substitute, and elementary teacher for 25 years), or finally as a Board of Education member, children have been the

focus of my attention and care.

I am also a firm champion of public schools. As my BOE page says, "Mrs. Yoho believes that the public school system is the foundation of our nation and that it works best when all participants collaborate for the benefit of those we should put first, our students."

Our students have been through a rough time. We need to do all we can to support them. I have learned so much in the past four years and would appreciate the opportunity to continue in my role as a member of the Frederick County Board of Education.

If you would like to learn more, please visit my website KarenYoho.com. I'd love to meet to lay out the case for earning your vote.

Rae Gallagher

If you talk to any educator, you will be sure to hear that this year continues to be unlike any other. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers, staff, and administrators faced constantly changing and ever-increasing demands in school buildings. With many schools at or over capacity, class sizes ballooning, and shifting expectations around grading, assessing, and testing to meet state/federal requirements, FCPS employees constantly adjust to meet the needs of their students. Once hailed as superheroes by parents who got a small peek into virtual classrooms during the pandemic - the tone directed toward teachers and educators is shifting. In a moment when fewer college graduates are pursuing teaching degrees, and educators are retiring and leaving classrooms at record rates, this shift is the very last thing we need to ensure our children have the best educational experience possible.

Every school district in our area - and across the country - is facing staffing shortages. To recruit and retain the

best and the brightest into our classrooms, FCPS must be creative and responsive to employee concerns. We must start by looking at compensation - the FCPS pay scale is simply not competitive. A new teacher can take a job in any one of our surrounding counties for significantly higher pay. Mid-career educators can look at counties around us and decide there is a significant gap in pay that might compel them to leave FCPS. When looking at the pay scales for educators across Maryland, FCPS consistently ranks at the bottom for teacher pay. It is beyond time that we invest in our system in a way that supports and honors the people doing the work.

As an elected BOE member, I will take long-term action in the budget planning process to ensure that all FCPS employees from bus drivers to substitutes to food & nutrition services to classroom educators have full, comprehensive, and competitive salaries and benefits. Additionally, our educators should be recognized and celebrated for the knowledge, experience,

and expertise they bring to our classrooms. We need to focus on building pathways to recruit and retain highly qualified, diverse employees into our system to meet the varied needs of our students - and focus on the daily work environment to retain our highly qualified staff. Compensation is just one factor. As a profession, there is an expectation that educators will simply do more with less. The Board needs to examine workload expectations and solutions. I would tackle this challenge in partnership with our educators. We need a platform to be able

to sit together to discuss, brainstorm, and arrive at lasting solutions to reduce class sizes and increase planning time.

Finally, the Board and the community must make a commitment to respectful, engaged, and productive dialogue. Scenes such as the disruptions at the recent Family Life Advisory Council and the Board of Education meeting do not reflect the values of kindness, acceptance, and respect that I believe most Frederick County residents embrace. Accusations that teachers are utilizing new curriculum standards

to indoctrinate students are misdirected and misinformed. While I hope that FCPS continues to offer increased transparency in communication and decision-making, I also believe that the ways in which we show up as a community must be in support of all students, educators, and staff. If not, we risk losing more educators and send a message to potential applicants that FCPS is not a safe, welcoming, productive place to teach, learn, and grow. To learn more about my campaign, visit www.Rae4Boe.com.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month our students wanted to write about mothers and motherhood - and they would not be deterred!

Freshman

To my mother

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

I did not, nor do I, deserve you. That was the point, wasn't it? That I should grow up only knowing grace, only knowing the unconditional love which is the very reason for my existence? That I would have the joy that comes from gratitude for being loved gratuitously. I didn't do anything for you, Mom. I wasn't an investment, at least not a good one, because for all that you've done for me, I will never be able to give you that time and effort back. Even when, God willing, you are old and gray, and I am taking care of you, that cannot compare to what you've done for me. I would not exist without you, and all I am beyond that would not exist either. You formed me, Mom. I grew up with the expectation that the point of life was to give selflessly, that the point of parenting is to love your children with your whole self. Thank you.

Someday I will be a parent. I am

happy at that but terrified, because I know that every little virtue and every little vice I manifest will be a lesson to my children on how they ought to conduct themselves.

That is the peculiar thing, of course, that many of my vices now are the same sort of ones you struggle with. In the grand scheme of all that you have given me I have only to be thankful, but I certainly did get your stubbornness. It did not always make for the most cohesion in the house between you and me, but truly, there was never a moment when I doubted that you would forgive me. It drives me to want to make up for all the wrongs that I've done. You often pop the bubble that is my ego, and thank God for it. Mom, you never deserved the slander I accosted you with when I was younger. If there is anything that will be your greatest merit in Heaven, it is the abuse you took for my sake.

Your heart is always so open. You are a testament to the truth that, in order to love someone, you don't have to understand them completely. We've worked on it since, but there is even still a sort of gap in our understanding of each other, although it is

so much narrower than before. Your heart, still, was open to my desires, my hurts, my feelings, my ambitions, and in it, they were always accommodated. You never capitulated to what I wanted when you knew or thought it was wrong, thank goodness, but you still cared.

Only God knew that when you had me we would have such opposite personalities in so many ways, all of us in the family. Yet, He knew what He was doing, because now, as a unit, there is almost no virtue that all of us lack. For almost every moment one of us is irrational, another one of us is rational. For every moment that one of us went astray, the other would pull them back. Whenever you grew, I grew, and when I grew, you grew; and you let it all happen. Children are expected to learn from their parents, but you decided that, even though what you could learn from me was miniscule compared to what I could learn from you, you would learn from me still. Even though I was difficult to understand, you spent so much time investigating, reading, and attempting to know how to love me better. And even when your solutions weren't exactly

what I thought I needed, the love you gave me was certainly what I needed.

That's the thing; moms are just people too, people who have decided that they will devote their entire lives to a particular group, a family. You could have fallen short, Mom. You had your own baggage, suffering that had to be set aside every single time I needed anything. Yet, you never hesitated. I wouldn't have picked a different mother for myself had she been even more virtuous than you. There is no doubt in my mind, even though you didn't always fully understand the particulars of what you were to do, that the greatest parts of who I am came from your unconditionally love for me. You've done your duty, and well.

But I know that it was never just a duty for you; I know that you did it so well because you did it solely for my sake, out of love. When there was a choice to be made between my good and yours, never, not once, did you choose yourself. When you knew I needed you, you were there. Thank you, Mom.

The joy of being your son has come most of all, not only from the won-

derful love you've shown me, but from getting to know you as a human being, a person with her own personality, dreams, desires, hurts, fears, and loves, just like me. The divisions between many children and their parents occur often because they do not see each other in this way. You have often told me how proud you are of me and my siblings. You never cite our accomplishments, although you are proud of those. You always simply said that you are happy to have known us so intimately as people. You love us for the particular persons we are, and this is now what I most look forward to when I someday am a parent. You reminisce about what it was like when we were children, but in the context of who we are now, and you've told me that it is even better to be my mother now that I am grown than then. You love me, you've always loved me, and I have never doubted it. Even in moments of pride, of fear, I've always known that you love me, and I love you. Thank you, Mom.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

All that motherhood is

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

There's a picture of my mother somewhere in my basement. A photograph, tattered and worn, capturing a moment in time where my mother wasn't yet a mom—she was simply a young adult, age twenty like me, with loose, brunette curls and a sun-filled smile. Finding this photograph as a twenty-year old now, I wonder what my mother was like before she had my sister and me. I wonder if she knew she'd have a daughter that would grow to be like her, with the same ever-changing blue-green eyes and dry hands in the winter and stubborn, hardheaded attitude. I wonder how she did it, how she raised me, and most importantly, how she put up with me.

When I was sixteen, I knew everything. I wore just a sweatshirt to school in 20-degree weather, because the cold never bothered me. I was picky with my wardrobe, with what I ate, with how I looked, because what sixteen-year-old wasn't? And inevitably, I picked fights with my mother. I was never an early riser, so waking up before the sun for school resulted in mornings of bickering and talking back and the most awful of attitudes. Maybe it was because my mom and I were so alike in our stubbornness, or maybe I was just a mean, irritated teenager. Whatever the case, growing up, my relationship with my mother was defined by these tumultuous ups and downs.

But I've learned that we challenge the people we love most. My mom sees me at my best and at my worst; she not only knows every tear that slides down my cheek, but also wipes them away as they fall, whether I've

stumbled off my bike, or whether I've had my heart broken by a boy. And through it all, she has painted a lovely and true image of what being a mother is.

Motherhood is holding your daughter's hand, both when she learns to walk and when she experiences her first heartbreak. It's loving your daughter even when she yells, even when she slams the door in your face. It's staying up late to make sure your daughter arrives home, only to wake up early the next morning to bake her breakfast, chocolate chip muffins topped with extra syrup. Motherhood is writing notes to sneak into lunchboxes, ending each message with a sincere "I love you." It's knowing that your daughter's tears are temporary, knowing that she's stronger than she thinks, and telling her all of this. But motherhood is ultimately watching your daughter grow into someone who wishes to be exactly like you.

