

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

MARCH 2023

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Thurmont plans infrastructure improvements

Thurmont town staff laid out an ambitious water and sewer infrastructure improvement schedule for 2023 to the Town Council at their January 30th meeting. Included on list where the replacement of the water main on Old Pryor Rd. and water and sewer lines on North Church St.

Residents served by the 60-year-old Old Pryor Rd. water main have been suffering from low water pressure for years due to accumulation of corrosion products inside the iron pipe that was restricting water flow, according to Nate Merkel, the town's contracted engineer.

The existing two-inch pipe, whose replacement is already underway, will be replaced by a 6-inch. In addition, the line will be connected to the existing water main on Hillside Circle in such a way that it will now be a fully looped system, which will mean water is always flowing in the pipe and will improve the overall water quality.

Replacement of the Old Pryor Road water main is being funded through a 20-year low-interest loan from the Maryland Department of the Environment according to Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick.

“This has been a project that we in the town have talked about for 15 years plus,” Mayor John Kinnaid said. “It's good to see it moving forward.”

The North Church St. project includes rerouting and replacement of the existing water and sewer lines, upgrading of the water system's connection to the pipe serving Emmitsburg Rd. residents, removal of a dysfunctional water pumping station, and replacing the existing terra-cotta sewer pipe with modern PVC piping. New water and sewer service lines will be installed to each property.

The project, funded fully by American Rescue Plan Funds, is expected to begin in late summer or early fall, will involve work from the entrance of Catoctin High School to the entrance of Our lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church.

The town will also install a new water pumping station on Radio Lane to provide the ability to pump drinking water from the Town's low-pressure to the high-pressure zones. By adding the pump, the town will be able to redirect the flow of drinking water during water leaks or other water distribution issues; thereby reducing the number of



Nate Merkel, Thurmont's Chief Engineer; Harold Lawson, Director of Public Works; Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer discuss upcoming water & sewer projects.

customers being affected. Like the North Church St. project, installation of the new water pump station will be fully funded by American Rescue Plan Funds.

The project on North Church St. and Emmitsburg Rd. is expected to cost \$1.5 million. The Radio Lane pump station is expected to cost \$800K.

In addition to water and sewer line replacements, the town will also begin work to address flooding issues along Emmitsburg Rd. Flooding following heavy rains, is a result of the large drainage area that concentrates near Emmitsburg Rd., said Merkel.

To address the flooding issue, the

town intends to increase the size of the culverts that direct water alongside the road and improve existing swales around them to contain water. In addition, a stormwater basins will be built on Radio Lane and adjacent to Rt. 15 that will serve to collect water from the upper portion of the drainage basin, thereby minimizing the flow of water towards Emmitsburg Rd. The town has submitted for a grant from FEMA to help fund the cost of the effort.

To improve storm water management functionality, the town also plans to retrofit five existing storm water basins in various parts of town. *See related article on page 22.*

Marty Qually announces bid for re-election

Adams County Commissioner Marty Qually will officially announce his bid for re-election on Monday, March 3 at 6 p.m. at the Adams County Democratic Headquarters, 24 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg. Qually is seeking his fourth term as County Commissioner

“It has been an honor serving the people of Adams County for 11 years. While this board has many successful projects under our belts, I believe we need to always be looking to the future. This campaign will not be about what we have done, it will be about looking forward to conquering the next challenges facing our communities,” said Qually.

“My biggest accomplishment isn't a single project. My biggest accomplishment is that people now see that county government works. In a time of unprecedented and unnecessary political division, this board has found a way to focus on serving our community, not our own political agendas,” he said.

If re-elected, Qually hopes to continue the success of the Mercy House Recovery Center. Recently, the RASE Project, which had staffed the Mercy House, had to end their services. The county has already vet-

ted multiple new vendors and anticipates a new operator moving in within a few months.

“It is critical that we keep fighting this epidemic and with a new operator at the Mercy House, we will,” he said. “At a recent county commissioners meeting, it was noted that opioid overdoses are finally decreasing in our community.”

Qually is also dedicated to the success of the County's new Transitions to Success program for their re-entry center. The program is a trauma informed rehabilitation model, that will focus on the underlying issues that led to criminal behavior and develop healthier ways to cope with these issues.

“It is too expensive for our criminal justice system to use tax dollars to only address the crime and not the cause of crime. Taxpayers pay for the jail. It is our duty to find better, more cost-effective ways to keep the community safe and return inmates as productive members of our communities, Qually said.

Qually also believes that a key to Adams County's continued success is broadband. He spearheaded early efforts in his tenure to create a Broadband Taskforce. With federal and state Covid relief and



Popular County Commissioner Marty Qually will be seeking a third time to serve the residents of Adams County.

infrastructure improvement funds, the county has set aside funds and intends to apply for additional funds to defray the costs of improvements.

“We need high speed internet for work, healthcare, education, and for our quality of life”, Qually said.

Most importantly, Qually reiterated his dedication to listening to the public and prioritize the

county's needs based upon their concerns.

“No one knows what challenges we will face in the years to come, but with vision and a willingness to learn, together we can face our challenges, Qually said.

All are welcome to the announcement, but please RSVP to 717-337-5285.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Tree removal at Rutter's denied

In a 4 to 1 decision, the Planning Commission denied a request from Rutter's to abandon an approved Forest Conservation Plan for the station's property site.

The plan was created, during negotiations between Rutter's and the Town, to protect trees along a feeder stream that flows into Flat Run. Both parties agreed to the conservation plan that was part of the final approved site plan.

Tim Bieber, representing Rutter's, told the Board, that he felt, "the trees were a safety issue". Drivers, unaware of the station's presence, he said, may be distracted when they catch a glimpse of the station and take their eyes off the road.

Bieber said that by removing the trees, it would allow drivers to see the station just after they pass Flat Run, giving them 300 more feet to make a decision on getting off Rt. 15 to get gas at the station.

Bieber's suggestion drew a skeptical response from Commissioner Kevin Hagen who said that the additional 300 feet of visibility gained by cutting down the trees would have little impact for drivers going 60 mph, and that drivers would cover that distance in just over 3 seconds. "It makes no sense," he said.

As part of their proposal, Rutter's offered the town \$21,000 to be placed in the 'Fee-in-Lieu' account to be used by the town for forestation efforts elsewhere in the town.

Chris Jakubiak, the town's Planning & Zoning advisor, told the commissioners that as the forest along the stream was a 'priority forest,' that in accordance with a 2019 state law, Rutter's must first attempt to buy 'Forest Credits' on a property where trees would be protected forever. If credits are not available within Frederick County, Rutter's would next need to try to plant other trees on their property to replace the trees removed. Only when those two options failed could the town consider the "Fee-in-Lieu" option.

Commissioner Long said that as far as he was concerned, visibility to the station from Rt. 15 was not relevant, noting that the station was packed when he had visited it that day.

Long stated he was not in favor of cutting down trees, especially mature trees, along a stream, given that the "town had spent the last few years planting thousands of trees, and that the removal of the trees goes against the Town's environmental philosophy."

Long went on to point out that the removal of the trees would add to the runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, something that is at the very heart of a Forest Conservation Plan.

In response to Long's concern over runoff, Bieber said that it was not their intention "to remove the stumps of the trees, but just the trees themselves," stating that it's the stumps and roots that hold the soil in place along the stream. Bieber claimed that if Rutter's did not take the trees down, weather would.

While the commissioners were adamant against any removal of the trees, they expressed sympathy with the inability of Rutter's to install their typical highway sign and expressed interest in revisiting the town's sign ordinance to rectify the situation.

In commenting why he was the lone dissenting voice, commissioner Joe Ritz said: "I voted no being that at the November 7th town meeting, the Town Council, in a 4-1 vote, approved the request to revoke this easement and to send it back to the Planning Commission for final determination. As the Council's liaison to the Planning Commission, I felt it necessary to voice the majority opinion of the board in this matter."

Mayor retracts grant application for roof replacement

Following the revelation that the Mayor had submitted an application to the Town's Community Legacy Grant Program to be reimburse \$12,500 for the replacement of the roof on his personal home, which led to questions at February's Town Council meeting about a potential conflict of interest, the Mayor withdrew his application.

The \$12,500 requested by Mayor Briggs represents 25% of the total funds allotted to the town as part of this year's Community Legacy Grant program.

Briggs was one of twelve applicants for this year's program. Four of the twelve applications were received from absentee landlords seeking to defer the cost of routine maintenance on their rental units. All the applications were reviewed by the Town's Sustainability Communities Working Group, whose members were appointed by Briggs.

The Town Council did not approve Briggs' selections to the

working group, nor does it review the recommendations on who should get grant. The Council also has no oversight role in the distribution of the funds, even though the distribution of funds is done by town staff

The working group recommended that Briggs be given \$10,000 to defray the cost of his home's roof replacement. While two other applicants were awarded grants for re-imbursement of roof replacements, none of the roofs, including the Mayor's, were deemed to be in "poor condition". When asked why the applications were approved, this paper was told: "because we had the money to spend."

A review of the Mayor's application found that the justification for his submission was not consistent with the scope of work he proposed to be reimbursed for. The Mayor justified the replacement of his existing metal roof with a new, 'single slate' roof, stating that metal roofs are susceptible to 'global warming' effects

and that he wanted to return his house to its 1925 appearance with a new 'single slate' roof. Contrary to the Mayor's justification, however, the scope of work the Mayor was seeking re-imbursement for was the installation of a new metal roof, the very type of roof his application argued against.

Commissioner Joe Ritz raised the lack of Council oversight of the grant process and the appearance of a conflict of interest in the Mayor's application being approved by a working group appointed by the Mayor, at February's Council meeting.

In response, the Mayor said Ritz's concerns over the appearance of conflict of interest was "petty," saying he had brought millions into the town in grants and "deserved credit..."

Ritz forcefully rebutted the Mayor's comments saying: "an appearance of conflict of interest should never be considered petty". Ritz added that the "town is in the process of raising the water rates, and



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before we ask residents for more money, we need to demonstrate that we are good stewards on the money entrusted to us."

The purpose of the State's Community Legacy program is to provide

local governments with funding for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

Emmitsburg revamps farmer's market

This year the Market will be held in a new location, in the field behind the town offices. While the location is not as visible as the current location, the organizers are hoping that an increased public awareness program and an expanded list of vendors and products offers will more than offset the drawbacks of the new location. The goal this year is to make the market more like a weekly event, instead of the one or two stands the town has seen in the past few years. While produce and baked goods will be always be available, some of the other options being bated about are to bring in no food related vendors. Local breweries, wineries, and distilleries could be featured to do tastings.

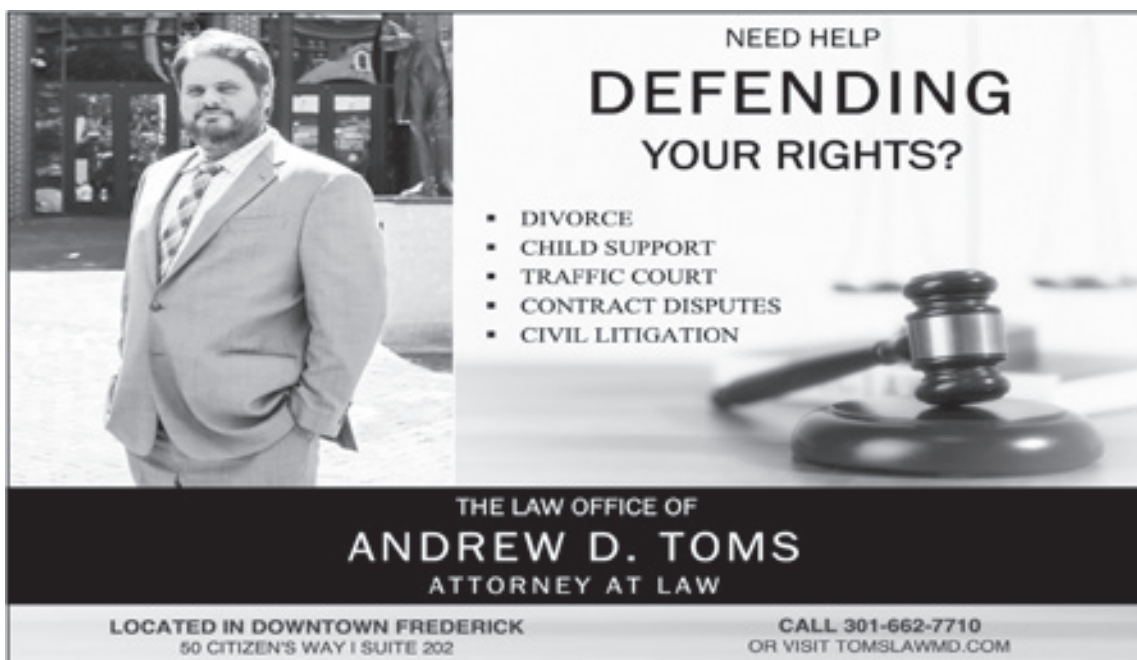
Brim also wants to see activities and attractions for the whole family. The need to have children

entertained while their parents shop is top on the list. Outdoor games and other various contests in on the drawing board. St. Joseph Church's Knights of Columbus have offered to provide free cotton candy at least once a month.

The town is in the process of looking for food trucks to rotate through the summer. Local musicians are also welcome to contact the town about playing at the Market.

The town hopes to kick off the 'invigorate farmer's market 'plus' starting June 23rd. The market will be open longer than in the past, allowing those returning from work time to drop by and sample all that it has to offer.

If you would like to participate in the farmer's market, please contact Kadeem Brim at the town office.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Carroll Valley aims to loosen rules on vacation rentals

Carroll Valley homeowners likely soon have the right to use their dwellings as vacation rentals.

The council unanimously approved advertising the ordinance change at its February meeting. Previously, homeowners were required to seek a special exception from the borough council before they rented homes to people vacationing in Carroll Valley.

The vacation home rental ordinance was once part of a larger ordinance that also limited the number of trailers allowed on Carroll Valley properties. Borough Manager Dave Hazlett

told the council the borough's planning commission was not prepared to advance trailer rule recommendations to the council so it separated vacation home rental rules.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to share thoughts on the vacation rental ordinance during a public hearing scheduled prior to Council's March 14 meeting. The council will then finalize the changes that evening.

The Council also passed an amendment to its property maintenance ordinance that gives the borough the

power to fine property owners when the borough must address issues affecting public roads or neighboring properties. Hazlett gave the example of a property that has bamboo growing on it. During ice storms, the bamboo bends and blocks the road.

"If we are going to do it, no big deal but if we are going to do it we can cite you because you shouldn't have been allowing it to happen anyway," Hazlett said.

Council approved the recommendation 5-1 with Councilman Bruce Carr casting the lone "no"

vote. Councilwoman Kari Buterbaugh was absent.

In other news, Police Chief Clifford Weikert told the council he purchased two signs that show drivers their vehicle's speed. The signs are portable and Weikert will move them based on citizens' input. One will likely stay near Ski Liberty throughout the ski season.

"It will help us judge what time we need to be out there if we need to go run some speed," Weikert said.

Unlike other states, Pennsylvania law does not allow the signs to take pictures of cars so police can issue

tickets, Weikert said.

The signs also count the number of vehicles that pass them, which Hazlett said will be helpful when advocating PennDOT for road improvements.

The signs are the latest way the borough is using technology to enforce the law. Last month, the police department purchased a license plate reader that scans plates and instantly searches a national database for information on the vehicle. Weikert said the reader is not working properly but he is communicating with the manufacturer to fix the issues.

Liberty supervisor requests higher pay for roadmaster

Liberty Township supervisor called on the township's auditors to raise the roadmaster's hourly wage.

Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Bobby Keilhotz began February's meeting by criticizing the auditors for giving the road crew a uniformed 10 percent raise without knowing how much each person made. Roadmaster Walter "Mickey" Barlow's hourly wage is currently the same as that of his crew. The auditors set Barlow's pay since he is a supervisor. They also said the pay rate for Keilhotz, who is the assistant roadmaster.

"It has been my experience, throughout my working career, that

a foreman, supervisor, or superior is at a higher rate of pay than a regular employee," Keilhotz said.

Keilhotz said Barlow is required to hold many more certifications than others on the road crew, including bridge safety and culvert replacement, traffic signs and controls, geosynthetics, paving and preventative maintenance, risk management, cost estimates and mathematical principals, road surface management, roadside vegetation control, winter maintenance, salt and snow, engineering and traffic studies, equipment and workers' safety, infrastructure management, CPR, Hazmat recognition, and flag training.

Keilhotz said he did not discuss his remarks with Barlow prior to the meeting.

"This is on me," he said.

Later in the meeting, Board of Auditors Vice Chair Richard Swiat told the supervisors he will discuss the issue with Chair Kathryn Bostek. As of press time, Bostek had not scheduled a meeting to discuss Barlow's wage.

Barlow also addressed a rumor that claims the supervisors disbanded the township's board of auditors. Barlow clarified that Pennsylvania law states a board of auditors cannot regularly review township records if the township hires a professional accountant to do the same work. The auditors'

only responsibility, Barlow said, is to set salaries for working supervisors.

"I am sorry you got the impression we axed you because that's not the case," Barlow said.

Police officer hired

A longtime Adams County cop will be patrolling Liberty Township roads. Supervisors unanimously approved adding Officer Don Boehs to the township's force. Boehs will work part-time and earn \$23 per hour, Barlow said.

Boehs moved to Adams County in 2006 when he was hired as chief of the Cumberland Township Police Department. He held that position until February 2022

and currently works full-time for the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Boehs also works part-time for the Gettysburg Borough Police Department.

Roadside cleanup

Township Administrative Assistant Hannah Beckett encourages residents to clean up roadside litter. Beckett enrolled the township in PennDOT's Pick-Up Pennsylvania Program. PennDOT gave the township gloves, safety vests, and trash bags to distribute to volunteers. Beckett said the program will run March 1 to May 31 and anyone needing supplies should visit the township office at 39 Topper Road.

News Briefs . .

Borough Purchases License Plate Reader

Those driving through Carroll Valley with a stolen vehicle, expired registration, out of date inspection, or suspended license are more likely to be caught.

Police Chief Weikert told the Council his department recently purchased a license plate reader that scans plates and instantly searches a national database for information on the vehicle. Weikert noted an officer drove through the borough parking lot during the meeting so the camera could scan all council members' cars; everyone was in compliance with the law. "It does generate a lot of money," Weikert said.

The reader updates daily so officers still need to double-check its

report with county control before issuing violations, since its database has more current information.

Weikert said if the reader proves to be financially beneficial for the borough as predicted, he expects to purchase additional devices so all cars are equipped with the technology.

Local Civil Air Patrol Cadet Awarded Scholarship

The Gettysburg Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) awarded the prestigious Ray Aviation Scholarship to C/ SrA Adrian Garcia. Adrian is a member of the Gettysburg "Barnstormers" and has his sights on attending the Air Force Academy. Applicants are interviewed on

many topics related to aviation and education to determine their long-term aviation goals. Being chosen means that the candidate has the right "stuff" to succeed in the world of aviation.

The CAP is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. CAP's mis-

sion for America are many, and today's adults and cadets perform their duties with the same vigilance as its founding members.

For more information on the Gettysburg Composite Squadron of the CAP, visit www.Gettysburgcap.gov.

THURMONT NEWS

Thurmont Boulevard project in the works

On Feb. 7, the Town Council addressed aspects of the Thurmont Boulevard project, which would connect Frederick Road and Moser Road and provide numerous benefits to the municipality. With the project in discussion for at least 35 years, the town is eager to move forward into planning and construction.

The proposed roadway is approximately half a mile long and described by Town Manager Jim Humerick as “an infrastructure project with connectivity and accessibility components.” Not only will the road provide an additional pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle connection, it will also address aging water and

sewage infrastructure and create new environmental opportunities.

Thurmont Boulevard will likely ease traffic on both Frederick and Moser Roads, especially that which is created by tractor trailers, dumptrucks, and utility vehicles. The new road will provide many residents with an easier way to get to and from Route 15; furthermore, this “shortcut” will also lessen response time of emergency services, which not only serve Thurmont but many surrounding communities.

The construction of Thurmont Boulevard also opens an opportunity for expansion of the Thurmont Trolley Trail, a popular recreational path which follows the old Freder-

ick-Thurmont railbed. Currently, the trail has only been developed in Thurmont, but hopes that it will eventually extend all the way to Frederick are long in the making. Humerick pointed out that the Frederick trails master plan already includes this connection as an eventuality. Humerick said the boulevard would provide an excellent opportunity to place interpretive signs and observation points to educate residents and visitors on the trail. “It would be good for local citizens, the economy, and businesses.”

The total cost for the project is \$5,288,735, which includes a 15% contingency plan as well as water line upgrades, according to the town’s

CFO Linda Joyce. According to Joyce, the town is in a good financial position to pursue the Thurmont Boulevard project, with debt at a low and a healthy fund balance. “This isn’t going to impact future capital projects—we have the funding to do that,” said Joyce, who also reassured commissioners that taxes would not be raised to support the project. In addition to town funds, Humerick is already pursuing potential grant money through the office of Congressman David Trone.

In addition to apprehension about cost, opposition to the project has primarily consisted of concern that it will predicate future development of the

area. Randy Cubbedge, Chairman of the P&Z Commission, emphasized that roadwork does not automatically imply development and that the power lies with town officials.

If approved, construction on Thurmont Boulevard will not begin until at least September 2024, with the road expected to open for use about a year later. Commissioners are hopeful that the project’s benefits will be reaped far into the future.

Cubbedge said, “For at least 35 years citizen planners, residents, appointed elected officials have agreed the proposed route of Thurmont Boulevard is a project that will have area-wide benefit—one that reaches beyond the borders of the municipality of Thurmont.”

Moser Road recycling center to close

The Thurmont Town Council voted to give Frederick County the required 60 days’ notice after passing a motion to remove the recycling dumpster on Moser Road at the February 14 meeting.

The mayor and commissioner reiterated previous discussions regarding high equipment costs and staff time to clean up the trash staff finds surrounding the dumpster. Frederick County currently reimburses Thurmont \$10,000 each fiscal year. However, Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce predicts recycling will cost \$38,220 in the 2023 fiscal year before the County reimbursement, which is an increase from the previous

year’s cost of \$20,495. These costs do not include staff time nor cost for the required equipment.

After discussing the financial strain caused by the recycling dumpster at a previous meeting, Mayor John Kinnaird asked for financial help from County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. He said he has not received a response regarding the financial help since the meeting in January.

“This is a real problem,” Kinnaird said. “This is not recycling; this is throwing trash on the ground.” He went on to explain the issues with recycling ending up on residents’ lawns in addition to the additional funds spent on cleaning up the extra trash.

The recycling dumpster on Moser Road is for anyone in the County to use, which was a concern for the commissioners who want to protect the town’s funds. Commissioner Wes Hamrick said he believes the facility has outlived its usefulness for the town, “especially when we’re paying the price.”

Once the Moser Road dumpster is removed, Thurmont residents will still be able to use the waste and recycling facility on Reichs Ford Road in addition to their regular pick up at their homes. The commissioners believe those most impacted will be businesses and those living in apartments. However, regulations

require these types of buildings to have their own dumpsters, so the impact should not be as great.

The concern from the commissioners and townspeople is that residents will not dispose of the used oil properly if the Town were to remove the Moser Road facility.

The facility on Reichs Ford Rd accepts used oil as well, but the commissioners made it clear that the motion at hand was only in regards to the dumpster, not the used oil facility on Moser Road. Commissioner Bill Blakeslee said, “I think before we get rid of it, we should find some place to put it otherwise you’re going to find it dumped into ditches and stuff like that.”

Former Commissioner Mary Burns echoed the commissioners’ concerns during public comment by urging the Council to delay any decisions regarding the oil facility until more townspeople could voice their opinions on the matter. He said that this was the first he heard about the issue and was concerned about what he and others would do about their used oil. “A worse person than me is going to dump it on the ground or down the drain,” he said. “They’re gonna do it. It’ll happen.”

While the Town discussed ideas to ensure Thurmont residents dispose of their used oil properly, such as advertising local garages that recycling oil, there was no decision made on the fate of the Moser Road Oil Facility as of Feb. 14.

Town considers new social media policy

Social media has proved a useful resource for many local municipalities in recent years, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic which prevented much in-person interaction. However, social media has also presented challenges as many towns have dealt

with harmful speech and commentary. Thurmont hopes to solve this by implementing new guidelines for its social media channels, namely Facebook.

“Stability is the biggest issue,” said Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick at the Feb. 14 town meeting.

“We’re here to provide information to citizens and I think it’s gotten away from that unfortunately.”

According to Humerick, both town officials and residents have been continuously “bullied” and “ridiculed” in the comments of the town’s Facebook posts. While the town is committed to maintaining first amendment rights, they are also aware of the consequences that an unlimited virtual forum can cause.

Due to first amendment implications of this policy, the town has conducted extensive legal research in order to define guidelines. Town Attorney Leslie Powell described the new policy as allowing the town authority to remove public

speech containing obscenities, discrimination, sexual content, illegal activity, and threats to health and safety. Before removing comments, however, administrators of the Facebook page would be obligated to record them through screenshots.

Said Powell, “This is not intended to prevent people from communicating or exercising their first amendment rights to petition the government—just not in that forum.”

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of disallowing public comments on social media entirely, which would eliminate the need for continuous “policing” of the Facebook page by town staff.

In any case, discussion surrounding potential codified social media policy highlights what Mayor Kinnaird describes as the loss of “the personal touch of looking someone in the face and talking to them.” Commissioner Wes Hamrick echoed Kinnaird’s sentiments, advising that “when you craft any type of message, write as though you don’t want to embarrass your own mother.”

“I want my Facebook page to be something that my grandchildren can read,” said the Mayor. “That’s no longer the standard that other people follow, so we have to be the ones to set that standard and adhere to it.”

Before the social media policy is passed, residents will be invited to voice their opinions at a future public hearing.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Sewell Farm annexation rekindles beltway hopes

Discussion amongst Planning and Zoning Commission members concerning their initial reactions to conceptual development plans submitted by the Sewell Farm developer prompted a discussion on the future plans for creating a beltway, or at least a bypass, around the City to relieve traffic congestion in the downtown area.

The discussion detour was a result of the development plan showing homes on most of the property, including the southern side of the farm, leaving a short segment of the planned street towards the southern property boundary. "Placement of homes on the southern end", said Chairman James Parker, "was not consistent with the path proposed for 'Worthington Boulevard' in the City's 10 year Comprehensive Growth Plan."

The proposed Worthington Boulevard was intended to make up approximately 20 percent of a beltway around the City, including almost 70 percent of the north-

west portion of the beltway between Route 140 and Rt. 194.

Parker, one of the longest serving members of the Board, recounted to newer members of the board, who listened intently, the history behind the beltway/bypass talk, which began in the 1990s he stated.

Parker nodded to Town Manager Jim Wieprecht, who laid out the intended path of the beltway. According to Wieprecht, the beltway would begin at the circle intersection of Rt. 140 and Antrim Boulevard. Traffic would be routed down Antrim, [the only actual portion of the bypass built] cross Trevanion Road, swing around the south side of the city and intersect Rt. 194 near the Evapco plant.

From Rt. 194, the beltway would loop northwest to intersect Rt. 140 near the old Havalah Inn, west of the Flowserve plant. From there, it would loop northeast, through the southern end of the Sewell Farm, across Harney road, and eventually connect with RT

194 via Frringer Rd.

"The goal of these roads or beltway," Wieprecht said, "is to get truck traffic off Baltimore & York Streets and reduce congestion."

The beltway, which historically has gone by various names, including the Taneytown Greenway, was to be 160 feet wide, and in addition to the heavily landscaped roadway, the greenway would include a multipurpose trail to carrying bicycles and walkers around the city.

Three other properties through which the beltway is to run, are also in the development phase. Wieprecht noted that developers, as part of their development plan, are required to fund and build the portion of beltway on their land, the option to keep a beltway, or at least a bypass, in the city's future is very much a doable goal.

However, Wieprecht cautioned the Board that, for at least Worthington Boulevard, completion of its connection from Harney Rd. to Rt.

194 was problematic as the path cut through a floodplain, unsuitable for a road. "The only way I can see that section completed," he said, "would be if a bridge was built." He added that he could not foresee a developer being able to cover the cost, and that the only way it would be completed will be with State funding, and that would require the project be placed on the State's long term priority infrastructure list. Leaving the completion of the southern portion of the beltway the most realistic option.

[The high cost of funding a southwest bypass around Emmitsburg, while constrained by the number of houses allowed to be built, was cited as one of the reasons the developer pulled out of the town's proposed Farley Farm development in January of this year.]

Chris Tillman, owner of George's on York Street, said that while "a southern bypass will clear Baltimore street, it will do nothing for York street. Truck traffic," he said, vibrates

light bulbs out of their sockets, and urged the Board not to abandon the northern portion of the beltway. "If we don't do anything, we will get nothing," Tillman said.

Wieprecht commented that if the City wanted Worthington Boulevard to function as part of the bypass, then what has been submitted for the Sewell Farm concept plan will not work as it would not contribute toward routing heavy trucks away from the downtown. He suggested the City commission a study on the ultimate path of Worthington Boulevard, and the overall beltway itself, and suggested the Board recommend to the City Council that funding for the study be included in the City's FY24 capital improvement budget.

Chairman Parker recommended that the Board not proceed with any decision on Sewell Farm's development plans until the decision on the path of the Worthington Boulevard portion of the beltway was settled.

Partial waiver of fees for Habitat for Humanity approved

At the request of Scott Swartz from Habitat for Humanity, the town council took up a request to wave \$28,800 in water and sewer hookup fees for the houses the organization is about to build on East Main Street.

Swartz said that they had wanted to break ground on the homes in 2020, but COVID made that impossible. Due to increases in prices of just about everything since then, Swartz said that the project would be over budget because of these increases and that the waving of the fees would help it move forward.

Both Councilman Haines and

Forster supported the request of Habitat for Humanity. Both felt that the money would allow the organization to continue building a relationship with Taneytown. "It's a win-win for Taneytown and a non-profit that helps the citizens of Taneytown. It's the humanitarian thing to do," said Foster.

In considering the request, Councilman Fuller recalled that in the paperwork from Habitat they were only short by about \$6,000 as a result of the increase in costs, and therefore, suggested if the city covered half of the cost, \$14,400, then Habitat would be in the positive by over \$8,000

which would help set them up to build more homes for the needy in Taneytown.

Councilman Hand however noted that Habitat would be substantially in the positive if they were granted the full waiver and suggested instead the Council waive the exact amount they would need to break even.

However, Mayor Wantz said waiving the exact amount was tricky as the amount could fluctuate as the project got underway.

Reflecting upon Wantz's concern, Hand moved to instead forgive \$8,640, "which would more then cover the project's current

shortfall, while giving Habitat for Humanity some 'wiggle room' in case other expenses rose."

Wantz clarified that \$8,640 would still put Habitat for Humanity slightly into the black, and allow them to begin their next build.

Prior to approving the request, Councilman Hand asked for clarification as to whether the funds would come from cell tower revenue. Wantz confirmed that the money would come from revenue earned from the cell towers. He acknowledged that there were ample funds available from the

revenue of the cell antennae on the water tower.

While Hand was supportive of everyone's desire to help Habitat for Humanity, he expressed reservations that the money would be coming out of the town's infrastructure budget, and that money was earmarked to support much needed water improvements projects.

After much discussion the Council voted unanimously to go with Hand's recommendation and to cut the water and sewer hookup fees for Habitat for Humanity by \$8,640.

News Briefs . . .

Tax Rate to Remain Unchanged
During a budget workshop, Taneytown City Treasurer, Barri Avallone gave an overview of the projected budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Avallone began by saying the city would maintain the property tax rate at .37 cents/\$100 assessed value, the same as last year, but there would be an increase in last year's budget of \$182,568. Water and sewer rates will remain unchanged.

Interest income is projected to increase by \$65,000 as the city has gone from earning .05% to 2.66%, on its deposits. Income from the county is up by \$62,000 as is Streets revenue from highway user fees, however Parks and Recreation revenue dropped a drop in grants.

On the expense side, of the coin, town staff salaries will increase by 3% for a cost of living adjustment. Maryland State Retirement contributions have increased from 9.82% to 10.21% of the salaries, which resulted in an increase cost to the town of \$14,170. The police pension system also increased from 36.2% to 36.91%,

resulted in an increase cost to the town of \$47,803. Health insurance is projected to increase 3.5%.

Baseball Field Lights To Be Upgraded

In January the City of Taneytown contracted with Fern Rodke Electric to retrofit the lights at baseball field one in Memorial Park with LED fixtures.

Mayor Wantz recalled that before the project began it was determined that the brackets and support structure was not adequate to hold the fixtures and it was a problem for public safety.

Town Manager Jim Wieprecht suggested using Park Impact Fees

fund to cover the \$29,500 to cover the replacement of the fixtures as well as the original job costs.

Wantz cautioned the Council that "Park Impact Fees only come from growth. These funds can only be replenished from growth in the community, of which there is none scheduled to occur. It may be a number of years before additional funds are added to the account," And suggested the funds instead come out of the City's General Fund.

Mr. Wieprecht said that it was inevitable that the Park Impact Fees fund would be depleted before new funds were added, and saw no concern from drawing the funds from it as the activity was related to park improvements.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Congressman David Trone

My top priorities as a Member of Congress are being your voice in Washington, serving you, and delivering results to the 6th District. While many leaders are focused on the notoriety of their positions, I can say without any doubt that my constituents come first.

Representing you isn't just about voting on legislation that comes to the House floor. In fact, much of the important work in Congress occurs in committee rooms. I'm thrilled to be serving on some powerful committees this term which I know will lead to great things for this district, building on the progress that we've made over the past few years.

For the second consecutive term, I've been appointed to serve on the House Appropriations Committee, allocating federal funds to important priorities across the country. This role gives me a seat at the table to directly address some of the biggest challenges we face — rebuilding our infrastruc-

ture, growing our economy, investing in our workforce, addressing opioids and mental health, and so much more. As a businessman, I feel particularly well-prepared to make decisions on funding that will impact our cities and towns, and I know that this work will help us continue to rebuild our economy and make a difference in American lives. Some of the very best ideas I get are from listening to people who live and work in the district.

In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to the 6th District, funding crucial projects across all five counties. In Western Maryland, I helped secure funding to rebuild a vital bridge connecting the City of Cumberland, continue rural broadband development in Garrett County, and rebuild the Boys & Girls Club in Hagerstown to offer more after-school and summer activities for the City's youth. Here in Frederick County, we invested millions of dollars to miti-

gate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their STEM research facilities, and help to build a new Center to serve the Asian American and other minority populations who are in need.

