

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 4

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

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Fairfield & Carroll Valley honor those who serve

On March 9, residents of Fairfield and Carroll Valley came out to honor the members of the Fairfield Volunteer Fire & EMS.

Bradford Shughart, 22, was the recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award. Shughart, a life-long resident of Fairfield, is a product of the Company's Junior Fire Fighter Program, having been a member since he was 14 years old.

In recognizing Shughart, Chief Bill Jacobs said Shughart took an early interest in being the very best firefighter he could be. He's always quizzing the older firefighters on how to do things safer and better and never misses an opportunity to attend a training class. Shughart is a graduate of the Frederick County Fire Academy. "While he is now a professional firefighter in Frederick County, we will still have him as one of our volunteers and I fully expect he'll be training our next generation of volunteers," Jacobs said.

Miles Lester, last year's recipient of the company's Firefighter of the Year Award, took home the Chief's Award. In recognizing Lester, Jacobs said it would have been

impossible for the company to run as many calls as they did last year. Miles is a student at the Frederick Fire Academy.

Like Shughart, Lester, a Fairfield resident, is a product of the Company's Junior Fire Fighter Program, having been a member since he was 14 years old. "Over the years, Miles has worked his way up the chain of command in the company," said Jacobs. "He's always been eager to help any way he can and this year, he has taken over the responsibility as the Company's Vice President. At 22, he's the youngest Vice President in the Company's history, not to mention, the youngest Vice President in any local volunteer Fire Company. He's an inspiration and role model."

Company President Gary Shorb recognized the Hartdagen family for their successful efforts in restarting the Company's popular monthly bingo. "We had to put it on hold because of COVID," Shorb said, "and never really got it back into full swing. But thanks to the Hartdagen family, Holly Kuykendall and Bill Jacobs, we are now up and running. Without the



Bradford Shughart accepts the Fireman of the Year award from Chief Bill Jacobs.

proceeds from our bingo we could not afford to operate, let alone purchase new equipment, like the new pumper engine we just ordered."

Reflecting on the role of volunteer Fire Companies, State Representative Dan Moul said, "volunteer emergency responders are critical to us in Adams County. If not for them, not only would we be less safe, but we would incur tremendous expense if we ever had to go to an all paid fire department. So we cannot only thank them for keeping us safe, but also helping keep our taxes at a reasonable rate."

Fairfield Mayor Robert Stan-

ley summed up his assessment of the Company in a single sentence: "They take care of us, and because of them, I can sleep every night; who can ask for any more?"

As in past years, a team of firefighters from the Vigilant Hose Co. stood by to answer any call that Fairfield might have received during their banquet. Jimmy Click, the team's leader, said he always enjoyed sitting in for Fairfield: "They are our brothers in arms. They would do anything for us, so we'll always do anything for them."

See page 22 for banquet photos.

YMCA to host programs in Thurmont

Beginning mid April, the YMCA of Frederick County, working with the Town of Thurmont, is bringing several 6- to 8-week-long classes to the town of Thurmont, as well as a one-day youth basketball clinic.

The YMCA of Frederick County has two branches and seven locations (including Camp West Mar in Sabillasville) but provides programs and services out of about 40 locations throughout the county, including before/after school care in 25 elementary schools and eight Head Start classrooms. And now they are bringing programs to Thurmont using Thurmont Regional Library and Thurmont Community Park.

This is not the first time the YMCA has brought programs to Thurmont, but it is the first time in about two years. During COVID, the YMCA offered some one-day, family-friendly events outside at Thurmont Regional Park, but this is the first time the YMCA is bringing full-session long programs spanning a variety of program departments, including Arts & Humanities, Youth Sports, and Healthy Living.

The YMCA has been working with the Town of Thurmont to approve programs, find locations,

and market the upcoming services. They recently attended the Thurmont town meeting and presented about the YMCA and the offered programs.

"We are so excited to be working in collaboration with the YMCA of Frederick County to bring the 'Y On The Fly' programs to Northern Frederick County. The programs being offered for the spring session cover a wide range of interests and for all ages. There is something for everyone," says Vicki Grider, economic development manager for the Town of Thurmont!

As part of its strategic plan, the YMCA is focusing on "offering vital Y programs and services throughout Frederick County by expanding programming." The YMCA has hired Jon Watkins as Director of Community Outreach to build and expand relationships with local governments and other organizations and nonprofits.

"Our mission is to provide critical services to those in underserved communities. We are excited about re-engaging in the town of Thurmont and look forward to learning more about the needs and interests of Thurmont residents," says Chris Colville, President and CEO of the YMCA



After the COVID-19 forced hiatus, the YMCA has returned to northern Frederick County with a suite of programs for young and old.

of Frederick County.

This year's program will include:

- Painting and Drawing, Monday evenings from 7 to 9 at the Thurmont Regional Library.
- Youth Run Club, Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 at Thurmont Community Park.
- Let's Get Healthy, Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 at the Thurmont Regional Library.
- Flying Cows Basketball Skills
- Clinic all day on May 14 at

the Thurmont Community Park.

The YMCA is a 501c3 non-profit organization and provides programs to build a healthy body, mind and spirit for all. Through their annual campaign, they provide financial assistance, ensuring everyone has access to programs and services to learn, grow, and thrive. To learn more about financial assistance or programs and services offered, please visit frederickymca.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Meeting minutes rejected - again

For the fourth month in a row, the accuracy of the Town Council meeting minutes were called into question with concerns over inaccuracies in the report. Unlike in the three months prior, this time the whole Council agreed to reject the February 5th Council meeting minutes until discrepancies could be resolved.

Ironically, the discrepancies were related to the portion of the last meeting pertaining to the deliberations on the need for a more comprehensive account of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Valerie Turnquist pointed out that the February 5th minutes were incorrect in the claiming that she alone would write an example of minutes for the meeting to be used as a model. Turnquist said that contrary to that entry, Mayor Frank Davis had assigned that task to all the Council members and that each was to present a version of the minutes of the meeting that they found suitable, not just her.

Turnquist requested that the minutes be modified to include the Mayor's "homework" assignment, but her motion failed due to a lack of a seconding vote.

Commissioners Cliff Sweeney and Tim O'Donnell stated they could not recall what was agreed

to, but viewed the minutes as compiled by the Town staff sufficient with no need to be modified. [O'Donnell and Sweeney have historically sided with staff who transcribe the meetings, noting that commissioners and residents could always access video recordings if they needed more information.]

O'Donnell made a motion to approve both the February 5th and 12th meeting minutes, only to retract the motion in favor of a second motion to modify the minutes to demonstrate that Turnquist had in fact been the only one "assigned" to pen a "prototype" of what minutes should look like, before withdrawing that motion as well upon realizing that was already in the minutes and was the basis for Turnquist's issue with them. O'Donnell eventually "threw up his hands" and requested the staff review the video of the meeting minutes to determine who said what.

As none of the Council members could agree on what was said, they eventually joined O'Donnell in directing the staff to review the February 5th meeting video to establish exactly what was said and to correct the minutes accordingly.

Turnquist, who has led the effort for more comprehensive

accounting of Council meetings, has expressed reservations over the lack of inclusion of dialogue related to questions, concerns, or requests for more information from commissioners. "This is our record of what transpired," she said, "and should be captured in the minutes so readers can put the information in perspective."

In February, the Council approved the January 8th and 22nd meeting minutes on a 3-2 split decision, with Council President Amy Boehman and Turnquist voting against approval, citing concerns that the minutes did not reflect the actual meeting. The split decision was a rare display of discord in a process that has historically been a collegial pro-forma act by Council members.

In January, Commissioner Jim Hoover voted to table the December 5th and 12th minutes with similar concerns. And in December, Turnquist refused to approve the November 6th minutes because the minutes didn't reflect important changes to the Community Legacy Grant that were to be implemented by Town staff going forward.

"As it stands, the Town Council minutes are not a full and accurate account of our meetings as required by our Town Code,"

Emmitsburg
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Turnquist noted. "To be transparent about the business that

we conduct, our minutes should reflect what we discussed."

Financial audit identifies deficiencies

Independent auditors identified problems in internal controls, noting material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

The first finding was the lack of internal controls over grant billings and reconciliations. Grant income entries recorded in the Capital Projects Fund of \$127,070, the Water Fund of \$36,379, and in the Sewer Fund of \$40,640 were removed because the money had not actually been received by the Town. The funds had grant expenditures recorded with no offsetting revenue as the funds were yet to be requested from the grantor.

The Town is responsible for ensuring grant revenues are recognized and received in a timely and accurate manner. According to the auditors, "it appears the Town needs a better reconciliation process amongst the individuals responsible for processing and billing the grant awards and the Town Accountant to ensure grants are recorded in the accounting system as expected."

The second finding was a lack of internal controls concerning financial reporting. Adjustments were made to record \$173,436 of capital infrastructure costs and the related payable at year-end in

the Sewer Fund; decreased lessor receivable by \$71,604 for the Sewer Fund and \$27,856 for the General Fund; increased revenue by \$13,124 for the Sewer Fund; and decreased revenue by \$320 for the General Fund.

The effect is a potential risk that the internal financial statements of the Town are not fairly stated when entries are missed during the month & year-end close, according to the auditor. The auditors recommended the Town review its financial close and reporting process and make changes as determined applicable to ensure the Town's transactions are properly recorded to ensure that financial statements be fairly stated.

For FY 2023, the General Fund had revenues of \$2.3 million and expenditures of \$1.8 million, with an ending balance of \$500K. The remaining funds were transferred to the Capital Projects budget. The General Fund is used to

pay day-to-day costs of the Town, including salaries and Town staff benefits.

The Capital Projects budget for FY 2023 was \$953,517, with expenditures totaling \$1,124,505, leaving a negative balance of \$170,988. The income for the Capital Projects budget is generated through grants and funds transferred from the General Fund and is used to pay for Town projects like streetlights and parking meters.

The Water Fund showed revenue/charges for services of \$504,785. Personnel costs were \$252,496 and operating costs \$238,467, leaving a balance of \$13,822 in FY 2023. The Sewer Fund showed revenue/charges for services of \$945,426. Personnel costs were \$403,883 and operating costs \$340,347, with an ending balance of \$201,196. The principal source of income for the Water and Sewer Funds are quarterly resident payments based on water consumption. Residents are

expecting another 36% increase in water rates and 3% increase in sewer rates in July.

At the end of FY 2023, the total, including grants in the Water Enterprise Fund, was \$3,158,583 and the Sewer Enterprise Fund was \$5,134,313.

Following the audit presentation, Mayor Frank Davis suggested combining the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund into a single Enterprise Fund. Davis told the Council that during a recent meeting of local Mayors of similar-sized municipalities, he learned that only Emmitsburg kept separate the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund. Davis suggested that combining the Funds may be a way for the Town to keep the books more organized.

Addressing Davis's proposal, the auditor said that Emmitsburg's separate Water and Sewer Fund is "the best practice" as it is easier to maintain. "The intent of an Enterprise Fund is to be able to track and account for related expenditures that are funded by user fees so that you have an idea as to whether or not you're making a profit or a loss," Auditor Mills said.

While the auditor may not have been high on Davis's recommendation, from the number of head nods on the Council and citizens in audience, Davis stuck a cord. "I got to give it to Frank," one resident said, "at least he is trying to make sense of the town's books. I just hope the system doesn't beat him down."



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Carroll Valley Police Department expands

Carroll Valley has a new police officer. At its March meeting, the council unanimously approved the hiring of Nicholas McIntyre. McIntyre was one of two applicants for the position. In a memo to the council, Police Chief Clifford Weikert said the Civil Service Commission believes McIntyre was the best fit due to his higher score on the Civil Service Test and having prior police experience.

McIntyre comes to Carroll Valley from the Shippensburg University Police Department. He graduated from HACC Police Academy in

September 2021 and has attended numerous driving under the influence enforcement training courses.

McIntyre's starting salary will be \$70,000, Weikert said, with a \$5,000 signing bonus. He will receive \$5,000 raises on the first two anniversaries of his employment date.

McIntyre's hiring brings the department to four full-time officers. Council unanimously approved Weikert's request to spend \$867 on McIntyre's service weapon and related equipment. The gun replaces one given to for-

mer Chief Richard Hileman III upon his retirement.

The council continued to discuss the safety of Route 16. Several council members have repeatedly requested a light at the road's intersection with Route 116. Manager David Hazlett agrees the road could use a light but is not sure PennDOT, which manages the road, will agree. Hazlett said PennDOT will require a traffic study and crash data before deciding whether to install a light. Hazlett has been the borough's manager for almost 20 years and does not recall

a fatal crash at the intersection.

Weikert said the borough may be more successful in petitioning PennDOT to lower the speed limit to 45 mph.

Committees

One borough committee was born during March's meeting while another was put on life support. The council unanimously appointed Bruce Carr, Charles Dalton, Cody Gilbert, Mayor Ron Harris, Colleen Miles, and Catherine Schubring to serve on the 50th Anniversary Ad Hoc Commit-

tee. The group will plan an event to celebrate the borough's golden jubilee and a fundraiser to support it. Harris invites anyone with ideas to contact him at mayor@carroll-valley.org.

Hazlett said the Parks and Rec Committee is struggling to find members. The five-member body is down to three members and often struggles to gather a quorum. Hazlett suspects the committee's requirement to plan the annual Independence Day celebration is a hindrance.

"People don't want to be busy on the Fourth of July, they want to enjoy the Fourth of July," he said.

Liberty receives clarification on surety bond coverage

Following last month's meeting in which the elected auditors questioned if Liberty Supervisors opening mail would negate a treasurer's surety bond, the township's bond company briefed the Township Supervisors on the terms of the bond.

The issue needing to be clarified was whether supervisors handling township financial mail could potential negate the treasurer's surety bond.