My mom is the strongest, happiest, most fulfilled, and most selfless person I know. When my older sister was born, my mother sacrificed her job as a nurse to care for her daughters. Because of that, I am overwhelmingly thankful. I would never have been able to pursue extracurriculars in high school, maintain straight A's, hang out with friends, and even go to college. This kind of selflessness makes me wonder how my mom herself lived. How could she be so loving? How could someone have the power to raise another life? How did she do it all in the past twenty-some years?

There's a lyric from one of my favorite Taylor Swift songs—"Never Grow Up"—that refers specifically to motherhood and nostalgia: "Remember, that she's getting older too." As children, we tend to look at our parents as frozen in time. We grow old, from jubilant toddlers and

kids to angst teens and matured young adults. We live freely and joyously in our youth, because when we're that young, the world is just beginning. It's colorful and beautiful and ripe and has everything we've ever hoped for. But seldom do we realize how our parents age with us. They watch us take our first steps, send us off to kindergarten on the bus, and then in the blink of an eye, sit in the audience at our high school and college graduations. How could someone possibly go through all of that? How could they find the courage and wisdom to not only care and provide for a human, but also give them wings to fly into the world? In mother-daughter relationships, moms especially possess such strong and empathetic hearts during all of this. There are tears and fights and attitudes and bickering, but at the end of a long day, they know how to love more than ever, and they never stop loving. It's unceasing and abounding.

It's a feeling I certainly cannot explain, but someday hope to. I hope I can possess even half of the selflessness, of the strength and beauty that my mother has. I hope I can clearly and thoroughly express how thankful I am for what she gave up and continues to give up for me. I hope I can somehow make up for all the sleep she lost just to make sure I got home safe, and I hope I can be a light to her like she is to me.

Now I come home from college on the weekends, and I can't wait to hug my mom. To sit down and tell her all about my day, while trying the new cookies-and-cream peanut butter she bought off Amazon. To order out dinner and watch an episode or two of "Big Little Lies." We moved houses a couple of years ago, and our new home has a big chalkboard in the kitchen. Each week, my mom writes a quote on the board, so that when my sister and I come home



from college, we "feel inspired," as she says. But I just hope she knows that I don't need a quote or a song lyric or anything to feel inspired. All I have to do is look at my mother, look at how beautiful and strong she is, look at how she smiles with such

gentleness and love—that is what inspires me, and will continue to inspire me, for as long as I live.

To read other articles by Claire Doll visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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ON MOTHERS AND MOTHERHOOD

Junior

Marmalade, multitasking, and motherhood

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

It is too monumental a task to try to sum her up in a thousand words. Even with a picture of her to go along with it, you'd be missing out on far too much. She's fun. She's kind. She's my mom.

As I write this, I am home for Easter weekend, and I watch her sitting in a chair, looking up recipes for a ham she wants cook overnight. She's petting our little pug. Her grey skirt is comfortably posing like a blanket against her white sweater, which contrasts her dark ponytail. She asks me if I know what orange marmalade is. Dad walks into the room and she asks him if he thinks orange marmalade would go with ham. He thinks it would be too sweet. They talk about ham and Easter quiche recipes for a while, and then she starts talking about my three youngest siblings and their spelling sentences. She's taught all eight of us how to read and write. Now that I'm older, I get to watch

in real time how she teaches my little siblings math and science, and how to read a short story.

I can hardly imagine how difficult motherhood is. There seem to be a million handbooks and parent guides and online resources, but at the same time, there are hardly any resources at all. Each and every parent's life, and child, is new, different, unique. Each parent's life has so much in common with every other parent's, and yet each is worlds apart from their personal experiences.

My mom has been married to my dad for 27 years. When I look at her and see her laugh, I catch a glimpse of her from her college years. She is so pretty, joyful, and has a vibrant personality. When she was in college, she majored in special education, and was an incredibly talented singer. She could have given the world those talents and gifts. She could have shared them on a larger scale with school classrooms who would have loved her, and with professional singing opportunities that would have amazed many. Instead, she turned to a very interior life, homeschooling her children, and helping those in her most immediate community. She did this in small ways that made big differences to people, such as by

leading groups that help support the military wives whose spouses were currently deployed, while her own husband was also deployed and she had five young children to care for. She turned to making friends with the other young moms in the home-school group, helping her kids meet theirs to have playdates. She helped out at the local Catholic church and at parish events.

She has stretched in a thousand directions for us. She got piano lessons for us, took us to weekly adoration and daily Mass, karate, horseback riding lessons, violin... And when her kids starting growing up, she drove us to our first jobs, to get our drivers' license, and to colleges for tours. She's been with me, and all my siblings, through each stage of our lives. Now I am at college, looking into the face of one last year of it, and she and my dad are supporting me all the way through. I can't thank them enough for all that they have done and continue to do for me.

My mom has taught me a lot of things, but one of the greatest is this: motherhood does not have to mean an abandonment of one's dreams and talents. My mom's love of music and singing wasn't abandoned; it just looks like singing John Mayer in the

car with her kids, taking me to violin lessons, and driving her incredibly gifted son to piano lessons for 10+ years. Her love of music looks like sharing great 80's music with my dad while they cook dinner together for their family of ten. It looks like helping me discern what music is worthy of me listening to and what is not—teaching me to be picky about what lyrics are worth singing along to, and which aren't.

My mom has shown me what a generous heart looks like. Generosity comes in many forms, and it is often accompanied by joy. She is kind and thoughtful with everyone she meets, showing how her vocation to motherhood extends to those outside of her own family, even if it is simply with a caring encounter to those she meets in passing. She's the type of person to happily strike up a conversation with the person bagging the groceries to see how they are doing, make friends with the mailman, and leave small Christmas gifts out for the people who pick up our trash every week.

In my own home, I am thankful for the many ways she has shown generosity to me, in giving her time, attention, love, and material things. She shares a sweater from her closet

when I can't find one that goes with my outfit, but she doesn't just tell me to borrow it; she tells me to keep it.

My mom really is something of a Wonder Woman in real life, but she has shown me that all she can do comes from God first, and nothing she does is really of her own accord. Her Catholic Faith is what gives her joy, energy to keep up with the craziness of life, and a love for us that will not go out. My dad and her have passed many things down to me but above all of them, I am most grateful for the Faith they have helped me cultivate. They have been there for me while I figure it out for myself, make my own decisions about what I really believe, and have given me the resources to pursue my life in the fullness of Christ.

Parents do a lot for their kids, and give a lot for them. I have seen it firsthand in my home and know I have grown up in something special. Seeing my mom in little moments like these, when she asks me if I like marmalade, I see it: my mom is many things all at once, and all at once she is just one thing: my mom.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

Future Mother's Day

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2022

"Happy Mother's Day," Joe, an elderly gentleman at my church, would say to my mother, pulling up his walker to sit at the table with us. He was a Puerto Rican immigrant who taught me lots about marriage, war history, and good books. "And happy future Mother's Day to you," he would turn to me and remark, giving me a smile that always carried more than one twinkle in his eye.

Joe has since passed away and this will be my second Mother's Day without him there to celebrate with us after Mass. This comment that he made to me, year after year in the parish social hall, has stayed with me regardless of the month or holiday we're in. It probably started when I was fifteen, much too young to care about motherhood or even know if it would be a part of my life. Joe saw straight through my teenaged confusion and included me in a holiday that I never felt was about me. It was—and still is—a day to honor my own mother and grandmother as well as those mothers around me.

Yet, as I approach the age where I'm starting to consider things like family and marriage, I'm realizing motherhood is more than just parenting. Recently in an English class, we were discussing motherhood and the topic shifted to discussing what age is best for women to have children. Most female students were arguing that they felt it was better to be older; even though their mothers had them in their early twenties, these 20-somethings said they felt years away from being prepared

to bring another human being into this world. Our professor, a mother herself, remarked, "You're never completely prepared."

I can't concur with this opinion from personal experience, but I believe it to be true. Because motherhood is so much more than bringing life into the world, and it lasts much longer than the eighteen years many children live at home.

I see this in my own mother. She had a life before any of my siblings came into the picture, but for my entire existence, she's always held the role of mother. It's hard for me to distinguish between her and motherhood, because they seem organically intertwined. I can't picture her before marrying my dad or what she looked like at her high school prom. I know that part of her life exists, but it is not one to which I am privy. Maybe that's how it should be; I like knowing that even though I am her own flesh and blood, there were parts that she kept to herself.

Because although motherhood is a total giving of self, especially physically, the mother doesn't cease to exist. There is something given to the child, whether in body or spirit, yet something retained. Our DNA may be essentially similar, but we are distinct people. She has shaped me, yet she has remained an individual despite the five kids she has raised.