Each time I visit Frederick, I'm reminded of the challenges we face with road infrastructure — through conversations with business owners, families, and sitting in traffic on Route 15 myself. That's why I fought hard to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which delivered \$4.6 billion in federal formula funding over the next five years to fix our nation's roads and bridges. Thanks to this massive infusion of federal money due to this law, Governor Hogan was able to set aside over \$150 million to fully fund the expansion of Route 15 through the City of Frederick, which will reduce

congestion and spare drivers the frustration of incessant delays.

In addition to funding projects here at home, my role on the Appropriations Committee also gives me the chance to focus on important priorities across the country. I'm pleased to have been appointed to the subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, and Science — an opportunity to further my efforts to reform our criminal justice system and give returning citizens a second chance. And I join the subcommittee for Homeland Security with a great sense of responsibility — and optimism — that I'll be able to use this role to continue to combat the opioid crisis and the flow of synthetic drugs into our communities.

I'm looking forward to continuing my work on the Joint Economic Committee as one of a handful of House members advising on our national, state, and local economies. With my background in business, I know that I can help move the needle forward to grow our economy and rebuild in an equitable way for workers and busi-

nesses of all sizes.

Finally, I'm excited to join the House Budget Committee for the first time. While this is not a particularly glamorous committee, its work is vital to our progress as a nation. One of my favorite parts of both business and government is diving into the details of legislation, budgets, and challenges — and charting a path forward based on what we learn. This approach helped me grow my business into one of the largest retailers in the nation, and it's been integral to the success of my Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force. I know that the same will be true for my work on the Budget Committee.

In all that I do in Washington and throughout the 6th District, my constituents are top of mind. My goal in public service is to improve the lives of those that I represent — and I can't do it without hearing from you. If you have a question, concern, or comment about legislation, or if you want to share details about a project in your community, please don't hesitate to reach out. My team and I are here for you.

News Briefs . . .

Frederick County Flag Redesign Contest

As part of Frederick County's 275th Anniversary celebratory year, the Frederick County 275 Planning Committee has announced a community contest to redesign the official County flag. Residents of all

ages and backgrounds are encouraged to submit a design!

"This contest is a fun way for residents to help commemorate Frederick County's 275th Anniversary and showcase our artists and our unique, diverse, and inclusive community," said County Execu-

tive Jessica Fitzwater.

The winner of the Redesign Contest will receive a cash prize of \$1,275 and a full-size flag with their design. The decision to add prizes to the contest was made following widespread community feedback.

Submissions can be made now, until Friday, March 31. Submission criteria include the following:

- Designer must currently live or have lived in Frederick County, Maryland
- Only one submission per person may be made
- Designs may not contain offensive images, symbols or languages
- Must be an original design and may not include copyrighted content
- Design must be easily displayed on a cloth flag (3' x 5') to be flown on a flag pole
- Must include a design title and narrative about the design
- Must create a positive message of unity in our community
- Must be an inclusive representation of all residents of Frederick County, Maryland.

All designers are required to submit a rules and agreement form

or their submission will not be accepted.

Designers younger than eighteen years of age must submit a parental consent form upon submission of a design.

Designs should be submitted as a full color, high resolution PDF, JPG or PNG in landscape format and can be submitted by emailing 275@frederickcountymd.gov by the Friday, March 31 deadline. Submissions that are incomplete or received after the deadline, will not be considered.

The contest will include two rounds. A selection committee consisting of County employees and community members will score the first round of designs based on simplicity, color scheme, and message/narrative.

In April the top three submissions will move forward to round two. A final winner will be voted on by the public and will be announced when voting closes June 10, the day of the County's founding Jubilee.

More information, including forms and contest instructions can be found by visiting frederickcountymd.gov/275flagcontest.

Application Opens For Agricultural Land Preservation Program

The Frederick Agricultural Land Preservation Program has opened up

an application cycle for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement program. The MALPF program purchases agricultural preservation easements that forever restrict development on prime farmland and woodland. Since the MALPF program began in 1977, it has preserved more than 25,000 acres of farmland in Frederick County.

MALPF was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1977 and is part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. MALPF is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. The State of Maryland, with the work of the Foundation and its State and local partners, has preserved in perpetuity more agricultural land than any other state in the country.

MALPF is one of several agricultural preservation programs managed by the Frederick County Division of Planning and Permitting. Together, the programs have preserved over 73,000 acres of farmland, of which 69,709 acres have been permanently preserved.

Interested applicants should contact Land Preservation Planner II Shannon O'Neil at 301-600-1411 or via e-mail at sonail@frederickcountymd.gov. Applications are due by Monday, April 3.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Transit Adds Midday and Saturday Service for Thurmont and Emmitsburg

I am excited to share some good news for residents who live in northern Frederick County! We heard from people in the northern and southern communities of the county, who told us they needed more options. Transit will soon offer expanded service between Thurmont, Emmitsburg and the City of Frederick. Starting April 1st, buses will serve Emmitsburg and Thurmont riders on Saturdays, with two round trips a day into the City. We are also adding shuttle trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a new late-morning shuttle. The weekday trips will take riders from Thurmont and Emmitsburg to medical offices along Thomas Johnson Drive.

Riding Transit is free and easy. We know that adding trips through this pilot program will allow everyone – residents and Mount St. Mary’s University students alike – to travel safely between Emmitsburg, Thurmont and Frederick. Additionally, bus stops are being upgraded, with places to sit and improved signs.

Transit’s ridership continues to grow. In the last fiscal year, Transit provided

over 540,000 trips throughout the County on its fixed route and paratransit services. That’s a 32% increase over the previous year.

As Transit Director Roman Steichen said, “It is critical to meet people where they are, and we commit to working together across the board to ensure that riders have the opportunity to access every opportunity here in Frederick County.” This pilot expansion is a direct result of listening to transit riders and community members, and we thank you for advocating for what you and your community need.

I encourage everyone to give Transit a try. Our award-winning staff will win you over on your first trip! You can learn more about Transit Services by visiting www.frederickcountymd.gov/TransIT.

New Opportunity for STEM Employers

Are you an employer or a college student in a STEM field? If so, you may be interested in a new initiative sponsored by the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Workforce Services, and Visit Frederick. The partnership is launching the “Discover Frederick STEM Internship Program,”

designed to connect Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics businesses with summer interns.

Students get an opportunity to work at one of Frederick County’s cutting-edge STEM businesses, attend workshops to help them succeed after graduation, and explore our community. Employers gain access to a well-trained workforce. Businesses can opt to have their interns stay on the campus of Hood College. At the end of the 10-week program, participating companies and interns will gather at a special networking event. Interested employers can call FCOED at 301-600-1058 or visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/STEMinterns.

The Discover Frederick STEM Internship Program is an innovative way to ensure Frederick County’s economy will continue to thrive well into the future.

Budget Priorities

Later this month, I will be announcing some of the major projects that will be funded in Frederick County’s next six-year Capital Improvement Plan. At the same time, the Budget Office will release the long list of requests made by County divisions and other agencies. There are

always more requests than funding, and I want to hear from you what items you think should, or should not, be included.

Hundreds of residents spoke up during community listening sessions that I held in each district in January. If you weren’t able to attend, you can still weigh in. There are two different ways to offer feedback in March.

On Tuesday, March 14, I will hold a public hearing at Winchester Hall, starting at 7 p.m. You can speak in person or call in during the meeting. It will be streamed live on FCG TV, or you can watch at FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing.

The second way to make your voice heard is to participate in an interactive survey tool called Balancing Act. You can go online and select which programs and services you would include if you could draft the County’s budget. Once you submit your choices, I will see which items you value the most. That feedback will help me to shape the spending plan for the coming year.

Watch the County’s website and social media accounts in early March to see when the Balancing Act survey will be available.

Agriculture Preservation

Agriculture is one of Frederick Coun-

ty’s oldest industries. Farmers provide the food we eat, so it is essential that we preserve our best farmland. Frederick County works hard to help keep farms in operation. In fact, more than 73,000 acres of agricultural land in our community has already been preserved through several different programs, such as installment purchase programs, preservation easements, and conservation of natural resources.

If you or someone you know is thinking about preserving farmland, now is a great time to take action. The Frederick Agricultural Land Preservation Program is currently accepting applications for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement program.

The MALPF program pays farmers to restrict development on prime farmland and woodland forever, through the use of preservation easements. Since MALPF began in 1977, it has preserved more than 25,000 acres of farmland and woodlands in Frederick County. MALPF is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. If you want to learn more, contact Land Preservation Planner II Shannon O’Neil at 301-600-1411 or via e-mail at sonel@frederickcountymd.gov. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 3rd.

County Councilman-At-Large Renee Knapp

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the first Frederick County Forestry Forum. Representatives from industry, government, and the non-profit sectors spent the day listening, learning, and most importantly, having conversations about responsible forest management in Frederick County. In Maryland, 72% of forest land is privately owned, so it’s important for county government to foster good communication between all these stakeholders. Everyone from conservationists to those in the timber industry agreed that we are all invested in healthy and well managed forests.

Those who attended listened to several panel discussions over the course of the day. One discussion addressed forest markets in or near Frederick County. These markets include lumber, furniture, and using renewable wood energy to heat homes. Another idea expressed was the possibility of finding ways to use lumber produced in Frederick County to be used to build homes in the county. When wood is not transported to a sawmill in another state, carbon emissions are lowered, and our local timber indus-

try is supported. Concerns about regulatory barriers to timber industry growth were also discussed. Periodic evaluation of logging regulations is good for the timber industry and for good overall forest management.

Another panel discussion centered around forest conservation initiatives. Through successful agricultural preservation programs, Frederick County has preserved over 70,000 acres of farmland. Since a significant amount of farmland includes some forest, this contributes to county forest conservation. Sustainability initiatives like tree planting and controlling storm water runoff improve the health of county forests, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. We finished the afternoon with a discussion of planning and permitting with county and state presentations. If you would like to have the zoning information about a property in Frederick County, there is an application at the county website called “Property Explorer”. After entering an address, a report is generated that includes general property information, as well as information about voting, county services, and public safety.

Earlier last month I also attended the Legislative Day for the Frederick County Farm Bureau. Several other council members and County Executive Jessica Fitzwater also attended the county forum held at the New Midway Fire Hall where this year’s legislative priorities were presented. A little more than half of the current county council is comprised of new elected members. This was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves and to listen to members of the agricultural community in the county. Several concerns are ongoing and don’t have easy solutions.

The continuing growth in Frederick County is putting more vehicles on the road every day. In addition to the main roads, rural roads continue to be stressed by new housing developments and construction traffic. Farmers can’t increase the speed at which they move their equipment, so this makes addressing rural road safety more difficult. Much of the growth that can be seen in process today was approved several years ago by a previous county council, and the City of Frederick has also approved additional housing construction. We

will have to work with state government and the other county municipalities to find creative solutions for our persistent traffic challenges.

Several positive county initiatives that support agriculture in Frederick County were also discussed. We have a very successful agricultural preservation program that is on track to exceed its original goal, and the county periodically offers agriculture innovation grants. Additionally, the county is working to address other issues such as controlling noxious weeds and timing the mowing of areas along

county roads to help control the spread of weeds. There is balance that needs to happen between weed control and preserving the rural beauty along those roads.

Lastly, this month County Executive Fitzwater will be holding a Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00pm in the first-floor hearing room at Winchester Hall. We will not be having a County Council meeting that night. All are welcome to provide comment on the 2024 budget either in-person or by email. If you would like to reach me, my email address is rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The “Under the Sea” – Daddy Daughter Dance held on February 18th at the Fairfield Fire and EMS hall was tremendously successful. There were 228 in attendance – 125 kids and 103 adults. The following individuals were involved (in alphabetical order): Amanda Bell, Jayden Bell, Lori Borden, Ken Brown, Bruce Carr, Brandon Duvall, Sarah Ginn, Dave Hazlett, Tammy Hughes, Jeni Jarrell, Jim Jarrell, Jessica Kraft, Jacoby Kraft, Jesse Kraft, David Lillard, Gayle Marthers, Charlee Mathers, Zach Miller, Ken Nicholls, Kylee Partilla, Cali Paulus, Allison Phillips, Marty Qually, Brad Sanders, Dan Shaffer, Sterling Shuyler, Amber Skoczen, Sarah Skoczen, and Tim Skoczen.

A special thanks to Fairfield Fire & EMS for hosting the dance and to Ken Brown from Saltwater Aquarium.com, who donated three “Glow Tank” Aquariums raffled at the end of the event. The “Under the Sea” could not have been as successful without your involvement. Thank you all so much for volunteering.

It is March. At the time of this writing, late February, we are experiencing 60s weather – enjoying it but also won-

dering what will happen in March. At my age, I listen to the advice I was given earlier in life: “Don’t worry about what you can’t control and focus on the stuff you can, like attitude and relationships with others.” March 3rd is Employee Appreciation Day. While March 3rd is not a public holiday, it is a day to appreciate the staff doing the work.

On March 6th, across the United States, families and loved ones remember and celebrate the lives lost to an overdose. This day has become known as Black Balloon Day. Yep! Here we go again. I have to lose an hour of sleep. At my age, I really can’t afford to Spring Forward. Yes, Daylight Saving Time starts on March 12th at 2 a.m. Move the clock one hour forward to 3 a.m. And there goes that hour! We celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on Friday, March 17th. Watch out for that green beer. If you get a green glow about you, do not drive.

The Adams County Office of Voter Registration and Elections has announced the list of offices available for candidates in the 2023 municipal primary for Carroll Valley Borough this coming May. Up for election in Carroll Valley are 4 Borough Council

Member seats to serve a 4-year term and 1 Borough Council Member seat to serve a 2-year term. In summary, 5 Borough Council Member seats are up for re-election. The Adams County Municipal Primary will be held on May 16th, 2023. If interested, contact the Adams County Election office at 717.337.9832 or visit the Adams County website at Adamscountypa.gov. The last day to circulate and file nomination petitions is March 7th, 2023.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (FNHN) delivered over 200 valentines, made by Fairfield Elementary students, to the local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels to brighten their day. The FNHN We are making plans for our next clothing giveaway in late April, a date to be determined, that will be held at Liberty Worship Center. FNHN will accept donations of spring and summer clothing and shoes. Please sort the clothing in bags or boxes by gender and size. Thanks for your continued support of Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors! If you have any questions, please get in touch with Robin Dicken at dickenrobin@gmail.com.

The tax filing season is underway. The due date is April 18th instead of April 15th because of the weekend and the District of Columbia’s Emancipation Day holiday, which falls on Monday, April 17th. The Department of Revenue’s Bureau of Fraud Detection & Analysis is dedicated to protecting and defending Pennsylvania taxpayers and their tax dollars against fraud. The bureau is a one-stop resource for all commonwealth identity theft and tax fraud issues. If you believe you are a victim of tax fraud or tax-related identity theft, contact the Bureau of Fraud Detection & Analysis by emailing Ra-rvpadorfraud@pa.gov or calling 717-772-9297.

Our local Adams County Library – Carroll Valley Branch offers several March activities:

March 2 - Monterey Pass: The museum and the Battle – This presentation offers a brief pre-civil war history of the past. We will outline the path to the museum’s creation, which provides visitors with artifacts from the battle and a series of interpretive trails. An examination of the battle of July 4th and 5th, 1863, will include the military and civilian participants.

March 2 - Bring your diamond painting project and join other enthu-

siasts! Come to the intro class that will be held once a month. Introduction class date will be March 2nd.

March 6 - Barks and Books – Reading to a therapy dog helps to build confidence in new or reluctant readers. Please bring your child to read to Danny, our favorite KPETS pup!

March 7, 14, 21 & 28 - NEXT-Step Martial Arts is excited to participate in story time at the library. Over the next few weeks, we will read stories that help children learn about being happier, healthier, and more confident. We will also be doing some martial art drills with the kids, showing them focus, respect, and how to be positive.

March 9 - 4-H at the Library. Ages 7-12. Registration required. Adult Book Club. Join us for some good company and conversation! March’s selection – “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Grann.

March 20 - Paint a T-shirt! Express your personality and stand out from the crowd! Paint a fantastic design in vibrant colors on a t-shirt (provided), or bring in your favorite pair of shorts. Watch your speed on the trails. If you have any questions, email Mayor-RonHarris@comcast.net or call 301-606-2021.

Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

March 7 is the last day to circulate and file nomination petitions for the upcoming election. This year we have three vacancies in Liberty Township. I encourage residents to be involved in local government and consider running for Township Auditor or Supervisor. Adams County and Liberty Township real estate tax bills were mailed on March 1. Take advantage of the 2% discount by making your payment by April 30. The Liberty Township Tax Collector will take payment in person on April 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 from noon to 3 at the municipal building. Payment can also be submitted by mail or drop box. If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact the tax collector for a copy.

Tax payments are accepted at face value from May 1 through June 30. Any payments made after June 30 will

incur a 10% penalty. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12. This is a great time to check your smoke alarms, carbon dioxide alarms, and radon levels in your homes. With spring upon us, many homeowners will be making property improvements. Please visit our website for more information on permits before starting your project. If you will be digging on your property, call 811 before you dig to prevent damage to utility lines, be aware of the township regulations regarding excavation, and report any earth disturbance over 4,999 square feet to the Adams County Conservation District.

Join our Pick-Up PA event as part of The Great American Cleanup running from March 1 through May 31. Call the township office to coordinate pick up of free trash bags, gloves, and safety

vests. Filled trash bags can be disposed of in the township dumpster. Liberty Township will also be hosting two electronic recycling events at the township municipal building on May 13 and October 14. These events are open to Parks Garbage customers in the Southwest Group of Carroll Valley Borough, Fairfield Borough, Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, and Liberty Township.

It’s been a mild winter so far and the weather has afforded opportunity for road repairs. Our road crew has been working on Boyle Road cleaning out the ditches between Irishtown Road and the bridge, creating new berms, and placing number four stone. Unpermitted truck traffic is still a problem on our township roads. Recently we replaced a stop sign at the corner of Tract Road and Orchard Road that had been run over by a tractor-trailer. To

relieve hazardous traffic conditions, vehicles exceeding 45 feet in length primarily used for business purposes are prohibited from operation, except for local delivery, on Boyle Road, Gladhill Road, Liberty Hall Road, McGlaughlin Road, Old Waynesboro Road, Orchard Road, Sanders Road, Steelman Marker Road, and Stoops Road.

If you notice an unauthorized tractor-trailer on a posted township road, we encourage you to call us with the company name, date, and location, and we will notify them to use alternate routes of travel. The PennDOT Engineering District 8-0 Local Road Traffic Counting Program will take place March 1 through November 16. During that time, PennDOT will collect traffic data on portions of Pecher Road, Ranch Trail, and Old Waynesboro Road in our Township. This data collection program is being implemented to help improve PennDOT’s traffic data inventory crit-

ical to making decisions on safety, design, and operation of roadways. Also, the local road traffic data are used for assessing highway system performance under the U.S. DOT and FHWA’s strategic planning and performance reporting process and for apportioning Federal-Aid Highway Funds.

The Liberty Township Planning Commission will be hosting a special meeting with the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD) to discuss the Adams County Heritage Plan. Adams County Planning is working on developing an update to the County Comprehensive Plan, specifically the heritage component aimed at preserving, protecting, and promoting the County’s historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and other assets. Department staff are at a stage where they are gathering public feedback to continue to guide the rest of the planning process.

Throughout this process, ACOPD intends to capture the public’s perception of historic preservation, what subjects in County history the public is knowledgeable on and what they would like to learn more about, and the types and locations of historic resources that the public would like to see protected. Staff is also looking to gather information regarding historic preservation activities, regulation, and initiatives that the public would be interested in seeing implemented over time. This public meeting will be held during the monthly Planning Commission meeting on June 20th at the Liberty Township municipal building. Liberty Township residents and property owners are encouraged to attend this special presentation. We are always looking for ways to encourage community cooperation to promote the health, safety, and welfare of our residents and the surrounding areas. Please join us at an upcoming meeting.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

At the Public Officials Luncheon at the 2023 Pennsylvania Farm Show attended by the Commissioners, it was very welcome news to learn that Adams County's own, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, was asked to stay in that position under the in-coming Shapiro administration. As confirmed by Secretary Redding's and Governor Shapiro's remarks during the event, it would be an understatement to say that we in Adams County are thrilled Secretary Redding accepted the position.

Russell is a valued friend to many in Adams County, and symbolizes what effective administration, stellar service to community, and non-partisanship look like during these all too prevalent partisan times. This is why Russell Redding has been asked by both Republican and Democratic administrations to stay on board and do the important work for Pennsylvania agriculture. With that all being fact - just make sure when you see Russell's wife Nina around Adams County - you give her a big thank you for pausing retirement and letting Russell stay on and continue doing great work!

Adams County Children and Youth Services has recently connected with Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS), a local company who has helped hundreds of organizations in the community with animal assisted therapy at no cost. They have assisted schools, centers, and social service agencies to bring therapy pets into their buildings and they help to engage and support children and families in situations that may be stressful.

Many counties throughout PA have used therapy dogs either in the courtrooms or in the waiting areas. This has been a very successful practice as court days can be anxiety producing for young children. Adams County Children & Youth has had a therapy pet

in their waiting area in the past, and it was a wonderful addition to Juvenile Court days as both children and parents enjoyed visiting with the dog, sitting near the dog, and having a sense of comfort and calming just being in his presence and waiting for court to begin. In the upcoming weeks, Children & Youth Services will be engaging with KPETS to schedule and coordinate their services on court days in the upcoming months.

Most Adams Countians are aware of the tragic Oak Lawn Cemetery saga. Subdivision, a zoning change and then sale, for a currently unused western portion of Oak Lawn Cemetery, are the last hurdles to overcome that would allow a funding infusion for a non-profit board to sustain Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens. Cumberland Twp. has approved the subdivision and has held a hearing on the zoning matter. Pending all final approvals, the parcel will be marketed by Adams County exclusively to entities that would be theologically and operationally appropriate at that location beside the cemetery. A respected independent appraiser is doing a valuation of the property to establish value. The Oak Lawn Cemetery saga has drug on for years and caused heartbreak and anguish for our residents.

After multiple attempts to resolve the private property situation, Adams County was finally obligated by default to take over the cemetery from the private absentee ownership when all other efforts failed to establish a path forward. We are very optimistic that this is the beginning to the end of a very tragic chapter in our community history. While the County has taken over being a caretaker until the cemetery can be turned over to the non-profit, the core foundation of that very capable non-profit has already committed to the effort and is standing by ready

to engage in sustaining and re-vitalizing Oak Lawn. The sale of the parcel should give the non-profit initial operating funds while both a business and operational model are being implemented, to again serve our community in a responsible and dignified manner!

As reported previously Adams County has been chosen by the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association as the preferred location for the Pennsylvania AG Discovery Center. Last Fall, after vetting several other surrounding counties, Adams County emerged as the preferred choice. Given the importance of agriculture as a major economic engine for Adams County, in October the Board of Commissioners agreed to fund the centers \$150,000 feasibility study, through an approved memorandum of understanding, with the Adams County Industrial Authority. The feasibility consultants Gallagher Design have been chosen and have recently been in Adams County doing field work. This is not a project that is going to happen expeditiously; but is a project that should have a long-lasting impact for both Adams County & Pennsylvania, by honoring our agrarian heritage and educating our residents and visitors to the importance of agriculture in our county, region, and state.

The Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was established to administer the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program for the County. The program purchases agricultural conservation easements on behalf of Adams County, which restrict and limit the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. We want to thank the following individuals for their willingness to serve on the Adams County Ag Land Preservation Board. Farmer board members Craig Yingling, Dave Wenk, Sidney Kuhn, and Doyle Way-

bright all have agreed to re-appointment for a 3-year term. Dave Yingling was appointed as Chairman and Dave Wenk as Vice-Chairman.

The Office of Planning and Development is encouraging all Adams County residents and visitors to take part in a survey effort as we work to update the Heritage Component of the County Comprehensive Plan. This plan element will be focused on protecting, preserving, and promoting the county's numerous historic resources. These assets include our significant historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and more. Through this survey effort, we are looking to capture the public's general perception of historic preservation, what subjects in County history people are knowledgeable of, and what they would like to learn more about.

Additionally, we are interested in discovering what types of preservation activities and initiatives that individuals would be interested in. The results from the survey will ultimately assist us in developing goals, objectives, and strategies that will guide us in future historic preservation efforts throughout Adams County. The project website and public survey can be accessed through the County website homepage or at www.adams-county-heritage-plan-adamsgis.hub.arcgis.com/. If needed, paper copies of the survey can be acquired by contacting the County Planning Office at 717-337-9824.

In our continuing effort to further better internet service in Adams County, the public survey for the Broadband Community Assessment recently concluded. This survey effort has been very successful and will contribute valuable information to the study. Currently over 2,500 responses from households and businesses have been collected throughout Adams County! The large number of responses will assist us in determin-

ing which specific areas of the county need faster, more reliable internet service. Thank you to all who have taken the time to complete a survey for your home or business. We continue to encourage residents to check the Broadband Initiative website at <https://arcg.is/0SW8Ge> within the coming months to stay up to date on the County's progress.

Folks who read the Gettysburg Times saw a recent article regarding the offensive graffiti on the county owned John Eisenhower "Iron Bridge" off Red Rock Road in Cumberland Township. Adams County Maintenance responded to initially mitigate the vandalism - with further mitigation anticipated. This unique and significant historic bridge, built in 1886, utilized metal pipe and struts throughout the bridge, with distinctive unique castings. The bridge on Water Works Road, has been restored in place and is now restricted to pedestrians and bicycles. At the beginning of this Board's tenure in 2012, the bridge was completely closed due to deteriorated unsafe decking.

By the end of that first year in 2012, Adams County, Cumberland Township and a private donor collaborated to return the decking to an appropriate use level for pedestrians and bikers. The recent article resulted in an anonymous donor contributing \$5000 toward the preservation and repair of the John Eisenhower & Sachs Mill Bridges. These bridges are certainly iconic structures and community treasurers as well as a wonderful routes to walk, run or bike! If you have any information regarding damage or vandalism to these bridges, please contact Cumberland Twp Police at 717-334-6485.

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

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******UNDER CONTRACT******

12 Plain View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1 ac. lot, peaceful setting, heavily wooded, 500 ft. from Ski Liberty Resort & golf course, low perc rate or 3.17, 17 mi. from Gettysburg. \$24,900	10 Plain View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1 ac. lot, peaceful setting, heavily wooded, 500' from Ski Liberty Resort & golf course, low perc rate or 3.17, 17 mi. from Gettysburg. \$24,900	4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Nice 0.79 ac. lot perc appr., for sandmound. Property wooded & sloped. Close to ski & 12 mi. from historic Gettysburg..... \$9,900
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******SOLD******

5240 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA Very nice 0.54 wooded lot. Minutes from Liberty Mountain Ski/Golf resort. Close to historic Gettysburg. Well needed. \$29,900	5600 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA Rare commercial property. 1.78 ac., many possibilities. Liberty Mt. golf & ski resort at rear of property. 487' frontage..... \$75,000	5 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Very nice lot, close to Carroll Valley Golf Course & Liberty Mt. Resort. \$3,500
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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Confused?

Shannon Bohrer

The last several years have caused me to question what I know, my beliefs, how I see the world, and how people think. From my perspective, the world has changed, or maybe it was always confusing, and I just failed to notice. I remember hearing the phrases “Alternative facts” and “Truth isn’t truth,” and I was perplexed, not because of the words, but because of who voiced them. Kelly Ann Conway produced the term “Alternative facts,” and she was working in the White House. Rudy Giuliani said, “Truth isn’t truth,” and was one of the president’s private attorneys. I would not have expected individuals in their positions to speak those words.

When you hear someone say something that is not true or something that seems nonsensical, you either ignore it or possibly believe that someone just misspoke. The lack of logic with “Alternative Facts” and “Truth isn’t truth” was confusing to me and still is. I understood that people have different thoughts and beliefs, but I always believed there was a common foundation to our thoughts, at least for most people. At that time, in my mind, most people did not put illogical words together. However, as time progressed, I learned that what I

believed was an irrational or illogical thought process - is more common than I believed. I still do not understand it. I just know it exists.

Muhammad Ali said, “The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life.” His quote, in many ways, defines the idea that we should gain wisdom as we grow and learn. I have known for a long time that people think differently, but I have gradually come to realize that the differences are broader than I ever imagined. I have also come to realize that even science and facts are often dismissed, frequently by educated people. The fact that people can think differently about a topic with the same facts does not surprise me. However, when the differences have no foundations or are not based on any logical thought process, one questions what the other person based their opinions on.

Sometimes, depending on who is at the center of a situation determines how one thinks about the event. When President Biden’s violation of possessing classified documents was reported, it seemed extremely serious. However, that was in contrast with how many political leaders defended the former president when similar documents were found at Mar-a-lago. Excusing the former president of stealing classified documents and then professing righteous indignation

at Biden’s situation, is not logical. We often hear that it is easy to find fault with our enemies and overlook flaws of our friends, but this seems extreme.

Watching the insurrection on January 6, 2021, I was shocked, saddened, and outraged. My emotions were all over the place, especially the anger I was feeling. I had trouble understanding that American citizens would think and believe that taking over the capital would result in them taking over the country. Insurrections occur in third-world countries, not in the United States of America. Seeing people waving the American Flags as if they were patriots and then assaulting police officers was not in my realm of reality. The insurrectionist even accused the capital police, who were protecting the capital and congress, of being the enemy. It was a Rod Serling, “Twilight Zone” type of experience. Something you never expect to occur, and when it does, you can’t make sense of it. I became angrier as the news footage continued.

A number of the insurrectionist were carrying “Don’t Tread on Me” flags. The Gadsden flag, as it is known, was created during the American revolution. It was a symbol to the British that the Americans would not be denied their freedoms. The Gadsden flag is very popular today. However, when used in an insurrection, the purpose seemed counterintuitive.

If the insurrection had been successful and our democracy was dissolved, the freedoms we currently have and enjoy would disappear. It is a historical fact that when democracies fail, the person in charge (the dictator) invokes martial law and suspends freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and any other freedoms that they deem not in their interest. And yet, many of the insurrections referred to themselves as freedom fighters.

There are instances when people can have a different view of an event with identical facts. Several years ago, a well know football player knelt during the playing of the national anthem, and his actions were vilified by some as being unpatriotic. Under our constitutional first amendment, individuals have a constitutional right to kneel, and those that were offended by his actions also had a constitutional right to complain. Using this example, if the insurrection had been successful, the first amendment would probably have been suspended. If so, possibly one or both sides would lose their rights. The rights that could be lost would depend on who emerged as the dictator.

During the insurrection, several individuals assaulted uniformed police officers with American flags: striking the officers with the flag poles. Many of the same people that vilified the football player(s) for kneeling, have since called the insurrectionists Patriots. To

some, kneeling for the national anthem is unpatriotic, but striking an officer is patriotic? Confusion cannot describe an illogical thought process, and yet many of the people espousing these views believe them. Even saying that it is easy to find fault with our enemies and overlook faults with our friends is not explainable in this situation.

A West Virginia lawmaker, Derick Evans, pleaded guilty to his involvement in the insurrection. During his trial, he expressed remorse for his actions, saying he made a “crucial mistake.” Now, “less than a year later, Evans is portraying himself as a victim of politically motivated prosecution as he runs to serve in the same building he stormed on January 2, 2001.” He currently calls himself a “J6 Patriot.”

How can someone hold two opposing beliefs, one being that they made a “crucial mistake” and the other that they are a “J6 Patriot?” Maybe he is just a dishonest politician? They do exist. How can it be unpatriotic to kneel during the national anthem and be patriotic to beat a police officer with an American Flag-pole? It seems that the more I learn, the more I have to question what I believe because I would never have expected that anyone trying to overthrow our government would be called a “patriot.”

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

Tumbleweeds

Mendacity

Mark Greathouse

Dictionary.com defines mendacity as the quality of being mendacious; untruthfulness; the tendency to lie. It’s about deceit, prevarication, falsehoods, deception, blasphemy, exaggeration, and lying. Mendacity is ubiquitous to mankind. Mark Twain noted, “The insincerity of man: all men are liars, partial or hiders of facts, half tellers of truths, shirks, moral sneaks. When a merely honest man appears, he is a comet, his fame is eternal – needs no genius, no talent – mere honesty.”

Mendacity is challenging but is truth any easier? Truth is defined as the body of real things, events, or facts; a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality. Yet truth can be cruel. We resort to truth bending and social filtering to avoid hurting folks’ feelings. Most folks consider this being civilized, but it’s a slippery slope from truths to lies, honesty to mendacity. After all, is it my truth, your truth, their truth, or the truth?

Politicians are mostly pathological liars, spewing whatever lies, myths, or exaggerations it takes to achieve their ends be they good or evil. One of my favorite quotes is from the late President John F. Kennedy, “The greatest enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and realistic.” Gaslighting and outright lies abound, and we’ll get to some of those.

Out on America’s western frontier, we can cite all manner of mendacity. White settlers broke treaties with

Indian tribes and vice versa. Bureaucrats and tribal chiefs made promises they knew they couldn’t keep. Fraudsters simultaneously sold the same piece of land to multiple buyers, cattle thieves rebranded cattle, snake oil hucksters sold miracle cures, and politicians promised plenty they couldn’t deliver. Shucks, Jim Bowie of knife fame and hero of the Alamo was caught up in a land fraud scheme. Mendacity knows no era.

As noted by JFK, persistent repetition is critically important to lies or myths being perceived as truths. We see the term climate change substituted for global warming, choice becomes a supposedly more acceptable surrogate for abortion, racism is slung about as the cause of every social ill, and urban lootings and burnings become peaceful protests rather than riots. The effort to find focus-group-tested words to hide unpopular dogmas is continuous. Of course, word wrangling does little more than offer camouflage.

Mendacity? The emotionally raw lines of Big Daddy played by Burl Ives in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” by Tennessee Williams define lying well, “Mendacity. What do you know about mendacity? I could write a book on it...Mendacity. Look at all the lies that I got to put up with. Pretenses. Hypocrisy. Pretendin’ like I care for Big Mama, I haven’t been able to stand that woman in forty years. Church! It bores me. But I go. And all those swindlin’ lodges and social clubs and money-grabbin’ auxiliaries. It’s-it’s got me on the number one sucker list. Boy, I’ve lived with mendacity. Now why can’t you live with it? You’ve got to live with it. There’s

nothin’ to live with but mendacity. Is there?” Wow!

Mendacity knows no political party boundaries. President Joseph Biden has a long and well-documented history of speech plagiarism plus the lies and repeated exaggerations in his speeches as he wanders from his teleprompter. Examples of political lying include Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) falsely claiming Vietnam service; Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) earning the sobriquet “Pocahontas” by falsely claiming Native American ancestry on her college job application; Representative George Santos (R-NY) making wildly false claims on his personal resume; and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas lying about U.S. southern border security. There seems an endless supply of mendacious outpourings to draw from. It gets down to whom to trust? Government? Big tech and media fact checkers? Academic rubes? Educators pouring socialist drivel into children’s heads? It’s all such a frustrating morass of lies, myths, and half-truths.