A treasurer surety bond is a type of public official surety bond

required of the person holding a treasurer office. Treasurer surety bonds help guarantee the public that the treasurer will honestly and faithfully perform their duties of their elected or appointed office. See also public official surety bonds.

"The idea that the treasurer's surety bond is null and void if a supervisor should open a letter with a check in it is not accurate," said Andrew DiProspero, Senior Vice President at H.A. Thomson, the issuers of the surety bond.

DiProspero said the confusion was a result of misinformation relayed to the auditors by someone who did not work with treasurer surety bonds.

Supervisor Chair Walter "Mickey" Barlow also read an email from the bonding company employee, from whom the information was given to the auditors, stating it had been "a misunderstanding of what I was trying to convey."

All financial aspects of the town are handled by the township treasurer and the assistant treasurer

only reconciles all statements, according to Barlow.

Employees of the Township are covered under Liberty's current standard liability insurance policy that includes theft coverage and computer fraud up to \$10,000, Barlow said.

This coverage currently includes Barlow and Vice Chair Bobby Keilhotz, but does not cover regular supervisors.

Unless directed otherwise, the township will continue its operation of finances per the township

code, including insuring that, "two supervisors and the treasurer have to sign all checks," Barlow said.

The supervisors also reached a consensus that the Township had proper coverage and that no additional or changes to the insurance coverage were necessary.

Putting the matter to rest, Barlow noted the importance of doing homework before presenting information for public meetings.

The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors will next meet April 2.

Village Book and Table stays in the family

Keeping it in the family is the business of the Village Book and Table restaurant in Fairfield, as the son of the previous owner ties on his apron and readies his grill to serve the hungry community.

With the same look and feel—along with the same commitment to quality homestyle cooking—Fairfield renowned local eatery, the Village Book and Table Restaurant, has welcomed ownership staying in the family.

Taking over the restaurant after the passing of his mother, Shelley Kellogg, who was the owner and operator since 1998, Matthew Fletcher has taken the reins as chef and owner to carry on the restaurant's legacy.

Fletcher has been in the restaurant business for years, but the

local eatery is Fletcher's first initiative as an owner and all that it encompasses. Fletcher is learning on his feet the ins and outs of owning your own business, including taxes and accounting: "It's been a learning process to be sure," he said.

Fletcher credited his attentive wait staff, many of whom seem to know everyone in town, for bringing the energy of a close-knit family to the dining room: "We've got a solid crew, I put a lot of faith in them," he said.

Along with his wife, Sandra, Fletcher can often be found in the kitchen whipping up wholesome meals and community favorites out of quality local ingredients.

Having previously worked as a sous and executive chef in restau-

rants from North Carolina to Colorado, Fletcher has never lost the sense of community and welcoming pride that a warm meal at a hometown restaurant can bring to the local community and beyond.

The Village Book and Table is located in the heart of Fairfield and matches the hearts of the community it serves. The building was originally built in the 1930s and has been a restaurant in some form or another since the 1970s.

The community has been very welcoming to Fletcher, with bands of regular customers ecstatic to see the local eatery stay in the family and in the area—"We are here to serve the community," Fletcher said.

For years, Village Book and Table has been a staple of quality, community cooking and now

that the community legacy continues with a new ownership, not much is expected to change, Fletcher said.

Fletcher said that the restaurant welcomes suggestions and is eager to try new things or change up menu items to make visits more enjoyable. The Village Book and Table may not serve extravagant

meals, but Fletcher promises to continue providing the community with wholesome, filling food that will make you come back for seconds or thirds with the whole family: "We are trying to keep a local legacy running and improve every day," Fletcher said.

The Book and Table is open 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day except Thursday and can be reached at 717-642-5650.

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THURMONT NEWS

New ordinance restricts sidewalk obstructions

The Town of Thurmont has adopted a new ordinance as of Feb. 27 that will restrict property owners from obstructing the sidewalk during construction. The motion passed 4-0 at the Feb. 20 meeting with no debate.

The new ordinance prohibits any building materials blocking the sidewalk after work hours, including, but not limited to, crates, barrels, logs, bricks, scaffolding, etc., "or anything else which might obstruct the free passage along and upon the sidewalks or street, which may make the street or sidewalk unsightly

or dangerous to public health or safety."

Under the new ordinance, property owners who have reason to obstruct the sidewalk will be required to obtain a permit from the Town Planner Kelly Duty. The permit will allow the property owner to place and maintain a sidewalk obstruction for up to and not exceeding ten business days.

"The Town Planner would be responsible for giving [property owners] a permit for a short period of time to use the sidewalk if needed for whatever construction they need to do to

their property," Thurmont Code Enforcement Officer Kristi Wood said.

This ordinance will amend Article VI: Sidewalk Maintenance, Snow and Ice Removal under Chapter 84: Property Maintenance in the Town Code. Like other violations under this section, those who obstruct the sidewalk in violation of the ordinance are subject to a \$100 fine for each offense. While property owners are still required to acknowledge and fix other violations within seven business days, they will be required to remove

any obstructions within two business days.

"This is a safety issue," Mayor John Kinnaird said. "More than anything else, it's because the sidewalk is obstructed and it's unsafe to travel."

Wood introduced the ordinance at the Feb. 6 meeting, citing an issue with a blocked sidewalk on North Church Street after the snow in January. According to Wood, between the snow and scaffolding from construction, the sidewalk was impassable, forcing residents to walk in the street. While the sidewalk was

quickly cleared by the property owners, Wood suggested implementing an ordinance for future occurrences.

While the sidewalks, curbs and gutters have been the property owner's responsibility in the past, there was no verbiage in the Town Code restricting sidewalk obstructions, except for in cases of shrubs and trees or after snow and ice. Wood went into the Frederick County codes, but found nothing prohibiting sidewalk obstructions from construction. She used an ordinance from Walkersville as inspiration for the draft she presented at the Feb. 6 meeting.

Options offered to lighten downtown parking issues

Commissioner Bill Blakeslee and Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder presented a proposal for additional parking in downtown Thurmont. Their plan is to build a parking lot in the grassy area next to the American Legion Post 168.

The Council agreed the plan was worth looking into and voted for Town Manager Jim Humerick and his team to begin researching costs and gathering estimates.

The idea came up about a year ago, after Blakeslee and Grinder heard a lot of talk about the lack

of parking downtown. According to Blakeslee, there are currently about 54 spaces and five or six handicap spaces in the Thurmont Municipal Parking Lot. "Everyday, people have to ride around looking for a parking space," Blakeslee said. "It isn't good for businesses, it isn't good for residents, it isn't good for anything down there."

Grinder and Blakeslee considered multiple options and locations before landing on the grassy area next to the Legion. Instead of buying property for the new lot,

the Legion will allow the Town use of it. While there is more work to be done, according to Blakeslee, the informal plan will allow the Legion to use the lot during their occasional events while also allowing Town residents to park on it. The new lot would have the same parking rules as the existing lot.

"It's a project that shows thoughtfulness on the part of the Legion that they'll allow us to propose it and go along with it," Blakeslee said. "It's going to help them out, so it's a win-win situation." He went on to explain

the Legion's willingness to meet and discuss any issues that could potentially pop up as the project moves forward.

Debbie and Allen Middendorf were at the meeting, during which Debbie Middendorf explained that the Legion has already investigated the insurance issue that concerned the Mayor and Town Council. Since the property will still be owned by the Legion, all liability will be covered by their insurance.

The Town will be responsible for installing the lighting and typ-

ical maintenance of the parking lot. They are also responsible for shielding neighboring properties from the additional light, however, according to Grinder, they have already spoken to the neighbors who "think it's a great idea."

Blakeslee and Grinder had already contacted Town Planner Kelly Duty for a proposed mock up of the potential parking lot. In it, they estimated they will be able to fit at least 40-50 parking spaces. However, Blakeslee and Grinder would be open to an engineer's ideas for the best option once one is selected.

Council briefed on capital improvement projects

Nate Merkel from ARRO, Thurmont's engineering contractor, provided detailed updates on several upcoming, ongoing and completed capital improvement projects at the Council's March 5 Meeting.

North Church St. Water & Sewer Infrastructure Replacement

The replacement of the aging water and sewer lines along North Church St. is expected to be completed in June or July. As construction continues, there has been water leaks reported

due to vibrations from work on the sewer lines. Due to the age of the infrastructure, the leaks are unavoidable and will be repaired as they occur.

The scope of the project also includes removing an old pump house that is no longer in use, while keeping the water mains that are inside. "By removing [the pump house], you're able to have that movement of the water," Merkel said. "You're not flowing up against a valve." With the removal of the pump house, the Town will have full function of the existing water main.

Emmitsburg Road Flood Mitigation Project

Permits have been submitted and funding options are being reviewed for the Emmitsburg Rd. Flood Mitigation Project. According to Merkel, finding funding to cover all or a portion of the project is critical.

The scope of this project will ease flooding in the area through three

components, taking some of the stress off of the two small culverts under Emmitsburg Rd.

The project will increase the size of the culverts and adds a basin to the Radio Lane property to address downstream flooding. It will also create a stormwater basin to manage the runoff from Route 15 on the Rambler Inn property. The Town acquired a portion of the property where the basin will be located.

Radio Lane Pump Station Project

The Radio Lane Pump Station Project will provide the ability to transfer potable drinking water between the Town's high-pressure and low-pressure zones. The Project has been approved by the County and Soil Conservation District, and has submitted to MDE for a Water Construction Permit.

When the project is complete, operators will be able to control the

pumping station manually or automatically, with an option to redirect flow during an emergency. The emergency valves will be easier to access and will run on generators in case of a power outage. The project will also provide upgraded power supply on Eyer Road and Radio Lane.

Softball Field Project

The Softball Field Project, funded by Program Open Space, is 90% complete. The project will provide a lighted softball field for the 14U and 16U divisions with a walking path to the facility.

The lights were donated to the Town, saving about \$50,000 for this project. "With the light set-up and how they are angled and situated on the field, there's practically zero light pollution spilling out beyond that field," Merkel said.

Stormwater Basin Retrofit Project

The Town is looking to retrofit five stormwater basins in accordance to its MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan and have received conditional approval from the County for the project.

Gateway Trail Bridge

The Gateway Trail Bridge Project consists of two pedestrian bridges: a 70-foot steel bridge spanning Big Hunting Creek and a 12-foot wooden bridge spanning a small tributary in the Town's easement. The Project is designed to allow pedestrian access from West Main St. to the Community Park.



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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Main Street Advisory members clash over purpose

Fireworks erupted at the Main Street Advisory Board's February meeting when members questioned the general purpose of the program and their duties in particular. The six-member board is made up of representatives of six different subcommittees: design, promotion, economic vitality, organization, arts and entertainment, and clean-green and safe.

Maryland's Main Street Program was started in 1998 by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in order to improve the economic vitality and appearance of downtown business districts.

Each Main Street subcommittee submits an annual action plan that details how it plans to spend the money provided by the state and what sort of matching funds it's providing.

Economic Development Director and Main Street Manager Jay Meashey told Advisory Board members that

reviewing the Program's financial records and/or approving expenditures is outside of the scope of the Advisory Board. Per City Code, the purpose of "[the Board] is to strengthen the economic potential of the walkable business district," he stated.

The issue came up after Meashey told the Board that he was contacted by Main Street Maryland after a Taneytown resident contacted them asking to see the financial records of Taneytown's Main Street Board.

Board Chair Brandi Bollinger concurred with Meashey, telling her fellow board members that the purpose of the Advisory Board is not to determine how or where grant money is spent.

However, Stephanie Stephenson of the Clean and Green Committee asked why she was asked to put together a project budget report if the committees were not privy to financial information: "I'm struggling with

the scope of this Board if we can't have insight into anything," she said.

Bollinger replied that the report request was an open-ended question for the committees to "aim big and hope for the best." She explained that the proposed budgets provided by the committees are used in applying for grant money, with the hope that they will receive enough funds to do all of the projects requested.

Stephenson was confused as to why the Board is considered advisory when physically going out to find volunteers to do projects was, in her opinion, volunteerism. Bollinger explained that there is a crossover between the two, requiring both to create progress in Town. She reiterated that it was not, however, in the Board's duties to determine how, where, or why specific quantities of money are spent.

Sharon Tillman of the Promotions Committee said, "If you want me to advise you on how to make Main

Street better, then I need to know where the money has been going." She explained that as a new board member, this information is imperative to determine the best way forward for the Main Street district.

Meashey explained that he was compiling a list of 2023's expenses and would continue to do so, even though he believed it wasn't necessary. Meashey reiterated that it wasn't in the Board's scope to review monthly financial reports, but he could provide an annual report to help the Board determine the direction it wanted to take. Bollinger confirmed that having access to an annual report would be beneficial in planning for future projects on Main Street.

Things went from bad to worse when Meashey insisted all committee leaders were expected to bring volunteers to the City's downtown district to do basic cleanup such as sweeping, picking up trash, etc.

Stevenson said that the members of her subcommittee were not interested in doing monthly cleanups but would be involved with cleanups on Earth Day in April and America Recycles Day in November. Meashey fired back that the monthly cleanups would be taking place with or without the "Clean, green and safe" committee members.

After the Advisory Board's meeting, City Councilmember Christopher Tillman discussed with City Manager Jim Wieprecht the adverse nature of the interaction between Meashey and the Advisory Board members. Tillman said that the DHCD was concerned about the Main Street Manager position being held by the current Economic Development Director: "I think our Economic Development Director has enough to do and someone whose focus is strictly Main Street would be helpful."

Comprehensive Plan review on the horizon

The Planning Commission will begin working on the Comprehensive, A.K.A. Master Plan, this year. Councilman Christopher Tillman, liaison between the Planning Commission, the Mayor, and the City Council, relayed questions about the direction the Council wanted the Planning Commission to take for the City's future development at the March Mayor and City Council meeting.