While every second I spend with my mom is in a mother-daughter relationship, there are times where it seems more prominent. My mom is currently singing 'Amazing Grace' as she walks around the house, making sure every inch is in perfect order for Easter tomorrow. All of her kids and grandkids will be under one roof, for the first time in months. I'm the fourth of five kids and I watched the older three

grow older, get jobs, and slowly move away. Gradually, seats at the dinner table emptied, with kids at afterschool jobs or moved out completely. For a while, we'd place a statue or stuffed animal in the missing child's seat, to mark their presence even if they weren't physically eating with us. We've drifted away from that, with the youngest leaving for college in August, but this sentiment still remains: that we feel the absence of our siblings, and our mom doubly so.

I think this is where I see my mom's motherhood the most. Last Easter, I was stuck on campus in quarantine housing while my family was enjoying sunshine and good food. This Easter marks not only the first Easter I'll get to attend in-person in two years, but also a celebration where every family member will be under the same roof. I know this is what drives my mother's spirit as she spends the day cooking and cleaning—even though she knows that no one is here just for the food and hygiene, but to come home to her. My mom feels the most whole when everyone she loves and cares for is together and under her wing of protection.

And I think this is what makes motherhood. It is not just in the creation of life, but the noticing of when life isn't present. I know no one felt my absence from last year's Easter dinner more than my mom, and I know no one will be happier to see every chair full tomorrow. Mothers are those who notice our absence and celebrate our presence. It is this constant and eternal care and attention that our mothers deserve endless gratitude for.

I'm glad Joe was there to prepare me for the vocation of motherhood, welcoming me into this world which seems so intimidat-

ing, and rightly so. His perspective of motherhood as something worth celebrating, even years before it is a reality, is something that propels me towards that threshold. As I watched my older sister turn into a mother herself, I know that it is an experience that marks you, but does not change the individual you already were. I still see the spunky, confident teenager she was as I watch her care for her own daughters. I know that one

day my younger sister will watch that happen for me, and wonder when I stopped being the little girl she shared a bedroom with. And even though I don't know who my mother was before my oldest brother came into this world, I know those parts of her exist; I've just always called them 'mom'.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

The Maryland Iron Festival

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. will present the fourth annual Maryland Iron Festival during the weekend of May 21 and 22. In partnership with Cunningham Falls State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, Harriet Chapel, Frederick County Public

Libraries and Visit Frederick.

Families and festival attendees of all ages will enjoy blacksmithing, a live iron pour, log hewing, woodturning, and casting demonstrations; ranger-led tours in Catoctin Mountain Park; tours of historic Harriet Chapel, "Feats of

Strength" games and challenges; an artist and maker market; children's activities; activities from the Frederick County Public Libraries; Scales & Tales birds of prey program; an interactive display from Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Historical Society and more! The Museum of the Ironworker, featuring our new forensic facial reconstructions, will be open. The event will feature live music from the Caswells, Jubilee Voices, Slim Harrison, Van Wagner and more!

Food trucks including Sauced Savage BBQ, Fryzaholic, Yume Teriyaki Grill, and Snowball Waterfalls will be onsite over the weekend. A bake sale with homemade delicious treats from heirloom recipes will be set up both days.

Festival visitors can also enjoy a hike along the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail, which links the furnace to the historic village with a trail extension into Cunningham Falls State Park and visits to Catoctin Furnace's historic kitchen and pollinator gardens.

Catoctin Furnace was built by workers owned or employed by the four Johnson brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of iron ore found in the nearby mountains. At least 271 enslaved people of African ancestry made up the bulk of Catoctin Furnace's earliest workers. In the decade before the Civil War, European immigrants began replacing the enslaved and freed African Ameri-

can workers as it was more economical to hire cheap labor than support an enslaved workforce. Descendants of the immigrants still live in the village.

The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than one hundred years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

In 1973, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., was formed by G. Eugene Anderson, Clement E. Gardiner, J. Franklin Mentzer, and Earl M. Shankle to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District...and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes...to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past."

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. is undertaking groundbreaking research, including bioarchaeological research of the African American cemetery in Catoctin Furnace. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Reich Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, this project is analyzing ancient DNA and the human genome of revolutionary-era enslaved African American workers at Catoctin Furnace. Such research, in conjunction with other



technologies such as stable isotope analysis, could tell us where these workers were born, where they lived throughout their lives, and what constituted their diet. We believe that every life mattered, and every past matters now. By studying and disseminating the results of this research, we hope that people everywhere will get to meet some of these early workers and understand the critical roles they played in the development of our young nation, as well as appreciate the varied trajectories of their lives.

The event is free but donations are welcome. All proceeds will be used for the ongoing restoration of the historic village structures, a critical need. For more information contact info@catoctinfurnace.org.

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THURMONT AMBULANCE COMPANY AWARD BANQUET



Wanda Davis was recognized for organizing the company's annual car show.



Rose Ray was recognized for support of the company's Friday night bingos.



Jenn Frushour was recognized for her role as the company's Assistant Chief.



Jamie Davis was recognized for his organization of the company's car show.



John Ripple was recognized for his support of Friday night bingos.



Dennis Stilely was recognized for his unfaltering support for just about everything.



Betty Stilely was recognized for her superb kitchen support.



Jim Wolf was recognized for his efforts to maintain the ambulance company building.



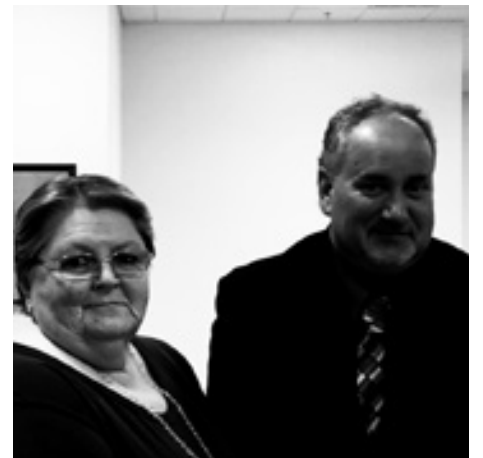
Glenn Muth was recognized for his role as treasure of the bingo events.



Diane Kelly was recognize for her support of the company's bingos.



Kathy Knipple was recognized for her help on Friday night bingos.



Karen Myers & Lowman Keeney.

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Vigilant Hose Company's
2022 VIRTUAL
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To purchase tickets contact any VHC member or stop by the fire hall. To purchase tickets electronically visit www.vhc6.com. Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check to: Vigilant Hose Company, Attn: Spring Fling Committee, P.O. Box 171, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. For more information call Bill at 717-642-9717 or Chris at 301-447-3081.

UPDATE!

Come out on Saturday, May 28th to the VHC Activities Building, 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg, to watch the drawing in the parking lot (weather permitting). You may access the parking lot any time after 10:30 a.m.. Bring your own canopies, chairs, and drinks (non-alcoholic and/or alcoholic).

VHC will have limited food items for ticket holders.
 Ticket jars will also be sold.

If 800 tickets are not sold by 5/23/22, the drawing may be delayed until a later date. Please continue to check our Facebook page for updates or visit www.vhc6.com.

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7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$1000
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$1000	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$1000	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$1000	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$1000	31 - \$5000	47 - \$500	63 - \$1000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$2000

Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$15,000

LOCAL ARTS

Taneytown native returns to Trinity LC for classical concert

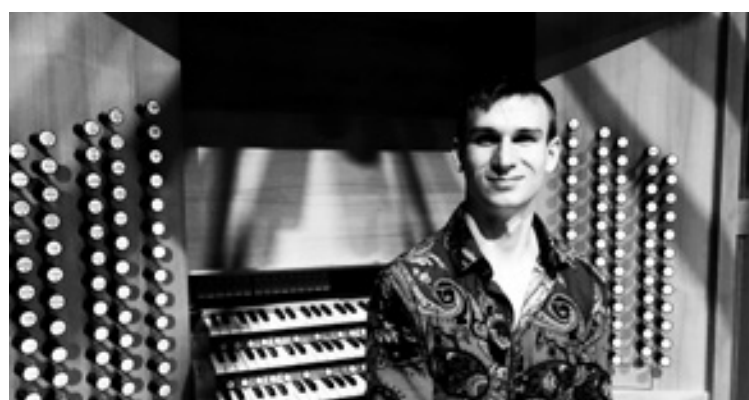
Mr. Nicholas Galinaitis of Los Angeles will be giving an organ recital at Trinity Lutheran on 38 W. Baltimore Street in Taneytown on Tuesday, May 10th at 7pm, and a classical piano recital at Westminster Methodist on 165 E. Main Street in Westminster on Saturday May 14th at 3:30pm. Both events are free and open to the public, with donations graciously accepted.