Can politicians be trusted to keep the oath they swear to upon being sworn in as a United States Senator or Representative? “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.”

As they say out west, trust your neighbor but brand your cattle.

Elected folks are about as trustworthy as a rattlesnake ready to strike.

Media mendacity? How about rock throwing, police car burning, and shooting police in recent Atlanta riots being reported as non-violent? And we dare not forget the Trump collusion hoax. Again, an endless trail of lies.

Fact checkers? Blatant misinformation and disinformation spawned by all manner of sources from government to social media to big tech and academia reviewed by truth panels harkening back to George Orwell’s Newspeak in his dystopian novel 1984 wherein history is constantly recreated to suit the ends of Big Brother. And, if folks don’t toe the line to the fact checkers’ pronouncements, they’re likely to be cancelled, shadow-banned, doxed, or put in social media jail if not worse.

USSR dictator Josef Stalin famously disposed of his enemies and airbrushed them from photos. He also pulled the wool over the West’s eyes as Communism’s realities by creating Potemkin villages wherein peasant actors clustered around a stage set collective farm, happily praising Stalin and promising to produce more grain as a patriotic duty. In the actual Russian villages of the 1930s, starving over-worked peasants described collectivization as a “second serfdom.” Notably, some of President Franklin Roosevelt’s closest advisors fell under the Potemkin village ruse. President Biden was recently treated to a Potemkinesque exercise upon visiting the U.S. border in El Paso whereby the accumulated detritus of months of gathered immigrant waves were sanitized so as to deceive

him. They offered Biden the “blue pill” per the apocalyptic dystopian Matrix with no alternative “red pill” revealing the ongoing border horrors of rapes, drownings, suicides, murders, drugs, and human trafficking.

How do we end mendacity in our culture? Imagine laughing emojis. Seriously, there is a path out of the quagmire of lies and deceit. It begins with instilling solid moral values. The Ten Commandments offers a good start, and there’s great wisdom in the seven cardinal virtues: prudence, temperance, justice, faith, hope, charity, and fortitude. Juxtapose these virtues against the seven deadly sins often hidden beneath lies: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride. The Bible certainly offers examples of mendacity’s pain from Peter denying Jesus three times to David’s deceptions with Uriah’s wife Bathsheba. If you’re disinclined to follow Christian teachings, try Aristotle’s and Plato’s prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Loss of values will surely lead to ever-greater crime and violence coming to a street corner near you. Words? Empty words? Actions matter. Even virtues and values aren’t worth much unless inculcated in our children by parents and reinforced through corporations, schools, media, and even politicians. If we don’t; well, you’re stuck with Big Daddy’s assurance, “You’ve got to live with it. There’s nothin’ to live with but mendacity. Is there?” Let’s never forget the words in our Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident...” Just sayin’.

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

The Bulwark

A short guide to MAGA 'conservatism'

Charlie Sykes

How conservative is the GOP? It's an awkward question because it all depends on what you mean by the word 'conservative' these days.

What passes for 'conservatism' now, in right-wing media and MAGA circles, is not really what Edmund Burke, John Stewart Mill, George Will, or William F. Buckley had in mind.

Herewith is short and admittedly incomplete guide to what MAGA 'conservatism' is, and what it is not. Let me know what I left out.

MAGA 'conservatism' is for a strong national defense ... except, of course, when it is not. Exhibit 4 million of the changing GOP: The president of the Heritage Foundation, the principle 'think tank' for the MAGA movement, has called for spending cuts be made at the Pentagon.

MAGA 'Conservatives' believe in fiscal restraint ... except when they are in the White House. National Review's Rich Lowry notes the "sporadic commitment to fiscal conservatism" by the GOP. After a hiatus during the Trump years, Republicans are back in the mood for fiscal probity. "Hiatus," is kind of a nice way to put it. Actually, the Trump years added \$7.8 trillion to the national debt in just four years — which is about 25 percent of the nation's accumulated \$31 trillion debt bomb.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are devoted to the constitution, which must be strictly observed ... except when it needs to be scrapped in order to hold onto power. Trump calls for the termination of the Constitution in Truth Social post - "Do you throw the Presidential Elec-

tion Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution."

MAGA 'Conservatives' believe in 'American Exceptionalism' ... except when they are lavishing praise on foreign leaders like Viktor Orban, or wishing that we could be more like the Philippines, or China, in our willingness to kill suspected criminals. Conservatives used to support resistance to Russian aggression ... but MAGA 'Conservatives' are now Vladimir Putin's most useful idiots.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are all about 'law and order' ... except when they say screw it. January 6 was 1776. The rioters were patriots and heroes. And if only they had been armed ... "Then Jan. 6 happens and next thing you know, I organized the whole thing along with Steve Bannon here," Marjorie Taylor Greene said as attendees laughed. "And I will tell you something: If Steve Bannon and I had organized that, we would have won." As cheers and clapping broke out in the audience, Greene added: "Not to mention, it would've been armed"

MAGA 'Conservatives' are all for free speech ... except when they are banning books.

Students arrived in some Florida public school classrooms this month to find their teachers' bookshelves wrapped in paper — or entirely barren of books — after district officials launched a review of the texts' appropriateness under a new state law. A movement that started in schools has rapidly expanded to pub-

lic libraries. Conservative activists in several states, including Texas, Montana and Louisiana have joined forces with like-minded officials to dissolve libraries' governing bodies, rewrite or delete censorship protections, and remove books outside of official challenge procedures.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are for small government and the free market ... except when it comes to "woke" private businesses. Until about five minutes ago, conservatives were not merely pro-free market, but were adamant in their belief that corporations had constitutionally protected free speech rights. Conservatives were outraged when illiberal progressives kicked Chick-fil-A out of airports because of the political activities of the restaurant's owners. The cases of Hobby Lobby and Masterpiece Cake Shop were rallying points for the defense of conscience (and both businesses were vindicated in court). But the new conservatives are fully on board with state retaliation against private companies — like Disney — who engage in disfavored political speech.

MAGA 'Conservatives' back the Blue ... except when the 'Blue' is the Capitol Police.

In meetings with GOP members of Congress, Capital Police Officer Fanone asked how they could claim to "Back the Blue" while selling him out. They brought up Black Lives Matter and how they'd had the cops' backs. "You guys don't seem to have a problem when we're kicking the sh-t out of Black people," Fanone recalls saying. "But when we're kicking the sh-t out of white people, uh-oh, that's an issue." He found himself explaining why attempting to loot a CVS pharmacy was slightly different than attempting to overthrow the government. Why the peaceful transfer of power was a bigger deal than a few



anarchists in Portland, Ore.

Conservatives used to hate walls ... until they loved them. Ronald Reagan once thrilled the Right with his call, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Today, the MAGA right continues to get its tingles from calls to build a massive border wall that surely, surely, Mexico will pay for.

Then: Reagan describing his vision of America as a "shining city on a hill." "In my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here."

Now: President Trump often talked about fortifying a border wall with a water-filled trench, stocked with snakes or alligators, prompting aides to seek a cost estimate. He wanted the wall electrified, with spikes on top that could pierce human flesh. After publicly suggesting that soldiers shoot migrants if they threw rocks, the president backed

off when his staff told him that was illegal. But later in a meeting, aides recalled, he suggested that they shoot migrants in the legs to slow them down. That's not allowed either, they told him.

MEGA 'Conservatives' believe in traditional values and that character counts ... except when it doesn't. As recently as 2011, only 30 percent of white evangelicals agreed that "an elected official who commits an immoral act in their personal life can still behave ethically and fulfill their duties in their public life." But in the era of Trump, evangelical attitudes underwent a stunning, head-snapping transformation. A poll released in October 2016 found that fully 76 percent of white evangelicals had decided that a candidate's morals were no longer that important.

One commentator noted that the "immense shift in opinion means that the same types who made up the former 'Moral Majority' now comprise the religious group most likely to agree that public and private morality can be separate."

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

Good Day, Neighbor

The value of institutional knowledge

Dorothea Mordan

Weaving has been used by humans for thousands of years. Through the Middle Ages weaving was all done by hand. Then came the Industrial Age with inventions such as the Jacquard loom, patented in 1804. Joseph Marie Jacquard, building on earlier inventions, created a system of punchcards to control mechanical weaving. A hole in the punchcard would hold a warp thread in place. No hole and the thread would lift, allowing the weft thread to be alternately visible and invisible, thus creating a pattern. Ordered placing of one vertical thread over/under a horizontal thread makes any pattern possible. This mechanical function made organization of any sort of information possible. On/off, zeros and ones, the construct of computer data.

The path to our modern computer wizardry started over one hundred years before anyone reading this was born.

The impact of computers on human thinking is endless. Computation tools for medicine, farming, data management, distribution of food and other necessities, organizational systems for our lives—auto-

mobile manufacture, bus, train and plane schedules. Society's elders have seen such transitions over the course of decades—institutional knowledge of work and life.

Youth in any era are raised with existing inventions, and always push their elders to make way for the new. That's how it should be, progress is healthy. Anyone who makes it to their 30's, 40's and beyond starts to see the links in the chain of progress, and learns that new ways of doing things come from experience, trial and error. Often, more is learned from error than success.

Late 20th and early 21st century kids are increasingly raised in a society where necessities come to you by knowing what buttons to push and which store has food. It's a hard lesson when grandma takes you out to the garden to grow something—a bridge to understanding where we find food. Career employees with institutional knowledge of a company are bridges of understanding for young adults entering the work force.

All people want something, and at the same time they share the need for life sustaining food, water, and shelter. The elder politicians in our democratic system know the value of change over time. Change that comes

from learning how things are done, listening to what people want, and understanding the difference between wants and needs.

We have Social Security because a hundred years ago more people were dying in poverty than society would tolerate. Society tolerates a lot of misery if it's not happening to me and mine. With industrialization, new means of employment and the beginnings of a middle class in our economy, citizens increasingly demanded compensation after serving their country or employer. After history changing events, especially the Civil War and WWI, veterans protested a lack of support from the federal government they just fought to protect. Our fellow Americans are smart enough to understand that the Federal government's role is to organize aide for citizens who are without means of support. Pleas from constituents, debate in Congress, and subsequent laws added up to a solution with long term effects.

Using Democracy we built a social safety net which has a financial structure that works in tandem with our economic structure, and it is held in trust for each of us because of the confidence we have in each other. Our elders have learned, through institutional knowledge of life, that you can't have it both ways—use a system for one's own benefit, and say it is corrupt.

Institutional knowledge of our American system means understanding how we have worked together over decades to figure out how to use our assets to best advantage, while maintaining our individual freedoms. Our elders have lived it. Debates over what is fair, arguments to protect one person's property rights over another person's safety and civil rights is time spent on grievances rather than solutions.

Jacquard filled a need for cloth and satisfied the want for beautiful clothing. Silks, cotton, linen fabrics of every sort are ready to buy or ready to wear. The invention of weaving machines has impact beyond the production of cloth.

Serious people who spend their careers in elected office know that a law voted on and passed will have decades, maybe centuries of effects on society. A law that solves an immediate problem will have myriad unknown results. The fact that our tax and spend system is stunningly complicated, does not make it wrong. It means that solutions can be found in simplifying the system.

Some in the GOP hold grievance rallies against Social Security. No solution is offered except a new rule to talk about Social Security every five years in Congress, for the purpose of deciding whether or not to take it away from Americans who spent a lifetime paying into it.

Experience teaches that pointing out a problem, while offering no solution, helps no one.

Democratic leadership rallies for our Social Security system and the support it gives to the backbone of our American society—stability for families. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid support the American family through all stages of life, from at-risk pregnancies and births, developmental needs, death benefits for orphaned children, disability benefits, to a dependable fixed income late in life.

Politicians, with the Institutional Knowledge of why we have targeted support for social safety, offer a bridge of understanding for our youth. All social security money is earned. If you are employed and paying taxes to the Federal government, then you are paying into the social security system now. Our elders paid into it for decades. Our elders need our support, and we need their institutional knowledge of life.

Our children need a better education on how to see the problem in front of us and understand the long term consequences of a hasty solution.

Like Jacquard, focus on the problem in front of you makes you better able to find a solution. A real solution can take us anywhere.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The river of life

Pastor Jay Petrella:
Graceham Moravian Church

In some ways life seems to flow on like a river and we can approach this river of life in a couple different ways.

First you have the lazy river type of expedition. You get yourself an inner tube. You fill a cooler with delicious snacks and beverages then tie it to your inner tube. You stock up on bug spray and slather on the SPF 50. Finally, you push out into the stream and allow the water to carry you off to wherever it wills. Without any additional input from you, you hope to be carried along by the current, freeing you to doze, snack, and think about nothing in particular while on the most relaxing journey of your life.

Then again, you can have a kayak or canoe, or perhaps a flat-bottomed Jon boat complete with a motor. With these floating vehicles you have more control. Equipped with a paddle, or a motor, you can steer to get to specific places. You can choose to go up stream if you wanted. You can choose the pace at which you travel, or choose to stay in one place if you find somewhere nice you'd like to linger.

But this method requires a lot more input and effort. With the first method, most already have a cooler laying around, and if there isn't some form of inflatable flotation device tucked away in a closet or basement, one can easily be had relatively cheap by making a quick trip to a big-box store.

However, a boat requires quite a bit more expense and planning. There might be licenses involved. It requires a means of transport,

like a roof rack or trailer, which means more money and logistics. You have to find somewhere to store it when not in use. You need a boat ramp or at least some spot near a road and a shore that descends gradually into the water. With an inner tube, you can just fall into the water off some riverbank in the woods and you're off. A boat requires bringing enough fuel or reserving enough arm strength to get you where you are going. None of this stuff concerns the chilled out individual bobbing along lazy river style.

For those of us who follow the church calendar, or lectionary cycles, the season of Lent is upon us. Lent, traditionally, is a time of self-reflection. Not that we shouldn't self reflect throughout the entire year, but we ought to especially do so during Lent in preparation for Easter. Why is a bit of navel gazing so important? Well, I used to think that one's life doesn't just happen. One has to make it happen. But that's not 100% true. Like the currents of a river, time sweeps all of us along from the beginning of our lives to the end with or without our input.

So while we all end up in the same place temporally speaking, the route we take to get to the end and the nature of the journey we take along the way are greatly impacted by the choices we make. When it comes to a river journey and our life journey, much is well outside our control, yet there is still a good bit of choice left to us, especially how we choose to react to and deal with that which is outside our control. So the lazy river style of living will just as assuredly get us to the end of our



lives as living with intention will, but the journeys promise to be quite different.

Just before the season of Lent begins we have transfiguration Sunday. Long story made short, transfiguration Sunday is the day on which we read the gospel story recounting the time Jesus hikes up a mountain with a few of his disciples. While up there on the mountain top God tells these disciples to listen to Jesus.

Jesus wasn't just some nice guy going from town to town, doing nice things for people, like serving free community dinners. He did that, but he was more than that. Jesus certainly wasn't a ladder climbing politician, stirring the pot to grab attention, attention for the purpose of boosting him to high positions of power. He certainly had some difficult words for the religious leaders of his day, but those words weren't spoken so he could self-aggrandize.

Jesus came to redeem us. Jesus came to show us the way to a better life, the life we were created to live. Everything Jesus did, points beyond

himself to God in heaven and our relationships with each other.

Therefore, heading into Lent we have God's voice, booming from a cloud on top of a mountain, telling the disciples gathered there, and us along with them, to listen to Jesus. To really listen to him. To heed his words and put his wisdom into practice in our day to day lives. Easier said than done.

Living the life God created us to live takes practice, intention. It also takes a lifetime. Some insights are only gained through the experience of living 30, 40, 60, 80 years, insights that might otherwise pass us by if we aren't paying attention. Which brings me to my point.

We all need a cool, lazy river in our lives from time to time. Life is too short and precious to constantly be stressed out over schedules, achievements, striving. Still, life is too precious to be lived without intention.

Lent specifically is a season of intentional self-reflection. When we're not paying attention, days can pass into months and even

into years with little notice. Life can be crazy sometimes. In those times people can tend to just keep their heads down and plow through the busyness. Eventually though we all look up and it's only then we realize what a great amount of time has passed. Another month has gone, another season has passed and we didn't do the things we were wanting to do, things we fully intended to do, but life somehow got away from us. Another decade somehow slipped away unnoticed, and we're not yet the people we wanted to become. How could that be, for we had the best of intentions?

So it can go with our relationship with God. We can hop from Sunday to Sunday out of habit and routine, without much thought. We can get so wrapped up in the comings and goings of our days, that we put off prayer and meditation, fellowship and bible study. Then at some point we look up from our busy lives and realize we aren't as close to God or each other as we'd like to be and we wonder where all that time went.

There is a time and a beauty to the inflatable raft on a lazy river carting us along. But may we all take the opportunity presented by this Lenten season to step out of the inner tube and into the intentionality of the canoe. May we look up from life's cooler and find our bearings, plot a course to a deeper faith and row with purpose. Reflect on life and the events that brought you to where you are now, and listen to Jesus, the Son of God to guide you on the next leg of your lie's journey.



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-Philippians 2:8

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www.thetrinityumc.org

THE BOOK OF DAYS

The Witches of Belvoir

On the 11th of March 1618-19, two women named Margaret and Philippa Flower, were burnt at Lincoln for the alleged crime of witch-craft. With their mother, Joan Flower, they had been confidential servants of the Earl and Countess of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle. Dissatisfaction with their employers seems to have gradually seduced these three women into the practice of hidden arts in order to obtain revenge. According to their own confession, they had entered into communion with familiar spirits, by which they were assisted in their wicked designs.

Joan Flower, the mother, had hers in the bodily form of a cat, which she called Rutterkin. They used to get the hair of a member of the family and burn it: they would steal one of his gloves and plunge it in boiling water, or rub it on the back of Rutterkin, in order to effect bodily harm to its owner. They would also use frightful imprecations of wrath and malice towards the objects of their hatred. In these ways they were believed to have accomplished the death of Lord Ross, the Earl of Rutland's son, besides inflicting frightful sicknesses upon other members of the family.

It was long before the earl and countess, who were an amiable couple, suspected any harm in these servants, although we are told that for some years there was a manifest change in the countenance of the mother, a diabolic expression being assumed. At length, at Christmas, 1618, the noble pair became convinced that they were the victims of a hellish plot, and the three women were apprehended, taken to Lincoln jail, and examined. The mother loudly protested innocence, and, calling for bread and butter, wished it might choke her if she were guilty of the offences laid to her charge. Immediately, taking a piece into her mouth, she fell down dead, probably, as we may allowably conjecture, overpowered by consciousness of the contrariety between these protestations and the guilty design which she had entertained in her mind.

Margaret Flower, on being examined, acknowledged that she had stolen the glove of the young heir of the family, and given it to her mother, who stroked Rutterkin with it, dipped it in hot water, and pricked it: whereupon Lord Ross fell ill and suffered extremely. In order to prevent Lord and Lady Rutland from having any more children, they had taken some feathers from their bed, and a pair of gloves, which they boiled in water, mingled with a little blood. In all these particulars, Philippa corroborated her sister. Both women admitted that they had familiar spirits, which came and sucked them at various parts of their bodies: and they also

described visions of devils in various forms which they had had from time to time.

Associated with the Flowers in their horrible practices were three other women, of the like grade in life,—Anne Baker, of Bottesford: Joan Willimot, of Goodby: and Ellen Greene, of Stathorne, all in the county of Leicester, whose confessions were to much the same purpose. Each had her own familiar spirits to assist in working out her malignant designs against her neighbours.

That of Joan Willimot was called Pretty. It had been blown into her mouth by her master, William Berry, in the form of a fairy, and immediately after came forth again and stood on the floor in the shape of a woman, to whom she forthwith promised that her soul should be enlisted in the infernal service. On one occasion, at Joan Flower's house, she saw two spirits, one like an owl, the other like a rat, one of which

sucked her under the ear. This woman, however, protested that, for her part, she only employed her spirit in inquiring after the health of persons whom she had undertaken to cure.

Greene confessed to having had a meeting with Willimot in the woods, when the latter called two spirits into their company, one like a kitten, the other like a mole, which, on her being left alone, mounted on her shoulders and sucked her under the ears. She had then sent them to bewitch a man and woman who had reviled her, and who, accordingly, died within a fortnight. Anne Baker seems to have been more of a visionary than any of the rest. She once saw a hand, and heard a voice from the air: she had been visited with a flash of fire: all of them ordinary occurrences in the annals of hallucination. She also had a spirit, but, as she alleged, a beneficent one, in the form of a white dog.

From the frontispiece of a contemporary pamphlet giving an account of this group of



witches, we transfer a homely picture of Baker, Willimot, and Greene, attended each by her familiar spirit. The entire publication is reprinted in Nichols's Leicestershire.

The examinations of these wretched women were taken by magistrates of rank and credit,

and when the judges came to Lincoln the two surviving Flowers were duly tried, and on their own confessions condemned to death by the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir Henry Hobbert.

To read more selections from the Book of Days, visit Thebookofdays.com.

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ECOLOGY

Beavers

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill Foundation

There are few animals that agitate the well of emotions quite like the beaver. On one hand, farmers and landowners regularly lament the immense damage done by this instinct-driven animal. On the other hand, ecologists praise the positive ripple effect brought about by the animals' efforts. The undeniable reality is both are correct and justified in their opinions. Beavers are simple animals that produce complicated outcomes. They are, in effect, a true keystone species.

Keystone species are either predators, mutualists, or ecosystem engineers. Beavers fall into the latter category. River ecosystems depend on beavers to take down and remove old and dead trees. In doing so, healthier trees have more resources and opportunities to flourish. Furthermore, beaver dams affect a wide variety of species. Once a dam is built, the area surrounding the dam becomes a pond and marsh. As water covers the bases of trees, it cuts off oxygen for trees' root systems, killing the trees within a relatively short time frame. Snags, dead trees that haven't fallen, provide homes and perches for a wide variety of birds and animals, from owls and hawks to bats. These new marshes provide a healthy habitat for ducks, geese, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Otters, raccoons, herons, ospreys, and other predators are drawn to the marsh's abundant prey. The new wetland quickly becomes a thriving eco-

system with incalculable benefits to local flora and fauna.

It's easy to wax poetic about beavers' ecological impact but the reality isn't entirely positive. Innumerable farmers have faced crop loss and devastation because of beavers damming creeks and ponds. The resulting floods can and have decimated a year's worth of crops, costing farmers income and lost time. Repairing damaged fields and streams further digs into landowners' pockets. To many, beavers are a frustrating and damaging animal to have around. Trapping and hunting are seen as vital to controlling population numbers and saving landowners from potential financial ruin.

The back-and-forth between valuable asset and troublesome nuisance isn't new. This strange-looking rodent has a storied yet complicated history going back thousands of years and spans the globe. Beavers have been featured on some of the oldest animal effigies in the world. The oldest known monumental wood carving (10,000-12,000 years ago), the Shigir Idol, was partially carved with tools made of the lower jawbone of a beaver. In ancient Persia, beavers were considered sacred and protected by law. A medieval bestiary held within Oxford's Bodleian Library contains depictions of beavers with silvery coats and long, wolf-like bodies. Beavers were considered so important to the city of Oxford that heralds included the rodent on the city's coat of arms alongside an elephant. We still see evidence of this importance in modern-day America. Oregon, which was founded in 1859, adopted the beaver as the official state animal.

During America's early days, beavers

were an especially valuable resource. Their pelts are thick and were used to trim clothing. In the early 1800s a single raw beaver pelt could earn a trapper roughly \$4, or about \$80 in today's money. Castoreum, produced from castor sacs, located near the anus of a beaver, has been used for centuries in medicines, perfumes, and even food additives. The oil can be processed with alcohol to create a surprisingly vanilla-like aroma.

Within a few generations, however, this valuable resource was nearly wiped out by unregulated trapping and hunting. By the end of the nineteenth century, beavers had been eliminated from most of the East coast and Pennsylvania. The tide turned for beavers after the state legislature passed a law protecting this keystone species in 1903. The Pennsylvania Game Commission released a pair of beavers from Wisconsin in the northern part of our state in 1917, setting off a string of planned releases between 1918 and 1925. The Game Commission imported Canadian beavers to be released within designated refuges throughout the state. The effect was nearly immediate. By 1934, the beaver population was large enough and healthy enough to allow trapping. There are now an estimated two million beaver thriving across North America.

Beavers once roamed North America in numbers estimated to be hundreds of millions. During the Pleistocene, beavers fell into the megafauna category alongside saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Prehistoric beavers were at one point the size of grizzlies. As the last ice age melted into history and glaciers became swirling rivers and lakes, be-



Beavers are simple animals that produce complicated outcomes. They are, in effect, a true keystone species.

vers settled in for the ride. They chewed through the prehistoric forests and built dams, eventually redirecting the flow of massive waterways. Over the years, these waterways encouraged rich sediments to swell from within. Eventually, the water receded, through beaver colony dispersion, dam failure, or something else, leaving behind a slurry of nutrients vital to a budding ecosystem. After all, rich soil begets rich forests. The forests of North America would, in time, become something breathtaking.

Though considerably smaller than their ancestors, beavers haven't changed much over the ages. They are herbivores, preferring branches, twigs, and buds from trees such as poplar, willow, aspen, cottonwood, maple, birch, and black cherry trees. Pine, on the other hand, is usually too sticky for the average beaver, though there are exceptions to this rule. They also feast on water lilies, ferns, mushrooms, duckweed, algae, and water plants such as cattails. Beavers gather sticks to build their feed piles and anchor them to the bottom of the creek or pond. From there, they gather sticks and branches to create a pile of brush beneath the water. From this pile of brush comes their feed pile

which provides food throughout the winter.

Despite appearances, beavers don't actually eat the wood of a tree, just the bark. They prefer trees that are about three to four inches in diameter though they will fall trees several times if necessary. Ironically, beavers don't produce cellulase, the all-important enzyme needed for digesting cellulose. Instead, microorganisms called caecal microbes convert cellulose into nutrients on behalf of the host. Beavers, similar to ruminant animals such as sheep, goats, deer, and cows, digest their food twice.

On a larger scale, keystone species such as Yellowstone's wolves garner more attention and more debate than beavers. It's not likely beavers will ever be splashed about on television with experts chiming in on news segments or writing major articles for or against their existence. No, the North American beaver is less sensational than other keystone species. And yet, if you ask locals for their opinion, you'll likely get a heated opinion, one way or another.

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Tree Roots

Frederick county Forestry Board

Trees can grow to a very large size both above and below the ground. The roots of a tree, though not visible, are vital to its functions: they anchor and support the tree, store energy as starch during the winter, and absorb water and soil nutrients during the growing season.

Tree roots also form a mutually beneficial or 'symbiotic' relationship with mycorrhizal fungi networks in the soil, whereby the fungi enable the tree to obtain needed nitrogen and the mycorrhizae live off some of the trees energy reserves in return. These networks are key to sequestering carbon in the ground and for sharing important information with other trees, thus helping keep a forest healthy and resilient.

The roots of trees in a forest are connected through a mycorrhizal fungi network. These networks play an important role in sequestering carbon into forest soil and are increasingly recognized to facilitate inter-tree communication via resource, defense, and kin recognition signaling and thereby influence the sophisticated behavior of neighbors. Mycorrhizal

fungi networks are essential for the health of a forest ecosystem.

Some, but not all trees have a tap root, which grows straight down for a number of feet and helps support the tree. Trees with well-defined tap roots include hickories, walnut, and white oak. The woody buttress roots grow from the trunk of the tree down a few feet and these roots help support and anchor the tree to the ground.

The feeder roots are woody but they have fibrous root hairs as well; and, they typically grow outward from the tree and are rarely deeper than a few inches to a foot below the surface. These feeder roots are involved with the uptake of water and nutrients.

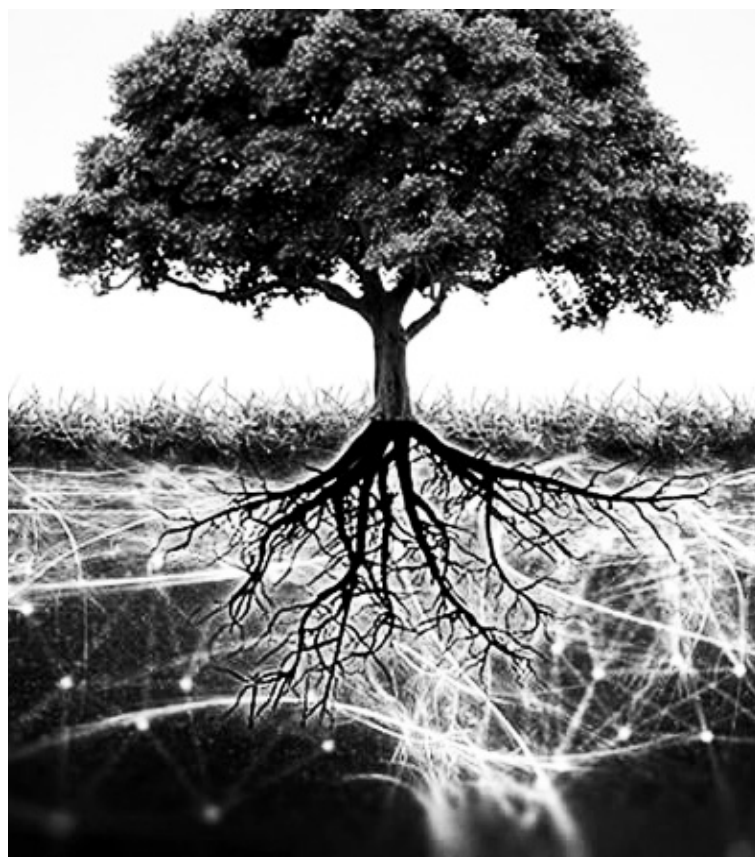
Feeder roots are always actively growing unless the soil is frozen during winter; their function is to support the above-ground portion of the tree. Sometimes feeder roots grow well beyond the extent of the crown "drip line" of a tree in search of adequate nourishment. In the fall a tree will begin storing excess energy reserves in the form of starch in the buttress roots. This starch will provide the initial flush of energy necessary to allow for bud break and leaf expansion in the spring.

A healthy tree has an innate bal-

ance between its roots, trunk, and crown. Damaging roots can make the tree unstable so it can topple over or limit the tree's ability to obtain needed water or nutrients. Damaging the buttress roots can result in loss of tree stability, or it can permit decay, allowing fungi into the base of the tree which will slowly erode away the main support roots.

The feeder roots can be easily damaged since they are smaller and lie in close proximity to the surface. These feeder roots can be damaged by digging, piling additional soil or removing existing soil around the tree, applying herbicides, crushing the roots by moving heavy machinery around the tree or compacting the soil around the tree by regular foot traffic.

Damage to significant feeder roots can disrupt the balance between the roots and crown and result in dieback in the canopy. Certain allopathic plants can also harm a tree, usually by producing natural herbicides that could kill feeder roots or harm the symbiotic mycorrhizae that are important for nitrogen uptake in trees. Many of our exotic invasive species out-compete native plants by disrupting the symbiotic mycorrhizae of the native species. When



The roots of trees in a forest are connected through a mycorrhizal fungi network. These networks facilitate inter-tree communication via resource, defense, and kin recognition, signaling and therefore influencing the sophisticated behavior of neighbors.

newly transplanted trees receive abundant water, their roots do not have to develop as much to meet their requirements.

If that water source is removed abruptly, the tree may not have adequate feeder roots to support it during severe drought. Sometimes

diseases will travel between roots from an infected tree to another tree. Dutch elm disease and oak wilt are examples of diseases that can spread through a root system.

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Plant trees and learn with Stream Link

Lisa Baird, Program Director
Stream-Link Education

A large-scale reforestation project continues in Emmitsburg, being led by local non-profit, Stream-Link Education (SLE). With over 2,000 trees still to plant, SLE is seeking volunteers to join them to successfully complete the project and establish a total of 30-acres of resilient, biodiverse forest that will protect water quality in tributaries that supplies public drinking water.

SLE works to involve the local community as it is a crucial component to organizations mission. SLE is growing a community of land and water stewards by fostering environmental ethics through education and hands-on tree planting. Volunteer events are fun, meaningful, and productive, and they encourage people to ask questions.

Each event is open to the public and citizens of all ages are encouraged to attend. SLE seeks to recruit 100 volunteers per event and events will be held on every Saturday morning in April and the first two Saturdays in May.

As many people know, trees produce oxygen and clean our air; but there are so many more benefits to learn about. It is SLE's hope that volunteers walk away with a sense of connection to their local and regional watersheds and an understanding of how the new forest planted on land adjacent to Tom's Creek will protect the water quality in the

Monocacy River and the Chesapeake Bay.

This is a multi-year initiative funded by a grant through the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. After the shovels are put away, Stream Link continues to maintain the trees to achieve a high survival rate and so the hard work

of the volunteers pays off.

Community members interested in being a part of this initiative should visit www.streamlinkededucation.org and subscribe to receive news and updates about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

The mission of Stream-Link Education is to connect community to conservation through

educational and meaningful volunteer tree planting experiences. Volunteers walk away from a

planting not only feeling good about their contribution, but also understanding the importance of their effort. Learn more at www.streamlinkededucation.org.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Is race a real thing?

Boyce Rensberger

Part 2

Part 1 discussed why scientists have concluded that there is no biological basis for racial categories. And yet we all know there are various features that seem distinctive of the social or cultural groups we call “race.”

Biologists say most of these differences arose as a result of natural selection. This is the phenomenon that Darwin discovered in the 19th century, and it explains a lot about how evolution happens. In a nutshell, it means that if a mutation — a change in a person’s genes — happens to produce a useful feature, the person with that change is more likely to be healthier, live longer and, most important for evolution, have more children. Since the change is in the genes, the children inherit it. Because the change gives each person an advantage in survival, eventually those with the change will outnumber those without it.

Skin color is a good exam-

ple. People whose ancestors came from the tropics have dark skin. And the farther people lived from the equator, the lighter their skin. Southern Europeans are usually darker than northern Europeans. In Africa, the darkest skins are near the equator, but at the north and south ends of the continent, people’s skins are lighter. In southern India, closer to the equator, many people are as dark as the blackest Africans, while northern Indians are about as light-skinned as southern Europeans.

Whatever the skin color, it is all due to different amounts of a brown substance in skin cells called melanin. Freckles have extra melanin. Sun tanning stimulates melanin synthesis in skin.