A Comprehensive Plan is an official document adopted by the City which spells out how the City will develop in the coming years. It includes maps of future land use, anticipated transportation and community facilities, policies for protecting environmental features, as well as addresses water and sewer usage and availability. Traditionally, the plan lasts 20 years and is reviewed every 10 years.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht said that the Planning Commission has met with a couple of

consultant companies to aid in the creation of the Plan. He also suggested that having an open town hall style meeting with the Planning Commission, Mayor, City Council and the consultant would be a good idea to "kick off" the project. The meeting would allow the public to attend and have a direct say in the direction of the Plan. Tillman was adamant that the questions presented were "heavy and were about some major issues." "There will be a lot of discussion needed," he said.

Tillman gave an overview of the questions the public and the Council should expect at the future meeting. "The first and foremost question is the 'small town feel' everyone talks about since it is different for everyone." He asked how that could be translated into ordinances that help guide development within the City. These would be things like where commercial development can be mixed in with residential, what den-

sities developments could be and how they should look, design standards including where and how to develop parking, and the width and layout of streets.

Carroll Vista and Meades Crossing communities were brought up as examples of community village overlay zoning and it was brought to question if this concept was something the Council wanted to keep in the Plan. Carroll Vista was the first community village development and they had a blanket exemption for alleys and rear loaded garages. According to Wieprecht, this has been a benefit as it is an age-restricted community. Concerns have been raised over the length of the driveways within the community. This is a hot topic for the Planning Commission, as many members feel they are too short, causing vehicles to extend into the sidewalk when parking on the pad.

Meades Crossing ended up with narrower streets and a higher den-

sity than a conventional subdivision and didn't "check all the boxes" aesthetically that the community village overlay strives for. He explained that the City was willing to compromise to see the Meades Crossing development come to fruition. "We seem to be making zoning decisions based on what the developer is telling us will sell and not on the overlay," said Tillman. He pointed out that the results that were expected with the overlay were not what was received.

Other topics included adopting a plan to reuse existing buildings in the downtown area and what types of businesses and facades the public wants to see there. Additionally, water allocation restrictions need to be addressed as currently there are more projects on the drawing board than the City has in water allocation. "This begs the question, who is going to be responsible for making sure the infrastructure is in place for these projects, the City or the devel-

opers?" asked Tillman. There are also concerns about fire and police being understaffed and wondering if developments should be put on hold until they are fully staffed to accommodate new residents.

Tillman mentioned larger parcels in the City and their involvement with the projected bypass. "Is the City willing to trade infrastructure development in exchange for right of way or outright construction of bypass segments?" he asked. In his opinion, the only way the bypass will happen is with the assistance of private developments such as Mountain Brook, which was introduced last year.

"We are at a critical time because in our lifetime we will probably see the City encircled completely by agricultural preservation and we will not have the ability to do business as it has been done for the last 100 years," said Wieprecht. He asked what could be done now to guide growth to promote a sustainable, self-supporting pattern in the future.

News Briefs...

City Attorney Enjoys Warm Homecoming

After months of long, contentious meetings, the City held a short, collegial Council meeting in March. A round of applause from the audience welcomed the city's longtime attorney, Jay Gullo, to the meeting after a several-month hiatus.

"It is good to be back in my seat here, looking at you all. Thanks for the warm homecoming," Gullo said. "I hope the unpleasantness that we have had for the past few months can go away and I can be part of the team to help the town move forward."

Mayor Christopher Miller singlehandedly fired Gullo in November. The city council unanimously opposed Miller's decision. The council hired Attorney Kevin Best of Annapolis, Maryland to

review the case. Best determined Miller was out-of-line so the council proceeded as if the firing never occurred.

Councilman Christopher Tillman asked Gullo if a proposed charter amendment could be at the top of Gullo's work list. The City's charter is currently vague when it comes to who the Attorney works for and the Council wants it clear that he works for

the Council, not the Mayor. City Manager James Wieprecht said the charter amendment was "not at the top" of Gullo's list, but near it. At Tillman's request, Gullo said he will soon update the Council on pending litigation.

Gullo also invited Council members to contact him to discuss issues. In November, Miller attempted to tell Gullo that only he or the City Manager could contact him outside of meetings. Miller claimed he was trying to

save the city money on legal fees.

Police Department Gets New Offers & Equipment

The council also celebrated the recent promotion of Taneytown Police Cpl. Shane Shultz to sergeant. Miller issued Shultz the oath of office. Shultz has been with the Taneytown Police Department since September 2013. He holds numer-

ous special certifications. Before being hired at the Taneytown Police Department Shultz was a Deputy Sheriff in Pennsylvania, where he served as a firearms instructor.

The council also unanimously voted to support a budget adjustment that will give the police department \$71,268 to purchase new radios. The cost was offset by unused payroll allocations.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

David Trone for U.S. Senate

There are times that being an Editor of a paper is a thankless job, but every once and a while a task, or opportunity, comes along that reminds not only why it's important, but why I do it.

Using the pages of this paper to elevate one candidate over another in hopes that our readers will take a closer look at them, draw the same conclusion about them as I have, and cast their vote for them, is probably one of the most important decisions I make.

But in some cases, the endorsement is a 'no-brainer' — as in the case of supporting David Trone for United States Senate.

I've been a resident of Maryland now for 33 years, and in all that time, with the exception of David Trone, only once have I met my Congressman, and never any of my Senators.

In the last four years I've 'bumped into' — yes, 'bumped into' — David Trone no less than six times as he was touring our area. I fondly recall walking down

Church Street in Thurmont and seeing him talking to a business owner. He recognized me and when done with the business owner, struck up a conversation with me! He was my U.S. Congressman and he wanted to know how I was doing!

Being a tad bit of a political wonk, I pressed him on some policy issues. Unlike most politicians who need to turn to staffers for answers, David answered directly. He had a solid basis for his positions on a wide range of subjects — not a party only

basis, but a logical, thoughtful, bipartisan basis, the type of basis that allow one to get something done in Washington.

David's a rarity in Washington: someone who's only beholden to his constituents; someone who makes promises and keeps them; someone who stays engaged in the community even when it's not election time; and someone who puts progress for people ahead of partisan politics.

David Trone's refusal to take special interest money isn't a small thing — it gives him the independence to do big things.

There's a long list of things we need to get

done in the country — we need someone who will put country first and recognizes that before we are Democrats or Republicans, we are Americans.

I sincerely hate to lose him as our Congressman, but he has made a convincing case that he can do even more for communities like ours if he takes his talents and drive to the Senate.

For his honesty, independence, and ability to get things done, this paper wholeheartedly endorses David Trone for U.S. Senate in the Democratic primary.

Congressman David Trone

Throughout April, we celebrate Second Chance Month. It's an opportunity for us to celebrate and recognize the values that make our democracy work. Without redemption, recovery, and an understanding of the challenges people across our country face, our nation wouldn't be what it is today. And truthfully, without second chances, I wouldn't be where I am today either.

Most often, we equate second chances with our criminal justice system. It is abundantly clear that this system is built on a racist foundation. We can draw a straight line from slavery to Jim Crow to the mass incarceration we are witnessing today. My first experience with our criminal justice system

came not as a public servant but as a business owner.

When I was first growing my former company, a corrupt Attorney General in Pennsylvania didn't like that I was disrupting the status quo. So he had me, my wife, and my brother arrested. I was offered a plea deal that I knew I shouldn't take. It would've prohibited me from operating my business any longer. I beat those false allegations because of a good education, a good lawyer, and the color of my skin. To this day, generations of Black Americans face a much more dire outcome.

Overcoming that challenge gave me a second chance at success. But as I reflect on my life, I realize that this wasn't the first — or last — "second

chance" that has impacted my life.

When I was 11 years old, my father moved our family to a working farm just north of the Mason-Dixon Line. We grew up cleaning hog pens and selling eggs. But my Dad's alcoholism caught up to him. And when I was 28, we lost everything — our home, our jobs, and the very beds we slept in.

I started my business to keep my family afloat and help make ends meet. The business gave me a second chance to succeed. It was at that moment that I realized my Dad needed a second chance, too. I worked with him tirelessly to get him through 30-day programs and stay sober. Once he recovered, he came back to work with me for the rest of his life.

Many years later, I decided to enter public service. I did it because I had the opportunity to live my dream — and realized that millions of Americans weren't able to do the same because our government has consistently failed to take action on the issues that impact them and their families.

Shortly before the primary election in 2018, I was diagnosed with cancer. Of all the challenges I'd faced, this was one that felt particularly out of my control. I turned to the experts at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Today, I am 6 years cancer-free. Because of the care from my incredible team of nurses and physicians, I was given a second chance at life. Trust me when I say that I don't take it for granted.

Throughout my time in public service, I've worked to make second chances more attainable for every Marylander. I'm incredibly proud that we

were able to pass a bill providing Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals — strengthening their chances of getting a good education, a good job, and staying out of prison. I'm proud that we passed 26 bills into law last Congress tackling the challenges of addiction and mental health. And I'm proud to be an advocate for medical research to prevent the illnesses that take the lives of our friends, family and neighbors year after year.

I believe that nobody should be defined by their worst moments. And that's why I believe in second chances — for those who make mistakes and face our criminal justice system, for those who fall victim to the disease of addiction, for those who face life-threatening illnesses, and more. If more of our public servants recognized the power of redemption and recovery, all of us would be better off.

County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public,

and we welcome participation.

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater will be presenting the County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 in the coming weeks, no later than April 15. On April 23, the

Council will hold a Public Hearing for the FY2025 Board of Education and Frederick County Government Budget. Following this Public Hearing, the Council will hold three days of Budget workshops on April 24, April 25, and April 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.

During these workshops, the Council Members will meet with leaders from the Departments within the Frederick County Government to discuss Budget needs and priorities. The Council will begin to discuss possible Budget Amendments on April 30. The Amendment proposal and approval process will continue after April 30. The Public Hearing for the County's Property Tax Rate will be held on May 7. The Final Budget with any possible approved Amendments must be approved by the

Council by May 31.

Currently, the Council has three Bills advancing through our legislative process. This includes Bill 24-01. This Bill, sponsored by myself on behalf of the County Executive, makes Updates and Additions to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Bill 24-02, also sponsored by me on behalf of the County Executive, amends certain provisions of the Frederick County Code related to membership on the Sustainable Monocacy Commission.

Bill 24-03, that I have sponsored on behalf of the County Executive, will Revise the Braddock Heights, Libertytown, and New Addition Electric Lighting District tax rates so that projected revenue covers projected costs. Documentation and text for all Bills will be linked to

our agendas. All documentation can be found on our website.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Springtime is here, bringing beautiful blossoms and difficult budget decisions.

On April 15th, I will release my budget for Fiscal Year 2025. It has been a challenging process this year, with slower revenue growth, fewer new housing permits, and escalating costs. Fortunately, Frederick County's diverse economy puts us in a better position than some of our neighboring counties. But tough choices will still need to be made.

So far, I've received requests for \$84 million in new funding. Nearly three-quarters of that is from Frederick County Public Schools, which asked for an additional \$62 million above the legally required maintenance of effort funding. All the other agencies and departments requested a combined \$22 million.

I personally met with every division director to make sure existing programs were re-evaluated. Programs we no longer need were cut from the base budget. And every new request had to align with the goals set in our Livable Frederick master plan.

The most important part of developing a budget each year is hearing

from the people who live and work in our community. Your feedback is crucial. If you spoke at a public meeting, wrote into my office, or took a survey using our Balancing Act tool, thank you! Your input helped to shape the budget I'll soon present.

A few weeks ago, I presented some early highlights of what the budget will include. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lays out our big construction projects for the next six years. It includes renovated and replacement schools, roads, bridge, libraries, and fire stations.

We have the fastest growing school district in Maryland. Since 2014, the County has completed 12 school projects: additions, limited renovations (like Thurmont Elementary School), and replacements, like Brunswick Elementary School. There are another eight school projects in process, including a replacement of Valley Elementary School.

Some of the other big projects in the works include bikeways and trails, including several in the Emmitsburg and Thurmont areas, new fire stations in Carroll Manor and Green Valley, an upgrade to the Point of Rocks Wastewater

Treatment Plant, and bridges on Hessong Bridge and Biggs Ford Roads. There are also sewer line and pavement projects to help keep our community safe.

Child Care Study

Childcare is essential for our county to thrive. Parents rely on childcare so they can join the workforce as reliable, healthy employees. Access to high-quality, affordable childcare affects families' job options, finances, and children's development.

That's why the County's Office for Children and Families recently conducted a market study to understand the state of child care in Frederick County. The study was paid for from our American Rescue Plan Act funding. We heard from more than 1,600 people, through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and community input sessions. What we found probably won't surprise parents of young children, especially those in this newspaper's readership areas.

Demand outstrips supply. The number of licensed childcare slots in Frederick County is not keeping pace with the need.

In the northern and southeastern parts of the county, we are seeing crisis-level childcare shortages. Countywide, three out of four providers reported a six-month waitlist. Providers struggle with licensing regulations and other business challenges that make it difficult to meet the demand.

The social impact is real. Families miss out on wages. Collectively, Frederick County's families miss out on \$1 million a year in lost wages due to childcare problems. Women, in particular, lose out on career development. In Maryland, women are returning to the post-pandemic workforce at half the national rate, with childcare being one of the biggest reasons. Children are not ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Latino English learners and low-income students show the biggest boost in readiness from formal childcare.