Galinaitis, originally a native of Taneytown, has played for various venues in many states across the country, and concertizes regularly when he returns to Maryland. Before moving to Los Angeles, he

lived in the Taneytown area, where he has lived for most of his life. He started piano lessons as a child with Dean Reindollar, taking lessons in her home. Over time, he began playing the piano for various churches, starting with the folk group at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Taneytown, and later on at Meadowbranch Church of the Brethren in Westminster. Eventually he became an associate organist at St. Joseph's, where he worked with Helen Gorman, who played the organ there from 1950 to 2018. He played there until 2020, and shortly afterward moved to Los Angeles. He is cur-

rently director of music at a church just south of the city, at Newport Harbor Lutheran Church.

The organ at Trinity is a fifteen rank 1897 Felgmaker that was restored in 1988. The program will give the audience an exciting tour of works by Bach, Brahms and more. Works by Bach include Preludes and Fugues from the famous Well-Tempered Clavier, and two well-known stand-alone fugues from the Early Master Period of Bach's life, the "Gigue" Fugue in G Major and the "Little" Fugue in G minor. The program will also include the famous Toccata by Widor, as well as Chorale Preludes



Taneytown native Nicholas Galinaitis returns to his hometown on May 10 to perform a free concert of classical music.

by Brahms, the last works written before his death in 1897. To provide the experience of the organ in its intended capacity as accom-

paniment for congregational singing, the audience will be invited to sing along to well-known hymns at points throughout the program.

Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra returns

The Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra will present a concert on Sunday, May 8, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of the United Lutheran Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg as a part of the Music, Gettysburg! concert series. Two soloists, a husband and wife team, pianist Grace Kim and organist Felix Hell, will join the GCO to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.

4 and the Saint Saens Symphony No. 3—the "organ symphony." The concert is free and open to all.

Grace Kim has been praised by the Washington Post for her performances "rich with emotional contrasts," and "hypnotic from the first note to the last..." Kim has performed as a chamber musician and soloist throughout the United States,

Europe, and Asia, and in venues such as Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has won prizes in numerous competitions and has also participated in many chamber music programs with other internationally noted musicians. Her music studies took her to the Juilliard School, where she earned her Masters and Bachelors degrees, and to the Peabody Conservatory for her Doctor of Musical Arts degree. As a dedicated educator, she is on the faculty at Loyola University Maryland and Georgetown University.

Felix Hell is no stranger to Gettysburg audiences, having performed many times under the banner of Music, Gettysburg! He has been featured in more than 1000 concerts throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The periodical "American Organist" raved that he "sets standards that older and honored players would struggle to equal." Felix received accolades for his marathon performances of the complete works of J.S. Bach, involving over 250 compositions and 20 hours of performance time! And

he has done this on four different occasions! Felix also studied at the Juilliard School of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and the Peabody Conservatory, and he received Johns Hopkins University's prestigious "Outstanding Graduate" Award. He holds a position at Saint Peters Lutheran Church in NYC, and he is the Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at the United Lutheran Seminary, as well as Adjunct Professor of Music at the Sunderman Conservatory, Gettysburg College.

The Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1997 by Norman and Carolyn Nunamaker and has presented over 50 concerts under the banner of Music, Gettysburg! One of its original objectives was to use as many local musicians as members or soloists with this fully professional ensemble.

Over 25 Adams Countians have been featured soloists with the local orchestra, and esteemed groups like the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Opera, and the Philadelphia Orchestra have had members perform as soloists.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. Concerts take place in the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, call 717-339-1334, visit www.musicgettysburg.org, or email to info@musicgettysburg.org.

For more information regarding the concert or the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, please call 717-334-5508.

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1:25 - \$500	3:10 - \$500	4:55 - \$3,000
1:30 - \$500	3:15 - \$500	5:00 - \$5,000
1:35 - \$500	3:20 - \$500	

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Mount prepares for annual SPARC Festival

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

This past month, Mount senior honors students prepared their final projects to present at the annual SPARC Festival. From presentations to mini performances, the anticipation and excitement for the event has kept Mount students finalizing and perfecting their projects for the entire month of April.

The Scholarship, Performance, Art, Research, and Creativity (SPARC) Festival focuses and celebrates the accomplishment of all honors senior students' final research projects in their respective academic fields. Along with the year-long research, students work closely with faculty members of their shared interest topics, creating proposals for their presentations to showcase their findings in the festival, open for all to view.

The SPARC Festival not only highlights the achievements of the senior honors students, but also provides several different ways for all students to present projects to their peers and mentors. Lightning Talks are brief presentations of research, allowing students fifteen minutes to discuss the essential points of their topic, including a question and answer portion. Panel Presentations allow for discussion of specific themes researched, presented by a small group of students in about an hour and fifteen-minute period of time. Poster Presentations and Performance Presentations are other ways to present projects, allowing students to engage their creativity along with presenting their findings in a specific format. The SPARC Festival encompasses a wide range of topics that the Mount offers in their major courses.

Some of the projects presented are based off of personal experiences or interests that inspired these students to pursue a line of inquiry. Senior Jack Erlandson sat down to discuss his project, describing his topic and his excitement for the upcoming event. Erlandson is a computer science major with a minor in data science. His senior project was about the creation of a database, useful for e-sports members to witness their statistics in order to improve their performance in the gaming setting.

His presentation was presented in a Lighting Talk format, where he described his topic as "an interactive database" that allows people to "search up data and calculations from the certain searches," being able to look at statistics of games. He described how his project taught him about his work ethic and how it prepared him for the real world in his field. He also reflected on himself as a student at the Mount, explaining how it has showed him his progress of the work and dedication he has put into his previous years as a college student. In a final note, Erlandson mentioned how SPARC "is a great opportunity for other people" to "present topics that people are interested in" and to showcase what they want to study.

Some topics that inspired some of the projects at the Mount are current world and national issues. Senior Jenna Milner presented in the festival as well, focusing on the issue of hyper sexualization of women. Milner is a double-major in both criminal justice and sociology. Her project was a poster presentation, describing her topic of female hyper sexualization beginning in early childhood years.

Her project focused on four hypotheses which explored young girls and women and how they are viewed by society. She described the difficulties of the project as the wording and how she had to be precise in detailing the parts of her project without alluding to other major issues in the nation.

Along with that, she also described how difficult it was to transcribe the events of the other women for her project. With some misconceptions, she had to decrease her group from ten to five, keeping a more intimate setting for the dark project. For her, she reflects on how the project made her feel like she wasn't alone, even when using a diverse group of women for her project. The project also reflected her as a student with a passion for helping others, as she described her next step in life will be working in a juvenile detention center for children. She hoped that people get a lot out of her project as it is a difficult subject to talk about, but the hope for bringing awareness to this problem was her ultimate goal.

Some projects, on the other hand, took place prior to the SPARC Festival occurring. Much like Mount theatre's production of Silent Sky, senior Betsy Busch participated in a senior bassoon recital a week before the SPARC event. Busch is majoring in English, French, and music and the performance was the route she took for the major requirement. She described the bassoon as an instrument that "was a challenge, but if you like doing it" to continue with it.

Her recital, which featured all female composers, showcased the talents of the senior. Her project allowed her to fol-

low her passion of female research as she described the representation of music for females as "nonexistent." Her project, which emphasized the reconciliation of women's placement in undergraduate music and literature courses, showcased her talents for playing the bassoon while also researching for her other majors. Although not performing at SPARC, she did describe how the project aligned with the department's goals. She described the project as fun and challenging as her rehearsal schedule was intense from the previous summer to now. She praised her music professor, Matthew Ogden, as she described the challenges of rehearsing and performing. She described her performance, detailing how she was excited to perform for her friends and family and show them what she had been working on for the entire year.

Busch described the gendering of instruments in her interview. She emphasized the historical background of the piano and the bassoon as being "proper instruments" or "acceptable instruments" that allowed females to play for suitors and guests of their households. She described this history as one that was current but past as she drew the attention to it "happening in the twentieth century." She emphasized the point that playing an instrument should be about what you like and not gendered as it once was. Many of the songs she described also were written for performances of other instruments. She described her favorite piece, Wind Tides, was originally written for a trombone by Adrienne Albert. She exclaims how some



Senior Betsy Busch rehearsing with her bassoon.

pieces, like this particular piece, would be easy to transcribe with minimal changes to the original piece to accommodate for the bassoon. She also described other pieces she had experience with, including one about a violin and how she had to change the octave she was playing.

The SPARC festival focused not only on the senior projects, but on other appearances and awards presented. The SPARC Festival showcased the award-winning literary and arts magazine, Lighted Corners, which won the prestigious Columbia Scholastic Press Association Silver Crown in overall excellence in print content. Other stu-

dent run publications were also showcased, such as Moorings, the humanities journal, and Tolle Lege, the theology and philosophy journal. There was also a small excerpt of the Mount's Spring theater mainstage production Silent Sky, which was performed in its entirety in March, with stage manager Carly Beres and featured actors Claire Moberly, Kiley Turner, Matthew Pugsley, Ashley Walczyk, and Lizzie Guiffreda.