That north-south spectrum evolved in response to the sun’s intensity. Too much sun causes sunburn and skin cancer. Too little deprives the body of vitamin D. Without this vitamin, bones grow crooked, resulting in a disease called rickets. In the tropics, the sun is so strong that enough gets through dark skin to make



Where would you draw the line?

all the vitamin D a person needs.

When dark-skinned people first migrated out of Africa and into northern climates, they may well have suffered rickets, which can also deform the pelvis, making childbirth dangerous or impossible. But because skin color can vary slightly even within a family, lighter-skinned children would be less affected. As a result, they would probably have more surviving children than their darker relatives. And those children would be even more likely to have to have lighter-skinned children of their own.

This is Darwin’s natural selection at work. Less well-known is another of Darwin’s ideas—sexual selection. In a nutshell, it means that if some physical trait is seen as attractive by the opposite sex, individuals with it will be more likely to find mates and to reproduce. In crude terms, ugly people will be less likely to find mates and pass on their genes than will beautiful people. And, of course, the definition of beauty varies from culture to culture.

Most visible differences among people have no practical advantage. For example, nobody knows why Asian people have a special form of upper eyelid. The thin lips of northern Europeans and many Asians have no known advantage over the full lips of many Africans and Middle East-

ern peoples. Why do white men go bald so much more often than the men of other backgrounds? Such differences are trivial in a biological sense. In fact, geneticists have estimated that the variations in genetic makeup that account for racial differences occupy only about one out of a thousand of our genes.

So, were there ever pure races? Until the mid-20th century, many researchers assumed that so-called pure races did once exist. Those early thinkers had great trouble figuring out who belonged in which race and decided that was simply because migrations and intermarriage had mixed up, or blended, the once-distinct traits.

Today, most anthropologists hold that pure races never existed, not in any biological sense. They think that human beings have always been migrating and intermarrying, spreading new genes worldwide. Traits such as skin color have always shaded gradually from region to region. Genes useful in all parts of the world would spread quickly — those, for example, that might improve the immune system. Surely the fastest to spread in prehistoric times were the genes that improved the brain. In fact, anthropologists who study fossil skulls of the earliest human beings agree that a fully modern

brain evolved long before any of today’s so-called races came into existence.

Genes useful only in some regions would tend not to become common when carried to other places. Dark skin, for example, is not an advantage in cold climates. Light skin is a disadvantage in tropical climates. So skin color genes could not flow far and persist, at least not until the age of large hats, long sleeves, and milk fortified with vitamin D.

The bottom line is that biology does not support the idea of races as natural categories, not now nor in the past. There is no one trait, or group of traits, that can be used to define any race. People have tried to do this using visible features such as skin color and facial form but have ignored all the unseen genetic variability. We all use “race” for social or cultural groups—and that’s fine—but those categories all have blurry edges.

The great lesson from anthropology, biology and genetics is that all people are the same in all essentials but highly diverse in a few things. The same is true of nearly all other known species. These differences have arisen not because there are biologically distinct groups of people but simply because genes sometimes change from one generation to the next, and because we are a hopeful, migratory species whose intelligence has allowed us to survive in almost every environment on Earth.

Boyce Rensberger retired to New Midway after more than 40 years as a science and medical journalist, mostly for The New York Times and The Washington Post. Write him at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

The worst insult

Jack Deatherage

In 68 years I've been called many derogatory names: lazy, idiot, stupid, drunk, unambitious, ugly, willful, bone-headed and stubborn ass are among the few that are printable. Recently, philanthropist was added to the list.

Not that I knew what the word meant when it was used to chastise me, but I knew by the tone of the speaker it wasn't something pleasant. By the gods! I never expected it to be such an inappropriately disgusting term!

"Philanthropist: a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes."

If I am anything that needs a label, I'd have to go with Randian Objectivist.

"Objectivism is designed as a guide to life, and celebrates the remarkable potential and power of the individual. Objectivism also challenges the doctrines of irrationalism, self-sacrifice, brute force, and collectivism that have brought centuries of chaos and misery into the lives of millions of individuals." - The Atlas Society

Not that I've succeeded in living said philosophy, I am a lazy idiot. Still, when my thinking apparatus seems to be working at a slightly higher level than contemplating a nap, Objectivism makes the most sense to me when compared to the other philosophies I've given ten minutes of consideration to.

How did I get labeled a philanthropist? It began with an argument over my wanting to create a new community garden. "You don't have the money to build the garden yourself. Either get the town to pay for it or drop the project."

A few days later another person jumped in with, "Until you make people own it, they'll just be waiting for their weekly grocery delivery. A giant yard sale (all proceeds going to tools, seeds and supplies), aluminum/metal recycling, etc. As long as you find a way to justify paying for stuff yourself, it's not going to work."

Then a third person said, "You know what you are? You're a philanthropist."

None of the people were listening to my protestations. They "know" me better than I know myself evidently. Meh.

Given those people won't be down in the dirt with me I've been moving on with the garden project while

keeping their words in mind. The DW and I ran some measuring tapes about the proposed garden site and I drew up a new design for Commissioner Amy's and Town Manager Cathy's consideration. While walking about the market lot I happened upon a neighbor. We talked about what I'm planning to do there. The neighbor is on board with the project. Later, with the help of the town's works crew I gathered soil samples and mailed them off the University of Delaware's testing lab. (My recently bought soil sample coring tool didn't work as advertised so we used a shovel the crew had brought along. Hear the gods laughing?) I'm now out of pocket \$87.00, less than what I spent biweekly on alcohol and cigarettes in the 1970s. Seems like a bargain so far.

This philanthropist slur. I think it comes in large part from the word "community" which reeks of "socialism" in my circle of jabber-jawners. Oddly, those uncolleged who read "Atlas Shrugged" often seem to have missed that a community is necessary for the individual to thrive. Less oddly, those few college papered people I've discussed "Atlas Shrugged" with generally think the story is all about selfish greed.

Idiot that I am, how did I manage to come away with an understanding of Rand's, to me, most basic point; the creative individual can not thrive without a community that allows the individual to create, and, the repressive community will sink into decay if those who create are denied the ability to do so?

As an Objectivist, I suggested a new community garden for personal reasons. I want the ground because of its location and possibly because of its soil. I want to plan, to build, to plant, to experiment, to learn and that ground looks good for all of that! To that end I will put aside my lazy, misanthropic nature and reach out to those who might also benefit from a garden we build together.

When the garden becomes reality, and people use it to their selfish purposes - teaching children, feeding themselves, attracting vendors and buyers to the farmers market, growing flowers for the native pollinators, saving native wildflowers, growing foods for the town's food bank, promoting the town and building a more active community - why would anyone care that the idiot who proposed the project had selfish reasons for doing so?

Now, I struggle with self-doubt



If Jack is successful, this is what Emmitsburg's Community Garden could one day look like! Interested? Contact Jack and become part of something good for the town.

constantly. I tend to pay attention to those who tell me I can't more often than I listen to those who tell me I can. I know my physical limits (they are proving to be much worse than I thought) and my bobble-headedness is always on the lookout for some new, shiny bauble to lead me off track when a project is only half begun! Advancing senility isn't helping.

Fortunately, Brian keeps stepping up and urging me on. "We can do this brother! We can skip the asbestos testing and build raised beds from logs scattered about town properties."

Being lazy, and thinking long term, I suggest "made in Australia" raised metal beds that have a proven 12 to 13 year lifespan, at least for the children's section of the community garden.

"We'll do both!" Brian wants to play with his chainsaw and keep costs as low as possible.

We agree that we can get down in the dirt without fear of heavy metals or asbestos killing us. Meh. Dropping dead of heart attacks as we're working the ground is more likely for either of us. Raised beds filled with clean soil would be for the youngsters with their lifelines stretching out far ahead of them.

Creating a flowerbed bordering the sidewalk along Cedar Avenue is my primary goal. I envision 30 feet of sunflowers rising 11 to 14 feet into the air at the back of the bed. Shorter, multi-flowered varieties of sunflowers would front the giants and an array of cutting flowers would front those.

Secondary are two metal beds for the children's use - 8.5' x 2' x 15" filled with a clean soil mix so we avoid any chance of whatever might be lurking in the ground beneath them. The metal beds I have in mind cost \$200 each, plus the cost of filling them.

Do I have \$400 to spend on raised beds? Nope. I'll sacrifice something I normally spend money on when it's time to buy the beds. Why? Because if getting the library's, or schools', or homeschooling groups', or my neighbors' children involved in the community garden helps build the garden I'll get to plant in, then I'll buy the beds. I'm selfish! Duh. I can be reached via the post office:

Deatherage
PO Box 417
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Ph: 301 - 447 - 2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number - speak slowly and clearly - English is a struggle for me, all other languages are beyond me) Email: jack-deathjr@juno.com.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Easter plant care

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Easter is right around the corner, and along with Easter, comes easter plants. When visiting a garden center, box store, or grocery store, there are a few plants that are typically available for gift giving. Whether you are the gift receiver or the gift giver, it's a good idea to know how to care for these plants.

Some typical plants you will find include: Easter Lily, potted hyacinths and tulips, hydrangeas, mums, mini roses, cyclamen, kalanchoe and easter cactus.

The Easter Lily, *Lilium longiflorum* – known for its long, trumpet shaped flower. This plant is hardy to zone 5. Here in our area, we can grow it as a garden plant. The Easter lily is forced to bloom in the spring for the holiday, but in the garden, expect it to bloom in the summer, typically in early July. It can reach 3' in a sunny location. Plant them about 12" – 18" apart. Flowers can be cut off after bloom for tidier garden or left on the plant.

In the home, after receiving this plant, keep it in bright light. Cool temperatures, 60 – 65 degrees, will allow the flowers to last longer. After danger of frost is over, plant outdoors. The first year you can expect it to die to the ground early, but the following year it will be just a pretty as the first.

If you are giving or receiving potted bulbs, like daffodils and tulips, know that it's another plant that can go into the garden. Indoors, these potted bulbs should be in a cool room, 60-65 degrees is best, and a bright

window. After they are finished blooming and the leaves turn yellow, they can be planted outside in a sunny location. The bulbs can be separated and planted individually or just planted as one clump in the garden. Don't wait till fall. They can go in the ground right away and continue their life cycle.

Hydrangeas have become a popular Easter flower. These big blue to pink balls of flowers make quite an impact in the home. When giving these plants, know that they are not a houseplant, but an outdoor shrub. They will not last long term in the home. But like the above-mentioned flowers, this one, too, can go outside in the garden.

The trick to growing these shrubs past Easter is knowing what type of hydrangea you have. Typically there are two types that are grown for Easter – mophead and lacecap. Both are *Hydrangea macrophylla*. Most of these mophead hydrangeas are hardy here, however, the most of the lace-capped aren't quite as hardy and therefore, may not make it through our winters.

Indoors, keep it well watered. The hydrangea is a very thirsty plant, and if the plan is to grow it outdoors later, then watering is imperative to its life. If it dries up in the pot indoors, it's not worth planting outside. Keep the plant in filtered sunlight inside. Direct sun may cause the plant to dry out quicker and the flowers will fade faster. Keep it alive till the last frost date, early May in this area.

It's likely the flowers will have dried till it gets planted outdoors,

and that's ok. If the leaves are still green and healthy, the plant has a good chance of surviving. It would be helpful to get the plant used to the outdoors by sitting it in a shady spot during the day and bringing it in at nighttime (early May). Do this for one – two weeks. Then plant it in its home in the garden, which should be semi-shade, well drained soil. Keep it watered well, as even outdoors, they can be water hogs!

Mums, or chrysanthemums, that are sold as Easter plants are typically florist flowers and are not hardy outside. Indoors, keep the plants in a cool, filtered sun location. Keep them watered. When the plants are finished blooming, that's pretty much it for that plant. If you were to plant it outdoors, it's unlikely to set fall flowers, and will not overwinter. If giving or receiving an easter mum, consider it as temporary flower color in the home.

Miniature roses are often an option at easter. These can be more difficult as they really want to grow outside in full sun. In the house, give them as much sunlight as you can, and water. Don't let the root ball dry out; but on the flip side, don't keep it too wet or the roots will rot.

When May comes around, manage it the same way as the hydrangea. Set it outdoors during the day and inside at night for one to two weeks to help it acclimate to the outdoors. Unlike the hydrangea, which likes the shade, a mini rose wants full sun, so acclimation is very important. The leaves of the rose will burn and drop if not managed from indoors to outdoors correctly.

After the acclimation is complete, plant it in full sun, and water well. If the sun is too intense after planting it,



Without a doubt, the most recognized Easter plant is the Easter lily.

cover it with a shade cloth on those very hot days its first week or so in the ground. This will help the plant get used to its new environment.

Mini roses have all the same problems as a regular rose, so scout for insect and disease problems and treat as needed. With proper care, a mini rose will be a pretty addition to the garden.

Unlike the already mentioned Easter plants, the next three are houseplants. Cyclamen and kalanchoe are two very common flowering houseplants. Cyclamen, a late winter- early spring flowering plant, is not the easiest to grow. The most important thing to remember when trying to grow a cyclamen is to realize that it grows best in cool temperatures and likes plenty of sunlight. A cool sunny window in a cool room would be the best location for this plant. Temperatures that get

above 68°F are not beneficial for prolonging the life of a cyclamen. Watering the cyclamen can be tricky. Be careful not to over water; this will cause roots to rot. Water when the soil is dry to the touch. Be sure to discard the excess water that drains into the saucer about 15 minutes after watering.

The cyclamen will bloom from October through April. When the temperatures become warmer, the plant stops producing flower buds. As the summer progresses, often cyclamens will go into a state of dormancy. The plant will stop growing leaves and appear to be dying. Continue to keep the plant alive through the summer months, keeping it as cool as you can, and giving it plenty of sunlight inside and continue watering. When the fall months approach and the nighttime temperatures begin to drop, you will see an improvement in your plant's behavior. Its leaves will perk up and it will begin to produce flower buds again. Before you know it, the plant will be back to its old self and ready to perform for you during the winter months!

Kalanchoes are considered succulents. And as such, can be relatively easy to grow. They like a sunny window, and the soil should be allowed to dry well between waterings. The flowers on the kalanchoe will last several weeks, then when finished blooming, cut off the dead flowers and continue to care for it the same way. It will bloom again in a few months. Expect rebloom a few times a year if cared for properly. They plant will change in shape – it will grow from a compact plant to a more open form. This plant will live for years and can be quite a joy to watch as it changes.

Easter cactus is another houseplant that is given and received. Although not the same plant as the Christmas cactus, it is managed in the same way. A sunny window is best and allowed to dry out between waterings. And like the Christmas cactus, to get it to re-bloom it will need cooler night temperatures, and an even amount of uninterrupted darkness to bright light each day.

All plants, after received, do best if removed from the foil covering the pots. This foil doesn't allow the opportunity to monitor the watering properly. Put the plant on a saucer so when the water moves through the soil and drains, that excess water can

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March 4: "Composting & Garden Soil Preparation" - From composting to recycling, learn ways to benefit the environment and your garden. We also will offer tips and techniques for using worms to transform your kitchen scraps into nutrition-rich plant fertilizer in a small space inside your home.

March 11: "Planting the Spring Vegetable Garden" - Growing potatoes, broccoli, onions, and peas requires early planning. Learn what to plant and when to start planting

spring vegetables. Find out how row covers and mulching can increase your success.

March 18: "Pull This, Plant That: Invasive Plants & Native Plant Alternatives" - Find out why and how to replace non-native plants—especially invasives—with natives that help our native birds, butterflies and other pollinators. You will learn to accurately identify and control invasive plants and discover native alternatives that are beneficial and beautiful.

March 25: "Creating a Flower Cutting Garden & Arrangements" - Learn how to design, plant and harvest flowers from your own cutting garden. Discover the best sun and shade annuals for cutting and how to maintain the garden for maximum production. We also will demonstrate techniques for creating arrangements.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10AM-12PM.

Small Town Gardener

'Easy' is a matter of opinion

Marianne Willburn

With millions of innovative gardeners on this planet, differences of opinion and horticultural hair-pulling sessions are bound to erupt. Most of us look forward to a little good-natured thrust and parry – particularly in March when we're all getting tired of endless conversations about how this winter stacked up to the last.

There is more than one way to do most things, and I rarely take issue with what works for another gardener. But something that does set my teeth on edge is the tendency in a media-saturated world to carelessly label too many techniques and plants with "easy" in an effort to sell copy or attract clicks. Normally I breeze by them, but the winter months can make me cranky.

The target of my ire this time: A sexy little picture of a maidenhair fern (*Adiantum*) in a natural fiber pot captioned with a quick, breezy proclamation stating that they, along with Boston ferns, were easy to grow for the indoor gardener: "read: hard to kill." An even breezier comment told the reader to try "white allium" for something even daintier.

I took a double take. When you see something definitively stated in a glossy magazine, the first thing you do is question your own knowledge and experience. The second thing you do is question why it's bothering you so much. Then you text a greenhouse grower friend to ascertain if you, are indeed, completely insane.

If you come out of that conversation fully vindicated, you must then decide if it's time for one of those thinly veiled "I-know-more-than-you-do" letters to the editor that begin pompously with "Dear Editor, I was

concerned to read in your last issue that..." and end with an editorial intern falling asleep over your encyclopedic use of botanical terms.

Luckily in these days of social media I could simply take the low road and vent my spleen on Facebook.

Not that I don't love the many species of *Adiantum*. Airy, delicately cut, and sporting filament-thin black stripes that contrast strikingly with bright green foliage, they are plants that inspire lust the moment you set eyes upon them. My latest garden impulse purchase in this genus is *Adiantum venustum*, commonly called the Himalayan maidenhair. I've killed it once before, but a better placement has made all the difference.

Maidenhair ferns love high humidity, and just enough water to keep them moist but not wet (which by the way describes the watering style of a very small percentage of houseplant owners). They can be adapted to low-humidity levels inside through a process of slow acclimatization, but I don't feel that such a process can be termed "easy" with a straight face. 'Easy' is a philodendron and a rubber plant that you bought at a garage sale in 1992.

"Easy!?!?" ranted I, and followed up with a paragraph of low-level vitriol on how tired I am of non- and novice gardeners being led up the garden path by 'expert' information that will lead to them feeling like failures when things go pear-shaped.

If I had a dollar for every person I've ever talked to who said "Oh, I tried houseplants – I just kill them, so I don't bother anymore." I'd be writing this column from the Amalfi Coast.

Then I waited for the backlash.

John Boggan, who blogs at DC Tropics and is a horti-

culturalist friend and plant breeder from Washington, lobbed the ball back in my court, saying he had found *Adiantum* to be "quite easy" – though he did agree with me on the ridiculousness of naming "white allium" as a dainty option (the genus is so broad, and in some cases, the foliage so coarse, that this made sense to neither of us).

I pointed out he was a plant breeder with years of experience. (15-love.)

He pointed out it was okay to kill a plant. (15-all.)

I ruminated on the truth in this statement but still felt that the main point is not to put people off from the very beginning by setting them up for failure. John and I both love plants – he's a botanist by profession, I'm a garden writer – we're willing to try again. But there are many others who just...won't. It was on their behalf that my righteous morning anger sprung.

Regulating humidity and dialing it back can be tricky. I use a Wardian case to "harden off" certain plants to indoor conditions over time. There are other ways to regulate humidity, but that's the easiest for me.

Call me cynical, but I just don't think most people think along those lines when they see a lusty little plant and are told "Easy!" Better they are given realistic expectations so they know where to start looking when the plant dies – and hopefully, try again.

In the end, I wrote that letter to the editor too. For all my raging, I'm more old school than new.

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams Small Garden and Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She writes from her home in Virginia. IG @ marianne.willburn.

be removed. This is important so the roots aren't saturated and rot.

Enjoy the Easter plants and with proper care, these plants can be

enjoyed for a long time.

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

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PETS

It's about the animal

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The other day I came out of our staff lounge to find one of our Animal Care Technicians stapling a photo to our Happy Endings board on the wall.

She had the cutest smile on her face and as I walked by she said to me, "Look at my girl."

The picture she pointed to was a beagle who had been in our adoption kennels a little while ago. She said, "I loved her so much and look how happy she looks now."

I stood with her for a bit and the pup did have a genuine appearance of canine bliss.

Our Animal Care Technician finished putting the photo up and went back into our adoption kennels to care for the current charges.

The moment stayed with me, though.

Today we had a tour with students from a cyber school and we brought a dog in to see how she would do with a group of people. Molly is an Akita/German mix who is quite shy with new people. She's a good looking girl who will just need someone to take the time to allow her to trust.

Well, Molly did not want to go too far into the room with the school children and their parents. It wasn't until

one of our Animal Care Technicians came in with her that she felt safe enough to be in the room for a while. She is very attached to the people who care for her and you could definitely see that in her interactions today.

All of this has made me realize that from the top down, this organization is all about our animals. From our board members to our receptionist to our office manager to our animal care technicians, each person is touched by one (or possibly all) of the four-legged friends we serve and it's evident.

Just the other day, one of our animal care technicians showed me a video she had made of one of our dogs in adoption. The pup was having a grand old time in our outside run with a toy. At one point he actually used his back feet to kick it up in the air so he could chase it again. Hilarious!

She'd set the video to music and really made it incredibly cute.

It was touching.

We have a whole lot of cats in the back office area because they have special needs. We work very hard with all of our animals to give them every chance to get acclimated to shelter life. As a result, sometimes we have what we call "office cats."

Well there are two boys who share our shelter manager's office who pretty much have the run of

the back office hallway. Pokey and Carmine are both up for adoption, but are special kids. Pokey had a really bad urinary tract infection that required attention and he needed more space to run. Carmine came into us because of his owner's health. He suffers from seizures and will need to be on medication for the rest of his life.

Just today, they were stretched across our office manager's desk while she was doing her work, with expressions that sure seemed to convey ownership. When they are allowed to roam the halls, they go absolutely everywhere and when our office manager is in, they know they can do pretty much whatever they want in her office.

Pokey also likes to watch the rabbits in our small animal room. He will actually lie in the hay that we have for our bunnies. I'm not kidding when I say these boys think they own the place.

Then there's Maude. Heh. Anyone ever watch that show? Our Maude is a 7-year-old calico girl who came in as a stray and can be a bit on the sassy side. She's just the kind of cat that faces the world on her own terms. Just today, she put her front paws up on my leg as I was typing and gave me a little meow. She's a real nice girl who just needs someone to understand that some cats just need to be their own kind of cat.

I told a fellow employee a long time ago that the one perk we have with this job is the fact that we get to spend time with sweet, loving animals.

Every day, all of us work tirelessly for the animals in this shelter. That's truly what our jobs are about and that is evident in the photos on our walls, in the faces of our Animal Care Technicians and the four-legged babies residing in our offices.

When it comes to what's important to us, at CVAS, this organization will always be about the four-legged babies we love so very much.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publication 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.



Dixie came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. Sadly, she was microchipped, but the information lead nowhere, so she is now looking for another chance. We think Dixie is about 7 years old and she really loves any kind of attention. She is still an active girl and loves to play ball out in our play yard. Because of her really high chase drive, we think Dixie would do best in a home without cats. She seems to know sit but we have yet to figure out any other commands that she might know.



Maverick came into the shelter after he'd had been seen running for several days. He's a 5-year-old Shepherd mix who is about 50 pounds. He could stand to gain a couple of pounds - running on his own took its toll on him. Maverick is a friendly guy who enjoys getting attention and loves to go out to the play yard and play! He can be stubborn at times when he does not want to do something but is highly food motivated and can usually be bribed. Because we have no history with children, an age restriction may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff.



Molly came into the shelter as a stray and she is a sweet but timid girl. We think she's a 1-year-old Akita mix who has come out of her shell since she first arrived, but can still be shy around new people. Molly will need someone that understands that she will have to be worked with on her confidence. Molly must be the only dog in the home. Molly will need someone that is willing to do multiple visits with her here at the shelter before she goes into her forever home to help establish a relationship.



Surprise was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her past. We believe she is 3 years old and we know that she loves attention and catnip! Surprise also enjoys playing with toys and would really like to find a home where she could have tons of fun.

For more information about Dixie, Maverick, Molly, and Surprise 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.

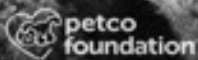
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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



Just the facts

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center often receives questions in person, over the phone and on social media regarding the issue of "No-Kill." While happy endings are always our goal and something we strive hard for daily, sometimes those positive outcomes are just not possible or humane. We never want any animal to suffer or to put the people and other animals in our community at risk. Our organization has always been open and honest about our policies on euthanasia.

At FCAC we do not euthanize for length of stay or population control. However, we do humanely euthanize for reasons of health, behavior and/or temperament. We also perform owner request euthanasia for those members of the Frederick County community who are unable to afford such services at local veterinarians. At FCAC all healthy, behaviorally sound, and adoptable animals will remain in our care until they are adopted or placed with a rescue organization.

While we do not label ourselves as a "No-Kill" facility, we do believe in the basic philosophy, which according to Best Friends Animal Society, is "saving every dog or cat in a shelter that can be saved." The movement itself can be a controversial one for a variety of reasons with a lack of understanding of the term being at the top of the list.

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading organization in the No-Kill Movement and when defining the term they state the following: "Typically the number of pets who are suffering from irreparable medical or

behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being rehomed is not more than 10% of all dogs and cats entering shelters. Therefore, we designate shelters that meet the 90% save-rate benchmark as no-kill." They go on to state that while the benchmark serves as a way to gauge progress, save rates may vary from facility to facility based on things such as services provided.

FCAC prepares statistics monthly and publishes those reports on our website. You can find them at the following link: www.frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control. We also submit our statistics online to the Maryland Department of Agriculture which then calculates live release rates for us.

According to that report, our approximate live release rate for the fourth quarter (October – December) of 2022 was 82% for dogs and 67% for cats. Our combined live release rate for the quarter was 74.5% putting us very close to that benchmark save rate of 90%.

Euthanasia is a difficult topic. Making those difficult decisions is not something that we enjoy or take lightly. All information in reviewed and multiple staff members must approve each decision. Our goal is always to do what is in the best interest of the animal and the Frederick County community.

Frederick County Animal Control strives to be as transparent as possible. We are happy to answer questions from the community on this and other topics. Without community support, we would not be able to save the lives of as many animals as we do each year.



Marley is an older fellow looking for a nice retirement home. His previous owner describes him as calm, playful and friendly, but felt she had too many pets to care for properly. Marley loves attention and shelter staff feels he would be a good match for families with children of any age. He has also lived with other dogs and may enjoy a canine companion in his new home.



Tanner is a young, fun-loving guy, however, he can't seem to catch a break. He has been adopted from FCAC twice only to be returned twice. The first time his owner fell ill and could no longer care for him, while the second time he had incident with another dog in the house over a toy. Tanner has a lot of potential but just needs consistency and a family that is committed to keeping him.



Paula Bean was found by an Animal Control Officer roaming Beebe Ct. on December 3. No owner has come looking for her and now she waits her turn to be adopted. Paula takes some time to settle in but once comfortable, she is very sweet and loves attention. She likes to sit in a lap but prefers not to be carried. Therefore, she may be best suited for children old enough to understand her preference to keep her paws on the ground.



Woodstock is the king of cuddles outside his kennel, however, on the adoption floor he looks a bit different. When visitors walk by, they don't see the smiley, playful Woodstock but a version that some may say is aggressive or mean. The truth is those behaviors aren't aggressive, they more commonly stem from fear, overexcitement or other factors.

For more information about Marley, Tanner, Woodstock, and Paula Bean call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Thurmont's Municipal Water System - how it works

Editor's Note: Over the past few years we've watch local governments struggle with educating residents on the complexities of the maintenance of water and sewer systems, and the funding of upgraded. To that end, we offered the town of Thurmont two pages in each of the next three editions to help articulate answers to those questions.

Jim Humerick, et. al.

Introduction to Municipal Drinking Water Systems

Have you ever wondered where the water running out of your tap comes from? Unless you have a private water well, it is supplied to your residence by a Municipal (Public) Drinking Water System (PWS). Municipalities are responsible for providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to homes and businesses within a community. This is accomplished by a system comprised of water sources (which can be ground water or surface water sources), treatment facilities, storage tanks, and a distribution network. Approximately 90% of the United States population receives its water from a public water system.

Typically, source water is transported through a transmission pipe or main and treated at a water treatment facility to ensure it is clean and safe to drink. Treated water, known as potable water, is then pumped to storage tanks, such as water towers, to store the treated water until it is called upon due to system demand. As soon as system demand calls for more potable water, the water is transported to your home through a network of water distribution mains. Today, water mains are comprised mainly of ductile iron or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. An interesting fact about water mains is that in the early years of community water system development, water

mains were often made of actual wood. Some of these wooden water mains around our area were still in service as recently as a decade ago.

Continuing with the journey of potable water, once the water arrives at your property, it has to enter into your house from the water distribution main. This is accomplished through a "tap" on the water distribution main called a corporation stop or corp for short. Connected to the corp is what is known as the water service or also referred to as a water house connection. The water service is typically comprised of copper or plastic pipe material. Residential water connection sizes are typically ¾" or 1" in size.

In communities, a customer will typically find what is called a curb stop located at the edge of the municipal Right-of-Way. A curb stop allows for a licensed water operator to exercise the curb stop and shut water off to a property if an emergency would arise. Moving past the curb stop, a customer could notice a meter pit located in their yard. This can be easily identified by a lid that is typically 12" in diameter, depending on the application. Inside the meter pit is the residential meter that records the amount of treated water consumed by the customer. Another common location for the water meter is within the basement of the residence.

America's drinking water is the highest quality in the world. If you have questions about your drinking water, customers can contact their local water supplier to get a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR lists the levels of contaminants that have been detected in the water, including those identified by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and whether the PWS meets state and EPA drinking water standards.

Water Sources

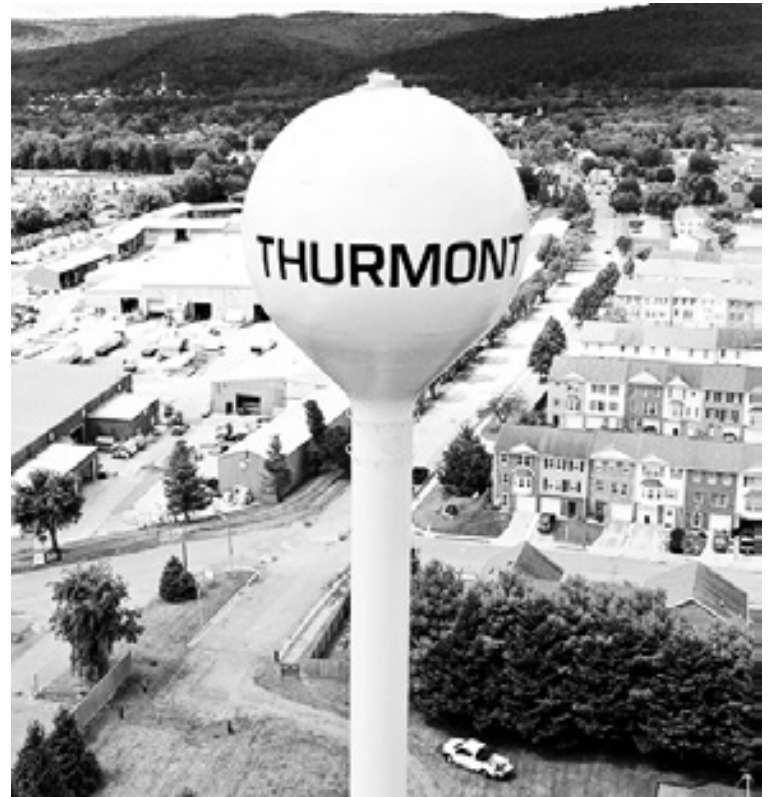
A community water system's sources supplying the water flowing out of your tap may be miles and miles away. Municipal water systems commonly use surface water or ground water as their source of water or a combination of both. Once the water is extracted from the source, as previously mentioned, the water is transported to a water treatment plant where it is treated before being distributed to consumers.

Surface Water

Surface water sources include lakes, rivers, or reservoirs. In Maryland, most of the population, particularly the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area where 5 million people live, is served by surface water from the Potomac River and the Baltimore City reservoir system. Surface water is easily contaminated by human activities through pollution and runoff. Surface water is highly susceptible to sediment, litter, and debris being washed into it during storms or rain events. This reason alone is why source water protection is very important to help reduce the amount of pollutants being transported to surface waters.

Ground Water

Groundwater sources, often referred to as "Wellheads", are commonly used as a source of municipal drinking water. These wells are drilled deep into the ground to access groundwater that exists in pore spaces of rock. These porous, water-filled rock formations are called aquifers. Aquifers can be either confined or unconfined. Confined aquifers are sealed and protected from the surface, and surface water, by an impermeable layer. Unconfined aquifers are not protected by an impermeable layer and surface water can flow into the aquifer.



Due to contaminants coming from human activities at the surface, unconfined aquifers are more susceptible to contamination. The State of Maryland has a wide range of geology and aquifer types. Wells in the aquifers typically vary from high yielding ones (commonly more than 264 gallons/min) in confined and unconfined, unconsolidated sandstone layers on the eastern shore and southern Maryland to relatively low yielding ones (generally less than 79 gallons/min) in the fractured rock areas of the Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau provinces of central and western Maryland. Some of the fastest growing suburban areas; however, are located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge areas, and many are supplied by wells in fractured rock aquifers or small reservoirs. (Hammond, 2018) Fractured rock aquifers, common in western Maryland, are unconfined. In this region, water seeps down through the soil, sediment and degraded rock into faults and fractures in the underlying bedrock. Water availability depends upon the size of fractures as well as the degree of interconnection between fractures.

Water from wellhead sources typically requires less treatment than water from surface water sources since it is naturally filtered by the earth. The water is pumped to the surface and then transported to a water treatment plant.

Water Treatment

Water from common sources like wells, rivers, reservoirs and lakes contain sediment, organic matter, bacteria, and other impurities that may not be safe to drink. After the water has been sourced from either a wellhead or surface water intake, it is transported to a water treatment facility. The purpose of water treatment facilities is to remove impurities and contaminants from the water. This is done through a series of processes that include coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to establish and enforce safety standards that all public water systems must follow. (EPA)

Coagulation, Flocculation, and Sedimentation

This process involves adding chemicals called coagulants, such as aluminum sulfate or ferric chloride, to the dirty water. The chemicals cause small particles of dirt and clay to clump together by neutralizing the charges of the naturally ionized particles. Charged (ionized) particles repel each other similar to like-sides of magnets. Removing this charge allows the particles to stick together, making it easier to remove them from the water. Once the coagulant is added to the water, it is slowly mixed in a flocculation chamber. This process allows larger clumps of dirt to form, these clumps are called floc. After flocculation the water is sent to a sedimentation chamber to sit still for a period of time. This allows the heavier particles settle to the bottom of the tank creating sludge that can be disposed of in a landfill. With the sludge at the bottom of the tank, the clearer, cleaner water is removed from the top. Or if using dissolved air flotation in place of sedimentation, floc is carried to the top of the tank by a cascade of air bubbles then skimmed off, leaving clearer water behind.