There is good news to share, too. The study found we can expect to produce \$3-\$4 in economic benefits for every \$1 invested in childcare. Our next step is to gather community input on how to move forward. There are a few opportunities for you to weigh in. Starting April 1, there will be a survey available online. You can

find it at PublicInput.com/child-careforfrederickcounty. You are also invited to attend an in-person meeting for families and childcare providers on Saturday, April 20, from 9:30 to 11, at the Family Partnership office at 8420 Gas House Pike, Suite EE, in Frederick. We'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming

April is packed with great programming at our libraries. On the 8th, join a solar eclipse viewing party at the Emmitsburg Branch Library. The Brunswick Branch will host a bird walk for beginners on April 14th. The Thurmont Regional Library holds musical storytime every Thursday in April. And in honor of Earth Day, learn about edible native plants on April 21st at the Walkersville Branch.

Also this month, we will be announcing recipients of our Rural Historic Preservation Grants. The program helps fund rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of historic properties. Grants from the program are designed to preserve, protect, and enhance rural historic properties outside of our cities and towns. Stay tuned for details on the projects receiving funding this year.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Every month brings new challenges, but it also brings new opportunities to improve the day-to-day operations of the town. This past month was no exception. I had the opportunity to spend three days in Annapolis meeting with fellow mayors at the Maryland Municipal League Mayors Conference. The time spent sharing information, comparing issues, and working together to find solutions was a rewarding experience. I learned that most municipalities struggle in the same areas of operations and are searching for that golden answer. So, we in Emmitsburg are not alone.

You may begin to see activity around Irishtown Road behind Northgate. The land has been

purchased by a developer in hopes of completing Emmitt Ridge II.

The town is close to releasing a new Citizens Notification and Alert Application. This will make it easy to communicate information on events, notices and most importantly emergency notifications. The app will be free to download onto your phone and will add another means of communication with you, our citizens. Be on the lookout for the unveiling of the new system.

The flooding on Annandale Road has become a weekly occurrence and needs to be addressed. While the hazardous area is outside the town limits it still affects our citizens, the Mt. St. Mary's community and most importantly our fire and police

response. We are currently working with Frederick County and the Maryland Department

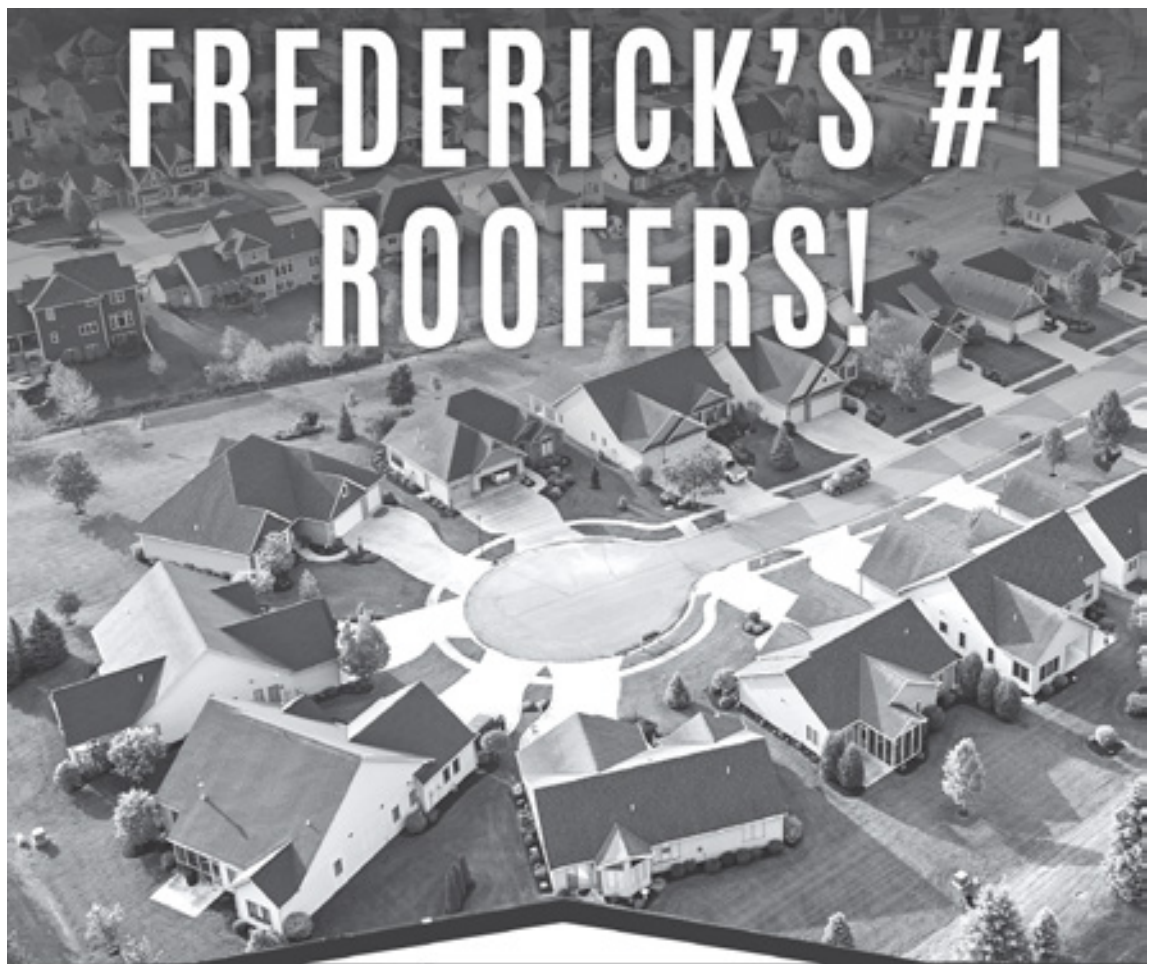
of the Environment to correct the problem.

As the weather gets warmer, we encourage you to take a walk in our parks, take in a ballgame, try

your hand at disc golf or just get out and talk with your neighbors. Spring is a great time of year and I look forward to seeing you out and about around town.




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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley prepares for 50th anniversary

Editor's Note: Carroll Valley Borough is gearing up to commemorate its 50th anniversary later this year. To mark this special occasion, each month, we will feature articles highlighting the rich history of our community, stories of notable residents and their contributions, and updates on the Borough's plans for the upcoming celebration. Stay tuned for a trip down memory lane and a look towards the future of Carroll Valley.

Mayor Ro's article will return to this slot in the paper next month!

The Valley of Carroll's Delight

Kathy Megyeri

To know and love Carroll Valley on this 50th anniversary year is to see from whence it came and to explore its colorful, tumultuous, and treasured past. After studying the Borough archives and the many items collected by long-time resident and local businessman Charles Dalton, here is an abbreviated history of Carroll Valley Borough's humble beginnings.

Charnita Development

Originally intended as a luxurious resort community nestled against the mountains, Charnita was to be a haven for the wealthy seeking outdoor recreation. In the late 1960s, landowner Charles Rist was granted permission by Liberty Township supervisors to subdivide hundreds of acres into thousands of lots. Though Rist's vision was bold, the required infrastructure was exten-

sive. Despite challenges related to inadequate infrastructure, by 1970, 5,000 buyers had expressed interest in the half-acre lots. However, concerns soon arose as citizens realized that the sold lots were unsuitable for building due to soil conditions and road maintenance was lacking. By 1973, a documentary titled "Trouble in Paradise" was featured on a D.C. television station, highlighting the community's issues.

As such, Charnita filed for bankruptcy to salvage what it could. Roads were deteriorating, lights were being turned off because electric bills were unpaid, and properties were desolate and neglected. Even the ski slope's facilities and public park were decaying and in disrepair.

Citizens Unite

But residents came to the rescue. Talented professionals from nearby major cities teamed with local inhabitants to solve the dire economic situation. Charnita, now called Ski Liberty, had become a popular destination, but it was falling into extensive disrepair; 65 miles of roads were not maintained, and snow removal was marginal. A citizens' action group was sorely needed. A group known as the Tri-Township Citizens Association sued the supervisors for approving the plan. They claimed that improving the vacant lots would require sewage and road construction costs that the municipalities could not afford. Charnita agreed and posted bonds it

claimed were sufficient to provide a sewer system and roads adequately.

Charnita, Inc. attempted to quell resentment directed toward them by forming the Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA). The "Citizens Association" sounded like a great way to promote community while protecting the properties existing residents opposed to the newcomers owning.

In March 1974, Judge Clinton R. Weidner ruled that Charnita's bonds were inadequate. The plans also did not meet sewage disposal or road construction code requirements. Charnita was to cease developing the lands. Charnita was in ruins, and it went bankrupt.

Retired U.S. Ambassador John M. Steeves, one of the purchasers in Charnita, was asked to take leadership of the CVCA. CVCA membership was determined by property ownership within the boundaries of what would become Carroll Valley Borough. It began with 36 members but three years later counted 2000 participants. Their ambitious plan was to petition Pennsylvania courts to create a municipality with taxing authority to raise the funds needed to complete infrastructure.

The importance of a name cannot be overstated. Ambassador Steeves and the community members understood that to gain acceptance, they had to separate themselves from the now despised Charnita Commu-

nity and embrace the historical connection and natural surroundings. To do this, they named their community after a portion of land known as "Carroll's Delight," which was given to Charles Carroll in 1732 by the State of Maryland. The CVCA members were proud of this history, and the chosen name is a tribute to it and a departure from the initial name of the community (Charnita, named after Charles and Juanita Rist).

A Borough is Born

The Borough of Carroll Valley was established on September 30, 1974, following a successful petition from more than eighty percent of its prospective freeholders. This unique formation resulted from Charnita, Inc.'s collapse and the indifference of local township officials toward the affected residents and landowners. The Borough's boundaries were designed to encompass the most built-up areas of the Charnita development, but not all, with some non-development farms, orchards, and residential properties remaining within its limits. These boundary lines have remained unchanged, enclosing 5.5 square miles of land and water over a distance of 21.5 miles and containing over 70 miles of roads within the Borough.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association succeeded in incorporating the Charnita Development into Carroll Valley Borough, and Ambassador Steeves was elected its first mayor. In



1975, the newly elected seven council members and a mayor faced the reality that they had no assets or equipment to maintain the infrastructure. Thus, the council floated a loan from a local bank to conduct temporary business until revenue started to flow.

This new Borough moved quickly to prevent haphazard construction by implementing proper zoning and planning and a police force to ensure its desirability to prospective homeowners. State assistance made it possible for 43 miles of roads to be properly maintained with plans for adequate snow removal. The Borough bought the 20-acre park to become a community picnic and recreational area. The Citizens Association refurbished, beautified, and renamed it Carroll Commons. An old snack shack in the park was converted into the Carroll Valley Borough Office. Volunteer help had its limitations, so a permanently paid staff was necessary. In 1975, the Borough hired six administrative staff/laborers and 2 Police Officers.

Although its recreational facilities are currently its most significant asset, the most prominent attractions are the well-managed Borough, the desirable environment, and the security that ensures pleasant living.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy Spring! In March, the Township faced a variety of weather events stemming from heavy rain and flooding to severe winds that caused trees to come down. The Road Department

met with representatives from LTAP and PennDOT District 8 to discuss and evaluate our roads and the priorities within the Township. This year, it is proposed that a 2400 ft section of Bullfrog

Road is in need of full-depth reclamation. We are in the process of completing the bid packets for this project and others. Visit our website frequently during the upcoming months to see a schedule

of road work throughout the township.

At the February Board of Supervisors meeting, the Elected Auditors brought up an issue that they had discussed at their meeting in January. The auditors raised a concern regarding the bonds and how they cover the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Liberty Township currently holds bonds on both the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer as required by the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code.

To gather additional information on the bonds and coverage, the Board of Supervisors reached out to the Township's insurance company for clarification. A representative from H.A. Thompson attended the March meeting and provided clarification on the bond coverage and confirmed that all employees are currently covered under the liability policy for theft. The Township also has additional liability insurance covering the Supervisors. We hope that we have put any worried residents' minds at ease with the clarification provided at our March meeting, along with this further explanation here. Our internal controls are audited annually to ensure that we are doing the best we can to make sure that our Township is safe, and our finances are secure.

The Liberty Township Tax Collector will take payment in person on April 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, and 30 from noon to 3 at the municipal building. Don't forget to take advantage of the 2% discount on your real estate and per capita taxes by making your payment by April 30. If you send a payment at face value during the discount period, your payment will be

returned. Payment can also be submitted by mail or drop box. Payments will be accepted at face value from May 1 to June 30. Payments made after June 30 will have a 10% penalty added.

Liberty Township is hosting another Pick Up PA event from March 15th – May 31st. The Township was provided FREE supplies from PennDOT, such as gloves, safety vests, and trash bags. Please email assistant@libertytownship.pa.gov or call 717-642-3780 to receive free supplies for this event. The Township will coordinate with participants to dispose of any trash that has been collected.

There will be an ECycle Event at Highland Township on Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, October 12, from 8AM-11AM. Both events will be open to Parks Garbage customers in the Southwest Group which includes Carroll Valley Borough, Fairfield Borough, Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, and Liberty Township. Check with your respective municipalities for a list of what items are being accepted.

Chief Boehs wants to remind residents that theft occurs more often as the weather gets warmer. Lock up your home, cars, and valuables and make sure your security systems are working. The Liberty Township Police Department offers house checks for residents who are travelling. If you would like to request this service, a house check form is available on our website.

I hope everyone has a great start to their Spring and I look forward to seeing everyone out participating in our Pick-Up PA Event and the ECycle Event at Highland Township.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

The Pennsylvania April 23RD Primary Election is rapidly approaching. Here are some critical election dates to remember. April 8 is last day to register to vote. April 16 is last day to request mail-in or absentee ballot. The last day to receive completed ballots is April 23RD by 8 p.m.. Ballots received after 8 p.m. on April 23 by any method, including by mail with an earlier postmark, will not be counted.

A reminder that the Adams County Elections Office has moved from the historic courthouse to the lobby of 911 Center, next to the Adams County Prison on Greenmyer Lane. The location provides easy parking, more lobby and office space, and increased storage, oversight and security of elections materials and equipment. The Adams County Voter Registration & Elections Office telephone number is 717-337-9832.