The 2022-2023 academic year promises to hold more talent and skill from Mount students, which will be showcased in next year's SPARC Festival towards the end of April.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Farewell to Catoctin senior athletes

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

It's always hard saying goodbye to the young role models leading their teams with experience and expertise -- just as it is to depart from the team with which one has spent years growing and improving. However, the legacy of the graduating athletes is one to be celebrated. With the Class of 2022 graduating at the end of May, each student athlete -- four in particular -- demonstrate the impact that the athletic community has had on its Cougars, and the impact these Cougars have returned.

One particularly active athlete who will be graduating this month is Keola Evans. Evans has been a part of six Catoctin sports teams throughout high school, including swimming and tennis, both of which she has been involved in for three years. This year she has served as team captain for both teams. In addition to her athletic endeavors, she is involved in a handful of academic and extracurricular activities, including the National Honor Society and the Thurmont Addiction Committee. Evans may continue to play tennis as she furthers her education at the University of Maryland in the honors college and the university's Robert H. School of Business.

Evans anticipates that the close connections she has made through her teams will be what she will miss most about high school sports. She regards Catoctin girls tennis coach David Gadra as the person who has made the biggest impact on her athletic career. He has coached her long before she began high school and was the one to encourage Evans to play tennis in the first place. Evans thinks back to her fondest memory of her high school athletic career as the time that she prevailed after a singles match against an opponent from Middletown High School -- a team that the Cougars hold as one of their biggest challenges. In fact, Evans cannot recall the last time prior to this instance wherein a Catoctin tennis player has defeated a player from Middletown. It was Coach Gadra's response to this victory, however, that made the moment so memorable. "Coach Gadra ended up being more excited than I was," Evans noted. She would like to advise younger athletes to "work hard and don't give up. There will always be players who are naturally talented but the hardest workers always make it in the end."

Also leading the tennis team is senior Quinn Law-Knotts. Law-Knotts has dedicated three years to the Catoctin tennis team and four years to the cross country team,

for which she also served as captain this past year. She is involved in numerous honor societies and clubs, including the National Honor Society as well as the Leo Club, in which she serves as president. Law-Knotts will be attending the University of Rochester where she will major in epidemiology and remain active in tennis.

Law-Knotts feels it is her friendships she has cultivated over the years that she will miss most about high school sports. "Having been on two of the smaller sports teams at Catoctin, I have had the chance to meet so many new people that I would have never met otherwise," Law-Knotts expressed. She is grateful for Coach Gadra's impact on her athletic abilities, as well as his emotional support. "He always tells us how proud he is of us whether we win or lose, and makes all players feel valued and appreciated no matter their skill level." Law-Knotts regards her team's qualification for the cross country state championship in ninth grade as her favorite memory of high school sports. Despite being tired and sore, the team was still able to "work together and reach our goal of making it to states." Law-Knotts' advice to younger athletes is that "the most important part of playing a sport is to have fun with it. You may not always be the best player on the team, or you may have had a bad day and that is okay," she advised. "But truly loving the sports you play and not taking every mistake to heart will help you to become a better player in the long run."

Josh Glass is another athlete that will be concluding his active involvement in high school sports as he graduates this month. Glass has been a member of the Catoctin indoor and outdoor track teams for three years, the soccer team for two, and the tennis team this past year. He is a part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as well as a few



Keola Evans, captain of CHS swimming and diving, graduates this month after three years on the team.

academic honor societies including the National Honor Society. Glass plans to continue playing sports as he furthers his education at college studying engineering.

There was no better time for Glass' team to win their first-ever boys indoor track state championship title than his senior year. The team had qualified for the state tournament in 10 of 13 events, including the 4x200-meter relay in which Glass participated. Glass' relay team took first place out of nine at regionals and fifth of 12 at states. He will remember the boys team's state championship victory as his most rewarding high school athletic achievement. Glass will miss the friendships he has made with his teammates and cherishes the times he has spent playing alongside them. It was his sister Jenna, however, that initially inspired him to begin running and had the most impact on his athletic progress. "My twin sister pushed me to start running track, and always pushed me to do better," he said. Glass' advice to younger athletes is to "find something you love and stick with it."

Emily Williams is one last senior who will surely leave a legacy with the Catoctin athletic department. Williams has been a part of the Catoctin varsity girls soccer and basketball teams for four years, and

has participated in club soccer and basketball teams outside of high school. Williams is also involved in a number of extracurriculars and honor societies, including the National Honor Society and Rho Kappa Honor Society, of which she is president. She will be attending Shenandoah University where she will study elementary education and further her basketball career as she has committed to the university's basketball team.

Playing in the girls basketball state championship this past winter season -- a feat she has worked for since ninth grade -- has been Williams' most memorable high school athletic achievement. "Being able to achieve this my senior year with the most amazing teammates was nothing less than incredible," she said. Williams feels she will miss her teammates most in regard to high school sports as she moves on to collegiate-level sports. "They have been some of my closest friends since as long as I can remember, and I am so grateful for everything they have taught me," she expressed. Williams credits Catoctin girls basketball coach Amy Entwistle as the one who has made the biggest impact to her athletic career as well as her overall high school experience. "Her drive, kindness, and genuine passion are qualities she holds that I strive to demonstrate every day. She has been with me through anything and everything, and inspires me to be my best." Williams' advice for younger athletes is to "give it their all in everything they do, whether it's a practice, scrimmage, game, or a test in school. The only way to better yourself is to push yourself."

The Catoctin community wishes the best for the graduates as they further their academic and athletic passions into college. The lessons they have obtained through years of growing with their coaches and teammates should be of use to the young adults long after they graduate on May 25. Likewise, the Catoctin athletic department is always improving as experienced Cougars set an example for younger student athletes. The influences they have had on younger Cougars will shape the teams for years to come.

To read past Catoctin High sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Softball team sets up future success

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

Before the start of the 2022 softball season, little was known as to what to expect from the Mount St. Mary's University softball team. There were a multitude of different avenues the season could take, especially after what has been a tumultuous three-year span across collegiate athletics. After narrowly missing out on 2021 postseason due to a case of inclement weather axing a majority of their final regular-season series against Wagner, the Mountaineers knew they wanted to pick up right where they left off. That is exactly what they did.

Since jumping to the Division-I level in 1989, the softball team at Mount St. Mary's has not been privy to sustained success, having only tallied one winning season during that time period back in 2006 when the team finished 31-25. However, for 12th-year head coach Anna Nagro, she is looking to completely flip the script. After arriving in Emmitsburg over a decade ago, the Buffalo, NY-area native has established herself as the winningest coach in program history, which is already a crowning, standalone achievement. Although she has broken through barriers time and time again, it is evident that she is not yet satisfied and is on a clear-cut path to reach higher mountain tops.

After Mount St. Mary's made an appearance in the 2006 Northeast Conference (NEC) Tournament, the trajectory of the program looked to be as if it was finally reaching positive territory. That sadly would not be the case, as the team failed to make another postseason appearance for 13 years when they played in the 2019 installment of the same tournament. In a stark contrast from 2006, the tides began to change for real this time, especially with the talent-laden group that was coming into form.

For many outside the program, this sudden turnaround may seem to come from left field; however,

it is hard to discount the veteran infield that Mount St. Mary's has developed throughout the span. Led by the likes of fifth-year shortstop Mariah Godde and seniors Kaia Bonshock and Maggie Kane, who are at first and third base respectively, this is an infield that Coach Nagro holds in high regard: "Our infield is unbelievable. They have made big plays all season long, especially in late game situations," she said. Making big plays is nothing new to this infield, as they have been in high pressure situations before, most notably in their 2019 postseason run.

Although the development of these three highly talented athletes has been an incredible sight to witness, no team storyline is possibly as headline grabbing as the one of sophomore Bridgette Gilliano. For the dual-threat second baseman, she is an absolute force to be reckoned with and is a master of illusion. Despite only playing at the highest level for two years, if one were to look at Gilliano from a mere stat line perspective, then it would be safe to assume that she has just as much experience as her three other teammates who serve as the first line of defense. While her defensive work has garnered her plenty of attention across the conference, it is her stolen-base efficiency that has made her nationally relevant. Through the middle portions of the month of April, Gilliano is nearly perfect when stealing bases (33-34). That aspect of her game has made her almost an impossible out when appearing on the bag. She has not only captured the attention of the conference but as well as the coaching staff: "Bridgette is tough and has a great aura about her. She has a positive outlook on everything that she does and can make the big time plays down the stretch in crucial games," said Nagro.

The midway portion of the season saw Mount St. Mary's garner national attention with their monstrous 13-game winning streak, which at one point was the fifth longest winning streak in the

nation while also presenting the team with their longest winning streak as a Division-I program. The defensive side of the game was undoubtedly a crucial component (outscored opponents 71-21 during the winning streak), however, it has been the uptick on the offense that has been a driving force. Led by the likes of Abigail Perry, Gilliano, and Vanessa Martin, the 2022 squad can pack a punch. Between the three preceding players, they combine for 62 of the team's runs as well as 10 of their home runs on the season. Through this three-year turnaround that Coach Nagro has orchestrated, each year has provided more offensive outlets for the team, which is a trend that appears to be continuing into the future.