Filtration

After the coagulation, flocculation, and sedimentation process, the water will look much clearer, but there will still be bacteria and very fine particles left behind. Most of these remaining impurities can be removed by filtration. Sand filtration is used to accomplish this because it very efficient. Water can be further filtered by activated carbon filters, which can be thought of as giant "Brita" filters. Activated carbon has many tiny pores that captures microscopic impurities and is not always necessary for health reasons but improves the taste and smell of the water.

Disinfection

After the filtration process, the water will be crystal clear; however, some microorganisms like bacteria or viruses could remain, so the water is then disinfected. There are three major methods of disinfection which can be used individually or in combination with one another. These three methods are chlorine, ozone, and ultraviolet light disinfection. The most common



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method of disinfection in the United States is chlorine disinfection. Chlorine disinfection works by adding chloramines (chlorine bearing chemicals) such as chlorine dioxide or monochloramine to the water. These chemicals are very effective at killing any microorganisms in the water at the plant, and will also continue to kill any bacteria introduced to the chlorinated water elsewhere in the system. Ultraviolet radiation is also a widely used method. This works by shining ultraviolet light through the water which scrambles microorganisms DNA. This does not kill the existing bacteria but makes it impossible for them to multiply, and bacteria or viruses that cannot multiply are harmless. Ozone disinfection works by infusing ozone into the water which kills microorganisms as well as improves the taste and smell of the water. This process also requires the removal of leftover ozone after treatment using sodium bisulfate because ozone is not safe for human consumption. After all of these processes, the water is tested for purity before leaving the plant.

Water Distribution

Water is pumped out of the water treatment plant to the distribution system which consists of water towers, transmission and distribution water mains, and eventually your home's plumbing.

Water Tanks and Towers

Water towers and stand pipes keep water networks pressurized. Many towers are open flowing holding tanks for pressurized water systems. There is not a pump at the base of the tower, rather the pressure from pumps at the source or treatment plant carry water up to the tower. Once water is in the tower, it is at a higher elevation than the rest of the system. This allows the system to rely on gravity to keep water flowing throughout the system. This is why, during a power outage, households on municipal water supply continue to have running water, while households relying on private wells run by electric pumps will lose water supply during an outage. Water tanks can hold and store millions of gallons. Water demand fluctuates throughout the day and the tower keeps the pressure in a network consistent without having to use great amounts of electricity running pumps. Keeping consistent water pressure in the water mains is important for water quality as well. If pressure were to drop, and there was a leak on the water system, negative pressure could allow groundwater to seep into pipes, bringing bacteria with it.

Water Mains

Water mains are the primary pipelines that transport treated water from the treatment facility to distribution networks. These pipes are typically made of materials such as cast iron, ductile iron, PVC, or steel. The diameter of the pipe depends on the amount of water that needs to be transported and the distance between the treatment facility and the distribution network. Water mains can be divided into two categories: transmission mains and distribution mains. Transmission lines are used to transport water over long distances, typically from the sources to the treatment plants, and are typically

made of large-diameter pipes. Transmission lines can be above ground or underground, depending on the location and availability of space. Above ground transmission lines are typically supported by large towers or poles, while underground transmission lines are buried in trenches. Distribution mains are smaller pipes that transport water from the plant and water storage tank to the individual consumers. These water mains are often buried beneath roadways.

Pumps

Pumps are used to transport water through the distribution network. They are typically located at the treatment facility or at various points along the distribution network. Pumps can be used to increase water pressure, overcome elevation changes, and maintain a constant flow of water. The type of pump used depends on the specific needs of the system. There are several types of pumps, including centrifugal pumps, positive displacement pumps, and submersible pumps. Typically water must be pumped out of the water treatment facility into the distribution system at a minimum pressure of 40 psi so that the pipes remain pressurized even at higher elevations. Maintaining pressure is necessary to prevent external water in the ground from infiltrating the pipes through joints or cracks and contamination the system.

Hydrants

Hydrants are used for several purposes, including firefighting and maintenance of the water system. They are typically located along the distribution network and are connected to the water mains. Hydrants can supply water from 500 to 1500 gallons/minute. Water mains must be equipped to handle that capacity. Hydrants are attached to a water main by a vertical pipe called a riser. Wet barrel hydrants are used in regions that do not get very cold, where the risk of water inside the hydrant freezing is very low. In wet barrel hydrants, the hydrant is filled with water at all times and the valve to release the water is above ground. In dry barrel hydrants, used where temperatures routinely drop below freezing, the water is controlled by a valve underground below the frost line. Hydrants are not variable flow, meaning they are either completely on or

completely off. The pressure of flow at any given hydrant is determined by the water pressure present at that location in the water distribution system. Often times the color of a fire hydrant can indicate its flow capacity or source.

Meters

The amount of water you use in your home is measured by a water meter. The meter measures the volume (gallons) of water passing from the distribution main to your home. The meter readings are used to accurately bill homeowners for their water usage. Meters can also be used to detect leaks in your personal plumbing.

Regulation & Emerging Contaminants

The Environmental Protection Agency, along with other government agencies, regulate the chemical composition of drinking water. They do their best to keep up with the evolving world of chemical compounds by testing water for newly discovered compounds and monitoring research on how they affect human health. These new chemicals are referred to as "emerging contaminants". Most emerging contaminants are man-made and introduced to the environment through industrial activities.

Thurmont Water System

The Town of Thurmont's water system source is ground water consisting of five wells. Wells 3, 4, 9 are in the Frederick Limestone Aquifer and are treated at the same treatment plant. Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale Aquifer and each have their own separate treatment plants. All of these wells are drilled through rock containing voids and fissures as are the majority of wells in this region of Maryland. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) considers these types of wells as being drilled in unconfined aquifers and susceptible to surface water intrusion.

MDE has determined through testing that Well 3 is under direct influence of surface water and it is treated as a surface water source. This means that Well 3 raw water is filtered through a Diatomaceous Earth Pressure Filter to remove any small particles, known as turbidity, that may be present. This filtering of Well 3 raw water is the first treatment process this well

will undergo. The filter's effluent turbidity levels are constantly recorded by use of a turbidity analyzer and reported monthly to MDE. Other treatment processes at each plant are ion exchange softening to reduce the levels of calcium and magnesium, known as hardness, in the raw water to a MDE approved 68-85 milligrams per liter.

Wells 7 and 8 treatment plants also have aeration treatment that allow for the release, by off gassing, of any volatile organic chemicals that may be present. The final treatment process at all these treatment plants is disinfection which is the injection of a sodium hypochlorite solution to kill any bacteria that may be present. After the addition of sodium hypochlorite, the water flows into underground tanks called contact chambers. These tanks vary in size at each plant depending on the amount of water flow and time needed for the disinfectant to kill any bacteria.

The goal of the Plant Operator is to inject enough disinfectant to kill bacteria in the raw water and have a residual disinfectant remaining to kill any bacteria the water may come into contact with once it leaves the treatment plant. Pumps, known as service pumps, then move what is now "finished water" from these contact chambers to the distribution systems network of water mains leaving the treatment plant.

Each individual well is metered for gallons per minute and total gallons pumped and recorded daily. MDE has established the maximum amount of water each well is permitted to withdraw in a day. These individual well withdraw amounts are reported to MDE twice annually. The finished water leaving the treatment plant is also metered and recorded daily for gallons per minute and total amounts pumped. These daily amounts that are pumped into the system are reported to MDE monthly.

Once the finished water leaves the treatment plants, it flows through a network of various sized underground piping known as the distribution system. These water mains are typically buried 3-4 feet and generally follow the layout of the streets throughout town. Smaller piping, or service lines, are connected to these water mains and run to each individual household and commercial building.

In most cases at the edge of the public right of way, a water meter is installed in the service line. The water meter mea-

sures the amount of water that passes through it and are read quarterly by Town Staff. Customers' water and sewer usages are billed from the readings. Once the service line leaves the meter, it becomes the responsibility of the property owner to maintain. After the service line enters a building, a main shut off valve should be present followed by a pressure reducing valve in all newer homes or when replacement of existing plumbing in older homes is done or as needed. Pressure reducing valves are used to regulate the water pressure inside of buildings typically between 60 and 70 psi. The pressure in the water mains often exceed this recommended household operating pressure.

Water mains in Thurmont's system are pressurized by the three elevated and one covered in-ground storage tanks. These water storage tanks not only pressure the system but also provide water storage to be used during peak use periods and to fight fires. Thurmont has two distinct pressure zones due to differences in elevation within the Town. Two of the tanks hold water at a higher elevation to maintain pressure in elevated areas of Town, while two hold water at a lower elevation to provide pressure to lower areas. These two pressure zones are isolated from each other using valves in the water mains. Water can be moved from the lower pressure zone to the higher pressure zone when needed by a pumping station located between the two zones. The water levels in the storage tanks are what controls the operation of the wells at the treatment plants. When the water level in the tank drops to a pre-set level it signals the wells to run. The wells then will supply water to the system that is needed and pumps the excess into the tanks to refill them. When the tanks fill to a pre-set level, the wells are turned off and any water needed is then supplied by gravity throughout the system until the cycle repeats itself.

Public water systems are all similar in some aspects but each are distinct in how they operate and the treatment processes required. Thurmont's current water system is the result of over 100 years of growth and change. Population increase, technology, and ever changing water quality standards have impacted how the system has evolved and will continue to do so in the future.

Next month a look at Thurmont's sewer and wastewater systems.



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CONGRESSMAN DAVID TRONE

My Top Priorities, And a New Frederick County Office to Help You



My Top Priorities

My top priority in Congress is working for you. Each and every day, I'll fight to deliver health care for all Marylanders including mental health care, help those with opioid and other addictions, reduce inflation and improve our economy. I'll always put Maryland first and work to secure federal money to improve roads, bridges, highways and broadband to Frederick County and all of Western Maryland.

My Work on the Appropriations Committee Helps Maryland

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am in a unique position to deliver for Frederick County. In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to our area of Maryland. In Frederick County, I successfully fought for millions of dollars to mitigate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their research facilities, and help build a new Center to serve Asian American and other minority populations that are in need. And I'm proud to have successfully fought for \$4.6 billion to improve roadways and bridges across our nation, like Route 15 in Frederick County.

New Frederick County Office to Help You

To better serve you, we have a new office in Frederick County. If you are having any problems with a federal government agency, or need help getting the benefits you're entitled to, please contact my office. We are here to help!

Frederick County Office:

30 W Patrick St., Suite 505

Frederick, MD 21701

301-926-0300

Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

DAVID TRONE

U.S. CONGRESS

Get ready for the 51st Frederick County Maple Syrup Festival

Becky Bickerton
Visit Frederick

It's no secret that Frederick is full of interesting history and unique traditions. Winter is here and that means one of the oldest and most popular annual events, the Maple Syrup Festival in Thurmont, is about to begin. The festival is held on the second and third weekends of March at the Houck Lake Area of Cunningham Falls State Park. This year you can experience the contact-light version of the event March 11, 12, 18, and 19. This year will mark the 51st Maple Syrup Festival!

Making maple syrup is a fascinating process that dates back in some form to the indigenous peoples in North America. It includes tapping trees to harvest maple tree sap, collecting gallons of sap in buckets, and boiling off the water to get sap that has been concentrated into maple syrup. All maple syrup has the same amount of maple sugar, but the maple flavor can differ and syrup can vary in color and taste throughout the sugaring season, as it is called.

More than 80% of the maple syrup you buy at the grocery store is made in Canada (most coming from Quebec), so this is a somewhat rare opportunity to enjoy some of the locally made sweet stuff. Maple syrup is almost entirely produced in the Northeast, so it is certainly a specialty that comes out of the area. It takes over forty gallons of maple sap to make a gallon of maple syrup. Sap is boiled down in the process and most of the liquid is evaporated. In some countries like South Korea, people prefer to use maple sap unprocessed and straight from the tree. It is believed that the sap could help to prevent disease and osteoporosis.

The festival itself also has quite an interesting story. Originally started by the Catoclin Mountain Tourist Council and its small group of 25-35 members, the

event started in nearby Catoclin Mountain Park. When the lake at Cunningham Falls State Park was completed and opened to the public, the event was moved to its current location. It is estimated that less than 50 people were in attendance at the very first Maple Syrup Festival, which was just a simple demonstration. No trees were tapped, no products were sold.

There was interest in continuing to grow the event both to bring visitors to the area and to kick off the spring season. "People are itching to get outside by that time of year," said Mike Irons whose family was involved in the creation of the event. According to Mike, his family and other festival volunteers used to actually make the syrup that was sold at the event. "We weren't allowed to sell syrup that was made outside of Maryland, the park wouldn't let us. So we travelled to Oakland to help make the syrup ourselves and bring it back to sell. Eventually we couldn't keep up with the amount of people wanting to buy it."

Today the products sold at the event come from S&S Maple Camp in Corriganville, Maryland. Leo Shinholt, the company's owner, is a third generation sugar producer. S&S has been in business just as long as the festival. They tap more than 5,000 trees for just one season of syrup production. Leo has learned from experience that the first run is always the sweetest.

Each day of the Maple Syrup Festival visitors can enjoy live maple syrup demonstrations in two separate outdoor locations. Learn more about maple syrup is made in the cool air of late winter. If the weather is nice, start with a hike in the park and reward yourself with some tasty pancakes.

A donation is requested to attend the Maple Syrup Festival, in lieu of the usual park entry fee. All proceeds benefit Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park through their Friends



Spring is just around the corner, and that means one of the oldest and most popular annual events, the Maple Syrup Festival in Thurmont, is about to begin.

group which has been in existence since 1996. The group has helped contribute things like Polaris vehicles, a skid loader, rescue boat, and

a handicapped beach wheelchair to the park.

If you still have questions about the festival, call the park office at

301-271-7574. Park rangers and volunteers will be easy to find during the event and will have all the information you might need.



Maple Syrup Festival

MARCH 11-12 & 18-19 • 10AM-2PM
Cunningham Falls State Park—Houck Area

Welcome spring at Cunningham Falls State Park by learning how maple syrup is made from the sap of trees in the park. Enjoy a traditional pancake and sausage breakfast, stock up on maple syrup products, including syrup, maple cream, and candy. Syrup making demonstrations every hour. The event supports the Friends of Cunningham Falls. Follow signs from MD 77 west of U.S. 15 at Thurmont, MD.

For more information, call Cunningham Falls State Park 301-271-7574.

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7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	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 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$500	31 - \$2000	47 - \$500	63 - \$3000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$10,000

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Purchase and submit your ticket by March 1 for chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize!
(2 winners - \$1,000 each)



\$100 Per Ticket

Good for two people. Includes food, drinks and chances in the drawing.

HISTORY

“O Tempora, O Mores”

Ann 'Inky' Rodgers

Conclusion

Oral examinations were fierce and dreaded. I suffered premature heart attacks and mental collapse followed by premature gray hair. I was always a target for the professors and could never shake off my fear. What little I knew could never be uttered.

The college classrooms were near the assembly hall on the third floor.

One day during metaphysics class, that uninteresting abstract dry study - a miniature music box was hidden in an empty student's desk drawer and played its jazz tune to enlighten our dull, heavy minds to something vital and concrete. Well, to say the least, the new professor was startled and couldn't speak. In walked the Dean to observe class teaching and was greeted with the jazz music instead of philosophy. I should never forget that moment. I was instantly accused and told to stop it - but for once I was not guilty - and furthermore did not know at the time who did the daring deed. It was quite a merry-go-round because I couldn't locate the toy - and it had to play itself quite undiscovered. I

enjoyed the episode thoroughly and was proud of not being guilty for once - but it was hard for them to believe I was an innocent victim.

Blue ribbons and medals were given to the girls who were of sterling character and were known as the Children of Mary. They were the examples of the student body. The green ribbons and medals were worn by the aspirates. Good conduct awarded you the blue ribbon. It was given twice a year on special feast days.

Favorites were generally good and delicate students. They had late sleep, special diets, extra nourishment at 3 p.m. and at bedtime. Also special class courses and privileges.

Retreats were held once a year, usually in February or March for three long days and four nights. No classes appeal to me and I usually made a fair retreat - considering the source and strength of my devotion. Holy cards were given to welcome you out of the retreat.

January 29 - St. Francis DeSales feast day was the Dean's feast day. It was a great occasion. It meant a holiday - late sleep, banquet meals. The students gave large and beautiful banquets of roses and spiritual banquet pictures. Most of all good



The vast majority of the classes taught at St. Joseph's College in the early part of the 1900s were focused on domestic or clerical tasks for women.

behavior and the dean well please. Then a walk and a cross-country cross-eyed view of the college boys and a climb to the Grotto and then Indian Lookout Mountain.

Mail was censored coming and going. We received it in the large playroom after school. We were always hoping for a 'boat letters' from the college boys.

The Ladies of Charity (blue ribbon college students) stage the Christmas fair also known as the charity fair given for the poor. It was quite an occasion and the students worked very hard for success. It was held in a large playroom. Raffles and more raffles were the main attraction.

The May fair was held at the creek to raise funds for the missions. Races, boating and outdoor activities were part of the program - also a stray snake would show up and win the race. The college boys had a way of wandering along the creek and causing excitement and distractions.

Nanny I Meyer's boxes were famous for the seniors. Very large angel food cake containing surprise miniature articles, such as thimbles, hearts, babies, rings and other fortunetelling trinkets.

Movies were held in town at the church school. The students didn't pay on entering the show - but someone passed a hat around to take up a collection to help pay expenses. We were on or honored to drop a coin.

The oyster supper was held in the same building and always a great success for us because the college boys came and we had a touch and feel of the outside world.

The most honored Father Wordier from France visited the college and went on tour of the buildings and grounds. Only the students with Kodaks where allowed to go and missed classes. Pictures were taken on route. I was determined to be present so carried an empty Kodak - snapping fake pictures - why the guest smiled and posed for the occasion.

Physical culture was called physical torture. I enjoyed the sport much more then study and classes. We have different teachers, male and female. I played all the baseball games, basketball tennis and all the different races. We worked hard to raise the building fun for the gym - known as the Verdier building.

Hikes were planned for spe-

cial holidays. We started soon after dinner for Gettysburg or some long-distance mountain climbing. We generally retreated with blisters.

Hay rides and straw rides were held during the fall. We would take picnic supper and musical instruments and sang old fashion songs. We dressed like country folks and play games such as 'truth or consequence'. We travel for miles along the backcountry roads.

Sleigh rides where thrilling and great sport. They were rare occasion.

The fountain and summer houses were on the large lawns. All shapes and sizes of iron benches were along the wide gravel walks. Outdoor plays and pageants were held on the lawns. Later the fountain was replaced with a merry-go-round swing.

Mother Seton's spring and well is a stone shrine at the foot of a small hill. There was a formal rose arbor and flower garden in front of it. In winter we went sledding down the hill behind the spring.

The mill stream was beyond the pick up track and a concrete bridge crossed it. It ran parallel with the creek with quite a distance between them. This was considered out of bounds.

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HISTORY



It's hard to imagine today, but at one time Tom's Creek had enough water in it for students at the college to actually boat in!

May processions were lovely but it was always a headache about complete white apparel. Whether the neck of the dress was too low and the sleeves too short. Sometimes the dress didn't fit at all with the human padding of 10 or more extra pounds collected through the year and inches of height add it on. The officers of the Sodality read prayers and verses at various Madonna statues and crowned the Blessed Mother - followed by the singing a beautiful hymns.

Our Lady of the Fields was out beyond the apple orchards, situated on a small hill in a grove a beautiful shade trees and shrubbery. Old fashion scent shrubs grew there. We took as many as we could without being seen and tied them in our handkerchief and enjoyed their perfume along the May procession route.

Corpus Christi was lovely and a beautiful occasion, very solemn procession with candle lights and banners. Very small students walk backwards and carried baskets of rose petals - kissing them and throwing them along the way adoring the path in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

The farm consisted of many acres of cultivated rolling fields; various fruit orchards; vegetable and flower gardens were well cultivated. On rogation days the crops were blessed and so was the garlic. We were always happy to get out

of class for this occasion.

The strawberry patch was near the yellow house. It was raided on occasion and what delectable berries. Inquisition and punishment followed the various fruit raids.

The grape arbor was near the pick up track. The most luscious grapes I've ever tasted. We were not allowed to touch them on the vine but I managed to get a sample once in a while. Their flavor was so much better than when served in the refractory. Proving forbidden fruit is always the sweetest.

The apple orchards where off the beaten path but we managed a raiding feast. I don't understand why we were so anxious to raid the orchards, arbors and patches because we were served plenty of the same fruit in the refractory. The raids were always something to tell in confession.

Paradise the land of beautiful long stem violets, wildflowers, and all demon snakes. It was an island surrounded by Tom's Creek. There were several swinging bridges and how we like to single file and swing and sway across the creek.

The creek was very much out of bounds. To go to the creek without permission - you were considered on the brink of probation and it was grounds for expulsion if you were caught meeting college boys there. It was the place for bootlegging love and smoking. It made you feel very sophisticated.

The creek was the main year around amusement. There were many rowboats and several canoes. A large high iron bridge crossed the creek. It was bound on one side by a stonewall. A dam and falls some distance down the stream served as stepping stone when the water was low. Ball games, races, athletic sports, picnics, feast, festivals fairs, and dramatic plays where held there.

In winter we ice skated and played winter sports on the ice. In the spring violets in wildflowers grew along the creek for several miles. Swinging bridges were way of crossing the creek at various places. The trestle was the bridge for the dinky or school train to cross the creeks. The train tooted twice over the trestle if there were passengers to get off at the college. There were stiles for the various fences around the farm.

The pike and all along the way what is our main flirtation spot with a college boys. We had a cross-eyed view and a long distance smile of them. The farsighted students were lucky ones. They at least had a situation at hand. The quaint covered bridge over Tom's creek on the pike brought us within range for a short distance.

The Grotto was a beautiful shrine near the boy's college. A wooden bridge crossed the mountain stream and a large stone grotto was on the other side. The grey stone chapel

was on the side of the stream. It is up the mountain on the way to Indian Lookout. We went on picnics to the grotto. It was our resting and meeting place for the mountain climb, with huge rocks, tree stumps and rustic branches to sit on. Mountain paths from all directions led to the beautiful spot so hidden to the outside world.

Indian Lookout is on the top of the mountain. There one could see five states in the distance. Anyway it was a most beautiful view, from huge rocks on the cliff of the mountaintop. It took hours and will power plus youthful spirit to reach the spot. Sometimes we were lost on our way and would have a little tête-à-tête with the college boys that happened to appear on the range and lookout. This was considered a most successful view, invasion and conquest. Who wants to see five states I thought at the moment for this is communication with the 'outside world'. It was delightful and illegal - making it most interesting.

To have legal communication with the 'outside world' meant getting permission, then a suitable chaperone and we would hire an auto to go to distance cities to dinner and shows; or to plays, and different ball game is at the boy's college.

One Sunday afternoon a classmate of mine went for an airplane ride with me. A young pilot was barnstorming in the neighborhood. He had his wooden open-air job crate parked in a nearby field. Our brothers had us out for dinner and we thought it would

be thrilling to adventure among the clouds over the mountain-side. We flew over the boy's college and dipped over the girl's college. We were hanging out and waving our middy ties to all the frightened people and we nearly landed on the chapel steeple. What excitement for such a short time at such a high price. It cost \$10 a piece for three minutes to have a taste of the ozone and expulsion from school. Because we had no permission to contact the upper outside world and you have a wink at death. The next day the plane fell to pieces and was scattered over the field.

I should always remember those character building Sunday morning and Friday night lectures, plus the Dean's favorite questions, even though I appeared half asleep and was often told to leave if I was to board to stay awake and sometimes I did depart. But here's a sample of the Deans wisdom, depth and quotations I haven't forgotten through the years. The Dean gave us a touch of all the great philosophers it authors as follows:

*So here has been dawning,
another blue day;
Think, wilt thou let it slip
unlesssly away?
Out of eternity this new day is
born;
Into eternity, at night will
return.*

-'Today' by Thomas Garlyle

To read other articles on local history, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

March 2

Industrial Development Committee Succeeds

The meeting of the Industrial Development Committee held on Tuesday evening in the Masonic reading room, resulted in the accomplishment of its objective – the promotion of the manufacturing industry in Thurmont.

More than \$20,000 in stock has been subscribed toward the purchase and building of the Thurmont Manufacturing Company's plant. The company manufactures straight-line furniture and has been in successful operation for more than a year. The business outgrew the present facility, and the incorporation of a company to develop the business was proposed by Mr. Style, President of the company.

As it was intended to make it a distinctly community affair, only local stock subscriptions are being solicited. At Tuesday evenings meeting the Chairman reported 89 shareholders of \$10 shares, numbering from 10-75 shares each. A stockholders meeting will be held in July for the purpose of electing directors.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

On account of the apparent popularity of the 25 years ago column we ran last week, we shall reproduce them every month or two for a while. It is not a good thing to live too much in the past, nor is it wise to be altogether forgetful of it.

Pneumonia Fatal To Farmer

After a two-week illness of pneumonia, Ira Slonaker, a well-known farmer died at his home near Fairfield on Sunday morning. He was age 34 years old. Slonaker was a long time member of the reformed Church, at the time of his death being an elder in the Trinity Reformed Church in Cashtown. Pneumonia also caused the death of James Smith on Sunday morning. He died at his home in Liberty Township after having been stricken five days ago.

March 9

Changeable Weather

During the past week we have had almost any kind of temperature.

Last Saturday and Sunday the temperature was high, thermometers rising well into the 70s. Spring birds sang sweetly, maple trees put forth leaves to such an extent that the tops were green. The change to cooler came Sunday evening, and with it a heavy wind which lasted well into the night. Tuesday the County was swept by the worst blizzard and sleet storm of the winter.

Telephone lines were crippled. About 1,000 phones were knocked out in the county. 100 telephone poles were blown over by the storm. Trees broke under heavy burdens of sleet. It was impossible to estimate with any degree of certainty the amount of damage done in the county.

Trolley service slowed up and transportation over roads made difficult. Traffic on a number of the state roads was nonexistent until noon Wednesday. The snowplows of the State Road Commission had all State highway's clear of snow by that hour. Travel over several of the county roads in the mountain district was interrupted by trees and telephone poles, which broke off, falling across the highways according to reports.

To The Democratic Voters Of Frederick County

I announce myself as a candidate for the nomination of County Commissioner of Frederick County, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries this fall. I appreciate the support giving me in the primaries four years ago, and took my defeat without question, working hard for the success of the ticket. I again ask the vote of all Democrats, and pledge, if elected, to administer the office on a business like plan. I further believe that my section of the County is entitled to a representation on the board, and feel that I can serve the best interest of all. Any help given me would be appreciated. - J. T. Joy, Graceham

To The Republican Voters Of Frederick County

About two weeks ago, my name appeared in the News, as a probable candidate for the office of County Treasurer, on the Republican ticket. This was brought about by a few of my friends suggesting that I become a candidate. Not wanting to go into the cam-

paign ill advised, I have been in communication with quite a number of the districts throughout the County and have received very encouraging reports.

I therefore, announce myself as a candidate for Treasurer for Frederick County and will appreciate the support of the voters. If nominated and elected, I promise my undivided and personal attention to the office. - Very respectfully, Clarence Phicegey

For Sale

My property on the corner of East Main Street in Thurmont. A large three-story house with modern conveniences, with lawn, garden, lot with shade and fruit trees, garage, other out buildings. Suitable for a hotel or boarding house, which is very much needed in our town. Asking \$15,000.

Also my stock and dairy farm near Thurmont, in the valley, 137 acres, large brick house, large bank barn with double floors, stable capacity 30 head; wagon shed, corn house, poultry and pig houses, and necessary out-buildings, in good conditions. A good cropper, good water, finest in state; good roads, beautifully situated near town and the Western Maryland Railroad. Asking price \$17,500. Possession given immediately - Miss Ella Martin.

Town Cleanup

The Burgess and Commissioners of Taneytown decided at their last meeting that they would hold a cleanup day, this Spring, for the benefit of property owners in town who have no place, and often no way, to dispose of old accumulated rubbish. A day will be set later and noticed given. As we understand it, all old cans, bottles, crockery, and rubbish generally, will be placed by the owners at a common place for gathering up, and will be hauled away, free of charge. This is a fine thing for officials to do, and should be entered into in the proper spirit, by property owners.

March 16

Shot By Neighbor

Charles Hess, about 28 years old, living about 3 miles from Emmitsburg, was shot in the back with a shotgun Monday night by Clarence Andrews,

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and died Tuesday night.

The two men lived a short distance apart in the Mountain near Emmitsburg, and had been at odds for some time. This due to some sort of disagreement over whiskey.

Hess was indicted by the recent grand jury for selling liquor. According to Andrews, he heard that Hess was coming to his place to disable his automobile to prevent him from appearing against Hess in court on Tuesday.

Andrew stated that he got his shotgun and concealed himself in a wagon a short distance from his barn where his car was stored. In the darkness he saw a figure approaching and recognized Hess. Andrews said he aimed low and fired, not intending to kill Hess.

However, the entire load took effect on Hess's back, tearing a gaping hole in the back of the victim, piercing Hess's kidneys, intestines and stomach. Soon after the shooting, Sheriff Jones was notified and went to the scene and arrested Andrews. In the meantime, a physician was summoned and had Hess removed to the Frederick hospital.

State Attorney Aaron Anders and Sheriff James Jones took Hess's deposition, which he signed two hours before his death. In his deposition, Hess stated that he was on his way to Andrews' home for some milk and cider for a sick daughter.

"Cider, h---," Hess said Andrews exclaimed, and then fired. Andrews was about ten feet from Hess when the fatal shot was fired, according to the statement of the dying man. While Hess was in fact unarmed, he

had two sets of pliers in his pocket.

Andrews did not explain how he received word that Hess was coming to his home and refused to give any information after he was arrested.

It is said, that when Hess went to Andrews' home, he was accompanied by two men, one of the men was named George Wills. The name of the other man could not be learned.

John Mckellip Dead

John Mckellip, Taneytown's oldest citizen, died on Sunday morning at the rare age of 94. He received a fall on February 19, while stepping onto the back porch of his home from the yard, which do not injured his body to any extent, but so shocked his nervous system as to cause him to suffer great pain, and to be almost completely helpless, a condition that prevailed up to the time of his death.

Mr. Mckellip was a remarkably vigorous man for his age, and up to the past two years was as active as most men 20 years younger. In fact, up until the time of his fall, throughout the whole winter, he had his rounds of outdoor work, and was frequently on the streets. In sight and hearing he was practically equal to a normal man of 60 years; and had he not received several falls during the past 10 years, his life may easily be prolonged to the century mark.

In May 1921 he retired from the drug business in which she had been engaged in Taneytown for 68 years. Mckellip's was known far and wide for special preparations, as well as for its general reliability and the excellence of its wares. The store was a mirror of the char-

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

acter of the man – strictly honest, conscientious, and dependable. He lived a very conservative, very methodical, easy-going life, perhaps never in the whole of it giving the slightest grounds for enmity on the part of anybody; and he died as he lived, peacefully, in the fullest respect of all who knew him.

Gas Plant Drives People To Electrify
The failure of the Taneytown acetylene gas light plant to operate is forcing many to install electric lights before they are ready. The indications appear to be that further operation of the gas plant will be abandoned, and that even if the exact trouble is located, it will not hereafter be profitable to operate the plant.

Harney Roads
Our roads are in a very bad condition. We have again fully realized the folly of spending money making dirt roads, because they will not stand up to the heavy traffic of today. True they do very well as long as it does not rain, and where there is very little traffic, but on a road like the Gettysburg-Taneytown Road, where heavy machines are daily traveling, it is simply throwing money away to put a little ground in a big mud hole, or rut; because the first heavy machine that goes through opens it up again.

Family Taken Sick
The family of Robert Reindollar of Fairfield, has been experiencing an unusual amount of sickness, at one time. Mrs. Reindollar, has a bad case of pneumonia; her mother and sister are both in bed with the flu, and her daughter is ill with a prolonged attack of ear ache.

March 23

Andrews Released On \$2,500 Bond
Clarence Andrews, who has been in jail for nearly 2 weeks, charged with shooting and killing Charles Hess, near Emmitsburg, was released on \$2,500 bail after a hearing, and was released for the action of the next grand jury.

The shooting took place at the home of Andrews. The latter fired a load from a shotgun into the back of Hess, who died the following night. It is said that bad feelings existed

between the two men. Hess had been indicted by the recent grand jury for unlawfully selling liquor, and a time was set for his trial. Andrews, who was to have been the principal witness against him, said he heard that Hess was coming to his place the night before to disable his automobile to prevent him from going to the trial.

Hess, in a statement made before he died, said he was on the way to the home of Andrews for some milk and cider for his child who was ill. It is said that a brother of Andrews fired a load from a shotgun in the air and at the same time Clarence Andrews fired into Hess' back.

Car Falls From Trestle Killing One
One man was killed and three injured, Tuesday at noon when the dump car which they were unloading at the plant of the Greenstone Products Co., west of Thurmont, tumble from an elevator track at the plant.

M. J. Stoner, 18, son of Samuel Stoner, near Thurmont, was killed, death resulting from concussion of the brain. Oliver Miller, 17, of Catocin Furnace, was seriously injured. He was cut about the head and body, and believed to have been injured internally. He was unconscious when picked up.

Henry Groshon, 43, of Graceham, was injured seriously. It is stated that he is injured internally, and bruised and cut about the body. John Cartley, near Thurmont, was slightly cut and bruised.

The accident occurred at about noon Tuesday on the elevator track connecting the quarry with the plant. The four men, who were emptying a stone dump car, where hurled from the elevator track to the ground a distance of about 25 feet. Stoner was partially buried under stone, and death was almost instantaneous.

The car of green stone had been loaded on Monday, and during the cold weather the stone had frozen into a solid mass. Tuesday at noon, when the four men mounted the car to dump the stone into the crusher they found the contents of the car solid. The car itself had been fastened to the tracks with chains to prevent it from slipping.

After use of picks and shovels a portion of the load fell through the crusher, the remaining load tipping the car, swinging it from the tracks. A portion of the trestle

was carried with the car as it and the men fell.

Credit 25 Wives To 73-Year-Old Lothario
Letters are pouring into the Wilkes-Barre Police Department from women throughout the eastern part of the country who claim to have married Charles Davis, 73-year-old Lothario, formally of York Pennsylvania, have led the officials to believe Davis may have from 15 to 25 wives living at the present time.