With another election cycle looming, both the PA House and Senate committees recently discussed a myriad of election-related issues during the Department of State's budget hearings. Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt fielded questions regarding voter education, recruiting new poll workers, use of mail-in ballot drop-boxes, modernizing the State-wide Uniform Registry of Elections (SURE) database, election misinformation, Gov. Shapiro's new Election Threats Task Force, and Pennsylvania's April 23 primary falling on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Secretary Schmidt also advocated for additional pre-canvassing time for counties to process ballots. Counties

have been clamoring for more pre-canvass time to process mail-in ballots. Legislators say they are for it, but yet internal politics within the legislature have not allowed it to move forward as other unacceptable riders are attached to it. Ask you legislators why this can't be moved forward as a single matter?

Strategic land preservation is important to maintain Adams County's rural character, wonderful vistas, and agricultural economy. At the March 20TH public meeting an agreement was approved that provides for a purchase of an easement for the purpose of preserving 94 acres of agricultural land owned by the Maring family in Cumberland Township. The total purchase price was \$309,381 of which \$93,776 will be paid by the County, and the remainder paid by the Commonwealth and Cumberland Township. This is just one stellar example of three different levels of government collaborating to preserve land that benefits current and future generations!

The Adams County Board of Commissioners has no greater responsibility than to protect the health, safety, life & welfare of our citizen. To that end, Air Methods will continue to operate its air ambulance helicopter service from Adams County's Emergency Services facility (911 Center) on Greenmyer Lane. At the March 20 public meeting, the Board signed a new 1-year agreement with Air Methods as a tenant at the county complex for the rate of \$34,900 annually. The agreement includes secured staging for the helicopter as well as office space. Most importantly, when minutes count, this med-vac helicopter will be staged and

centrally located for rapid deployment to all of Adams County and the surrounding area.

Effective 911 service and adequate funding are critical planks in providing for the health, safety, and welfare of our County residents. During the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget hearing on February 21, the House Appropriations Committee discussed a number of topics related to 911 service delivery in Pennsylvania, including progress on the NextGen911 (NG911) rollout and addressing 911 staffing shortages. Questions also focused on recent efforts by counties to increase the 911 surcharge from \$1.65 to \$2.30, and the need to look ahead to 2026 when the surcharge is again set to sunset. Funding of 911 for counties is not an option! Let your legislators know that taxpayers would rather pay a slightly higher fee on their monthly cell phone bill - then have their property taxes raised to fund critical and essential 911 services.

Year after year, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has deemed mental health funding as an overwhelming priority for counties. Mental health services were recently the subject of discussion across both chambers in several contexts, not only with DHS and the Department of Health (DOH), but also with the Department of Education, state-related universities, and others. Many agencies highlighted the need for increased services, and emphasized the Governor's budget request, which includes \$20 million for county mental health base funding, the most flexible form of community-based funding for service provision and responding to community mental health needs. Coordination between counties and schools was also part of the conversations during the House DHS budget hearings. Gov. Shapiro's budget includes \$100 million

annually for mental health services in schools, expanding on the previous one-time allocation of \$100 million in last year's Act 34.

Inmates with Mental Health issues is a large component of the overall mental health issue for Pennsylvania counties. The Senate budget hearing with DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh also recognized the reality that county jails have become de-facto mental health providers and discussed the department's efforts to address a shortage of beds for justice-involved individuals or those with complex behavior health issues. Further, Arkoosh noted that the proposed \$5.8 million to expand a diversion and discharge program for inmates with behavior health issues would be spent on five regional projects to provide community placements and therefore avoid hospital stays for 150 people.

Controller Tammy Myers reported at the Commissioners meeting on March 20 that the Adams County Controller's Office qualified for the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending

December 31, 2022. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This will be the 6th year in a row that the Adams County Controllers Office has received this award! Kudos to the Controller Team!

In Adams County 4-H is a big deal! 4-H significantly impacts the lives of many young residents. That experience benefits them for life. Darlene Resh, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Adams County Penn State Extension, was recognized for over 44 years of dedicated service to Adams County youth at the March 6TH public meeting. Darlene received a well-deserved standing ovation. At an earlier event, Darlene who is a 4-H pistol and rifle target shooting instructor, received a new shotgun from her peers and colleagues. It is impossible to calculate the impact that Darlene had on the lives of so many Adams County youth and residents. Job well done and best wishes Darlene Resh!

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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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Is our President a likable elderly person?

Shannon Bohrer

When Robert Hur, a special counsel investigating President Biden's criminal exposure for having classified documents, submitted his report, it was front-page news. As with our normal divisive political environment, Mr. Hur's report did not disappoint but added to the contentious hostility. The report was released on February 7.

The report stated that President Biden would not be charged, which was not unlike the investigation and report of former Vice-President Pence's possession of classified documents. However, there were a few additions. After stating that no charges would be filed, Special Counsel Hur expressed concerns about President Biden's mental skills and capabilities.

The report asserted that President Biden had memory issues, that he could not remember when his son died, or when he served as vice-president. Hur described him as a "Well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory." The report also explained why prosecution was not recommended. The explanation included a "lack of evidence," which sounds logical, we tend not to charge people with crimes when there is a lack of evidence.

The report continued by saying, "The special counsel's assessment that a jury would not have found that Biden acted with criminal intent given his 'diminished faculties in advancing age.'" This last sentence seemed unusual, especially since it was written by the special counsel. A lack of "criminal intent," with or without any testimony, goes to the lack of evidence, and the "lack of evidence," is the reason for not recommending prosecution. Furthermore, why would the special counsel believe that the Vice-President would testify?

The report made a lot of news, which immediately resulted in some news sources vilifying the "old man" and others defending the "elderly statesman." I found the news on the topic was lacking. When I say lacking, there was nothing reported about memory ability. I never saw or listened to any news with memory experts, or medical experts on human cognitive abilities. It appeared that the news reporters, often repeating unflattering parts in the report, were satisfied with their own expertise on aging and memory.

It is fair to say that most of us have memory issues, maybe not to the extent referenced in the report, but the human mind is not a recorder. How many times have you forgotten what you had for lunch the previous day? When reporting on the special counsel's report, the news outlets would have had some credibility if they

had employed medical and cognitive experts on memory, but they did not.

As the reporting continued for days, we began hearing of Trump's memory issues. In a speech at the Pray Vote Stand Summit, the former President confused Barack Obama with Joe Biden. It did not get much attention since he has often confused the two. During another speech, he even said his opponent in 2015 was Barack Obama.

Trump has also confused Nancy Pelosi with Nikki Haley on multiple occasions. His confusion with names, places, and events is so frequent that the news outlets seem to expect it, with truly little comment. While Biden has a reputation for gaffs, Trump has a reputation for confusion with names, places, and facts. In a court case where he was being sued by E. Jane Carroll, he was asked to identify individuals in a photograph. He pointed to E. Jean Carroll and identified her as his ex-wife, Marla Maples. He once asked if Russia owned Finland and wanted to buy Greenland. Lately, he predicted that Biden would get us into "World War II." I thought it was over.

Last year, Trump repeated words attributed to President Orbán, the President of Hungary, in a campaign event on Veterans Day. Accordingly, he said that "the Hungarian leader had been asked what advice he would give to 'President Obama' about how to proceed in a world that 'seems to be exploding and imploding.'" Trump said that Orbán's response was that "Obama should imme-

diately resign, and they should replace him with President Trump, who kept the world safe." See, even Orbán can confuse names.

President Orbán has ruled Hungary for 12 years. The government has been accused of eliminating media freedom unless the media praises the President. It has been widely reported that the elections have been rigged since they resemble those in Russia, and minority rights have been under attack. Trump considers President Orbán a friend. On the world stage, Orbán is regarded as an autocrat and a close friend of President Putin. When President Biden gave the State of The Union address in Congress last month, President Orbán was visiting Trump at Mar-A-Lago.

Reporting about the mental lapses of both candidates and their ages often infers that someone with lapses in memory would be incapable of running the county. Since President Biden is in office, maybe we should examine his record. Then again, the same reporters commenting on age and memory issues may have forgotten Biden's record.

President Biden's first term has been successful. He got us out of the COVID-19 pandemic and guided us out of stagnation and the expected inflation. All the experts predicted a recession, and it never happened. Instead, our economy grew, and fears of inflation have been rescinded. The United States has the best economy of any industrialized country. Inflation in January 2024 was 3.1 percent, and wages were growing at 5

percent, meaning wages were exceeding growth rates. Unemployment for Black workers fell to 5.9 percent, the lowest since 1972 when they began keeping records. In under four years, 14.3 million jobs were added since Biden took office.

Under President Trump, unemployment increased to 6.3 percent, and the economy lost 2.9 million jobs. The greatest job lost since Herbert Hoover. The international trade deficit that Trump railed against increased 40.5 percent while he was in office. Three million individuals lost their health insurance, and financially, the federal debt skyrocketed "from 14.4 trillion to 21.6 trillion." The added seven trillion debt was the largest in our history over a four-year period.

The reporting of mental lapses by both Biden and Trump and inferences that because of their ages, both should be incapable of running the county is blatantly false, at least for one candidate. Comparisons of the records of both candidates suggest that one candidate, Biden, is well suited to continue in the office. While Trump's record is not good, many continue to say they would like him to return.

The best argument for President Biden is his record during his first term. If a likable older person with a few memory issues has the record that President Biden has, has he not demonstrated that his age and experiences are valuable assets?

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

The Bulwark

The courage of Mike Pence

Jonathan V. Last

I have been ringing the Mike Pence bell since 2022 (here and here and here, for starters). Why? Because when democracy was on the line, the main body of his party demanded he commit a high crime, and an armed mob came to murder him, Pence jumped on the grenade.

Mike Pence didn't just fulfill his Constitutional duty on January 6—though if he had, that would have been enough to earn the nation's gratitude.

Pence refused to leave the Capitol. When the Secret Service tried to get him into a vehicle, Pence realized that once he left the premises, he would have no control over his freedom of movement, which could prevent him from counting the Electoral College votes and completing the election.

During the January 6 attack, Pence was in frequent communication with Speaker Nancy Pelosi—both trying to assure her safety and working with her to move aggressively forward with the final certification of the Electoral Votes.

On January 6, for the span of several hours, Pence became America's indispensable man. And he answered the call.

On January 20, 2021, Pence was on the steps of the Capitol to greet

the incoming president and vice president. His presence testified to their legitimacy. It seems like a small thing now, but had both the sitting president and his vice president refused to attend the inauguration, Biden's legitimacy would have been crippled beyond repair.

Instead, Pence was gracious and proper and in so doing made it clear that the breach in the peaceful transfer of power should belong to Donald Trump alone and that this dishonor need not spread to the Republican party itself.

By attending the inauguration, Pence gave the Republican party a choice. That the party has since chosen to stand in strict opposition to the rule of law is on the men and women who make up the body of the party itself. Trump didn't drag them. They chose it.

Pence tried to save his party one final time by running for president and testifying about Trump's actions on January 6.

And finally, with Trump having secured the delegates necessary to hold the Republican nomination, Pence went on Fox News to announce that he would not endorse Trump.

What more does America want from this man?

Well let me tell you what *I* want: I want Pence's heroism to be recognized by the media, by elected politicians, and by our fellow citizens for the big forkin' deal that it is.

I understand that Joe Biden is old

and I agree that his age is a relevant and legitimate concern. But also, I have read approximately 87,236 stories in the New York Times alone on this subject.

But Donald Trump's own vice president refuses to endorse his candidacy because he believes Trump is a traitor to the Constitution and a danger to America.

How many times as the NYT mentioned this enormously significant fact? So far: Twice.

For context: Since March 15, three NYT stories have mentioned concerns about Biden's age.

No American vice president has ever said that his former boss is unfit to serve. It is the most devastating possible observation from the most credible source in existence. Pence's refusal to endorse Trump should be part of the context of every single story about this campaign.

Especially because it's not just Pence.

Trump's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff called him "a wannabe dictator."

Trump's Secretary of Defense called him "a threat to democracy."

Trump's National Security Advisor called him "a danger to the United States."

Trump's chief of staff observed that he is: "A person who admires autocrats and murderous dictators. A person that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution and the rule of law."

These are not hysterical Resistance Libs or Democrats looking for partisan advantage. These are

serious people—Republicans who worked for Trump at the highest levels and saw him up close—who are testifying not that Trump is sub-optimal, or is in favor of policies with which they disagree, but is a clear and present danger to liberal democracy itself.

Again I say: The fact that Mike Pence, Mark Milley, Mark Esper, John Kelly, and so many of the men and women who worked for Trump believe he is a threat to democracy ought to be the first and last pieces of context in Every. Single. Story.

Try to imagine Kamala Harris saying that Joe Biden was unfit for office, or Biden saying that about Barack Obama, or Dick Cheney saying it about George W. Bush, or Al Gore about Bill Clinton, or Dan Quayle about George H.W. Bush, or George H.W. Bush about Reagan.

Reminder: We are not talking about personality conflicts or jealousies. We are not talking about policy differences or verdicts on the competence of the administration.

We are talking about a flat declaration by the vice president that his/her boss and former running mate is manifestly unfit for service.

There is no precedent. It should be the biggest story in American politics from here to November.

I have one wish - that Vice President Harris gets on the horn to Pence right now and thank him for his service and his integrity. She should invite Mr. and Mrs. Pence to the residence for dinner. President Biden should do the same. In a perfect world, Pence would

endorse Biden at the Democratic convention in Chicago. That probably won't happen. But Biden and Harris should make it clear to Pence that they respect the hell out of him and that they intend to try to earn his endorsement by matching his integrity and patriotism.