In the circle, fifth-year ace Amanda Berkley has been absolutely clutch throughout the season. The Olney, MD native is 9-6 on the year, two of those wins coming against FDU most recently. With Berkley on the way out next year, all eyes will be on the true freshman, Olivia Murphy. Through seven starts on the season, Murphy has tallied a record of 6-2. Nagro, among others, are quite high on the trajectory that the Pennsylvania-native can reach.

While on paper the 13-game winning streak presented itself as a smooth sailing affair, and for the most part it was, a couple games proved to be a challenge for the team. Most notably, in game two of an Apr. 15 doubleheader against the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Knights, the Mount needed a late game comeback to cement the 4-3 win. Another instance of the Mount being tested was against Sacred Heart in early April. The Pioneers brought the team to 10-innings, however the Mount was victorious at 6-5.

While the Mount certainly had a couple scares along the way, this has served to benefit the teams' overall layout, as well as strengthening the conference from top to bottom. More to the point, Mount St. Mary's has a high stakes, three-game series with the conference



Mount St. Mary's softball is wrapping up their breakthrough season in phenomenal fashion.

leading Saint Francis University (SFU) Red Flash. Both teams are coming into the series red hot. For Mount St. Mary's, they have won 13 of their last 14 games while the Red Flash hold the longest winning streak in the conference at five games in a row. If the Mount can stitch together a single win in the upcoming series, then they have the possibility to truly offset SFU and gain some momentum heading into the postseason. This is a task that is easier said than done. The Mount have not won a series against SFU since 2011, winning at home 17-3 and 8-7, respectively.

With the conference tournament being less than a month away, the Mount has all but secured a spot in the four-team field, which would

be the team's first appearance in three years. Although playing in the conference tournament would be an outstanding achievement, it is not the obvious end goal for Anna Nagro and the rest of the coaching staff. There are three teams standing between the Mount and their first NCAA Tournament appearance, with one of them being SFU. Dethroning the Red Flash will be a tall task, as the team have captured the past three conference tournament titles.

Mount St. Mary's will end their regular-season with a three-game road series against LIU, May 7-8, in Brooklyn, NY.

To read past Mount Sport articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

The importance of choosing

Jefferson Breland

As you may have noticed in last month's column that started with a description of the vernal equinox, balance has been on my mind.

Last month, I wrote it is easiest to achieve balance when "we stay out of our own way." If we pay attention to any activity in our daily lives (eating, sleeping, working, our emotions, etc.) and notice how our way of doing these activities help us feel better and/or feel worse then we can begin to make choices to improve our health.

It may seem strange to include our emotions in a list of activities. I do so because on some level our emotions are a choice, seen or unseen which we make that has a distinct impact on our life and therefore, health.

Call me crazy, you wouldn't be the first. If we drill down deep enough and examine how we respond emotionally to any given event in our life, we can see that we have choices about how we respond. Victor Frankl in his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, called choice "the last human freedom."

In some situations it may seem like we do not have a choice, yet, we always do.

The key to understanding we have a choice in any situation requires paying close attention to create a "gap" between what happens then choosing a response to it. If we don't create this "moment to decide," we are in reaction. In this reactive state, we may make less than wise choices. Of course, there are exceptions to this whether it be through training or

luck or instinct. More often than not, reactions are unhelpful. In our personal lives with family or friends, reactions may damage or even destroy relationships. Reactions with strangers can create deadly situations in our increasingly less tolerant society.

We are given many opportunities to make choices everyday. Each of these choices are an opportunity to move towards a more balanced and healthy life.

Food is a great subject to discuss choice. If we are fortunate, we eat food everyday. I believe food is meant to be enjoyed. I find it very interesting that humans in "developed" countries, often have to be told how to eat. I typed "food diet" into the search window at amazon.com. A list appeared containing over 50,000 titles: Keto this, Paleo that, and on and on.

There are many reasons, too many to mention here, why we have become disconnected from the most fundamental and vital of human activities: eating. I proffer that because of this disconnect, we create unnecessary suffering in our bodies as well as our minds.

Food is not the villain. Food is food. It is not good or bad. How we choose to use it is another story. The stories we tell ourselves about food, is, well, part of that story. Too often, guilt is an emotion associated with food, especially dessert. (Dessert gets a bad rap which is why I think it should be the first course of a meal, not the last.)

Food is life. Food is to be eaten that we may live life to the fullest. I propose that

we should unconditionally love what we eat. No guilt allowed. Of course, when we do this, there will be consequences to our choices. We may feel better. We may feel worse.

For instance: several years ago, I decided that I was going to "allow" myself to eat as much ice cream as I wanted. Over the course of four days, I ate about a gallon of ice cream. I then developed a "common cold." The symptoms lasted ten days. I had a bit of a sore throat, a runny nose, and a cough to clear all the phlegm that not-so-mysteriously appeared in my sinuses and lungs. This was a consequence I was not willing to repeat.

A less extreme example of food choice involved my realization that when I went to a certain Boston-based donut franchise to drink coffee and eat several donuts, I would develop indigestion.

In the presence of the indigestion, I had choices: suffer the heartburn, take an over-the-counter antacid, or learn from my experience and make different choices.

Some backstory- I grew up in a house where we always had a bottle of aspirin (or, later, ibuprofen) and a bottle of antacid tablets. This was my family's normal. We ate what we wanted for the most part and a little later we would take an antacid.

I began to understand this was a form of unnecessary suffering. I began to make different choices about the foods I ate. This new awareness included knowing which fast food places gave me the worst indigestion. Over time I ate less and less fast food. I still eat it every now and then knowing that I have a choice.

Also, know that I am not here to poopoo fast food. There was a time in my life when the "dollar menu" was an economic necessity for me. I am very grateful that I had access to that food resource.

Now I am going to make what may



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seem like an unlikely connection: food and emotions.

According to Chinese medicine, the stomach and its associated meridian (energetic pathway) is responsible for the digestion of not only food and drink, but also, experience, knowledge, and emotions.

Is this really such a stretch? We have expressions like, "I can't stomach it (a situation)," "I can't stomach that person," and "I have no stomach for it." These mean we don't like or can't tolerate a person or situation. We lose our appetite in the presence of certain situations or persons.

The question here is why can't we stomach the situation or person? The key is how we feel about that situation and that person. Aha! Emotions!

You can choose your emotions just like you choose your food.

When you go to a restaurant and look at the menu, do you order out of habit, out of your mind, your habitual way of thinking? "I always get the chicken parmesan, it is so good." Or do you look over the menu, and listen to your body in that moment? "Perhaps today I'll have the fish? It just seems like it will taste good. I'm not sure why."

Now apply this to your emotions. When driving on a two-lane road and

the person driving the car in front of you is not driving as fast as you want them to drive, do you curse or yell or get frustrated? What are the consequences of these emotional reactions in your body? Indigestion? A headache? A sore throat from yelling? Is this your usual reaction?

What are some other items on the emotional menu? What is a story larger than their incompetence, selfishness, or stupidity? What do you choose for yourself so that you feel more peaceful in your body? What is a story peaceful enough for you to stomach the experience of their driving? What is the most loving or caring thing you can do or say for yourself or that other person in that moment?

Consider asking yourself that last question in any situation where you have to make a choice. The first step is to know that you have a choice about what you say or do. You also have a choice about how you feel. This is the beginning of healing.

Want to learn more about making healing choices? Get in touch with me. Take care.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Skin health

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

We are all concerned with improving and maintaining good health. When we think of our health we usually think about our heart, cholesterol, blood pressure and physical health. All of these things are inside one of the biggest organs we have. Our skin is very important in providing overall good health to our body.

Sunscreen is a great way to protect our skin from sunburns and skin problems. We need to start from day one to protect our skin from too much sun exposure when we are outside. Babies should always be protected from the harmful sun's rays by keeping them covered up when out in the sun or keeping them under a protective roof or screen when they are outside. Sunscreen is important for every age everyday. Whether you are outside in the direct sun or inside, it is important to use an SPF sunscreen everyday. Even when you are inside the sun's rays come through the window and can affect your skin. It's never too late to start

using protective sunscreens. I am from the generation of using baby oil on the beach to get a tan. Oh my, if we only knew then what we know now we would have been much more careful in protecting our skin.

If you are having any problems with your skin an appointment with the dermatologist is the best place to start. I recently learned the difference between Rosacea and Dermatitis. After speaking with my dermatologist I learned of some over the counter items that could be used to correct some skin problems that I would never have thought of.