The letters received so far establish the fact that he has married about 15 women, all living. One of these, Mrs. Ella Finch of Thurmont, obtained a divorce from Davis in Frederic Court, two years ago.

Each of the marriages it is said, came about as the culmination of a correspondence developing from an advertisement through a matrimonial agency, and in each case the Civil War veteran deserted his wife shortly after the marriage ceremony was performed, taking her jewelry and whatever money he could get hold of.

Clues picked up by the police show that Davis was active as far south as Texas, as well as in Indiana, Illinois and in the New England states. Members of the state police today took his picture and it will be distributed throughout the country in order to get in touch with any other of his wives who might still be living.

Davis was arrested in Wilkes-Barre by detectives when he came back to marry a Wilkes-Barre woman. When you arrived he found the bride to be was an earlier wife he had deserted and who had set up a trap for him.

Davis is held on the charge of larceny of \$200 worth of jewelry from Mrs. Emma Stringer, Wilkes-Barre, whom he had married several months ago. Soon after the wedding Davis got her jewelry and money and made his departure. The wife never heard from him again.

Mrs. Stringer watched the papers and discovered that Davis was seeking another wife. She started a correspondence with him under a fictitious name and he was quick to propose. She readily accepted, and invited him to come to Wilkes-Barre. Davis wanted a speedy marriage. He arrived in Wilkes-Barre Saturday and was waiting for his new bride to come. While he sat at a desk writing a letter to another woman, the



police tapped him on the shoulder and told him he was wanted at headquarters. When he got there Mrs. Stringer was awaiting him and promptly identified him as the man she married.

Davis, according to police, has claimed various occupations, from retired doctor, a rich writer, an actor, to a globe-trotter.

March 30

Brother Accidentally Shoots Brother

Howard McLaughlin, 23 years old, was accidentally shot in his left cheek by his younger brother, John, at their home near Emmitsburg, Sunday afternoon, with a 22-caliber revolver. It is understood that the young McLaughlin, about 16-years-old, was handling the revolver, which he did not know was loaded, when the weapon was accidentally discharged.

The ball enter the left side of the victims face, took a downward course and lodge near the jugular vein. Physicians up to Monday night had not located the ball. He was taken to the hospital by Dr. Birely of Thurmont. It was stated late Monday night that the injury is not serious and that unless unforeseen conditions arise the young man will recover.

Autos And Booze
There are a great many arrests for driving

cars while "under the influence of liquor." Other arrest attached to using cars for "transporting liquors"; there are "joy rides" cases of many kinds and consequences; auto trucks are use for freighting away liquors from robed warehouses, racing on the highways, with booze accompaniment, frequently makes business for the courts, and there are other motor-vehicle liquor cases in great variety.

Evidently, motoring and booze are not safe partners; but this does not seem so apparent as that in some way to prohibition laws, and the impossibility of their enforcement, come in for the most blame, while autos, as quick get-away vehicles for criminals, get no blame whatsoever.

Honestly considered, the whole prohibition enforcement matter is rendered several times more difficult because of the use of motor vehicles. It is not so much that law violation and its old plan form, is so rampant, or that the many cases refer to represent normal opposition to these laws, but that the easy swift help of motors should bear the burden of the whole violations.

And just as honestly, we ought to ask what would be the situation, so far as accidents, deaths and joy rides are concerned, were saloons open on all streets and highways, as they were before the autos came into such universal use?

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

March 2

There are many institutions in Frederick County which have enjoyed a fruitful and illustrious tradition. One of the oldest still in business (in 1997), after 170 years in operations, is the Fredericktown Bank and Trust Company in the unit block of North Market Street in Frederick. The handsome, federal-style building, now occupied as the main branch of the bank, was opened for business on March 2, 1970. But that's getting ahead of the story.

On March 7, 1828, the bank, then called the Fredericktown Savings Institution, was organized and the first deposits made. It was then located in the offices of Dr. Jacob Baer on North Market Street. From there it operated for many years until, on July 16, 1850, the board of directors ordered George Brenge to purchase the property of Mrs. Mary Howard on the eastside of North Market Street, where the headquarters of the bank remains today.

The lot has a frontage of 63 feet and a depth of 186 feet. The bank built a new brick building which stood for 57 years before it was demolished in 1907 to make way for a new structure. This building was made of granite, cement, steel and concrete and reflected the era in which it was built. Melville E. Doll was president of the bank at that time.

Sixty-one years later, the board of directors decided that their headquarters, which provided only 5,800 square feet of space, was inadequate and decided to build a new facility. Their decision to tear down the 1907 structure and rebuild on the same site has been viewed by many as the spark that led to a rebirth of downtown Frederick. Demolition began on December 9, 1968.

During the 15-month building period, Fredericktown Bank and Trust operated from the old Shipley's building at 103 North Market Street. That temporary facility closed at the end of the business

day on Friday February 27, 1970, and the new headquarters opened Monday, March 2. Federal law required the rapid move.

The new bank, built during the presidency of W. Meredith Young, offered some new features for downtown customers in addition to its 24,000 square foot interior. Included was a drive through window which operated by way of a television camera.

A feature that pleased all who walk downtown was the heated pavement in front of the bank. Whenever the weather is inclement during the winter and the temperature was low enough to cause freezing, the bank turns on the heat and pedestrians are assured of safe footing. (Another cost-saving feature is that the bank doesn't have to pay to have snow and ice removed conventionally.)

In August 1980 the Fredericktown Bank decided to affiliate with Mercantile Bankshares Corporation of Baltimore. At the present time the bank also has several branch offices, two on West Patrick Street, one in the triangle with West South Street, and one on the Golden Mile; one at Thomas Johnson Drive and Opossumtown Pike; one at the Prospect Shopping Center; one on Yellow Springs Road, and one in Walkersville.

[Frederick County Government purchased the property after Mercantile Bankshares merged with another banking corporation. The County Treasurer's office is now located there on the first floor.]

March 9

For most of Frederick County's history the milling business has been an integral part of the commercial community. The Zentz Mill stood on N. Bentz St. for more than 130 years before fire destroyed it in 1926. The Baker and Delaplaine families, still prominent today in Frederick, had ancestors who operated mills.

On South Carroll Street today stands The Delaplaine Visual Arts

Center. Originally it was The Mountain City Mill, operated by James Gambrill.

He was born March 9, 1866, in Baltimore and was raised in Frederick County and attended the public schools here. At 16 he became an apprentice with his father in the milling business.

From 1888 to 1893 he was in the mercantile business in Alabama, but Frederick drew him back. In 1898 he was an incorporator of the Truckers Association of Frederick County, which was founded to better market the products of local farmers.

Four years later The Frederick County Farmers' Exchange was founded with Mr. Gambrill as the treasurer. Several years later he and D. W. Dietrich purchased the stock of this company and operated it in conjunction with the Mountain City Mill.

In 1907 Mr. Gambrill was elected a city alderman, but refused to stand for re-election in 1910. However, that year he was one of seven men appointed to revise the City Charter. He also set a true fiscal example by refusing to accept his aldermanic salary while in office.

If there was a civic organization that could benefit from his abilities, Mr. Gambrill would offer his services. He was a director of Citizens National Bank, chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Home for The Aged (now The Record Street Home), and was a member of The Governor's Commission to study relief and old age pension. He was also active in the Chamber of Commerce, Federated Charities, the Community Chest, the Monocacy Battlefield Association, the Frederick City Park Board, and The Rotary Club, of which he was a charter member.

Mr. Gambrill was an avid sportsman and served for a time as chairman of the State Game and Inland Fish Commission. An outspoken conservationist, he was president of the Confederation of Western Maryland Communities, formed to preserve the area's natural resources.

To recognize his efforts and his

devotion to the cause, Gambrill State Park was named in his honor.

From 1916 until his death in 1951, Mr. Gambrill was a member of the Board of Trustees of Hood College, serving as vice-president in 1942. In November of 1949, Hood College named its new gymnasium after him in appreciation for his years of service to the college. The facility, which contains the Hodson pool, classrooms, faculty offices, and locker rooms was built originally at a cost of \$420,000, which was donated over a quarter century by alumnae of the college.

March 16

On March 16, 1829, just five weeks after President-Elect Andrew Jackson had received an inauspicious welcome in our fair community, retiring Secretary of State Henry Clay arrived for several days of festivities, including a banquet in his honor at Talbott's City Hotel. It had been Clay who was responsible for Jackson's defeat in the House of Representatives in 1824, when John Quincy Adams was elected president by that body.

Once again Frederick was on the direct route home for a public servant. Clay was on his way to his Lexington, Kentucky, home when he stopped here for respite.

Clay must have felt like a candidate for president again during his stay because, as The Frederick Town Herald reported: "...so continual was the press of visitors that scarcely could he avail himself of the necessary hours of refreshment."

On March 18, a banquet was held at Talbott's, and, although the \$3 price was considered expensive in those days, more than 200 attended. The Frederick Band was complimented by the press "for their polite attendance and tasteful and appropriate tunes."

As was the custom then, just about everyone in the room afforded a toast, some more than one. Among those in attendance were John Wright, Dr. John Tyler, George Baer, George Baltzell, Capt. John Dudderer, Dr.

John Baltzell, who built the home which today serves as the headquarters for The Frederick County Historical Society, William Schley and Jacob Cornish.

When all were finished, Clay, noticing that Lawrence Everhart, who had saved Col. William Washington at the Battle of Cowpens, and had assisted a wounded Lafayette from the Brandywine Battlefield during the Revolution, was in attendance with several other War of Independence veterans, rose and asked those present "to unite with him in the expression of the pleasure their presence added to the scene, by a toast 'to Lawrence Everhart and his fellow soldiers.'

The Herald, in the closing paragraph of its story reporting the event, remarked on the coincidence that those in attendance number the same as the members of the House of Representatives - 213 - which Clay had served for several years as Speaker.

March 23

While on routine patrol in the early morning hours of March 23, 1977, Maryland State Trooper William Tower noticed a fire in the home of Bernard Burkett, on Walter Martz Rd. just off Opossumtown Pike.

At about the same time, State Fire Marshall Timothy May, while returning from investigating another blaze, saw the flames. Both men called in the alarm and volunteers from Independents, Juniors, Lewistown, Braddock Heights and Walkersville sped to the scene.

There was little they could do as the entire house was engulfed when they arrived. Before the firefighters arrived, however, both May and Tower attempted to arouse the occupants, but to no avail.

Two sons of the owners, who lived in nearby trailers, were awakened and they also tried to enter the burning structure, but the heat was too intense.

All the firefighters could do was protect nearby structures and watch the house burn. During the blaze, which was fanned by 40 mph winds, the upper floors and the roof collapsed into the basement leaving only the massive exterior walls still standing.

When it was safe, the firemen began the task of recovering the bodies of the eight occupants. The family was known in their neighborhood for their hard work and friendly nature.

One neighbor said: "They was just your typical farm family, gettin' along, makin' a living. It's so bad that things like this have to happen."


Spectators at the scene described how helpless they felt as they watched the building destroyed. Trooper Tower, particularly, was devastated by the fire. He told reporters later: "There I was, but I couldn't do anything. I've never felt so helpless than I did this morning."

The fire has gone down in county history as the worst ever in terms of lives lost.


From John Ashbury's '... and all our yesterdays: A chronicle of Frederick County'

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

A walking tour of Taneytown

David Buie

We conclude the Traipse tour with the Rudisel Tannery House and St. Joseph's Church on Taneytown's often ignored western side.

The Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House, 1807 - 65 Frederick Street

In 1807, Ludwick Rudisel purchased 16 acres of "The Resurvey on Brother's Agreement," a part of a patent granted to Edward Diggs and Raphael Taney in 1754, containing 7,900 acres. This parcel of land, which adjoined his father's farm, was situated along one of the southeastern boundaries of Taneytown, Maryland, on "Monocacy Road," a well-traveled road leading from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, through Frederick, Maryland, onward to Virginia. He established a successful tannery on this site, an industry in great demand, and built his spacious brick home.

During 1841, this property was \$170 per acre, while most surrounding properties were valued at \$12-30. In 1842, Ludwick was indebted to his creditors, a sum larger than his cash inventory at his death. They held the public sale of his land to settle his creditors' claims. A May 1843 edition of the "Carrolltonian" newspaper carried the bill of sale.

One of his sons, Thomas, purchased the property. Thomas was Ludwick's successor in the business and had taken charge when his father bought and moved to a house in town circa 1838. Probably to accommodate the tannery's servants or hired hands, a second floor was added to the kitchen wing around 1850. However, as with most things, the tanning business soon reached its zenith and began to decline to the point that it had become obsolete. The 16 acres and their improvements were incorporated into the other adjacent holdings of its owner, and their way of life became focused on farming and local business investments. The land was bequeathed by will to Thomas' only son, William. William died young and, without

issue, bequeathed it to his only sister, Mary Louise Motter, wife of Dr. George Motter, in 1882.

Since the Motters were established in another home in Taneytown and later in Washington, D.C., the house was rented first. In time, the property passed to their two daughters and finally to their only grandchild, George Motter Cunningham. The property, consisting of 147 acres or more, was sold to a developer, Taneytown Associates, in 1977. In 1978, the Tannery House and its 9.7950 acres were the first part of the property to be conveyed to Donald L. and Virginia D. Stanley.

Fortunately, because of its long years as a rental property belonging to out-of-town landlords, the interior and exterior aspects of the house remained the same. The original nine over-six window sashes, door graining, fireplace mantel marbelizing, and stove-plate fire backs dating 1726, 1754, and 1762 are among some of its unique features that still can be found. Unfortunately, the exterior part of the bake oven needs exterior shutters and most of the original door hardware. It is, however, possible to reconstruct or replace most of this. The most extensive alteration on the exterior is a back porch which has grown from an open porch to an enclosed porch to its final incorporation with the interior living area.

The house and several lesser outbuildings remain of the original buildings on the 16 acres. Fire destroyed the original barn around the turn of the 20th century. The speculated site of the tannery is now involved in an electric power line and sewerage line rights-of-way and a floodplain area. The original wagon shed/corncrib had to be removed because of the developer's new placement of property lines.

Local historians have long ignored the western end of Taneytown, possibly since its later owners failed to promote an interest in the property. Nevertheless, it is significant that this house was once home to successful businesspeople who were essential to the community's financial, religious,

and social aspects. It provided the local citizens with a service much needed in the early days of our country's development.

St. Joseph's Roman Church, 1872 - 48 Frederick Street

Before the Revolutionary War, the first Catholics settled around Taneytown from the Jesuit community at Conewango, Pennsylvania, and the Jesuits also provided the first services. However, before the Masons Dixon's line survey, Maryland proprietaries claimed the country to some distance beyond Hanover, Pa. The survey settled the dispute, placing Taneytown in Maryland and Conewango in Pennsylvania, but the Catholics in Taneytown mainly were still in charge of the Conewango community.

Prominent among the early Catholics were the Taney, Coskreys, Brookes, Hughes, Spaldings, Boyles, Elders, Adelspergers, Diffendals, Gougiers, Riffles, and others. As far back as 1790, records of Mass celebrated in private houses by Fathers Frambaugh, Pellentz, Brosius, and Cerfoumont, S. J., from Conewango.

Although a Sulpician, Prince Gallitzin was a resident of the Catholic community at Conewango and attended this mission, Hagerstown and Cumberland in Maryland, and Chambersburg other places in other places in Pennsylvania. He was the first pastor of this church. Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin was born at The Hague in 1770. His father was a Prince of the Russian Empire. As the eldest son, he inherited the estate and title. Still, he forfeited them, becoming an American citizen and Missionary priest, the functions he exercised in this section from 1795 to 1799.

About 1796, Mr. Brookes built the first church here at his own



The Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House, also known as Motter Place, was built around 1807.

expense. It was built of brick made in the neighborhood and stood until 1876, when the present church was erected. Rev. Nicholas Zocchi, born in Rome, was the next pastor. He was appointed priest in 1804. In addition to his local labors, he visited Westminster, Martinsburg, W. Va., and other places equally far distant, the same territory now being served by twelve priests. He died in Taneytown on December 17, 1845, after a pastorate of 41 years, and was buried here on December 20.

A famous record of this church is the following: "January 7, 1806, Roger Taney married Ann Key, Witness, Michael Taney." This is the record of the marriage of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney to the sister of Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star-Spangled Banner." Rev. John D. Parsons was pastor of the church for three months in 1847, but for the balance of the time from the death of Father Zocchi to 1851, the congregation was served by priests from Mt. St. Mary's College.

In 1851, Rev. Thomas O'Neill became pastor, and the present Rectory was built during his charge. He also served Westminster and New Windsor, leaving in 1862. In 1862 Rev. John Gloyd took the pastorate over in 1869, and he moved to Westminster. In 1871, Rev. R. W.

Hazel was appointed as his assistant. Rev. Caspar Schmitt followed the latter in by Rev. John T. Delaney, the Taneytown charge being served by them and several others in the county until 1879, when the charge was divided, Father Delaney serving Taneytown and also New Windsor.

Fathers Gloyd and Delaney built the church in 1876, raising the money before the work was finished. It is an example of the vernacular Gothic Revival and was designed by Joseph Wolf, a local builder from Union Bridge.

Subsequently, the interior and exterior have been renovated and improved several times. The pipe organ in the church was made in England in 1801 and later rebuilt. The congregation felt the need for a school, working hard to raise the necessary funds during Father Delaney's pastorate. As a result, the two-story brick schoolhouse adjoining the parsonage was built in 1890.

The history of Taneytown's buildings is fascinating, and I hope you will download the Traipse App for your iPhone and enjoy the beautiful architecture of our town.

For more information, contact David Buie at downtowntaneytown@gmail.com.




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COOKING

Lucky in food

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

Growing up I never liked Irish food, mainly because I think my mom would make cabbage and very dry corned beef on St. Patrick's Day. She was a good cook and learned all my father's family's Italian recipes and I think probably homemade "macaroni and gravy" (if you know, you know) tended to beat out cabbage for kids. Although still not always at the top of my list for foods, I do feel some obligation to honor my red haired, green-eyed mother in March, perhaps not with boiled cabbage though.

Shepherd's Pie

My husband freakishly loves shepherd's pie. He's always very excited when it's offered at a restaurant, especially if it's "Guinness" Shepherd's Pie. I should probably make it more often to insure a happy marriage. This recipe also freezes well, so you could make it and put in two smaller pans to serve half and freeze half as well to reheat at another time.

Mashed Potato Topping

I have made this in the past with mashed sweet potato topping as well, which is also a hit. If you put your mashed topping of choice in a piping bag and an icing tip you can make your pie look very fancy and everyone will be amazed.

Ingredients

2 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into big chunks
4 tbs butter
¼ cup sour cream
¼ to ½ cup milk
salt and pepper, to taste

Meat Filling

1 pound ground beef
1 small onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups frozen peas, carrots, and corn medley
2 tbs. flour
½ cup beef broth
1 tbs. tomato paste
1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
1 tps. rosemary
½ tps thyme
1 bay leaf

Cooking Instructions: Preheat oven to 350°F. Boil the potatoes in water to cover until fork tender and then drain the water. Add the butter, sour cream, milk, salt, and pepper to taste and mash the potatoes with a hand masher or mixer until you reach your favorite mashed potato consistency. Set aside. In a large skillet brown the ground beef along with the onions and garlic. Drain any excess grease.

To the same skillet add 2 cups of the frozen vegetables. Cook for about 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle the flour over the meat and veggies and stir to mix. Add the tomato paste

and stir to mix it in. Add the beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to a simmer and then reduce heat to low. Cook uncovered for 10 minutes, adding additional broth if necessary to prevent the meat from drying out. Remove from heat. Spread the meat mixture in an even layer in a 9×13 dish that has been sprayed with non-stick spray.

Make sure to remove the bay leaf before adding the mixture to the 9×13 dish. Top the meat with the mashed potatoes making an even layer of potatoes. You can get all fancy and pipe the potatoes onto the meat or you can use a spoon and spread the potatoes evenly and then use a fork to make designs and ridges in the potatoes. These little ridges will brown nicely! Place the dish in the oven and bake for 30 minutes until brown and bubbly. You can place it under the broiler for a few minutes to brown the potatoes more if necessary.

Irish Soda Bread

This is a great, easy bread that uses baking soda as its leavener so you are not waiting for it to rise and then proof before baking. You can just mix it together and put it in the oven. I love soda bread for its ease, crispy and crumbly crust and the biscuit like texture of the crumb. The great debate in soda bread is whether it is traditional to put dried fruit, like currants or raisins in it. Try it both ways and see what you decide.

This is an easy recipe that even the littlest sous chefs can help with. While it bakes you can also make a compound butter to go the extra mile.

Ingredients

4 cups of flour
1 and 1/4 cups buttermilk
4 tbs. sugar
1 tbs. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda



Who doesn't love Shepherd's Pie?

1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup softened butter (one stick)
1 egg

Glaze

1/4 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup buttermilk

Cooking Instructions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Mix together the dry ingredients: Flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Use a whisk to make sure it is well combined. Add in the wet ingredients: buttermilk, butter, egg and use a hand mixer to help combine everything. Turn out the dough on a floured surface and kneed it for about 10 minutes. Dust it with flour as needed. It's done when it is about the consistency of Playdough.

Form dough into a loaf and put it on a cookie sheet with parchment paper. The parchment paper

is going to be important to keep the bottom of the bread from over cooking. Cut a large X in to the top of the dough. This is very important to help the dough cook through. Add the dough to the oven for 15 minutes.

While the bread is cooking, make the glaze by melting butter (microwave or stovetop) over a low flame and let it rest for a few minutes. Continue to mix it on the stove top to keep it from burning. Add the buttermilk to the butter and mix well. Continue to mix occasionally.

When the 15 minutes are done, take the bread out of the oven and brush the glaze over the top of it. Then do this intermittently as the bread bakes for about 1h15min. Bread is done when a thermometer reads 190F, or if a toothpick comes out clean. When done, let the bread rest for 20 minutes.

How to make a compound butter

A compound butter is just a butter with something added to it, like honey or cinnamon, or can be savory like garlic or herbs. Start with one stick of butter at room temperature, softened and place it in a bowl and mix in your additions.

Maple Cinnamon: 1 TBS maple syrup, 1 tsp ground cinnamon, pinch of salt

Honey Orange: 1 TBS honey, 1 tsp finely grated orange zest, pinch of salt

Herb Butter: 2 TBS fresh chopped herbs (dill, parsley, thyme), pinch of salt and pepper

These can be served with bread soft, or you can roll them in plastic wrap and chill them for future use. Chilling the butter is great for savory flavors, if you want to use them to top proteins like fish or steak.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Who is your Thelma?

Mary Angel

Friends, there has been a television show, books, poems, and songs all written about them. They are someone that everyone has at least one “best” one. It has been morphed into a frenemy when you have a friend that is more of an enemy. This is a universal idea that everyone needs, especially moms. I bet you thought I was going to say kids!

As moms, we don't always realize the importance of a support network. Our friends are that network. There was a scene in the television show *Desperate Housewives* where one of the main characters had an emotional breakdown at a playground. In the scene all of her mom-friends showed up at the playground to lift her up in her lowest time. How many of us have never had “one of those days”? Okay, maybe you haven't ended up crying under the swings at the local playground, but that is television. Maybe your bad day involved the kids misbehaving at every turn, or you had a coworker who was degrading you, or it was a little bit of everything, no matter the cause you feel like you are at your wits end. This is when you need your very own posse (my daughter is cringing that I used this word). Better yet, you need a Mosse (a mom posse)!

Your mosse can get you through the good, the bad, and the ugly. If you are having the best day ever, who are you going to call? Your friends aren't just there for the bad days. When I have a great day, right after I tell my husband all about it, I am quickly ringing up my bestie. Obviously I call her when I am sad, mad, and frustrated, but, I can't stress this enough, I can't forget to include her in the good times. Often we call our friends when we need support and we neglect to call them when things are going well, or even just okay. This can lead to problems. If all they ever hear is

you complain about your husband, or work, or family, then from their perspective, you are married to a horribly man, or at a dead end job, or have the worst family ever. They are only getting one side of the story. So, be sure to share the happy as well.

The “ugly” is when your day has caused the mascara to run. You had a less than proud mommy moment, and ended up in tears over your “epic failure” (which it wasn't really). You found out that your favorite aunt passed away and haven't stopped crying since lunchtime. Or maybe your “ugly” is because you suddenly realized your house is one yard sale find away from qualifying for a special edition of *Hoarders* the television show. It doesn't matter what has caused the “ugly” on any given day, what matters is having that support team, or mosse, to be by your side.

My best friend and I often joke about being Thelma and Louise. I know no matter what I can call her and she will be there for me. At the beginning of the pandemic my family got COVID and it rolled through the house like a wave. She showed up and left meals and baked treats on our doorstep multiple times. Not only that, but she called me daily. Her phone calls were something I looked forward to every day. It was the glue that kept me together and prevented me from going stir crazy. If I am having a bad day we discuss all kinds of movie inspired, devilish ways to make things better. We always end up laughing and everything seems just a little brighter.

Conversely, make sure you are a support member of someone else's mosse. An amazing thing happens when you are available and supportive of your friends. You will be amazed how great you feel when you help another person. You will also be up for mom of the year, when your kids see you doing good for another person. After all, kids learn just as much, if not more, by example than they do by us speak-



ing at them. As moms, when we are supportive of our friends, we are learning and growing. I can't tell you how many times I have been helping a friend, when I learned a new way to parent or handle a difficult situation. Not only are we supporting one another, but we are learning from one another.

When my bestie's in-laws passed away, she alone was tasked with cleaning their house and get it ready for sale. Between her mother and me we tried to help her donate, trash, and clean out everything. I didn't hesitate to jump in the car and head to West Virginia to jump in, armed with my favorite cleaning supplies. This didn't seem like a big deal to me, but for her (as she was already overwhelmed) it meant the world. My point here is even when you don't think you are making a difference, or being all that supportive, you might just be someone's saving grace.

All of this leads me to the impor-

tance of this behavior is not only for you and your friend, but for your children. As I stated earlier they will learn by your example to be supportive of their friends and other people they may encounter in their lives, but there is more to it. They are also, subconsciously seeing what a good friend is. How many of us have had a friend in our child's lives that we didn't feel were the best influence. Or maybe they have a friend that doesn't always treat them the best, you know their frenemy. Our kids are always learning from us, whether they like it or not. Showing them by example what a good, healthy relationship looks like, whether friend or romance, is an important role we play as a parent. Heaven knows they will come across more than their fair share of unhealthy relationships in their lives.

So no matter how many friends you have, or how long you have been friends, or how you met, simply have that group that will be

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there for you and that you will be there for. Always remember the sign of a good friend is whether she will hold your hand while driving off a cliff in a '66 Thunderbird with you!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

In honor of Women's History Month, we asked our writers to highlight one prominent woman who broke through barriers in history or contemporary society.

Freshman

The light that never goes out

Sarah Miller
MSMU Class of 2026

Florence Nightingale, portrayed in movies like *The Lady With The Lamp*, is widely known in the STEM field and would even be named the grandmother of nursing because of the vast amount of things she accomplished in her lifetime. From when she was born in 1820, until her passing in 1910, Nightingale encompassed her dominant nursing values through her wartime stories, which influence generations and the healthcare environment even today.

To introduce and put into perspective her legacy, every single new nurse has to say the Florence Nightingale pledge before getting inducted into the nursing practice; one notable line in the pledge is, "I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully." Nightingale upheld faithful and exceptional values within her nursing career, and although she wouldn't be as known without her profession, the pledge backs up her monumental character traits and personality. The pledge is a remarkable

piece that will forever be intertwined in the nursing curriculum, impacting people worldwide by setting the scene for their upcoming years in nursing.

My family consists of all nurses, and this pledge encompasses so much history for many individuals, and often has had a generational effect. My grandmother, mother, and sister are, or were, nurses; without them, I feel as if I couldn't have inherited a better family. Although Florence came from a very wealthy family and was named after the city she was born in, the famously beautiful Florence, Italy, she had many struggles along the way. She experienced many mental health struggles that impacted her nursing towards the end of her life. When she previously would go help soldiers, she suffered from PTSD and depression. Later she even struggled with Bipolar Personality Disorder, which sadly, made her unable to help soldiers.

Florence made her debut during the Crimean War. She was an influential individual who would go around helping wounded soldiers at nighttime with her lamp. Because of her impact and light she had in the war, Florence had the first nursing school named after her in Britain. Her iconic lamp guided her through the night and helped her practice nursing. A plethora of soldiers would have died without her help. She kept her stations as clean and as sterile as they could be

during the time, which she found helped keep soldiers from dying and getting infections. She then inspired mandates during nursing practices that are carried out even today, especially in ensuring that people receive the best ethical and holistic care they can in the safest way possible. If it was not for Florence, we would have had different standards than we have now.

Florence was originally a statistician, where her reputation in the mathematics and STEM fields blossomed. While she was employed as a statistician in Britain, Florence was helping the British in the Russia-British Crimean War. When she was in the war, she found that there would be many more deaths without the sterilization tactics that she used. She also found that unhealthy living conditions and conditions that didn't give the soldiers a serene setting prohibited overall wellness, leading to more deaths. She was investigating throughout the entirety of the war why people were dying and what preventative measures could be used to help them. However, Florence kept pushing and helping people at night, with her light always accompanying her. During this time, residential areas for soldiers were affecting them more than their battle wounds, which is when different approaches to care were followed. The leading cause of death was dysentery, a gastrointestinal disease caused

by bacteria, or typhus/cholera, which Florence helped fix by sterilizing and maintaining a clean workspace.

Florence stated that she received a calling from God to help others and that her work in academia, although flourishing, did not satisfy her need to help others. She was selfless, like all nurses and doctors today. Florence helped shape the ethical standards used in nursing practice, which is one of the most pivotal parts of nursing. She wrote over 150 books, contributing 10-fold to the healthcare community. She was a faithful woman, exceptional in her fields. She even created the first pie chart, which has helped statisticians and educators in the realm of mathematics to portray data in a simple chart effectively.

I would place Florence as one of the most influential women in history, especially in today's disastrous times. If it were not for her, healthcare workers all over would be struggling, but she truly has a light that never goes out. Her legacy will forever live on, especially with her contributions to the Crimean war.

As I am writing this paper, I cannot help but think: if Florence were alive today, what would she do? 2020 was deemed the year of the nurse and midwife by the World Health Organization because of the heroic practices of nurses and healthcare providers at the beginning of Covid-19. I

think she would be proud of this, but that she would be disappointed in all the PPE that was unavailable during the crisis, which ultimately left nurses unprotected and vulnerable. Without Florence's strong view on sanitation in the workplace, she would be half the woman she was back then. She testified in front of the British Cabinet to supply nurses and providers during the war with protective barriers for sick patients. I also think that Florence would be on the front lines helping in the Russia-Ukrainian war, even with the tensions and high-power weapons in use today. Her selfless person should never be forgotten; and if she were living amidst the many sad tensions in the world right now, Florence would be thinking of the good, and how to make this disastrous time of the provider better and more efficient so that ultimately, fewer lives are lost.

With her lamp lighting the way, Florence always advocated for the people who are not seen and not heard, which should be something that all people stand for: helping people in need so that they can help others too. This Women's History Month, ask yourself, what would Florence do?

To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

No man's shadow

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

St. Clare of Assisi is known to many simply as St. Francis' lesser-known companion, or perhaps to a few who have encountered a Poor Clare. In many ways, however, St. Clare had more influence than St. Francis. While the Franciscan order spent centuries fighting amongst themselves about what their rule of life should be, and whether or not they should actually give up all of their possessions as St. Francis had insisted, the Poor Clares never strayed from St. Francis' original rule of total poverty. The unity in the mission of these little nuns was accomplished singlehandedly by St. Clare, their first member, abbess for forty years and the inspiration for

the founding of the order.

St. Clare of Assisi was the spiritual daughter of St. Francis, literally called alter Franciscus (other Francis) for her undying commitment to poverty and prayer for the poor. At age 17, she heard Francis preach and was so moved that she begged him to let her live the same lifestyle through which Francis so perfectly showed the love of Christ. Clare was the daughter of a wealthy family who had been distinguished since the days of the Roman empire, and she was apparently very beautiful and was already going to be wed. Clare snuck out of the family castle by night, where she was met by friars carrying torches, exchanging her jeweled belt for a common rope. The patriarchs of her family pursued her with soldiers and arms, even breaking into the chapel where Clare was praying. In a dramatic scene, Clare pulled her new veil away to reveal her long

hair cut short, a sign of her fidelity to her husband, Jesus Christ. Her father and uncle left in a huff, and nineteen days later, her sister Agnes came to join her in the convent (her story is well worth telling another time). Francis himself had been persecuted by Church higher-ups and noblemen who saw his commitment to total poverty as a challenge to their privileged lifestyle, so when Clare asked to join his order, he knew that she, as a woman, would receive even more resistance. For this reason, he decided that she would maintain a monastic life of prayer, penance, and poverty, separate from the world, unlike the men, who would spend less time in prayer and more time in service. Clare's order eventually became known as the Poor Clares.

Though it may seem that Clare was relegated to an inferior position, as if her femininity was a scandal to be locked away, in Catholic theology, contemplation of the Divine is the highest calling human beings can answer. The Poor Clares would become, in many ways, the very lifeblood of the Franciscan movement, and by the close of the century, hundreds of monasteries had been set up across Europe, providing for the poor what the mendicant Franciscans could not – unceasing supplication and prayer before the Throne of God. In this new religious environment, women played a privileged role, with many having a distinct authority over the men surrounding them. This was not unseen in Christianity's history (Mary, after

all, was the spiritual mother of the apostles and held unique authority even over those bishops of the Church). The Poor Clares carried a distinctly female spirituality, and this age in the Church's life saw lowly and holy women dictating even to the Pope (St. Catherine of Sienna, not a Poor Clare, but a contemporary, ordered the pope to directly contradict the king of France, and he did). St. Clare herself was visited by popes often, and she, a lowly woman not unlike the Mother of God, chastised, encouraged, and received reverence from the Vicar of Christ. St. Clare, visited by popes and bishops, washed the feet of her own sisters, and for all her austerities, never ceased valuing charity as the highest good.

Francis was correct that St. Clare would endure much in order to live her unique charism of total poverty. Francis' original rule of life for Franciscans did not allow any ownership of private property, and Clare insisted that her order follow suit. Religious rules of life must be endorsed by the pope. Various popes attempted to write rules for St. Clare's order while she was alive, but none of them forbade private property as Clare desired. For forty years, she fought for her rule of life, and finally, the pope endorsed the rule that she herself had written for her sisters two days before she died in 1253. She is the first woman to write a rule of life for a Catholic religious order.