They should also make it clear that their vision for the near-term future of the Democratic party is that it should be inclusive to all patriots, regardless of their politics. Because for the time being, the Democratic party is—first and foremost—the rule-of-law party and the only party dedicated to preserving liberal democracy.

Right now, Pence refusing to endorse Trump is just one more floating piece of chaos in the whirlwind.

The media should not let go of the Pence disavowal. Include it relentlessly in all coverage of the presidential campaign. Make it part of the scenery in the same way that Trump's 2020 loss and subsequent attempted coup are.

Will Pence's refusal to endorse Trump change the minds of any voters? I don't know. But I'd like to give them the chance. If America is going to freely choose to elect Donald Trump again, then the media's job is to make sure they do so with their eyes wide open.

I want the media to give the American voters the same chance Mike Pence gave the Republican party.

To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit www.thebulwark.com.

The Liberal Patriot

Democrats should be a “pro-normal” party

Lauren Harper

The year 2022 was supposed to be an election year where Democrats faced a reckoning with mainstream Americans. Instead, they only narrowly lost the House and held on to the Senate. So far, 2024 is full of hot takes on the likely outcome of November’s election—particularly as to whether or not Biden can defeat Trump a second time.

But the question no one seems to be asking is: What will it actually take to win—and what happens if we do?

Now that former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley has officially dropped out of the race—creating a moderate coalition of more than 3 million voters in the process—and both party leaders have clinched their nominations, the head-to-head of Biden vs. Trump has officially commenced.

Several months ahead of November’s Election Day, I sincerely hope that we Democrats can avoid the pitfalls of our party’s past and learn not to make the same mistakes.

What were those mistakes?

(1) Saddling the Democratic Party brand with unpopular rather than popular policies. Between 2021 and 2023, America made it through a global pandemic while Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan, and both the CHIPS and Inflation Reduction Acts. These impressive pieces of legislation weren’t well-communicated with the general public, and they were coupled with unpopular progressive policies and rhetoric that people did actually hear about, negatively impacting the

Democratic Party’s national brand.

What’s more, average Americans need more tangible improvements—like lowering the cost of groceries or federal interest rate cuts—to point toward rather than legislative accomplishments they may deem simply as “government actually doing their jobs.”

(2) Allowing activist groups and progressive staffers to define what it means to be a Democrat—rather than more moderate party officials and candidates. As Democrats look to build upon and share our wins as a party, it’s time we ask ourselves what our party’s infrastructure looks like moving forward. Are we going to allow the same progressive staffers and organizations that have corrupted the party, burned bridges with independents and moderate Republicans, and raised hell for moderate Democratic officeholders to keep doing what they’ve been doing?

Thanks to them, the Biden administration has failed to offer shelter to moderate Republican refugees—and expand the tent in a way that would make this election a relative cruise instead of the nail-biter everyone expects.

Take the crucial swing state of Michigan: some 300,000 Republican primary voters cast their ballots for Nikki Haley rather than Donald Trump. In a close general election contest, a small but significant chunk of those voters could make the difference between a Biden victory and a second Trump presidency.

One could argue that President Biden welcomed Nikki Haley voters with open arms after she dropped out of the GOP nomination race shortly after Super Tuesday. And while the nod was important and necessary, actions speak much louder than words—and

the Biden administration has had four years to do just that.

We can’t let Democrats let these voters slip through their fingers a second time, even if Trump isn’t running for president again in 2028 after a loss this November.

(3) Going out of the way to antagonize opposition voters rather than offering a welcoming hand. The fact of the matter is if Americans are begrudgingly re-electing President Biden, they are also begrudgingly re-electing “the Democrats.” If we want to maintain public rapport and support for Democrats, we must supply what voters are demanding—even if that means both welcoming in Republicans and recalibrating what it means to be a Democrat in 2024.

Take these three propositions as a starting point: Rhetoric that paints all Republicans as villains is bad; Snarkiness from Democrats that paints their own party as rude and lacking compassion is bad; and, Building a coalition in the center that meets voters of all ages and backgrounds is...good.

This fall, there will be millions of moderate Republicans who either vote for Joe Biden or choose not to vote at all. If we don’t start widening the Democratic tent now to welcome them into our coalition, President Biden’s odds grow longer this November. And if President Biden does manage to win, these voters will be politically homeless come 2025 and in need of some friendly outreach.

We must be honest about the polling that shows plenty of Americans—particularly independent voters—believe Democrats are as extreme as Republicans and instead offer them a party brand and elected leadership that matches the center-left, pragmatic ideology the majority of them hold.

(4) Forcing purity tests on candi-



dates rather than permitting ideological nuance to help create a big tent—and fight ideological extremism. Building up the “Pro-Normal Party,” as Adam Frisch likes to put it, will mean an end to the purity tests of the past few cycles. And as a bonus, cultivating a strong center-left faction institutionally at the federal level will help us cultivate a strong center-left faction culturally and politically at the state level.

For example, we need more Blue Dog caucuses in state legislatures full of members who build a strong sense of community as pragmatic Democrats in the same fashion the extremists in the Freedom Caucus have—just with a true sense of progressive populism and patriotism instead of chaotic inflections upon our democracy. These would be particularly helpful to Democratic state and local officials as we nurture a better national brand in Washington.

Biden moving to the center and building a big tent will only help us with what has historically been our base—not hurt us. There are plenty of Democrats, particularly Black Democrats, who consider themselves on the conservative end and don’t intend to ever become Republicans—but that doesn’t mean they can or will support every pol-

icy that many repping the current Democratic brand espouse in 2024.

Brands matter. You know what to expect when you drive up to a Chick-Fil-A window. Brands breed identity, affiliation, and community. But they can also prove as deterrents to those things, particularly when striking the wrong tone or failing to recognize the actual desires of those in the communities they are seeking to build.

If we actually want to address critical issues like climate change, prescription drug costs, voter protection, and K-12 education, we have to position the party and its brand as a champion for ordinary Americans.

Electorally, we can’t regain a majority in the House and keep a majority in the Senate without making the Democratic brand more normal. And we can’t govern and advance policy in a Congress that simply doesn’t function.

Let’s build the big tent that not only helps Democrats win but builds the infrastructure the future of our politics demands—before November’s election.

To read other articles from the *Liberal Patriot* visit www.liberal-patriot.com.

Good Day Neighbor

Make a plan to vote

Dorothea Mordan

Stories help us make sense of our world, especially when deluged by input from every direction. Alice went to Wonderland under duress and confusion. She only wanted to find solutions. How do I make sense of this place, how do I get home? She was offered random information — “Drink Me!”, and random threats — “Off with her head!”

Life usually feels pretty normal compared to Alice’s. Maybe not this year.

We want to make the best decision with our vote. An election comes down to a job application. In this primary election, my starting point is identifying the best solution finder. It’s great to have leadership in budgeting for public safety, interstate highways, et. al. True leadership includes seeing how to connect people to solutions using what is already in place. Managing people in our society by enacting laws about what books are available and who can’t control their own body, is not leadership.

The Board of Education is the elected body mandated to establish educational and safety guidelines for our schools, staff and students. Across our country, debates about these guidelines have gotten to a fever pitch. One of the widest ranging issues of our modern school system

is safety for our at-risk kids. Classroom safety for special education students, their neurotypical peers, and their teachers, along with addressing plain old-fashioned bullying, are all on the minds of voters. We constituents have the job of paying attention to the elected body we put in charge.

Bullying is a feature of the human condition, but that doesn’t mean we have to tolerate it. We don’t want our kids at the receiving end of a bully’s cruel words. We don’t have to tolerate it from would-be members of our Board of Education who would ban books or deny our children the ability to be themselves.

Our legislative bodies at the Federal level are routinely hamstrung by a small group that dings to messages shared with a selective group of constituents. Bullies are doing their best to deny full body autonomy to women, and shame anyone they pronounce “different”.

In the Primary Election on May 14, I support these candidates:

Board of Education:
Jerry Alexandratos Ph.D.

Full disclosure, I have known Jerry for twenty years, and we are cofounding board members of Kitsune, Inc 501(c)3. Jerry, a Frederick resident for over 30 years, shared the following

“I’ve been in schools for a long time, not only as a student, but also as a par-

ent of a special needs child. He is now a nonbinary adult, a graduate of Frederick County Public Schools, and in college in Portland, Oregon. My stepson inspired me to help start a nonprofit in Frederick called Kitsune, to help other people with developmental disabilities. I have seen how FCPS helped my son, also how they did not, and how they can be improved. Schools need more special education teachers, allocated based upon need and not just school size, as well as more mental health counselors. We need them to protect kids from bullying, not exclude them based upon irrational fears about gender or orientation.

As a scientist, I would like to help bring a more scientific and data-driven approach to the education curriculum to help all students, such as improving early childhood reading methods using more up to date textbooks and training. I think teachers need more support in general, especially by reducing the student to teacher ratio so teachers can spend more time with each student.”

For more information about Jerry, visit his campaign website at jerryalexandratos.com.

There are six Primary Election openings for BOE. On my list are Jerry Alexandratos, Allison Medrano, Justin L. Smith, Angie Vigliotti, Chad Wilson, Cecelia Reidler. They all are committed to watching out for our kids in all their glorious individuality.

Congressional District 6:
Del. Lesley Lopez

Leadership is about understanding the scope of a problem. Offering a solution I can implement myself is leadership that empowers me, a constituent. Lesley listens, following up with solutions. Lesley spent time at a meeting for Kitsune, our nonprofit focused on independent living for adults with developmental disabilities. We have an idea for a resource database—the one we wish we had when we were raising our kids. Lesley understood the purpose and scope of our project. Within 48 hours she connected me with two coders who have now, in a month and a half, built our database platform. It is functional and expected to be online for the public to use by the time I write my Good Day Neighbor column for May. Not a penny of tax payer money was spent.

Lesley cosponsored bill HB 328 Simplifying hospital financial assistance.

As President of the Women’s Caucus, Lesley helped lead on advocating for HB 376, ending copayments for breast cancer screenings and mammograms in Maryland.

For more information about Lesley, visit her campaign website at lopezformaryland.com.

US Senate: David Trone

David Trone found a transportation solution for Maryland in securing a combined \$268,615,000 to com-

plete work on U.S. 15, I-68 Viaduct, U.S. 220 and U.S. 219 North, completing the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) through Trone’s “Finish the ADHS Act” included in the IJA.

During Rep. Trone’s tenure, the House passed the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act. Eight of the thirty bills in this legislative package were led or co-led by Trone. Along with the mental health bills, were Community funded projects in Frederick County, The City of Frederick and throughout Western Maryland.

My vote in the primary goes to candidates who understand that solutions impact people differently, requiring flexibility, not a one-size-fits-all decree. As members of our county, state, and national communities, we have common needs that true solution finders can address.

We are individuals with different needs, but we are one in this nation of free will, free thought, and the right to vote. Our elected officials need to know where constituents stand, regardless your choice winning. For more information about David visit his website at davidtrone.com.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of *Good Day Neighbor*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The point of the Church

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

I had a conversation not that long ago with some friends about our modern society's view of church attendance/membership. In the course of this conversation someone expressed, from their personal experience, that some people don't value church or religious faith because they don't see a need for it. This person shared that their particular atheist friends spend time volunteering in various community building efforts like food banks, homeless shelters, etc. They reported these friends give money to charitable causes.

They said these friends seek to love and care for other people by supporting political causes that expand physical and mental healthcare, advocate for humane immigration policies, strengthen our nation's educational policies, and so forth. They would argue these things fall in line with Jesus' mandate to welcome the stranger and care for your neighbors. Further, these folks do these things completely outside of the church, and express no religious faith or devotion whatsoever. These athe-

ist friends do Christ like things from their perspective without Christ being involved in any way. Which boils down to the question, "What's the point of the church?"

What does the church offer that one can't get somewhere else? Because it seems many folks in our society live out certain Christian virtues without faith in Christ. Further, one doesn't have to look very hard in the news to find stories of self-reported Christians advocating violence or a general disregard for strangers and neighbors alike. Church attendance does not guarantee better morals for instance that can't be learned elsewhere. So in the year 2024 what's the point of the church, what's the point of religious faith in Christ?

To begin to attempt to answer this question I'd like to point out that I think a lot of the answers I heard to this question in the course of the aforementioned conversation began in the wrong place. We live in a capitalist, consumerist society. During my lifetime I noticed that as church attendance began to dwindle, church leadership started to look for new ways to keep current members and attract new ones. Many of these church

leaders it seems took cues from the corporate world and started to wonder what the church has to offer that would make it more attractive to people.

With that, church marketing went into overdrive. Billboards, flyers, radio commercials, junk mailings, even Christian TV stations went out everywhere. Churches started offering multiple worship times not out of a need for seating capacity but to meet personal preferences. Multiple styles of worship are offered to meet personal tastes. A huge array of educational and social programs/events filled church calendars to try to appeal to the greatest number of people.

Now, I'll pause here and say there is nothing inherently wrong about this. Christianity spans millennia, and nearly every corner of the globe. Of course there will be countless styles of worship, types of music, forms of Christian education. Our congregations will be as diverse as the people are and that diversity is a beautiful tapestry. "I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." Rev. 7:9. There is a downside to this shift, however.

This is beyond natural diversity. It seems like Corporate America's consumerism has even rubbed off on us Christians. We want our worship services to be at the ideal time to suit our preferences. We want the content of the worship services to be such that it elicits our personal enjoyment; it makes us feel the ways we want to feel; we are taught the things we want to learn; we hear ideas we agree with repeated back to us. Church in many ways has become all



about what we get out of it, of how it serves us then about anything else. Time has marched on since the 80's and early 90's.

Now people have more and more choices every passing year. With so many possible ways in every moment for each of us to spend our time we come to the question, well what's the point of the church? What does it have to offer that I can't get someplace else or in some other way? I can find social events to attend elsewhere. There's all manner of clubs and hobby groups I can join. There's lots of various volunteer opportunities so that I can serve the community in which I live. None of those things need a church, or religious devotion for that matter. What does the church offer that I can't get someplace else?