With summer coming with hot days and strong sun rays it is very important to do your research to protect yourself and your family. Starting children out using protective sunscreen is a way to help them avoid some of the skin problems they may have in the future. As I said earlier, I would have done some things very different when I was younger had I known the consequences that could come years later. Help your children to be educated on the importance of taking care of their skin health and overall health now. We have so much

more information and knowledge that we can use to maintain our health for the future.

Our skin can benefit from good nutrition, sun protection, sufficient

water intake and good cleansing. A good daily routine of hygiene and care is the most important way we can insure the best health we can have inside and out for our future.

Warm weather is just around the corner so get outside and enjoy it. Just remember to protect yourself. Remember to Keep Moving!



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2022, the two brightest planets sit one moon diameter apart in the dawn sky on May 1st. Both are in the same low power telescope or binocular field. The next evening, the waxing crescent moon joins Mercury and the Pleiades cluster in the northwest after sunset for a fine grouping on May 2nd. The first quarter moon is May 7th. The Full moon, the Rose Moon, will indeed turn reddish for the total lunar eclipse visible over the whole western hemisphere on May 15-16. Locally, the partial eclipse begins at 10:30 p.m. when the full moon moves into the western edge of our shadow. The moon is totally inside our shadow from 10:30 p.m. until midnight on May 16th. It is clear of our umbral shadow again by 1 a.m..

Our featured photo of this colorful event is by a 6" reflector and digital camera about five years ago. New smartphones will probably give even better images, so be sure to try capturing one of the most beautiful events in the sky. Note how in the partial phases, you can see the shape of the earth (a sphere) and its size (the umbra swallows up the moon, only ¼ as large as the earth, with plenty of room to spare. Also note the colors, the bluish leading edge of the shadow due to our ozone layer, and the much redder umbral shadow due to our atmosphere scattering mainly blue light, and letting some of the reds of sunset refract around the limb and



On the evening of May 13, sky watchers will be treated to a total lunar eclipse visible over the whole western hemisphere. The eclipse will begin at 7:22 p.m. with total eclipse occurring at 9:54 p.m.

reach the fully eclipsed moon.

On May 22, the last quarter moon passes five degrees south of Saturn in the dawn sky. The waning crescent moon is seven degrees right of the pairing of bright Jupiter and much fainter and redder Mars in the dawn on May 24th. The moon is to the lower left of Jupiter on May 25th, and the slender crescent moon passes below brilliant Venus on May 26th. As the month ends, Mars overtakes Jupiter and as the month began with Venus and Jupiter, passes about ½ degree, or a moon diameter below much brighter Jupiter. Again, a spectacular grouping in small telescopes and binoculars.

The month ends with an observational challenge...discover a new meteor shower! On the night of May 30th and morning of May 31st, the Earth is predicted to move through the debris trail of decomposing Comet Schwassman-Wach-

mann 3. The radiant for the possible shower will be near the bright star Arcturus in Bootes. The radiant will be high overhead as dawn approaches, with no moon, and if the debris is big enough and abundant enough, a fine meteor shower could erupt. But the debris may be too tiny (faint meteors, observed only by radar echoes) or miss us, so no promises!

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 April 30th, visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also

available is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at: hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky. Sky and Telescope has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts for observing the sky each week of the month.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the northwest is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion.

Taking the arc in the Dip-

per's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space, where even amateur telescopes can spot quasars billions of light years distant.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with binoculars midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars!

Farmers' Almanac

"Motherhood: All love begins and ends there"

—Robert Browning
(1812—1889)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Warm, scattered showers north and isolated thunderstorms, south (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); showers and isolated thunderstorms, then turning cooler (6, 7); fair, turning hot 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); heavy rain, thunderstorms (17, 18); dry, chilly, light frost west, then warmer (19, 20, 21), turning hot with isolated showers and thunderstorms (23, 24, 25); showers and thunderstorms (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Extreme Weather Watch:

Severe thunderstorm (5); more severe thunderstorms with heavy rain (17, 18); still more severe thunderstorms, heavy rain (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Full Moon:

The Full Moon in May occurs on Sunday, May 15th. Many Native American tribes called it Flower Moon because of the many flowers that start to emerge and blossom during this month. While the Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! The colonial farmer called it Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows.

Special Notes: The first day of Shawwai begins at sunset on May 2nd. National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 5th, was established in 1952 at the direct suggestion of Reverend Billy Graham (1918–2018). It was signed into law under Ronald Reagan in 1988.

Holidays:

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Thursday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 8th. That "very special lady" deserves a nice dinner out, a sentimental card and/or nice flower arrangement, or just a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Rogation Sunday falls on May 22nd, and Ascension Day follows on Thursday, May 26th. Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 30th. On this day we honor those who have died protecting our freedoms and to all those who are currently serving today. Their unflinching service and sacrifice have protected our way of life. We should also extend that recognition to include doctors, all health care workers, and all who are deemed essential in this troubled time.

The Garden:

Carrots, lettuce, potatoes, corn, beans, peas and most popular vegetables, with the exception of the warmer weather crops, can be seeded or planted into the vegetable garden at any time now. Wait until mid to late May before

planting the warmer weather crops like Tomatoes, Squash, cucumber, pumpkins and peppers. Now is a good time start repairing your lawn. Fill in the bare spots by slightly loosening surface of the soil and sow a good quality lawn seed over the area evenly. Tamp the seed in gently and water. Keep the patch moist by covering with light mulch of lawn clippings. This is the time to eliminate lawn weeds by hand pulling, or the application of a 'weed and feed' fertilizer... before they go to seed! Setting your mower for a higher cut during the spring months will help the grass to grow in fuller and help choke out the weeds

The Farm:

Best for planting root crops (27, 28, 29); weeding and stirring the soil (2, 3, 4, 30, 31); planting above-ground crops (5, 6); harvesting all crops (16, 17, 18); best days for setting hens and incubators (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23); slaughtering and butchering meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 30, 31); harvest and store grains (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 30, 31); weaning of small animals and livestock (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

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COMPUTER Q&A

Webmail vs email programs

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

We live in a world full of options, and email is no different. You might already be married to an email provider, be it Gmail, Yahoo!, Comcast all of them give you access to your email from their website. What you may not realize is that you aren't required to access your email from their website. Remember we are living in a world of options, and you might be happy with the benefits of using a program versus your webmail.

What is an email program?

You've probably heard of Outlook, Microsoft Office's email program. While this is a paid program there are other programs you can access your email from for free such as Thunderbird, Mail (Windows 10) or the now retired Windows Live Mail. An email program lets you access your email without having to go to your email providers website.

What are the benefits of using an email program?

By accessing your email through a program rather than via webmail, you can greatly decrease loading times and you'll no longer be bombarded by advertisements. You can still access your email from anywhere and if setup as an "iMAP" account, your email will sync back to the server meaning that any device that accesses your email will see the emails that you received as well as emails you have sent.

You may wish that you had made the switch sooner when you discover that you can mark all that unread email you will never open as "read" so that it no longer tells you that you have unread mail. Or perhaps you will appreciate that you can automatically setup rules so that when emails arrive that fit a specified set of criteria, those emails are handled in one of many ways including moving to another folder, trash or forwarding the email.

If your email is setup on your device, you have the option of creating folders and saving emails on your local computer (rather than just on the server) which can be useful if you want to ensure your emails don't get accidentally erased off the server. Some email providers have storage limits and can, as they see fit, remove emails from their server to make additional storage space available. Should you ever decide to switch between your current email provider and another one, you can easily save or transfer emails from one account to another using your email program.

Which email program is best for me?

Some people prefer to use a specific program because it is what they have used at work or because

it is familiar to them. Microsoft's Outlook is a paid program therefore unless you have Office 365 or pay outright for the software you may want to consider one of your other options. Thunderbird is our free E-mail application of choice and was created by Mozilla the makers of Firefox. The Mail application comes pre-installed with Windows 10 and is nice for basic users but lacks many features.

What are some things to consider?

Using an email application will require a little bit of setup. Most email servers can automatically be configured just by entering in your email address and password, others may require you to manually obtain and enter the proper configuration settings. Yes, you will need your email password, and yes, even if you don't remember or know your password you have one. If you aren't sure what it is, you can visit your providers website and rather than logging in with your saved password choose "forgot password?" to reset it to a new one. Your email contacts is

the biggest thing you want to be aware when using an email application. While your email will sync in both directions your email contacts will not. You can however manually back them up to your computer or keep them updates on your webmail just in case.

What if I need help?

Let's face it, most of us are not professionals when it comes to technology and it's okay to admit you need a little help. There are lots of free tutorials online on how to setup the applications mentioned above as well as others that are available. Most email providers have their email settings posted on their website, and if not, they can be obtained by calling customer service.

If you need assistance transferring emails from one account to another, import/export contacts or just need help setting up a new or existing email account, we can help! Contact Jester's Computers by calling 717-642-6611 or visit us at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield or on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.