To give you an idea of how holy St. Clare was, it took nine years

after the death of St. John Paul II for him to be declared a saint by the Church, and 19 years for Mother Teresa; Clare was canonized two years after her death. The pope personally sped up the process because he was so impressed by this little Italian woman!

To close, "a well-known story concerns her prayer and trust. Clare had the Blessed Sacrament placed on the walls of the convent when it faced attack by invading Saracens. 'Does it please you, O God, to deliver into the hands of these beasts the defenseless children I have nourished with your love? I beseech you, dear Lord, protect these whom I am now unable to protect.' To her sisters, she said, 'Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus.' The Saracens fled" (fransiscanmedia.org).

There is a new book out on her life: *The Light of Assisi: the Story of Saint Clare*. The catchphrase of the book is "the story of a woman who stood in no man's shadow." Her name, of course, means 'clear' or 'bright', thus the irony in the title. If there is anyone who imagines that women played some subsidiary role in the life of the Church during the Dark Ages, I would encourage them to encounter this true light of faith, councilor to popes, servant of the servants of God, and spiritual mother of all who, in their love for God, serve the poor with joy and perseverance.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Junior

The music industry

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

“A man writing about his feelings from a vulnerable place is brave; a woman writing about her feelings from a vulnerable place is oversharing or whining.”

Taylor Swift is arguably the most successful woman in the music industry—in fact, she has been called “the music industry”—but unfortunately, to many, all she is known for is writing “too many heartbreak songs” about her exes. Or dating songs. Or songs about her emotions.

But in reality, to many women all around the world, Taylor Swift is a feminist icon, a childhood inspiration. She writes her own music. She has ten original studio albums, two re-recorded studio albums, and has won 11 Grammys (with around 42 total nominations). In 2018, she sold out her stadium tour (with 53 shows), and in 2023, she is touring again, selling out stadiums in record time. You can find her at the top of Billboard 100 Chart, or on the radio, or crashing Spotify whenever she releases a new album.

She’s amazing, yet she has received so much backlash for simply being.

But, in honor of Women’s History Month, I will portray my favorite artist in a new and radiant light. Taylor is so brilliant, yet people choose to overlook her accomplishments and talents and define her based on her dating life. Or on how “mainstream” she is. Or on how she changes her image too much, or how she’s been “cancelled,” or how she appears on a certain day.

Taylor Swift is currently in the process of re-recording her first six studio albums because her former record label would not let her buy the masters to her own songs. “The reason I’m rerecording my music next year is because I do want my music live on. I do want it to be in movies, I do want it to be in commercials. But I only want that if I own it.” Taylor is forging a new and revolutionary path in the music industry. She is reclaiming her songs but transforming her image, becoming more passionate about her feminist identity and securing the rights to her own records.

This means that the songs I related to when I was growing up—the songs I would sing into my hairbrush, or cry to in my car, or blast on the radio—are being re-released as Taylor’s Version. She now has and will be gaining full ownership of her own music, which

is so exciting. I, and many other girls, can relive my childhood and teenage years all over again.

Taylor Swift’s songs capture so much more than feelings of heartbreak and despair, although these are relevant and valid themes featured in her discography. Taylor explores the excitement and hardship of growing up. She writes about friendship, about isolation, about family and loss, about super personal and sadly relatable topics. This is what forges the connection between she and her fans, and this is what makes her songwriting so beautiful. In fact, she shares topics that are deeply personal.

“She’s too skinny. It bothers me,” someone remarked about Taylor Swift’s body. In her documentary, “Miss Americana,” Taylor opens up about her eating disorder, a raw and individual experience that has characterized part of her career. “It’s no good for me to see pictures of myself every day.” She remarks that when she would see a picture of herself where she felt her stomach was too big, it will trigger her to “starve a little bit—just stop eating.”

In her most recent album released in October 2022, *Midnights*, Taylor Swift has addressed this topic in songs such as “You’re On Your Own, Kid”: “I hosted parties / and starved

my body / like I’d be saved by a perfect kiss.” By revealing these struggles and acknowledging this deep and personal past, Taylor relates strongly with her fan base. It’s important that young girls listen and look up to figures that speak to these problems. “I work on accepting my body every day,” says Taylor.

The same with heartbreak. Songs such as “Forever and Always” and “All Too Well” and “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve” are all about heartbreak, each one from a uniquely different perspective and situation. The first is an angsty, rage-filled, catchy song about a breakup, written when Taylor was 18. The second is heartbreaking, like poetry, written when she was 22. The third is a layered song, written when she was 32, reflecting on the regrets and trauma of a past relationship. And she has more, such as songs within the theme of heartbreak, about loss, being cheated on and falling out of love. This is especially important for young girls to hear, as heartbreak and love are experiences that most teenagers endure. Instead of shaming girls for having these emotions, or making fun of them for it, Taylor gives them a space to relate, inspiring female empowerment.

“She made teenage girls—heretofore hardly taken seriously—a market force

to be reckoned with,” says Billboard. “She showed that young women are not meant to simply be placated with boy bands, but catered to with perspectives that mirror their own.”

As a young adult myself, having Taylor Swift as my role model and absolute favorite artist has been so important. I find myself relating to so many emotions that I once was ashamed of feeling. I, myself, journaled and wrote poems and stories about how I felt; others would deem it as “whiny” and “too much.” Females, for some reason, have always been criticized for being overemotional. For their “madness.” For their success.

But Taylor Swift is changing this view. By rereleasing her albums, connecting with her loyal fanbase, and writing deeply personal and relatable songs, Taylor will easily go down in history as one of the most successful women in the music industry. Or rather the music industry, as she is called. As one of her song lyrics goes: “I could build a castle / Out of all the bricks they threw at me.” Her wildly independent and open character is an inspiration to all women, especially young girls, who dream of being where Taylor is today.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

The unseen woman

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

In honor of Women’s History Month, there are many famous women one can research and learn all about; how they broke barriers, paved the way for other women, set the stage... And truly, they are amazing and quite inspirational. But something about this month’s prompt really struck me, and left me wondering: do only women who are famous truly break barriers? Is the only way that one can truly break a barrier by being recognized publicly for it, or by doing one particularly amazing thing?

While there are many types of women who prove that the answer is certainly no, there is one specific woman whom I would like to highlight. She is an invisible woman in many ways, but she is changing the world, without a doubt. In fact, with even just one response or one phrase, she has the capacity to impact the way a person lives for the rest of his or her life. And countless times, she has made the choice to sacrifice for the sake of someone else she loves, shattering barriers of humanity’s brokenness: she is the mom, and she is an essential figure in Women’s History month.

She is unseen, unrecorded, and largely unnoticed by the history books. And yet, the mother daily breaks barriers over and over again—every time she chooses to love. It is no secret that being a mother can be, at times, a remarkably frustrating job. But the role of the mother is much deeper than a job, and cannot be simply reduced to a 9-5. It is a beautiful life with a different kind of obstacle than women in various fields find themselves overcoming (which are remarkable in their own right), because

of the unique challenges and relationships involved.

When women break through in the fields of science, theology, or medicine, some frustrations inevitably remain of course, but the barriers broken rarely pose such a grand obstacle as they did the first time the woman was confronted by them. In contrast, the mother is faced with rather repetitive barriers daily, such as disunity, selfishness, and family disagreements. But, with her love, she repeatedly breaks through those barriers.

While many books could be written on the joys and rewards of motherhood, this article wants to consider the mother’s groundbreaking actions in family life. The following illustration gives an example of her confrontation of ongoing and “insurmountable odds.” The mother gets past one barrier—the toddler finally learns to eat spaghetti somewhat properly—and, several short years later, she is face to face with the preteen who feels like his mother cannot understand him. She breaks through this barrier by deep persistence, humor, patience, and empathy, and finally, they learn to see more eye-to-eye. Shortly after, she is caring for the tenth grader who needs help with math homework that the mother hasn’t done in years. She stays up late relearning these equations so that she can help her son more fully. Two years later, an unfamiliar wall arises, when the young adult son stops calling when he goes off to college. His new college friends “really” understand him and know what’s in his best interest, so his mother couldn’t be that worthwhile to keep up with while he’s away, right?

Though this one in a way stings the most, she doesn’t allow even this barrier to stop her from loving her child, and bears little grudge. When he comes home for the winter break, she receives him as if he had never left.

When he finally realizes that she has

been there all along, waiting for him and loving him all the same, that barrier is broken again. In the most beautiful, whole and reconciled way yet, the adult son learns to love his mother in return, calling home often, and striving to visit as much as he can, letting it be his turn to care for her.

In motherhood, she overcomes one barrier and is almost immediately faced with a new one. The repetition makes her at once both a professional and ever-new at this way of life, admitting her fears and imperfections and yet laughing in the face of difficulties that thought they might actually win against her. Her! The mother who overcomes daily barriers for the sake of her family with a resilience that belongs in every history book on the shelf, next to every president and strong leader, even though her monumental actions are often done in silence.

Significantly enough, none of these difficulties mean that the role of the mother is the most miserable and difficult there is—certainly not. On the contrary, the mother’s role in loving her family is one of the most beautiful, fruitful and life-giving roles in the world.

The mother is changing the world through how she raises and loves her children. They watch her so closely, and hopefully, they carry her lessons and virtues long after they leave home. And, as if in a history book, they can look back and trace the outline of their mother’s life, and see where she broke a hundred barriers a day in choosing to love them even when it was hardest. She gave them second chance after second chance and didn’t shy from difficult conversations, since she knew they could all grow from them. The mother wills the good of her family and those around her often in the most quiet and humble ways—and in these small ways, she is undoubtedly changing the world.

We can read hundreds of history books and get to know many famous

people. And certainly, it is a worthwhile endeavor. Yet, history is shaped behind the scenes by the people who raised these famous men and women—their mothers and fathers. In such a unique and special way, every mother has impacted the world, and has impacted history more than she will ever know. As Mother Theresa said, “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.” And the mother who loves

her family does just that, every day. In fact, you, the mama holding this paper and reading it—you are changing the world by your love; I see you, and I thank you for every barrier you’ve broken. Your life truly belongs in the history books.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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March 17th

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

On March 25 the library will be holding its annual Indoor Vintage Book Sale from 10:30 to 1:30. The book sale consists of vintage books we have saved over many years of donations.

Monday – Children's Story Time 4-5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30-minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesday – Coffee Club from 3-4 p.m. Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen's Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30-6 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – March 14th at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on March 21st. New members and new projects are

always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year's gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet March 20 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240.

Frederick County Library

March at the Emmitsburg Library and Thurmont Regional Library 2023.

Ah, Spring! As the yellow daffodils begin to bloom, we feel our spirits fill with hope, joy, and the promise of sunny days ahead. To celebrate the new season, the Emmitsburg Library invites the community to the 2nd annual Spring Fling Celebration on Saturday, March 25th from 11 - 1. The whole family will enjoy games, crafts, and the chance to connect with community members and local businesses in front of the library on the front lawn of the Emmitsburg Community Center. March can be temperamental, therefore, in the case of inclement weather, events will be held in the community gymnasium.

Little Adventures, a new preschool age program begins this month at the Emmitsburg Library. Preschoolers and caregivers will explore new themes each month, through hands on activities using science, technology, engineering, art, and math concepts.

History enthusiasts of all ages are invited to Thurmont Library, as we celebrate Women in History and

the Frederick County 275th anniversary with two fascinating programs. On Wednesday, March 15, from 7-8 p.m., discover the history of "Women in Gettysburg in 1863", presented by local Author and Licensed Battlefield Guide, Linda Clark. On Wednesday, March 22, from 7-8 p.m., Tracy Lewis, presents "An Introduction to the First Germans who Settled in Frederick County".

VITA Tax Preparation volunteers are now accepting reservations for tax preparation of Federal and Maryland State income taxes for Northern Frederick County residents who earned less than about \$60,000 in 2022. Please note that assistance is by appointment only, and appointments at the Thurmont library will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact 301-471-5757 for more information.

And don't forget the annual Celtic Concert featuring the Seán Heely Celtic Band, Thursday, March 9 from 7-9 p.m. at the Marion Burke Knott Auditorium on campus at Mt. St. Mary's University. Free tickets are available at either the Emmitsburg or Thurmont libraries.

Visit our website at frederick.librarycalendar.com/events or call us at 301-600-6329 for a complete listing of story times, programs, and events at Emmitsburg Branch Library or at 301-600-7200 for Thurmont Regional Library.

Emmitsburg Branch Library

March 6, 20: Little Adventures, (Birth to 5), 11-Noon.

March 7, 14, 21, 28: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Catoctin High's Safe and Sane graduation event

Kim Seiss

The Catoctin High School Committee for a Safe and Sane Graduation of 2023 has been working to raise money for a graduation event. They will host a fundraiser called the St. Patrick's Day Bash on Saturday, March 18th from 6:30-11 p.m..

Live Music by the band Vinyl Fever will play classic rock. Come join us at the Thurmont American Legion for tip jars, raffles, a cash bar, a silent auction and refreshments. Cash and checks will be accepted for the silent auction. Tickets are available at the door and in advance. Follow us on the Catoctin Safe and Sane Facebook group or email kbt96@yahoo.com for tickets. Tickets are \$15 for singles or \$25 for couples.

The parents of Catoctin High School graduating class of 2023 are also busy preparing for the annual Safe and Sane Graduation Event. The Safe and Sane night is a drug and alcohol free, chaperoned event held at the Knott Arena on the campus of Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg following the CHS graduation on May 24. This is a place where seniors can go to after graduation to be safe and enjoy a fun environment without the risks associated with one of the statistically deadliest nights for young adults. Seniors have had an opportunity to vote on their interests for that night and plan to play games, win prizes and enjoy good food.

Donations and support of this group and their remaining fundraiser events are greatly appreciated!

March 8: Exploration Station (Elementary), 4-5 p.m.

March 11: Exploration Station (Elementary), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

March 4: Martenitsa Bracelets (teens), 1-3 p.m.

March 9 & 23: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers (teens), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

March 25: Spring Fling Celebration (All Ages), 11-1 p.m.

March 22: School's Out: Games In (Elementary), 1-2 p.m.

March 22: Read to a Therapy Dog with WAGS for Hope (Birth-5, Elementary, All ages), 7-8 p.m.

March 9: Celtic Concert at the Mount: The Seán Heely Celtic Band (All Ages), 7-9 p.m.

March 23: Women's History Month Storytime (All Ages), 4-4:45 p.m.

March 4: Exploration eSports (teens), 2-4 p.m.

March 14: Pi(e) Day Taste Test (teens), 4-4:45 p.m.

March 30: Dungeons & Dragons Virtual: Let's Play (teens), 6-8 p.m.

March 4: Strategies for Mastering a Tough Housing Market (Adults), 11-Noon.

March 15: Cooking for One at the Thurmont Senior Center (Adults), 10-Noon.

March 15: Women of Gettysburg, 1863 (Teens, Adults), 7-8 p.m.

March 22: An Introduction to the First Germans who Settled in Frederick County, 7-8 p.m.

March 16: Digital Learning at the Thurmont Senior Center: (Adults), 10-Noon.

March 28: Senior Resource and Education Seminar at Thurmont Senior Center: (Adults), 10-Noon.

Thurmont Regional Library

March 1, 8, 15, 22: Toddler Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

March 2, 16, 23: Musical Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

March 9: Frederick County 275th Celebration Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

March 6, 13, 20, 27: Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11am; School Skills for Preschool, 11:15-11:45 a.m.

March 6, 13, 20, 27: Library Learners (Elementary), 1-2 p.m.

March 7, 14, 21, 28: Baby Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

March 7, 14, 21, 28: Elementary Explorers (Elementary), 4-4:45 p.m.

March 19: Frederick County 275th: From Sheep to Sweater (Birth-5, Elementary, All ages), 2-2:45 p.m.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Fairfield Area School District

The Fairfield Area School District Knights are experiencing an identity crisis.

Superintendent Thomas J. Haupt told the district's board of directors at its Feb. 13 study session that more than a half dozen logos are used to represent the school's mascot, The Knights. Haupt encouraged the board to choose one logo to ensure uniformity throughout the district. Haupt said it would be ideal for the board to choose a logo soon so it can be incorporated into gymnasium renovations planned for this summer.

"I am always concerned about the name on the front of the jersey, not the one on the back," Haupt said. "I want people to support the Fairfield Knights, not iteration seven of the Fairfield Knights."

Haupt said the current most popular logo, which shows a Knight wielding a sword over the word "Knights," is used by a technical college. Haupt wishes for Fairfield Knights to have a logo unique to the district.

Board Vice President Jack Liller suggested students design logo possibilities. If the board likes a student submission, they will send it to a professional graphic artist for inspiration. Haupt said he will pursue Liller's suggestion but noted the process must be expedited so a logo can be finalized by this summer. The district will then phase out all other iterations of The Knights logo.

School Calendar

The board sent a proposed school calendar back to committee for

review. Haupt presented a 2023-24 school calendar that was created by a committee consisting of students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Haupt noted the committee's top objective was to ensure the proposed graduation date of May 29, 2024 does not change.

The board commented favorably on the proposal but encouraged the committee to give students off on Friday, Sept. 22. The Borough of Fairfield hosts a community-wide celebration of the apple harvest that weekend called Pippenfest. Most activities occur on the weekend but many residents host yard sales beginning on Friday. Bus drivers have told the district that navigating borough streets is difficult the Fri-

day before Pippenfest weekend, Liller said. He also added students should be available to help with Pippenfest preparations.

"It wouldn't be bad to get behind our community's one big event," Liller said.

Haupt said he understood the concern but was struggling with suggesting an alternative classroom day to make up for Sept. 22. He and the committee will research options to present to the board.

"We should put forth an educationally-rich calendar and I believe that is what we have," Haupt said.

Transportation Request

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a daycare owner asked the district to provide transportation from her business to the middle school. Melissa

Cavey, owner of Caterpillar Clubhouse on Fairfield's Main Street, said next year she will have possibly four students in her before-school program who will attend the middle school. The district currently does not provide transportation for middle and high school students who live less than one and a half miles from the campus. Parents are uncomfortable allowing 10-year-old students to walk to school, Cavey said.

"It would be hard just to have a staff member exclusively walk the kids down," she said.

Board President Jennifer Holz told Cavey the district will examine the issue. Liller expressed understanding for Cavey's concern but said he fears transporting students who attend Caterpillar Clubhouse will lead to vastly expanding who can ride a school bus.

Frederick County School System

If you have a student in grades 5-11, you may have seen a notice about your student taking the Maryland School Survey sometime this spring. This survey contains four areas: safety, community, environment, and relationships. Once the results are compiled, they are reported for schools and on the Maryland Report Card website, MDReportCard.org.

MSDE conducts a survey for all parents/guardians with students ages 3-21 who are receiving special education and related services through your local school. All are encouraged to participate. The survey must be completed by May 19. Please check with your local school for details.

Our legislators are hard at work in Annapolis. March 20 is the legislative crossover date this year. A bill that does not cross over to the opposite chamber

faces high procedural hurdles in order to be considered this year. Bill introduction dates were earlier in February, so anyone following the progress of legislation has some idea of what bills have been proposed. Currently, those in the education world are following over 350 bills. The mgaleg.maryland.gov website has a feature that allows the public to be notified about the path of any selected bills. You create a list and then click on the thumbtack on the bill synopsis page. Each day, an email is delivered that lists the chosen bills and their progress.

Superintendent Dyson and the Frederick County BoE are working hard to improve communication with our stakeholders. Our Public Affairs Department will be the centralized location for system communications. If you are not already familiar

with signing up for Find Out First, that would be a good first step to receiving email notifications. If you are currently receiving FoFs, remember to update your settings as your student changes levels, interests, etc.

FCPS students elected UHS sophomore Brooke Lieberman to be the next Student Member of the Board (SMOB). She will officially begin on July 1. Brooke will have the opportunity to shadow current SMOB Lucas Tassarollo from Gov. TJ High School.

Heather Quill, guidance counselor at Lincoln Elementary, has been named the 2023 School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association. She will represent Maryland later this year at the national level. We are proud of the fact that FCPS is getting close the recommended ratio of 1 counselor to every

250 students. According to Principal Eric Rhodes, "Mrs. Quill is a constant cheerleader to build the culture that surrounds her to reassure that each person feels heard and supported." Congratulations Mrs. Quill! We know you will represent us well.

A reminder that the county Science and Social Studies Fairs are returning on Saturday, March 25 at Tuscarora High School. Registration is open till March 5 for secondary science, and March 20 for elementary science and social studies. The forms are online on the FCPS website. We look forward to this display of student creativity, problem-solving, and hard work.

The school system is seeking nominations for the 2023 Charles Tressler Distinguished Teacher Award. According to the FCPS website, "Named for a former Hood College faculty member who encouraged students to enter teaching profession, this award recog-

nizes an FCPS teacher who has had a significant positive impact on young people." For eligibility and other information, go to www.fcps.org/awards. Nomination packets are due to the FCPS Public Affairs Department at the Central Office by Friday, March 17.

The recent unseasonably warm weather can fool us into thinking we have made it through school closures fairly unscathed this year. Please contact your child's school if you are uncertain about inclement weather procedures that have recently been updated to include the possible use of asynchronous instruction.

And last but not least, FCPS is holding its Annual Job Fair on Tuesday, March 14 from 3 to 7 pm at Hood College in the Whitaker Campus Center. Applicants are encouraged to pre-register for the Job Fair. For more information, go to the FCPS website.

Youth summer programs at FCC!

Secure your spot now for Kids on Campus, a Maryland Certified Youth Camp at Frederick Community College. Registration is open for half and full-day summer programs. Youth ages six to 15 years old can enjoy age-appropriate adventures in science and technology, culinary and creative arts, theater production,

the great outdoors, literature and language, and more.

"Frederick Community College is not just a place for college students, but is a place that prides itself on offering learning opportunities for community members of all ages," said Heather Hinkle, FCC Youth and Thrive Program Manager. "Kids

on Campus at FCC is designed to provide children and teenagers with hands-on, engaging programs that combine learning and fun for a memorable summer."

Kids on Campus runs weekly sessions starting June 12 and ending August 11.

Participants have options to build a

half or full-day schedule with a morning class from 9 a.m. to noon and an afternoon class from 1 to 4 p.m.

Full-day schedule attendees can pack their lunch and join the "Lunch Bunch," where all students eat together and enjoy organized games in the FCC Student Center's dining area.

Some classes running this summer include: WeDoRobotics and Coding,

Junior Scientists, Kids Take Over the Kitchen, Calling All Painters, Video Game Design, Writer's Workshop, Marine Science, and, Advanced Clay

To browse the complete list of classes, get more information, or to register, visit frederick.augusoft.net.
For more information, you can email youthprograms@frederick.edu or call 301-846-2661.

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Some positions have specific age requirements.



ARTS

Majestic Theater presents the Trinity Irish Dance Company

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater welcomes Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC) bringing its unique form of progressive Irish dance on Thursday, March. Called "impossibly complex" by The New York Times and "sophisticated and commanding" by the Los Angeles Times, this company of elite performing artists from around the world presents both classic and groundbreaking works.

"Trinity Irish Dance is one of the most electrifying dance companies touring today. The athletic skill of the dancers is breathtaking, especially the precision of their percussive taps," said Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director. "In short, these ladies rock!"

Founded in 1990, TIDC is the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, and celebrates Founding Artistic Director Mark

Howard's unique vision to fuse vibrant Irish traditions with ever-evolving American innovation. Through a blend of percussive power and aerial grace that consistently presents males and females on equal footing, TIDC sends a clear message of female empowerment. "The women of TIDC don't only get to make noise," says Associate Artistic Director Chelsea Hoy. "We're expected to make noise."

TIDC is on a mission to save the integrity of Irish dance from the overly commercialized productions that have become synonymous with the form. The strength of this mission brings dancers and musicians together from around the world. While commercial shows seek sameness, TIDC celebrates uniqueness and individuals who will bring the work to life in dynamic ways. "Since inception, the company has always been an



Trinity Irish Dance is one of the most electrifying dance companies touring today. The athletic skill of the dancers is breathtaking, especially the precision of their percussive taps.

art-driven company that uniquely celebrates Irish dance through a performing arts lens," says Mark Howard. "We seek higher ground by allowing the form to morph

and evolve with integrity while keeping a clear lineage to the ancestors."

Tickets for Trinity Irish Dance Company start at \$36 and are

available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling (717)-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Weinberg Center presents the U.S. Army Concert Band

The U.S. Army Concert Band, an ensemble of the U.S. Army Band Pershing's Own, will hold a free concert at the Weinberg Center of the Arts in Frederick Maryland on Sunday, March 19.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, The U.S. Army Concert Band has performed in concert venues such as Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Hollywood Bowl—connecting the Army with the American people.

The ensemble participates in ongoing, educational outreach and often appears at national and international music events, including the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music Educators National Convention, the Texas Bandmasters Association, and the American Bandmasters Association.

To promote international goodwill, the 65-piece, traditional concert band has performed joint concerts with the Ukrainian Navy band, and has appeared in military tattoos in Scotland, Sweden, Holland, Norway, Australia, and Japan.

The Soldiers in this ensemble have been trained at some of the most prestigious music conservatories and universities in the country. Displaying their versatility, the Concert Band members perform a variety of styles, ranging from classical to popular.

This is a Free Event, but tickets are required and can be found online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2022-23 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.



The Soldiers in this ensemble have been trained at some of the most prestigious music conservatories and universities in the country and perform a variety of styles, ranging from classical to popular.

Way Off Broadway's 'Who Dunit?'

In addition to its regular Mainstage Season, Way Off Broadway has become known for its special events throughout the year. Notably, its interactive murder mysteries in which the audience gets involved and helps solve the case at hand. The newest installment of the Marquee Mystery-

ies Series is A Fairytale Storybook Who Dunit? which will appear at the theatre for three performances only on Friday evening, March 3rd, Saturday evening, March 4th, and Sunday afternoon, March 5th. A Fairytale Storybook Who Dunit? follows the theatre's season-opener, Camelot.

Detective stories and mysteries have been a part of entertainment culture for as long as anyone can remember. From the days of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie to the modern television crime shows of today, everyone loves a good mystery, and everyone thinks they can be the next Sherlock Holmes. Way Off Broadway and Justin M. Kiska's Marquee Mysteries, they have that chance.

In the Land of Fairytales, the

Fairy Godmother is one of the most powerful figures, always using her magic for good and to help those in need. But as storybook characters gather to honor the Fairy Godmother for her centuries of service, the festivities are interrupted by murder! Can one of the fairytale characters we've all grown up with be a killer? Maybe they aren't all really who we think they are. Everyone is a suspect and all of the guests at Way Off Broadway are asked to help catch a killer.

Bringing the classic fairytale

characters to life for this hilarious murder mis-adventure are Betsey Whitmore Brannen as the Fairy Godmother, Dino P. Coppa, Sr. as Rumpelstiltskin, Brian Kaider as Prince Charming, Pam Neely as the Evil Witch, Shannon Wells as Little Red Riding Hood, and Megan Elizabeth West as Gretel.

A Fairytale Storybook Who Dunit? is the latest interactive mystery from the creator of Marquee Mysteries, Justin M. Kiska, who is directing the event for the theatre.

The mystery on Friday evening, March 3rd and Saturday evening, March 4th will beginning at 6 p.m., with the Sunday matinee mystery on March 5th starting at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased by contacting the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

For complete details about A Fairytale Storybook Who Dunit?, or any of Way Off Broadway's upcoming productions visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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Knitting: is it making a comeback?

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU class of 2024

Here at the Mount, we have an artistic space called “the Maker’s House.” Located at the bottom of the smokestack behind Border’s Hall, artists come here to relax and wind down, with each session different to explore the vast world of art. On February 16th, the theme was knitting and crocheting, respectfully being called “knit night.”

About Knitting and Crocheting

We have all heard of knitting and crocheting. Maybe a grandmother or mother has crocheted you a blanket for Christmas one year or has knitted you a sweater. Maybe you find pleasure in knitting or crocheting yourself. Whatever the case may be, you know of these two forms of art. But what is the difference between the two? The basic response is that knitting uses a pair of long needles to form the loops, moving a set of loops from one needle to another while the stitches are held onto the needle as you progress. Crocheting uses a singular hook to hook the loops together directly on the piece.

If you want to start out, crocheting is the easiest, especially compared to that of knitting. Depending on what you like best—if you like structure and learning a few stitches at a time, or you prefer the freedom to fix mistakes quickly—you can easily start with a quick stop at a store to get some yarn and the tools.

The oldest form of such art is knitting, which does not have a specific date of when the first product of knitting came about. However, we do know that knitting originated in the Middle East. It was a younger version of spinning and weaving, which knitted together ancient garments using natural fibers like cotton, wool, and silk. The term “knit,” according to the Oxford English Dictionary, was first used in the fifteenth century (around the 1400s) and originated from the Old English word *cnyttan*, which means “to tie with a knot.”

However, the art of knitting originated in Egypt between 500 to 1200 A.D., according to historian Richard Rutt. Another researcher, named Rudolf Pfister, discovered fragments of knitted clothing in Eastern Syria, so the exact place of discovery is still unknown to us today. The pieces found by Pfister were said to be made of purled and plain wool and was formed to be part of a sock. Some researchers, however, argue that this form of knitting is actually called “nal-binding,” which is a knotless fabric creation technique that precedes knitting itself.

From the Middle East, the art was introduced to Spain and the Catholic Church. The use was to create liturgical garments and accessories. During the fourteenth century, however, the activity of

knitting reached the rest of Europe, and became one of the more highly skilled craftsmen works. Knitting guilds were established in France in 1268, and the purl stitch method was not invented until the sixteenth century by English knitters. This form was used to knit stockings. From then on, several other styles and forms were created, and with it, came the economic and trading side of knitting. Knitting became a staple for the Revolutionary war, where many people knitted their own garments to boycott British goods.

Crocheting, on the other hand, does not have such a verse history as knitting does. Popularized in the 1820s in England, the first usage of the term “crochet” came about in 1837, where a purse pattern in an instructions book coins the word. The manual, however, was written in French, but it was not as popular as it was in England. The term, respectfully in French, means “hook,” which is what the form uses. Eventually, the term became interchangeable with the term “tambour.” Tambour is a technique of creating a chain-stitch embroidery, using a small, hooked needle to be more efficient. This form came about in China in the early 1760s. The main purpose of these hooks during the time of crocheting were to create long chains for lace, mesh, and decorative trimmings on hats, cloaks, and dresses.

Another form of crocheting also originated in Ireland, which imitates more of Venetian needlepoint lace. This form originated in the 1840s, and were used more in textile industries, which England eventually adopted. Crocheting became popular around the late 1940s, after the war. Due to the increase in interest, crocheting became a staple in the 1970s, with the motif of “granny square.”

Experience with the Makers House

The Makers House is a club on campus where artists go to express themselves through a series of forms. All are welcome to these events. Students: check your campus email for dates and times to these events. On February 16th, the Makers House held an event focusing on knitting and crocheting. Other events include craft, shop (or FabLab as they call it),

ceramics, gardening, or an oddball day, which occurs every day (open to all students).

The mission of the Makers House is “how might we build, model, and cultivate creative community to gather and create together” which is in the form of a question written on one of the studio’s walls. Underneath this question, three answers are given: “to heal, to make, to grow, together.” Art brings people together, which is the reason for the creation of the Maker’s House.

When you get to the shop—to reiterate, is located under the smokestack behind Border’s Hall, and right along the building there will be a door which leads to the studio itself—it is a small and cozy studio, with a central table, and walls filled with schedules, inspiration, notes, and some small drawings. There is even a “Wall of Gratitude.” These events are student-led, with majority of them studying Fine Arts and their craft. At this particular event, they had two experts helping to teach novices at knitting and crocheting. Several students, on this day, were finishing or continuing previous projects, and this space allows them to be with like-minded people while completing their products. Many people were novices themselves, learning the art of knitting. Overall, the people here are nonjudgmental and very helpful.

On the inspiration wall, they have several artists with social media platforms to refer back to. Of course, some of these do not deal specifically with knitting and crocheting, but they do deal with fine arts. On YouTube, they recommend “Amy and the island,” “Danica Maye,” “Ezpzideas,” and “Diyuri.” On Tik Tok, they recommend “V. Lavender,” “Kennas.diy,” and “Krusk.i.”

In the Makers House, music was playing in the background with some best musical artists, including ABBA, Elton John, and many more. The purpose of these spaces, on a broader scale, is to allow artists to interact with each other while finding a calming space to enjoy what they love. Art connects people in more ways than one. Art can be a space to express emotions and feelings or can help with mental health and therapy. Many people find comfort in their work.



Overall, try knitting once; you might find your next hobby!

Upcoming Campus Events:

There are only two events being held on campus this month but be sure to mark them on your calendars!

Juried Student Art Show in Williams Gallery in Delaplaine, with the Reception on March 23rd at 5 p.m. and The Meta Plays, our

spring mainstage production, in Horning Theater in Delaplaine from March 23rd to 25th at 7:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for April, where we have thirteen events! This starts with the Choral Festival at Seton Basilica in Emmitsburg on April 1st.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

Academic team season highlights

Gina Lin
CHS Class of 2024

Life isn't always about winning. Sometimes, finding genuine enjoyment in everyday activities is more important. Although Catoc-tin didn't make it as a top four team in the Academic Tournament competitions, many contestants can agree that they enjoyed participating in the events.

This year marks the 42nd annual Academic Tournament Competition. The program was started in 1982. Catoc-tin High School and has only won a single tournament, in 1982. Linganore High School accumulated the most wins— nine tournaments. Frederick High and Walkersville High have both won six tournaments. Gov. Thomas Johnson High and Middletown High both maintain five tournament championships. Urbana High and Brunswick High have each won three and Tuscarora has one championship.

Academic Tournament matches follow a similar structure at each game. Matches are divided into five rounds, with three schools competing against each other in each round over a course of eight weeks. Competitions are all held at Frederick High School. The rules are simple— each team participates in seven regular season matches, and the top four teams compete for a final round during the last week. During the 2022 season, Brunswick High School was the tournament champion.

Additionally, competition rules are pretty basic. Each of the rounds is allocated to a specific topic; and players earn a point for each correct answer, while losing a point for an incorrect response. All rounds include buzzers, with an exception

of the individual team questions, in Round 2. Round 1 is composed of the "Common Thread" questions— the prompts in this round all exhibit a similar pattern. Round 2 excludes buzzers, as each team can earn points without interference from the other teams, kind of like free throws in basketball.

Points are earned if they answer correctly, and there is no penalty for incorrect answers. During the third round, teams put forth their strongest math players, as this round is reserved for math questions. The same rules apply for this round. In Round 4, players are quizzed on questions that reflect the weekly themes. Some themes include "Greek Mythology" and "World Cup Soccer". The themes change every week, and will require some studying in advance from the teams. The final round, Round 5, is dubbed the "Grab Bag". Contents of this round are implied in its name— trivial questions! The final round seems to be popular among participants. Catoc-tin's Audrey Sare said, "My favorite part is the grab bag round because you don't have to study in advance, and it's cool to represent our school in academics!"