Now one might say "personal salvation through faith in Christ." But that certainly is not a tempting offer for people who don't believe in God in the first place.

Well, what if we approach the question from a different starting point? Instead of asking what we get out of it, I think there's something else we need to consider.

A week or so ago depending on

when you're reading this article you might have heard Jesus' final prayer for his disciples before he was arrested. He asked God the Father that we would be one with each other as God the Father and God the Son are one with each other. Jesus also asked that we would be one with him as he is one with the Godhead. That sums up our lives and the reality in which we live quite well. We were created individually to be at one with each other and at one with God. We are not gods ourselves, certainly, but have been adopted so to speak into the family. Everything else blossoms from that reality.

So the church isn't about what we get out of it, what it has to offer us. In the same way our faith isn't about what we get out of it either. First and foremost, faith is not for the purpose of something, it simply is. It is simply an awareness of God. It's an experience of the beginnings of that oneness. The end of salvation, the fruit of faith is oneness with God and oneness with each other forever.

The church is simply a group of people who share this understanding. So they gather on Sundays or any other day of the week to practice that oneness with each other. While together they worship God, try to learn from each other, or support someone who needs help.

Volunteering for community service is good and benefits those being served in the wider community. Everyone, religious or otherwise, should do it. But it's not a substitute for faith in God or fellowship with other Christians. The church in my opinion is simply a community of faith filled people trying to live into the reality that has been revealed to us by God. Namely, that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves, bigger than this world in which we live, bigger than time and space itself. We gather because we ought to seek to be one with each other even here on this side of Heaven. Our love for each other compels us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to heal the sick, to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, to worship God, just as our savior did. Our love compels us to do those things together. That, in my opinion, at this point in my life, is the church.

To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church visit them online at www.gracehammoravian.org or better yet join them for Sunday service.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Things by their right names



April 25

The sportsmen of the middle ages invented a peculiar kind of language, with which it was necessary to be acquainted when speaking of things belonging to the chase. Different kinds of beasts, when going together in companies, were distinguished each by their own particular epithet, which was in some way descriptive of the nature or habits of the animal to which it was applied; and to have made a wrong use of one of these would have subjected him who made the mistake to undisguised ridicule; indeed, such is still the case, and to use the word dog, when sporting language would have that animal called a hound, would be an offence which the ears of a sportsman would not tolerate, and of which it would be no palliation to argue that, though every dog is not a hound, still, every hound is a dog.

Of the epithets applied to companies of beasts in past times several are in use at the present day, though the greater part have passed away from us; or if they have not entirely done so, they are not all universally employed, though perhaps every one of them might still be found in existence if sought in the different countries of England. Of those which we daily apply we are at a loss to account for the origin in many cases, though no doubt when first employed the application seemed natural and descriptive enough; but as words are continually undergoing change in their spelling, or are subject to become obsolete or repudiated because old fashioned, we come, in time, no longer to recognize their source.

The following list will show what were those invented in the Middle Ages and what we retain. There was said to be a pride of lions; a lepe of leopards; a herde of harts, of bucks, and of all sorts of deer; a bevy of roes; a sloth, of bears; a singular of boars; a sounder of wild swine; a doyft of tame swine; a route of wolves; a harms of hoses; a rag of colts; a stud of mares; a pace of asses; a baren of mules; a team of oxen; a drove of kine; a flock of sheep; a tribe of goats; a skulk of foxes; a cete of badgers; a richesse of martins; a fesynes of ferrets; a huske, or down of hares; a nest of rabbits; a clowder of cats, and a kin-

dle of young cats; a shrewdness of apes, and a labour of moles. Also, of animals when they retired to rest, a hart was said to be harbored, a buck lodged, a roebuck bedded, a hare formed, a rabbit set. Two greyhounds were called a brace, and three a leash, but two harriers or spaniels were called a couple. We have also a mute of hounds for a

number, a kennel of raches, a litter of whelps, and a cowardice of curs.

This kind of descriptive phraseology was not confined to birds and beasts and other of the brute creation, but extended to the human species and their various natures, propensities, and callings, as shown in the list below, in which the meaning of the epithets is more obvious

than in many of the foregoing.

Here we have: a state of princes; a skulk of friars; a skulk of thieves; an observance of hermits; a subtiltie of sergeants; a safeguard of porters; a stalk of foresters; a blast of hunters; a draught of butlers; a temperance of cooks; a melody of harpers; a poverty of pipers; a drunkenship of cobblers; a disguising of tailors; a wandering of tinkers; a fighting of beggars; a ragful (a netful) of knaves; a blush of boys; a bevy of ladies; a nonpatience of wives; a gagle of women and a gagle of geese. As applied to inanimate things, there was a cluster of grapes, a cluster of nuts, a caste of bread, &c.

The cluster of grapes and of nuts we are well acquainted with, but the caste of bread is quite gone, probably because bread is no longer baked in the same way as formerly, for by the word caste is meant that whole

quantity of bread which was baked in a tin with divisions in it, or in a set of moulds all run together, and in that way the word is used as of something cast in a mould, as we say of metal. No doubt there was as much reason in all the terms when they were invented, and, as to the use of them, we are as rigorous as ever where we have them at all. Who would dare to call two horses anything but a pair when they are harnessed to a carriage, though they may be two in any other situation, and although four horses are four, let them be where they will. Then, two pheasants are a brace, two fowls are a pair, and two ducks are a couple, and so we might go on with an endless number.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit thebookofdays.com.

Randall Ray Wolf

Randall Ray Wolf, 70, of Thurmont, passed away suddenly on March 12. He was the beloved husband of Kathy Hewitt Wolf for 52 wonderful years. He was born in Lantz, Maryland to the late Sidney and Grace Clabaugh Wolf.

Randy was a carpenter all his life, a skilled craftsman that could make or fix anything. He loved his family, deer hunting, bike riding, trips out west, gunsmithing, woodworking, and gardening- "No one left without vegetables". He was also a member of the Thurmont American Legion and the NRA.

Randy is survived by sons Westley (Katrina) Wolf, Cody Wolf, and daughter Bethany Wolf. He was pappy to Makinna and Gage Wolf. Grand-dog Ridley was his special companion. Randall is also survived by siblings; Fay Grimes, Sidney (Sharon) Wolf, Sandy (Jim) Culver, Brenda Wolf, Mark (Loretta) Wolf, Cecelia (Wayne) Stam-



baugh, Dorene (John) King, and Pam (Carroll) Forney.

He was predeceased by sisters Joyce Oaks and Fern Glass. Randy is also survived by in-laws; Doris Knott, Monroe Hewitt, Jim (Patty) Hewitt, Jerry (Angie) Hewitt, Ruth Hewitt, Roger Oaks, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Remembrance gathering will be held on Saturday, April 20 from noon to 2 at Mt. Tabor Church, Rocky Ridge, with a service at 2 p.m.

Randall's care has been entrusted to Black's Funeral Home of Sabillasville, MD.

Sheridan Reaver, Sr.

Sheridan Edward (Ed) Reaver, Sr. passed away peacefully at home from colon cancer on March 3. Ed was predeceased by his son, Christopher Reaver, his grandson, Eliot Kelly, his parents, (Sheridan and Helen), 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

He is survived by his loving wife (his high school sweetheart), Helen (Wivell) of almost 65 years; his children; Janet (Carmel Kelly), Sheridan Edward, Jr. (Anne), Matt (Anne), Greg (Tina), Mary Anne (David Shields), Chris' wife, Mandi, Laura (Ron Dillman), Vince (Cathy), Brian (Susan); 25 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren; his sisters, Judy Ashcroft and Kate Brown, sister-in-law, Marlene Reaver, as well as numerous in laws, nieces and nephews.

Ed grew up in Keymar and attended St Joseph Catholic grade school in Taneytown, and St Joseph High School.

His places of employment were Cambridge Rubber Co., Taneytown, and then he became a sewing machine mechanic (the best around), working for Sagner's of Frederick, Waynesboro Knitting Co, Hartz Textiles in Frederick, as well as Eastalco.

After retiring in 1986 he fulfilled his lifelong dream of owning and operating his own custom cabinet business for 20 years, which he proudly named Reaver's Woodworking.

Ed was a lifelong Catholic with an unwavering faith in God. He was a long-time parishioner of St Anthony's Shrine. He served on the maintenance committee for many years at St. Anthony's and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed traveling, especially cruises, bowling, playing pool, horseshoes, fishing, playing softball on the Country Cousins team and playing cards with his good friends.



Ed enjoyed making rosaries, crosses, and other religious items. He also invested in a rock tumbler and, among other items, made each of his granddaughters a necklace and grandsons a key chain. He picked the rocks from his very long driveway where his grandkids spent many, many hours playing together.

His grandkids will always remember "Pappy" for Pappy's gum box, weekly grandkids day in the summer, molasses bread, sweet, iced tea, and the smell of his Old Spice cologne.

One of his most treasured memories was when he and Helen received Holy Communion from Pope St John Paul II during his papal visit to Baltimore.

Ed was a self-taught "Jack of all Trades". He mastered everything he set out to do. Ed was a perfectionist, many times remaking a cabinet even though no one would notice the small defect. He would always say, "I know it isn't perfect".

Ed instilled in his children and grandchildren a strong love of family, a devout faith, and a strong work ethic. His passing leaves a huge void in the hearts of all those who knew and loved him!

Ed was interned in St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery. If you wish to make a donation in Ed's name, please Mother Seton School tuition assistance fund or St Anthony Shrine, both of Emmitsburg.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Tracing DNA links at Catoctin Furnace

Boyce Rensberger

Sometime between 1776 and 1840, a three-year-old girl died at the Catoctin Furnace near Thurmont. Today the furnace is preserved as a historic site, but back then it was a booming industrial complex, refining iron from ore and making various cast-iron products.

The little girl was the child of enslaved Africans who operated the blast furnace and made the products. What is remarkable today about that toddler is that we now know that she has several relatives currently living in Hagerstown. DNA revealed the connection.

Here's how: First, the girl's skeleton was one of 35 exhumed in 1970 for the widening of highway US-15. The road work cut through an overgrown cemetery used by Blacks more than a century earlier at the furnace. The skeletons then were housed at the Smithsonian. About five years ago DNA was extracted from the bones. The child's DNA proved to be purely African, suggesting that she or her parents had been brought directly from West Africa to America. (Africans, incidentally, were valued for their iron-making skills, derived from a technology practiced in Africa for more than 2,500 years.)

The bones' genetic markers were then compared with those of some nine million people who had given

their DNA samples (cheek cells in saliva) to 23andMe, a California company that does the analysis and maintains a database.

The analysis found nearly 42,000 living Americans who are related one way or another to that little girl. The evidence also revealed that 15 of the skeletons could be grouped genetically as members of five different families.

Of the living relatives of the little girl, one was Agnes Jackson, an 86-year-old resident of Hagerstown who had contributed her DNA to the database in 2022. And the toddler was, of course, also related to Jackson's three daughters. The four of them came to Catoctin Furnace last summer to learn more about the research project and to see where their family had lived and worked.

"It's so exciting to see my tree ... to know more about our ancestors," Ms. Jackson told a reporter from Science magazine. "It's always good to know where we came from."

Sharon Green, one of Jackson's daughters, was struck by seeing the nails that were found with the child's bones. They once fastened the wooden coffin that had long since deteriorated. "Seeing the nails that were buried with her, and hearing how much my ancestors were sold for, was amazing," she told Science. "It's so overwhelming to know we contributed to this country and

know who we were."

The DNA comparisons to the 23andMe database found thousands of other living relatives around the country, but the company feels that since those people haven't given permission in advance to be linked to people who lived long ago, they are not at liberty to name them.

Seven other people buried in the cemetery had no detectable European ancestry, indicating that they were captives recently imported from Africa or immediate descendants of Africans. All the other skeletons contained DNA with some mixture of European ancestry.

Ms. Jackson and her daughters were not, of course, descendants of the three-year-old child. A geneticist from 23andMe, Éadaoin Harney, met the Jacksons at Catoctin Furnace and told them that long stretches of the girl's DNA were identical to those in Agnes Jackson. There was enough overlap to conclude that Ms. Jackson was likely a third cousin, or a second cousin twice removed.

"What DNA does for the first time is connect a living, 21st century family not just to Catoctin, but to the actual cemetery," says Catoctin Furnace Historical Society archaeologist Elizabeth Comer. She is the one who in 2015 asked the Smithsonian's Doug Owsley, a biological anthropologist, to see if new genetic testing methods could be tried on bones from the Catoctin cemetery. That led to DNA being extracted from the bones and submitted to 23andMe for comparison.

Comer's actions and the DNA



Sharon Green, Agnes Jackson, Vicki Winston, and Barbara Hart at the ruins of the Catoctin Furnace last summer.

work were done in consultation with the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society, an organization dedicated to promoting knowledge of the history of African Americans in Frederick County.

Comer has also been instrumental in bringing attention more broadly to the slave cemetery and in finding ways to help people today connect with the ones long ago who lived and worked in our area. A few years back she persuaded the Smithsonian to allow two skulls, that of a woman and a teen-age boy, to be "fleshed out" in clay to create some idea of what those two looked like in life. The sculptures can be seen at the Museum of the Ironworker, a part of the Catoctin Furnace site.

Prior to the DNA work, Jackson's family was already connected to the

furnace through historical records. She knew that her great-great-grandfather was an ironworker named Henson Summers. His distinctive name helped genealogists trace his family. Born around 1820, Summers was enslaved by the owners of the ironworks and later sold to another furnace near Hagerstown, where Jackson and her daughters live today.

Without DNA analysis the little girl's connection to anyone alive today would have remained unknown. "We can do genealogy research till the cows come home, but without DNA, we would never know that information," Comer says. "This closes the loop."