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HUMOR

A full bladder is roughly the size of a soft ball.
 The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
 The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as the Encyclopedia Britannica.
 It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.
 The average human dream lasts 2-3 seconds.
 Men without hair on their chests are more likely to get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.
 At the moment of conception, you spent about half an hour as a single cell.
 There is about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.
 Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.
 The enamel in your teeth is the hardest substance in your body.
 Your teeth start developing (in your gums) 6 months before you are born.
 When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils dilate, they do the same when you are looking at someone you hate.

Blondes have more hair than dark-haired people.
 Your thumb is the same length as your nose.
 Learn something new today...
 More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.
 The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.
 Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4 % of it, i.e.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.
 Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.
 Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning "Big Village."
 Next to Warsaw, Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.
 Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, carries the designation M-1, named so because it was the first paved road anywhere.
 Damascus, Syria, was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.
 Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents.
 Los Angeles's full name is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula --and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size: L.A.
 The term "The Big Apple" was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930's who used the slang expression "apple" for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time - The Big Apple.
 There are more Irish in New York City than in Dublin, Ireland; more Italians in New York City than in Rome, Italy; and more Jews in New York City than in Tel Aviv, Israel.
 There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio, every one is manmade.
 The smallest island with country status is Pitcairn in Polynesia, at just 1.75 sq. miles/4,53 sq. km.

The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, Italy in 133 B.C.
 There is a city called Rome on every continent.
 Siberia contains more than 25% of the world's forests.
 The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M.). It is located in the city of Rome, Italy, has an area of two tennis courts, and as of 2001 has a population of 80, 20 less people than the Vatican. It is a sovereign entity under international law, just as the Vatican is.
 Desert In the Sahara Desert, there is a town named Tidikelt, which did not receive a drop of rain for ten years. Technically though, the driest place on Earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic near Ross Island. There has been no rainfall there for two million years.
 Spain literally means 'the land of rabbits.' Huh?
 St. Paul, Minnesota, was originally called Pig's Eye after a man named Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant who set up the first business there.
 Chances that a road is unpaved in the U.S.A.: 1%, in Canada: 75%
 The deepest hole ever made in the world is in Texas. It is as deep as 20 empire state buildings but only 3 inches wide.
 The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one-mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
 The water of Angel Falls (the World's highest) in Venezuela drops 3,212 feet (979 meters). They are 15 times higher than Niagara Falls.

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Totally useless facts
 The housefly hums in the middle octave, key of F.
 Electricity doesn't move through a wire but through a field around the wire.
 The blueprints for the Eiffel Tower covered more than 14,000 square feet of drafting paper.
 Abraham Lincoln was the only U.S. president ever granted a patent.
 General U.S. Grant owned slaves.
 According to a British law passed in 1845, attempting to commit suicide was a capital offense. The punishment? The offense was punishable by hanging.
 Acting was once considered to be evil, and the actors in the first English play to be performed in America were arrested.
 In India it costs less to have sex with a prostitute than it does to buy a condom.
 In Papua New Guinea there are villages within five miles of each other that speak different languages.
 A fully loaded supertanker travelling at normal speed takes a least 20 minutes to stop.
 In space, astronauts can't cry because there is no gravity, so the tears can't flow.

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HUMOR

John Wilkes Booth's brother once saved the life of Abraham Lincoln's son.

Male bees will try to attract sex partners with orchid fragrance.

A chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body.

How many cars can drive side by side on the Monumental Axis in Brazil, the world's widest road? 160.

A six-pound sea hare can lay 40,000 eggs in a single minute.

A blind chameleon still changes colors to match his environment.

19th century tooth powder often contained porcelain, smashed coral or cuttlefish bone.

On the new \$100 bill the time on the clock tower of Independence Hall is 4:10.

Does the statement, 'We've always done it that way' ring any bells?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US Railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United

States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

And bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's arse came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Now the twist to the story.

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's arse ... and you thought being a HORSE'S ARSE wasn't important!

Interesting cooking & household tips

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the shop. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold.

Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

Add a teaspoon of water when frying minced lamb or beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of Spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream; then beat them. Add garlic immediately to a recipe

if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

Reheat Pizza - Heat leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove; set heat to med-low And heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy microwaved pizza.

Easy Deviled Eggs - Put cooked egg yolks into a plastic freezer bag. Mash, then add remainder of ingredients, keep mashing & mixing thoroughly. Then cut a corner from the bag and squeeze mixture into egg into the cooked egg whites. Just throw bag away when done - easy clean up.

Reheating frozen bread - To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were frozen, place them in A microwave next to a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Newspaper weeds away - Put layers of newspaper around your plants, overlapping as you go; cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic; they will not get through wet newspapers.

Broken Glass - Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.


Flexible vacuum - To vacuum dust from under the fridge, or similar narrow space, add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to the nozzle on the hose. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

Reducing Static Cling - Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with trousers that cling when wearing tights.


Measuring Cups - Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with very hot water. Then, throw out the hot water, but don't dry the cup. Next, add your ingredient (peanut butter, honey, etc.) and watch how easily it comes right away from the cup leaving very little residue.

Foggy Windscreen? - Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works much better than a cloth.


Reopening envelope - If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. It will then unseal easily.



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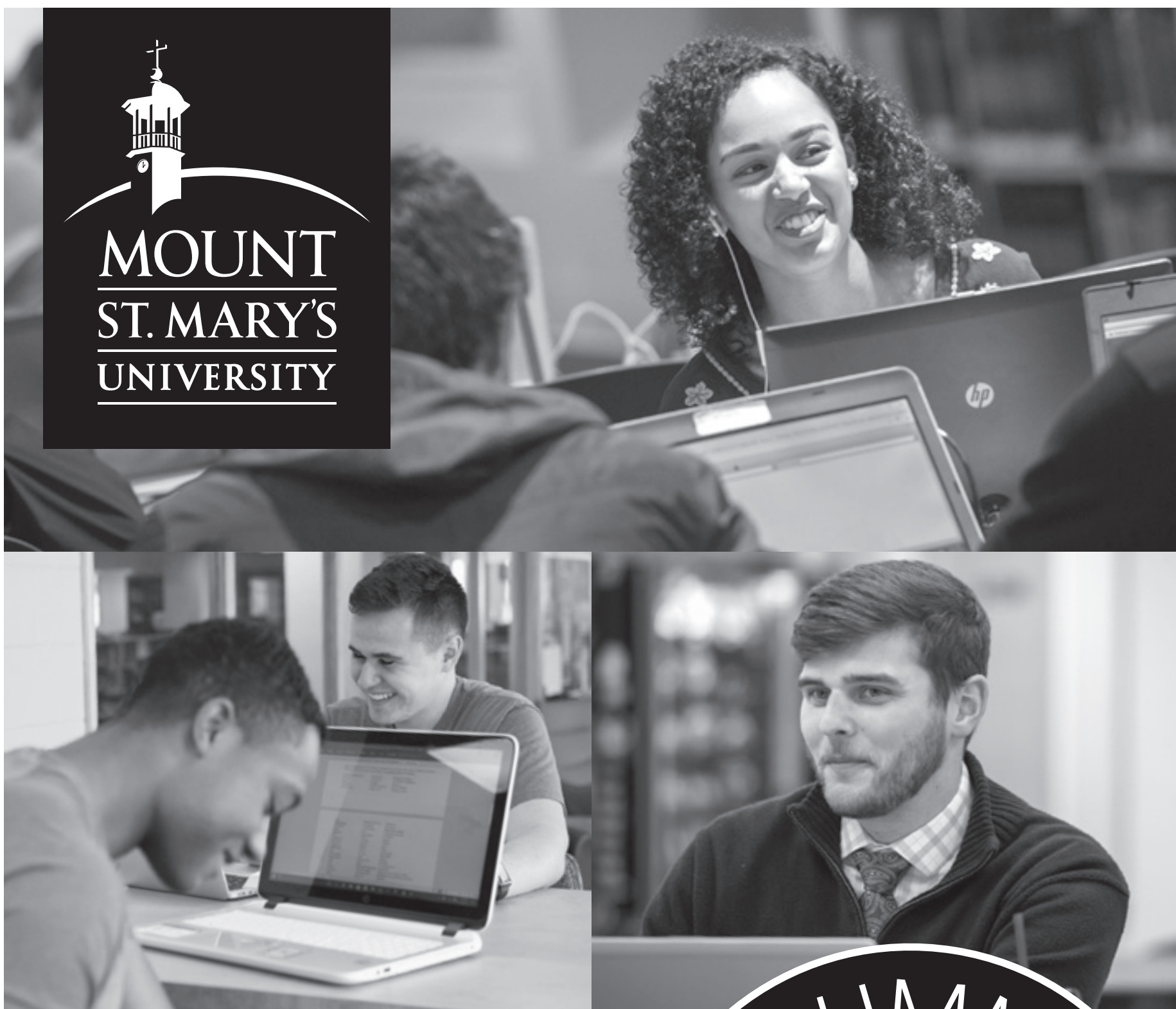
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