Catoc-tin's Academic team was relatively young; with three veteran competitors, out of the eight. The team did well last year so there would be noticeable differences in performance, as most of the team is inexperienced. Catoc-tin's Academic team is coached by Doug Young and Rebecca Hurley— both science teachers. The Cougars did secure a victory in the sixth week of competition, against Frederick, Middletown, and Oakdale High Schools. The theme for that week was "Post WWII Europe" and was held on February

10th. The three teams stayed at an equilibrium at the onslaught of the match. Frederick took the lead in the Math Round at first, but the Cougars prevailed with a point at the round's conclusion. Round 4 earned Catoc-tin and Middletown two additional points. At this point, tension increased going into the final round, as the Cougars had a narrow lead against the Knights and Cadets. The Grab Bag proved to be tumultuous, but the Cougars finished the match and won by three points. The final score was Oakdale 7, Middletown 9, Frederick 10, and Catoc-tin 14. "I felt satisfied that our hard work was starting to pay off," junior Michael Metz discussed.

The Cougars barely missed a victory in week three and four. Week Three competitions were held on January 27th, with the theme being "Oceania Geography". Catoc-tin contended against Middletown High and Tuscarora High Titans. This match was riveting, as the Cougars, Knights, and Titans were neck-to-neck the entire game. "It is a little disappointing that we weren't able to overcome the teams, if we did then we would be in sixth place overall, instead of eighth," Sare commented. The lead swung back and forth between the Titans and Knights, but the Titans were able to hold on for a very narrow win. Although the Cougars didn't secure a round, they earned enough points to be even with the Knights and Titans. Titans took the lead in Round 1 with a score of 3-1-0. The Knights narrowly captured a lead in the second round. In Round 3, the Titans clapped back with a win, and tied the Knights in the specialty theme round. Heading into Round 4, the score totaled:



Catoc-tin's Academic Team put in a good showing at this year's County Academic Tournament.

Tuscarora 12, Middletown 10, and Catoc-tin 6. The Grab Bag was full of anticipation, the Knights added four additional points and had the Titans clutching the lead. The Cougars finished impressively by adding eight points. The final score added up to: Catoc-tin 14, Knights 14, and Titans 15.

Cougars also played hard in the week four match, which was held on January 27. The theme was "World Cup Soccer". Catoc-tin, Brunswick, and Frederick competed in the second match. Brunswick started off vigorously by leading with 5 points. The Railroaders continued their successes by earning three more points in the second round. But, the Cougars and Cadets advanced on the Railroaders in the math round. The Railroaders recovered and led by five points in the "World Cup Soccer" round. Catoc-tin and Frederick, again, rapidly gained points but it wasn't enough to throw off Brunswick. The final score was: Brunswick 13, Catoc-tin 11, and Frederick 10.

Week five, held on February 3rd, was also a noteworthy competition.

Teams were confronted with the category of "World Religions".

Catoc-tin competed against Brunswick and Urbana. It was interesting to see how events would unfold as the Railroaders and Hawks are strong teams this year. Urbana, unsurprisingly, dominated the first round and led six points over the Cougars, and seven over the Railroaders. The Cougars surprised opponents by tying with Urbana— both teams added six points to their scoreboard. Also, Brunswick earned a point and closed the gap with Urbana. Urbana regained traction in the Specialty Theme round and gained six points, which left them with an 11 point advantage. Cougars secured the final round and tied with the Railroaders. The final score was: Brunswick 9, Catoc-tin 9, and Urbana 19. "I wasn't expecting to do that well, and we definitely exceeded everyone's expectations," Metz recalled after the competition.

Overall, the Cougars did pretty well considering the fact that a majority of the team is underclassmen, and there are only two returning players, who are sophomores.

To read past Catoc-tin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Baseball reflects America, for better or for worse

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

Baseball has been and always will be intertwined with America. It has been foundational in the modern history of our country, for better and for worse. But it reflects the emotions, movements and pacing of us as a society and how we see ourselves as Americans. Whether it intended to be or not, baseball is a bright mirror to our own national consciousness, its virtues and defects.

100 years ago, at the beginning of the Prohibition Era, when organized crime thrived in many American cities, not even baseball could escape its corruption. Eight members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox were permanently banned from baseball for fixing the World Series against the Cincinnati Reds as Arnold Rothstein, a crime boss from New York, had paid them to throw the series. Some players admitted to the ruse, but others, like "Shoeless" Joe Jackson retained the narrative that even though they had taken money, it didn't affect their play during the championship series. This scandal kept many of these players from making a living and some from the Hall of Fame. Like many other American endeavors at this time, crime had corrupted the national pastime.

Baseball has also reflected how Americans viewed safety in an increasingly industrial world. At a time when presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson were challenging monopolized industry based on their safety and economic practices, baseball went through a progressive phase. In 1914, the Federal League was founded and started to pay ballplayers higher wages than their counterpart associations. The owners of Federal League clubs eventually brought an anti-trust suit against the owners of National and American League clubs, claiming they had a monopoly on the game. Nothing ever came of the original lawsuit, but this eventually led to the MLB being exempt from anti-trust laws, giving it that monopoly over the game that Federal League own-

ers claimed. The Federal League folded after the 1915 season.

In both World Wars, millions of American men were drafted into the armed forces to fight in Europe and the Pacific. The National and American League never suspended play during those two respective conflicts, but the players themselves were not exempt from the draft; many players fought gallantly in the Armed services, such as Hall of Fame pitcher Christy Matthewson.

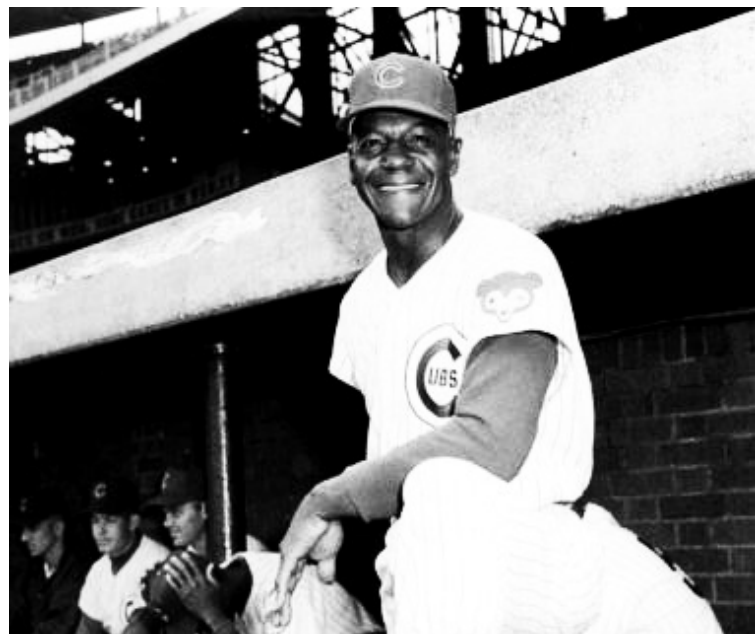
During World War II, thousands of Japanese Americans, German Americans and Italian Americans were arrested and placed in internment camps, as they were seen by the government as potentially loyal to Axis countries. Even while relatives were arrested based on their ethnicity, many men from these backgrounds served gallantly in the armed forces. The 442nd Infantry Regiment is the most decorated unit in U.S. military history, fighting heroically in Italy during 1943 and 1944; twenty-one of its members received the Medal of Honor. This unit was exclusively made up of Japanese Americans, many of whom had family members in internment camps. The Sicilian son of a San Francisco fisherman also experienced what many of the members of the 442nd had when it came to ethnic profiling by the government. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 even after his parents were interned for being suspected as enemy aliens. A couple of months before his parents were arrested, this baseball player set the record at 56 for most hits in consecutive games; this man was Joe DiMaggio.

In Brooklyn in 1945, Brooklyn Dodgers' general manager Branch Rickey signed the Kansas City Monarchs shortstop Jackie Robinson to a minor league contract. Soon after, Robinson was playing for the club's minor league affiliate, the Montreal Royals, and within two years, on April 15, 1947, Robinson started at first base for the Dodgers in a 5-3 win against the Boston Braves. He was the first African American ballplayer to play in organized

white baseball since Moses Fleetwood Walker in 1885, breaking the long-established color barrier imposed by the owners of major league ball clubs. Almost a decade later, the modern civil rights movement began in the United States, spurred on by the likes of Martin Luther King Jr. and countless others who were fighting for their rights guaranteed by the constitution.

Hall of Famer Buck O'Neil, who himself played for the Kansas City Monarch in the 1940's alongside Robinson, helped found the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Among baseball historians, O'Neil is considered one of the most important historians of the game, as many of the players and stories of the Negro Leagues would have been lost to the past without him. O'Neil cited the signing of Robinson as the start of the modern civil rights movement in the United States, ten years before the recognized beginning of the movement. While Robinson made his debut in Brooklyn, Martin Luther King Jr. was a senior at Morehouse College in Atlanta. The two never crossed paths at the time, even though later in his life, Robinson would advocate for the civil rights movement. As integration in Baseball started to become more ever present with the likes of Larry Doby, Hank Thompson and Willard Brown, the civil rights movement as we know it today was just about to start. In the decade or so after integration, the movement ramped up with crucial events that lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the eventual inclusion of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution.

The 1990's saw political tensions that eventually culminated in the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Baseball also went through scandal during that time. In 1994, players went on strike, citing problems with club ownership. This culminated in the World Series being canceled for that year, the first time it hadn't been played since 1904. Eventually, a new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Players Union and the league was reached, but the damage had been



Buck O'Neil, the great baseball historian and first African American coach in major league baseball.

done. The ultimate victim of this, like many with the Clinton Lewinsky scandal, was the people. Fan attendance dropped, and it took famous moments like Cal Ripken Jr. breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive games played record to save baseball.

Today, as the 2023 MLB season arrives, new rules, such as pitch clocks and bigger bases to ensure player safety, are all meant to be enforced in the upcoming season. This is in an attempt to shorten the game times, which in recent decades have exploded, resulting in some games coming to three or so hours per nine innings. Baseball purists will cite the fact that the game has always been a limitless affair, where time does not intercede from players on the field trying to score runs and get people out, no matter how long it takes. Others believe that the game has slowed to the point where Amer-

icans would rather watch something like football or basketball, where a clock governs the movements of a game, not the players.

The United States will always be in a constant state of flux, and so will baseball. In the 150+ years of professional baseball, crime syndicates have taken control of the game, the welfare of the players have been exploited and then protected, players have served their country in times of need, and people have been locked out of playing the game simply because of the color of their skin—only to then blow the leagues away with talent. Baseball always reflects our country's feelings; it shows us when we are doing bad, but it also shows us when we do good. When baseball is in conflict, it can show us how we, as a people, can change for the better.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Common sense and your well-being

Jefferson Breland

Common sense and health go hand in hand; that seems simple enough and obvious enough. Or is it?

Firstly, what do I mean by "common sense."

The Oxford English Dictionary states that it is, "good sense and sound judgment in practical matters: example: 'a common-sense approach.'" As we may know, this definition relates to one's ability to make decisions of the intelligent sort.

Question, what is the origin of the phrase?

Warning: Geeky content ahead from the website www.etymonline.com. In the late 1300s, someone decided "common sense" referred to "an internal mental power supposed to unite (reduce to a common perception) the impressions conveyed by the five physical senses (Latin *sensus communis*, Greek *koine aisthesis*). Thus "ordinary understanding, without which one is foolish or insane" (1530s); the meaning "good sense" is from 1726. Also, as an adjective, common-sense "characterized by common sense" (1854)."

My understanding of the above information is "common sense" is the use of the body's five senses (quick review: sight, hearing, taste,

smell, touch) to help the mind make decisions.

Wait a minute! The body informing the mind? That's nuts. The mind is the ruler of the body... or is it?

Our bodies do, or attempt to do, everything we ask of it. Whatever silly things we as humans think to do, our bodies will give it a go. Bungee jumping and running marathons come to mind.

We also ask the body to do mundane things such as stay up late to watch TV, eat more than we "should," smoke cigarettes (I am a former smoker so I've been there), drink a six-pack of anything, eat a sno-cone too fast, go to a Ted Nugent concert without earplugs, and so on.

These are more obvious things which, if we were honestly listening to our bodies and its wisdom, we would probably not do them. Our bodies never lie. I repeat, "NEVER lie." Our body is always paying attention to what we do to it even if our mind is totally unaware of the consequences.

Sometimes when we are aware of the consequences, our minds create dang good reasons for why it is okay to do those things. It is as if the mind is addicted to creating the body's suffering.

One of the more insidious ways we ignore our body's common sense is the information we feed it.

According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the stomach digests not only food and drink, it also processes experience, emotions, and knowledge, aka information.

The menu of topics, items, subjects, things (what have you) floating about in our society at present on the international, national, regional, state, county, town, and neighborhood level which we may or may not have an opinion about is vast.

Whether it is politics, sports, inflation, deflation, gas prices, food prices, money concerns in general, traffic, giant balloons, UFOs, education, rock n'roll, disco, a dangling preposition, "proper English," gas stoves, air freshers (a personal favorite), science, religion, "duck season-wabbit season", the list goes on and on and on. There is a potential source of stress lurking on every street corner, web page, social media app, and news source.

Our current society, generally speaking, seems to be addicted to stress and therefore suffering. Even if we agree with what is being said (so much of what is being said is in opposition to what someone else is saying), our body produces an emotional response. This emotional response is fear, anger, sadness, worry, grief, or some combination of them.

Fear, anger, and worry are generally considered the three primary emotions of what we often call the

"stress response." We can fairly say that "stress" is a primary source of chronic disease and illness in modern societies.

Everything from heart disease, cancer, strokes, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, liver diseases, kidney diseases, obesity, substance abuse, and mental health conditions can all be linked to the effects of stress on the body according to TCM.

From the Western medicine point of view, scientific studies show that fear, anger, and worry produce the neurotransmitters cortisol and adrenaline.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Adrenaline increases your heart rate, elevates your blood pressure and boosts energy supplies. Cortisol, the primary stress hormone, increases sugars (glucose) in the bloodstream, enhances your brain's use of glucose and increases the availability of substances that repair tissues."

"Cortisol also curbs functions that would be nonessential or harmful in a fight-or-flight situation. It alters immune system responses and suppresses the digestive system, the reproductive system and growth processes. This complex natural alarm system also communicates with the brain regions that control mood, motivation and fear."

After the initial triggering of the stress response, the adrenaline and cortisol levels drop and the body returns to its "normal" function levels and life goes on.

And what is "normal?" There is no "normal," because my "normal" is based on my life, my experience. Your "normal" is based on your life. The baselines for our "normal" functions are all different.

The sources of anger, fear, and worry in our society are pervasive. Back to the street corners and the lurking triggers. The triggers are frequent and at our fingertips. We are surrounded by potential triggers.

Cortisol is very helpful; however, continual exposure to it has dire consequences. If we allow ourselves to be continually triggered, we produce too much cortisol which has been linked to weight gain, acne, thinning skin, easy bruising, slower healing, muscle weakness, severe fatigue, irritability, difficulty concentrating, headaches, and high blood pressure.

Scared you yet?

Here is the kicker, most times we choose our emotions. What?!?!?

Think about all the reasons you choose to be angry. Think about the reasons for your choice to worry. Think about what you choose to be fearful about. Fear can be a tricky emotion, sometimes we have genuine reasons to be fearful, and there are times we choose it when we don't have to.

Most of us don't realize we choose our emotions. We believe other people MAKE us angry, worry, happy, sad. And here is the rub. If we believe others make us feel emotions, then we give the power of choice away. We give away OUR power. Quite frankly, not everyone deserves our fear, anger, joy, worry, and grief. Why give it to them?

Where's my proof? I believe the fact we sometimes don't choose to be fearful, it happens in some automatic response, points to the possibility that sometimes we can choose NOT to be fearful. What scares me, may not scare you.

Angry yet? If you say I made you angry. Please pause.

These are just black marks on a page. In and of themselves, the black squiggles on the page are doing nothing. You are the one who is interpreting them. Based on your beliefs, you create thoughts. In the presence of these thoughts, you become angry. Am I your thoughts or did you choose those thoughts and beliefs? Based on your choices, you became angry. Is not the anger then your choice?

Even if you didn't become angry, can you follow the logic of my proposition?

Stop. Look. Listen.

This is how I learned to prepare to cross the street as a kid. We can apply this same ancient wisdom to every interaction and event of our day.

I would add touch, smell, and taste to the mix. Why not use all of our senses, our common sense, to pay attention to life around us? It can only help. When we use our common senses, the wisdom of our body, we can make more informed choices and live healthier lives.

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FITNESS & HEALTH

Nutrition, exercise, and allergies

Linda Stultz
Certifies Fitness Trainer

Most people hear the word allergies and think of ragweed, pollen or other environmental irritants that cause congestion, sneezing and headaches. Another common thought is shellfish or other seafood allergies. Food allergies are not as well known because environmental allergies seem to affect more people or at least that's what I thought. I knew about some food allergies because I and some people I know have allergic reactions to some simple foods like chicken, potatoes and shellfish.

What I recently discovered is that I am sensitive and intolerant of some other foods that have been causing chronic headaches and body fatigue for years. Just because foods have health benefits like protein, nutrients and healthy omega fats doesn't mean they are good for everyone.

I recently learned about histamine intolerance. I did not realize histamine can build up all through your body and cause chronic problems. After years of dealing with headaches I was amazed to discover the foods I was eating everyday and thinking they were healthy for me were really causing my chronic symptoms. The reason I wanted to share this information is not to give people a reason to stop eating healthy. We can all find enough junk food we would rather be eating. I wanted to bring to light something that, unless you or someone you know has a problem with certain foods you may not think about. What you are eating could be causing your symptoms.

If you are having a reoccurring problem with fatigue, headache or whatever you may be feeling, think about your diet. Do some research on what your problem is and see if food could be affecting it. The best place to start is with your doctor. Sometimes we think the problem we are having is only happening to us and nobody will know what to do for it. Talking to the doctor or a health professional that is well educated and deals with health issues all the time have probably heard of the symptoms and may have a simple answer.

Of course, we can check the internet for answers but don't let what you read scare you or convince you that you have something terrible. The information can be helpful in giving you ideas as to what questions to ask or what type of health professional to see but the information can also confuse you. I have found a great way to discover useful information is to talk with family and friends. Many times they may be dealing with similar problems or know someone who is. Talking with family and friends could also confuse you so take all information you find with a grain of salt and keep researching until you

find what works for you.

As I said before, I am sharing this information with you because I had no idea some common, healthy foods could cause problems for people. Because of what I learned about my own food intolerance. I am getting back to feeling better and able to do the things I enjoy without dealing with headaches several times a week. I am not saying food is your trigger but suggesting it is worth considering. If you have chronic health issues examine your diet, environment or anything else that you are in contact with on a daily basis.

My issues could have been improved or eliminated years ago if I had any idea some common, everyday foods could possibly be causing them. Sometimes it's just a simple comment or conversation with someone that triggers a solution for you. It can also let you know you are not alone with the condition and there may be a simple way to fix the problem.

Our food today seems to be

more packaged, processed and has more preservatives than years ago. While this may be part of the problem with food intolerance, even fresh foods can cause a reaction for some people. I will not list any foods because not everyone has a problem with the same things.

Exercise can help with chronic body fatigue and headaches along with congestion and symptoms caused by environmental conditions. The more we move our bodies the more flexible and strong they become. An exercise routine helps with energy, weight loss and many health issues people face. Along with physically helping our bodies, exercise helps us mentally with mood, self-esteem, depression and social interaction.

I hope this article will inspire you to think about how you are feeling, if you have any reoccurring ailments and give you some direction into talking with your doctor about what you may be able to do. Discovering what may be causing



your symptoms and what you may be able to do to eliminate them. Finding the cause of the problem is more helpful than just taking medication to ease the symptoms. Medication is a wonderful tool for

improving our health but sometimes it can be done with natural solutions.

Remember to Keep Moving for your body, mind and soul. You'll be glad you did.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of March

Professor Wayne Wooten

For March, the Full Moon, the Worm Moon, is on March 7th. Last quarter is on March 14th. The Vernal Equinox begins spring on March 20th at 3:24 p.m.. The new moon is on March 21st. The waxing crescent moon marking the beginning of Ramadan passes Jupiter on March 22nd, and passes Venus the following two evenings. It passes Mars on March 27th, and is first quarter the following evening.

Mercury has a close conjunction (1.3 degrees) to the right of Jupiter in twilight on March 27th. Jupiter will be lost in the Sun's glare by April, but Mercury rising higher in the SW for the first week of April. Bright Venus passes just .5 degrees (the diameter of the full moon) to the right of Jupiter as the month begins, a spectacular conjunction for the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes. By month's end, Venus will be 30 degrees higher as we lose Jupiter into the Sun's glare. Venus dominates the western sky for the next several months. Mars is overhead as March begins, but losing ground to the Sun. Saturn reappears low in the dawn by month's end, and will be close to the waning crescent in the dawn on March 19th; you will probably need binocs to spot both.

February skies were blessed with beautifully photogenic Comet 2022 E3 (ZTF), passing overhead at mid-month. Alas, it has headed far south and is now just a telescopic object after passing closest to us on February 1st. The comet was then closer to us than any planet ever gets, but still



February skies were blessed with beautifully photogenic Comet 2022 E3, making its closest approach to Earth on February 1st. If you missed it - this is what you missed seeing.

more than 100X more distant than our own Moon.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. South of Cassiopeia is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a

giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky in the northwest. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here.

East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; it is directly above us as darkness falls in early March. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. How bright does Betelgeuse appear to you tonight? In 2019-20, this famed supergiant had expanded and cooled, forming a dust envelope that has darkened much of its southern hemisphere it to less than a quarter its normal brightness in visible light.

Now the dust has dissipated, and it is back close to its normal brightness as the alpha star of Orion again.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope and among the youngest known stars.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, look for the bowl of the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Here it sits unmoving 30 degrees high in on our northern sky locally.

If you take the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl to the south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". The folk wisdom that "March comes in like a Lion" probably refers to the head of Leo rising just after sunset in early March below it.

The constellation Cancer lies midway between the Gemini to the west and Regulus east of it. Almost directly

overhead when darkness falls at month's end, look under dark skies for a faint blur of light in the middle of the four stars that make up the crab's body. This is the Praesepe, or Beehive, cluster, M-44, familiar to the ancients. Its blurry appearance lead Charles Messier to include it in his catalog of things that look at first like comets, but do not move and are far away among the stars and galaxies. Now check it out with binoculars, and resolve it into dozens of stars, hence the "Beehive"!

If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper to the south, by 9 p.m. you will be able to "arc to Arcturus", the brightest star of Spring and distinctly orange in color. Its color is an indication of its uniqueness. Its large speed and direction through the Milky Way suggests it was not formed with our Galaxy, but is a recent capture from the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a smaller satellite galaxy now being assimilated by our huge spiral galaxy. Many of its lost stars, like Arcturus, follow a band across the sky at about a 70 degree angle to our galactic plane.

Arcturus is at the tail of kite shaped Bootes, the celestial bear driver chasing the two bears from his flocks. Spike south then to Spica in Virgo. Here appearance to the Greeks marked the time to plant, for they associated Virgo with Persephone, daughter of Ceres of the Harvest, returning from six months underground with Pluto to now bless the growth and greening of the upperworld. So when Spica rises now at sunset in the SE, it is time to plant your peas! Likewise, when Persephone goes back down to Hades and disappears in the sun's glare in September SW skies, it is time to get your corn in the crib! This cycle goes back to the birth of agriculture.

Farmers' Almanac

"If you were lucky to be born Irish, you are lucky enough"
—Old Irish Blessing

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Dry, then snow and ice north, rain east, followed by blustery conditions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then a wintery mix followed by much milder conditions (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); sprinkles followed by gusty winds and turning much colder (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); warm, then rain, snow west, followed by breezy conditions (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); rain, then breezy, mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); 26-31 dry, then rain, staying mild (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanac sees a wintery mix (3, 4, 5); high winds (12, 13, 14); heavy snow (19, 20); heavy rain (28, 29, 30)

Full Moon: March's Full Moon for will occur on the 7th. It has been called Worm Moon by many Native Americans because of the abundance of earthworms that begin when the earth starts to soften due to the warming temperatures. It has also been called Sap Moon because sap would begin to rise and run during this time of year.

Special Notes: Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins on Sunday, March 13th in 2023. Don't forget to 'spring' ahead an hour at 2 a.m. EST. Day Light Savings Time will end on November 5th, unless the Sunshine Protection Act is signed into law. Passed by the Senate in March, the act is awaiting the President's signature after a final review by the House. The Vernal Equinox will occur Monday, March 20th which is considered the first day of Spring! The Almanac suggests that you "Go fly a kite" during this very windy month.

Holidays: In honor of St. Patrick on Friday, March 17th, be sure to wear something green and festive!

The Garden: March is prime time for feeding shrubs and perennials that bloom in the Summer months. Get the rake out and start clearing away old grass and debris from the lawn (that is, if the temperatures have warmed up and the snow has all gone!). Apply a pre-emergent fertilizer to the lawn during the month for healthier grass and there will fewer weeds to contend with later on in the Summer.

Don't feed azaleas or rhododendrons until after they bloom. Then, give them a fertilizer that is specially

formulated for plants that prefer acid soil. And don't forget to throw old coffee grounds around the base of these blooming beauties! As soon as your compost pile thaws, begin to turn it with a fork as best you can.

Start slow-growing and cool season seeds such as onions, leeks, parsley, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, eggplant and peppers. Remember to plant peas around St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). Transplant and fertilize sprouting seedlings after a light rain when the ground is much easier to till. For plants that need protection from heat and wind, plan your planting on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon.

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (9, 10); weeding and stirring the soil (26, 27, 31); planting above-ground crops (1, 2, 3, 28, 29, 30); harvesting all crops (13, 14, 15); setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 29, 30, 31); slaughtering/butchering meat (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); transplanting (21, 22, 23, 23, 25, 26, 27); harvesting and storing grain (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the weaning of small animals and livestock (13, 14, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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COMPUTER Q&A

Say goodbye to Windows 8

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

Windows 8 made its debut in October of 2012, making the software over a decade old. Users can reasonably expect most software to be supported by manufacturers for no more than 10 years. The Windows 8 operating system (OS) is no exception. Support for the first version of the OS ended in January 2016. Windows 8.1 has continued to be supported by Microsoft, however that support ended as of January of 2023.

What does this mean? While software support will end for the OS soon, users who are running Windows 8 should consider whether they should upgrade to a new operating system or replace their device. Your device will not just stop working. You will be able to continue using the operating system, however security vulnerabilities, known bugs, and performance issues will no longer be patched and resolved by Microsoft. This also means that if you use other software or hardware with a Windows 8 computer currently, you will have increasingly limited support options and some companies may decline to offer any support at all.

Is it safe to continue using Windows 8? Once Microsoft stops delivering updates to Windows 8 users that are connected to the internet will potentially be vulnerable. Even if you have a good antivirus, there is the potential risk that your system could be infiltrated. If you use your computer offline and do not connect to the internet at all then you can continue to use Windows 8 for offline software. If you connect your device to the internet at any point after the end-of-life support for Windows 8 you could be putting your personal data and your device at risk.

How will continuing to use Windows 8 affect me? Users who continue using Windows 8 when there is no longer any support may find that the hardware/software companies that would normally resolve the issue will not. If you must replace hardware you use with your device, for example a printer, drivers that are required to communicate with your computer are unlikely to be available for unsupported operating systems. Older hardware compatible with your devices will become more difficult to acquire and parts availability will dwindle. If you continue to use your device without being connected to the internet you can expect to get as much life out of your device as you can until you run into unresolvable issues.

Can your computer be upgraded? If your computer supports Windows 8, chances are your computer can also support Windows 10. In some cases, a Windows 8 machine can be

upgraded to Windows 10 without the user needing to re-install any software or losing any data. If the upgrade from Windows 8 to Windows 10 fails, you can consider a fresh installation of Windows 10 on your device. Since Windows 10 was a free upgrade for Windows 7 and Windows 8 users, you will not need to purchase a product key for Windows 10 if your device was activated prior to installation of your updated OS. You may want to make some additional system upgrades such as an upgraded hard drive or increased ram to get better performance if you feel that the machine is slow after upgrading to the new OS. In some cases, it may be best to consider replacing your machine. If you have a slower processor or your machine is more than 10 years old, you may be better off investing in a replacement device.

Should I buy a new computer? If you are considering replacing your machine, you will want to

ensure that your new device is Windows 11 compatible. There are still some new Windows 10 devices that are available for sale that may not meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11. If your system is not Windows 11 compatible you will find yourself in the same situation towards the end of 2025 when Microsoft plans to discontinue support for Windows 10. If you aren't sure about your own personal needs and you are planning to purchase a new computer that has or supports Windows 11, consider consulting with a friend or a trusted computer support expert who can provide personalized advice.

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HUMOR

Trivia Part Whatever

A "clue" originally meant a ball of thread. Hence, one "unravels" the clues of a mystery.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time. It is 1/100 of a second.

A fireplace is called a "mantel-piece" because at one time people hung their coats (or "mantles") over the fireplace to dry them.

The name of the Internet's most popular directory, is an acronym. According to the company, the name "Yahoo" stands for "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle."

If you add together all the numbers on a roulette wheel (1 to 36) the total is the mystical number 666.

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest

amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

In Albania, nodding the head means "no" and shaking the head means "yes."

The original name for the butterfly was "flutterby."

The phrase "a red letter day" dates back to 1704, when holy days were marked in red letters in church calendars.

The pretzel is named from the Latin word "brachiatus" meaning "having branch-like arms."

In the Middle English the word "minister" meant "lowly person." It was originally adopted as a term of humility for men of the church.

Levan, Utah is "navel" spelled backwards. It is so named because it is in the middle of Utah.

The word "Checkmate" in chess

comes from the Persian phrase "shah mat," which means "the king is dead."

The word "dreamt" is the only word in the English language that ends in "mt."

Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

Talmudists believe Adam and Eve resided in paradise a mere 12 hours before they were kicked out.

With few exceptions, birds do not sing while on the ground. They sing during flight or while sitting on an object off the ground.

Lewis Carroll wrote 98,721 letters in the last 37 years of his life.

Cinderella is known as "Tuna" in Finland.

A bear has 42 teeth.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

In eighteenth-century English gambling dens, there was an

employee whose only job was to swallow the dice if there was a police raid.

The human tongue tastes bitter things with the taste buds toward the back. Salty and pungent flavors are tasted in the middle of the tongue, sweet flavors at the tip.

A sneeze can travel as fast as 100 miles per hour.

It is impossible to sneeze and keep one's eyes open at the same time.

In 1778, fashionable women of Paris never went out in blustery weather without a lightning rod attached to their hats.

In the Balanta tribe of Africa, a bride remained married until her wedding gown was worn out. If she wanted a divorce after 2 weeks, all she had to do was rip up her dress.

This was the custom until about 20 years ago, anyway.

Marie de Medici, a member of that famous Italian family and a 17th-century queen of France, had

expensive tastes in clothes. One special dress was outfitted with 39,000 tiny pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and cost the equivalent of \$20 million at the time it was made in 1606. She wore it once.

Here is the literal translation of one of the standard traffic signs in China. It reads: "Give large space to the festive dog that makes sport in the roadway."

In 1968, a convention of beggars in Dacca, India, passed a resolution demanding that "the minimum amount of alms be fixed at 15 paise (three cents)." The convention also demanded that the interval between when a person hears a knock at his front door and when he offers alms should not exceed 45 seconds.

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HUMOR

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A law passed in Nebraska in 1912 really set down some hard rules of the road. Drivers in the country at night were required to stop every 150 yards, send up a skyrocket, then wait eight minutes for the road to clear before proceeding cautiously, all the while blowing their horn and shooting off flares.

Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile; so if you ever find yourself chased by one, run in a zigzag line. You'll lose him or her every time.

In 1500 B.C. in Egypt a shaved head was considered the ultimate in feminine beauty. Egyptian women removed every hair from their heads with special gold tweezers and polished their scalps to a high sheen with buffing cloths.

In ancient China and certain parts of India, mouse meat was considered a great delicacy.

In ancient Greece, where the mouse was sacred to Apollo, mice were sometimes devoured by temple priests.

In 1400 B.C. it was the fashion among rich Egyptian women to place a large cone of scented grease on top of their heads and keep it there all day. As the day wore on, the grease melted and dripped down over their bodies, covering their skin with an oily, glistening sheen and bathing their clothes in fragrance.

In the United States, a pound of potato chips cost two hundred times more than a pound of potatoes.

Half the foods eaten throughout the world today were developed by farmers in the Andes Mountains. Potatoes, maize, sweet potatoes, squash, all varieties of beans, peanuts, manioc, papa-

yas, strawberries, mulberries and many other foods were first grown in this region.

Blue whales weigh as much as 30 elephants and are as long as three Greyhound buses.

According to tests made at the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems in Washington, D.C., dogs and cats, like people, are either right-handed or left-handed—that is, they favor either their right or left paws.

A person cannot taste food unless it is mixed with saliva.

According to acupuncturists, there is a point on the head that you can press to control your appetite. It is located in the hollow just in front of the flap of the ear.

Tibetans, Mongolians, and people in parts of western China put salt in their tea instead of sugar.

In 1976, a Los Angeles secretary named Jannene Swift officially married a 50-pound rock. The ceremony was witnessed by more than 20 people.

In the early 19th century the words "trousers" and "pants" were considered obscene in England.

There is approximately one chicken for every human being in the world.

The first automobile race ever seen in the United States was held in Chicago in 1895. The track ran from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois. The winner was J. Frank Duryea, whose average speed was 7 miles per hour.

In the memoirs of Catherine II of Russia, it is recorded that any Russian aristocrat who displeased the queen was forced to squat in the great antechamber of the palace and to remain in that position for several days, mewing like a cat, clucking like a hen, and pecking his food from the floor.

The outdoor temperature can be estimated to within several degrees by timing the chirps of a cricket. It is done this way: count the number of

chirps in a 15-second period, and add 37 to the total. The result will be very close to the actual Fahrenheit temperature. This formula only works in warm weather.

During a severe windstorm or rainstorm the Empire State Building may sway several feet to either side.

In Elizabethan England the spoon was such a novelty, such a prized rarity, that people carried their own folding spoons to banquets.

In "Gulliver's Travels," Jonathan Swift described the two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, giving their exact size and speeds of rotation. He did this more than 100 years before either moon was discovered.

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