Three of the people buried at Catoctin Furnace had DNA associated with sickle-cell disease. Four had variants of a gene associated with another blood disorder called G6PD deficiency, which causes fevers, abdominal and back pain, and fatigue. Both diseases disproportionately affect people descended from sub-Saharan Africa.

"This study is an example of deploying scientific tools to address questions of long-standing interest to African Americans, at the community's request," says Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., a professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African-American Research at Harvard. Referring to the ability of DNA studies to link Blacks to ancestors who lived before their names and dates were written into records, Gates told Science, "It is a tool for empowerment of African Americans, rather than exploitation of a vulnerable population. I think it is a model of engagement to be emulated."

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

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

Learn about the North County Recovering Identity Project, the study that changed how northern Frederick County's African American history is perceived and studied. April 27 at the Thurmont Regional Library.

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Never stop learning



Founded in 1953, Keep America Beautiful is the largest community improvement organization in the United States, with more than 700 state and community-based affiliate organizations and more than 1,000 partner organizations.

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

When I was a kid, I assumed that learning would stop once I finished school. At ten years old, I figured I would know everything I would ever need to know by the time I was done school. I'm not sure why I held this belief, though. Looking back, I don't recall anyone ever explicitly stating such. It's funny to think about it because the older I became, the more I discovered that learning never stops. It takes a variety of forms – reading books, watching online tutorials, listening to podcasts, attending lectures, catching up on the latest information in your professional career field, and so on. Learning doesn't look the same across the board and that's okay. It doesn't have to, especially in this era of technology.

For me, education is a thread woven into the fabric of my daily life. I frequent Penn State Extension's online programs, catch up on industry blogs and podcasts, read books recommended to me by others in my field, and I attend programs at Strawberry Hill for the fun of it. After all, why not? I can always find little golden nuggets of information to go home with and being exposed to a variety of teaching styles helps me be a better teacher. Plus, it's fun going to classes with old friends and meeting new people.

In March, I attended a class at Strawberry Hill called The Language of the Land: Communicating with the Spaces Around Us. This program was taught by Rev. Monika Coyote, a shamanic healer and educator with a master's degree in forensic psychology and 20 years of experience working in the health and human services field. The class I attended focused on how people and spaces communicate with each other. It was a fascinating blend of scientific methods and metaphysical discussion.

From this discussion, I discovered that hikers, gardeners, and caretakers of natural spaces can build a relationship with spaces through regular acts of service, offerings, or simply saying hello. I'm not one to walk around talking out loud to trees but this

class piqued my interest in acts of service as a communication concept. It made me wonder if picking up trash while I'm out on the trails could help me build a relationship with the space I'm protecting. Am I creating a bond with the land if I pick up a wind-blown granola bar wrapper I found while hiking? Is it possible that the land appreciates when I take a small trash bag with me on outings? Perhaps. Or perhaps it simply gives me a sense of pride and ownership over a small but impactful act. Either way, the end result is something positive.

Litter has a tremendous effect on wildlife and ecosystems. As litter degrades it releases chemicals and microparticles that affect waterways, plants, and animals. Wildlife become trapped in or ingest litter. And most litter takes decades to hundreds of years to decompose. According to Keep America Beautiful, a national non-partisan non-profit dedicated to educating the public about recycling and cleaning green spaces, there are 152 pieces of litter for each U.S. resident. On the bright side, Keep America Beautiful also reports that overall roadside litter is down 54% since 2009. That's good news for people and animals alike.

Leftover food that is tossed out car windows draws rodents and

where there are rodents, there are predators like owls, hawks, and more. One of the greatest threats to these birds of prey is people driving, especially at night. It's a potentially deadly mix when an animal hunting for food encounters blinding headlights around a sharp turn. Clean roads make for enjoyable drives and provide protection for birds of prey. It's a win all the way around.

I recently had a conversation about litter with our WILDlife kids. We were out on the trails when we found a gum wrapper followed by an old soda can tab and then later some broken glass. We were discussing what trash does to an area and before I knew it, the kids issued a challenge to me – how many pieces of litter could I hold in both hands as we hiked back to the pond. It was a fun way to engage in dialogue about responsible hiking and they thoroughly enjoyed watching me struggle to hold every small piece they could find. I had a foraging bag with me, but the kids were having a good time watching me balance items large and small in my hands. It was a struggle, for sure.

In the end, though, it was totally worth it. Kids love beating adults at games and a little struggle on my part fed great discus-

Thurmont Green Fest

Reduce, Recycle, and Repurpose are the theme of this year's Thurmont Green Fest, Saturday, April 13, from 10 to 2 at Thurmont Regional Library. This annual event inspires participants to learn methods to support a healthy environment. Green agencies and organizations will provide information and demonstrations on upcycling furniture, creating rugs from rags and fabric scraps, beekeeping, and much more. The Thurmont Green Team will raffle off a Tumble Composter, and free tree saplings will be available for all.

Fountain Rock Nature Center will have children's nature activities and Cunningham Falls State Park's Scales and Tales will thrill participants with live reptiles. Hear how you can support a new larger home for Edmund the Turtle. Edmund is the one of the largest known snapping tur-

tles in the nation, and he has outgrown his current enclosure.

Clean out all those old electronics and bring them by for electronic recycling offered by the Buddy Project, which provides technology, training, and advocacy to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Rust Store of Frederick will be demonstrating how to upcycle old furniture, and Tracy Lewis will be making rag rugs out of old fabric scraps and t-shirts. The Frederick County Division of Energy and the Environment will provide information about the Green Homes Challenge, the Creek Releaf Reforestation Program, and Power Saver Retrofits.

These are just a few of the many family-friendly activities that you'll find at this year's Thurmont Green Fest—hope you can join us!

sions about respect for nature and respect for others. All the while, Rev. Monika's lesson kept echoing in my ears. Were the trees watching as we traveled down the long-worn paths? Did the mountain understand that our game helps cultivate social responsibility and collective love of nature? Perhaps.

I think a better question to ask is: do our small actions make a measurable impact? I believe they do. Children learn by example, and they value that which is valued. It could be the trees, the watershed, a local hiking spot, or just spending time in nature with friends. Either way, the lessons learned will carry on.

Looking ahead at our spring schedule, I'm hoping to attend more of our classes and pro-

grams if only to engage that part of myself that loves learning. I made myself a promise years ago to never grow still, never become stagnant. Education – especially environmental education – is a living, breathing thing, no puns intended. I'm always looking for new ways to connect to the natural world and bring knowledge back to my programs. I believe the programs I teach reflect what I value. So, if you sign up for some upcoming programs, don't be surprised to see me sitting there with you. After all, you never stop learning. Who knows, maybe you'll teach me something this spring!

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

IN THE COUNTRY

Creature court

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

On the first day of April we humans have a rich history of playing practical jokes on one another in a light hearted jest of making each other appear a fool. As it turns out we humans need little help in this department when it comes to our understanding of the animal kingdom. We are a very gullible species. We often believe what we are told or initially observe without further investigation, and as a result have a very misinformed and skewed understanding of our surroundings. This is where science and some of our more skeptical brethren have done some heavy lifting to shine light on concepts we think we understand. You can be sure that as you're reading this there is probably some adult imparting hearsay wisdom to some child and the misinformation chain begins anew. Let's take some of

these myths to creature court and see what the verdict is. Hopefully we can take a crack at some of the more predominate animal myths you may have encountered and set the record straight.

Think back to a point in your childhood where you were outside playing. There you were minding your own business getting grass stains in your jeans, knocking over ant hills, meticulously pulling petals off flowers to see if were in fact loved by that special someone then —BAM! A baby bird was lying on the ground, perhaps at the base of a tree, and then you reach, as the valiant hero you are, to return this helpless bird to its' rightful nest. Only just as you're about to cement your nine year old Nobel Peace Prize an adult steps in and tells you "Leave it alone! If you touch it the mother bird will abandon it." They, in due course, explain that it has something to do with smelling human scent on it. While it is good practice not to

interfere with wildlife, the premise is unfounded. Most birds have an underdeveloped sense of smell (if any at all), so human scent has absolutely no bearing on a mother bird helping her young. Chances are this bird is learning to fly or the mother is only away temporarily. Housing, feeding, or caring for any baby wildlife will more than likely kill it or make it dependant on humans and never be able to care for itself. Picking up the baby bird could be detrimental to its long term ability in learning to fly, but won't stop a mother bird from caring for her child. Consider this myth busted as false.

In hindsight this next myth seems rather a sadistic experiment that many have probably tried or at the very least heard of. The accusation is that cutting an earthworm in half will create two worms. If you've been witness to a worm being severed you'll have astutely seen that both sections continue to wiggle. Some adult may have even happened along in this instance and said something encouraging like "You know eventually both ends will grow back and then you'll have two worms!" This myth probably arose from a simple misunderstanding. Worms, like many other invertebrates, do have some regenerative ability. The ability to re-grow body parts differs enormously between them, although tails are generally easier to re-grow. So if you cut part of an earthworm's tail off, it might be able to regrow a stunted replacement. However, it is highly likely that the worm will lose the tail section permanently, or even perish. In reality it makes about as much sense as cutting a raccoon in half and expecting it to regenerate a head and hind section for the remaining halves. So the wiggling you see is really only a result of the final moments of agony the poor creature will endure until it suffers no more. Do our annelid (worm) friends a favor and leave them in one intact piece because verdict for this myth has been ruled false.

Next up on the docket is that touching a frog or toad will give you warts. A lot of frogs and toads have bumps on their skin that some people think are contagious. Some think that coming in con-



It's a myth that parent birds will abandon young that have been touched by humans—most birds have a poor sense of smell, and birds in general identify their young using the same cues we humans do—appearance and sound. It's perfectly safe to pick up a fallen nestling and put it back in the nest, or to carry a fledgling out of danger and place it in a tree or shrub.

tact with these bumps will cause you to have warts. The ruling on the bench is that this myth is false. Dermatologist Jerry Litt says, "Warts are caused by a human virus, not frogs or toads." These bumps, or parotid glands, contain a toxic poison that can cause irritation of the skin to predators and humans if touched. If a predator tries to make a snack out of these little critters they will often experience a foul unpleasant taste, may begin to foam at the mouth, or even die. While it may not transmit warts to people, depending on the species it may just be best to leave well enough alone and not touch them.

Justice may be blind, but the next accusation is that bats are too. It's often said that when someone can't see they are "as blind as bat." This myth may have arisen because of the sonar used by bats to hunt prey. However, contrary to popular belief bats are not blind. Bats can see, and some rely solely on their vision to hunt and travel. Bats are broken down into two categories – mega (they eat fruit) and micro (they eat insects). "Mega" bats rely solely on vision, and while "micro" do have poorly developed eyes they can still see and will use sight for long distance navigation. Some bats can even see in ultraviolet light, which helps them hunt and navigate. The scales of justice have tipped in favor of not guilty for this myth because it is untrue.

The next defendant is hungry for justice, because Praying Mantises have had enough of scandal-

ous rumors about their copulative behavior. The female Praying Mantis is known for devouring the head of the male after the act is complete. However, this is not necessarily always the case. After much research entomologist realized that this only occurs about a third of the time. Researchers still are unsure of the reasoning behind this behavior, but it is likely to provide nutrition for the newly expecting mother. Others think it's simply because the female gets confused and mistakes the male for prey. Either way, females will usually only perform sexual cannibalism when starving. This practice mostly occurs in captivity. Researchers usually don't see the same behavior in the wild, so there could be other underlying causes as well. Consider the Praying Mantis only acquitted from this myth.

Hopefully our little creature court has been able to clarify some common myths and justice has prevailed. With even a little more understanding our natural world can become an even more wonderful and miraculous place. Now that the weather is beginning to become more favorable I encourage everyone to get out into their public lands or even their very own yards and explore their surroundings and soak up some sun. These myths aren't the only things that can make us fools, so do a little sleuthing for yourself and see if you can witness some of our newly exonerated friends in action.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Looking back to see the future

Jack Deatherage

Grandmother Deatherage, Aunt Hilda and Cousin John lived in a second floor apartment at 130 West Main in 1960. There was a snack bar and bowling alley next door. Across the street was a movie theater- 125 West Main. Behind Grandmother's apartment building was Bollinger's field where Hereford cattle grazed prior to becoming the beef (sold at Bollinger's butcher shop -now apartments 110 and 112 West Main) of my kidlehood, the standard I judge beef by.

When John and I could beg a few coins from our moms we'd go bowling, to the movies, or what I remember most fondly- walk "down town" to Doc Carter's drugstore, 24 West Main, and buy several balsa wood gliders and rubber band powered airplanes. After assembling the "aircraft" in the apartment we'd head to Bollinger's field and amuse the Herfords for as long as the fragile toys lasted.

The buildings mentioned are still standing (mostly converted into apartments), the businesses are decades gone- just a few among the 50 some I recently listed for shimm... giggles. Sixty-three years of fading memories in an ever declining mind -history that matters to few but me.

I've heard for decades that the people of Emmitsburg don't want the town to change. I've counted myself among the anti-change crowd, yet the history of this town is change! In my lifetime I've seen seven grocery/butcher shops, three barber shops, a motel, an auto dealership, several garage/gas stations, a clothing store and a dry goods store close their doors in Emmitsburg. All the while I watched houses being built across the street and behind the alley from our house on North Seton. I watched Silo Hill, Northgate, Brookfield and Southgate become neighborhoods.

While enough residents organized to stop the development of the Boyle farm (arguably to the general detriment of the town) I've yet to see the citizenry organize in numbers large enough to bring much of benefit to the town other than housing developments and cookie cutter businesses. According to the US Census, as of 2021 there were 2,842 people living in Emmitsburg. I think maybe ten of them attended the town's recent comprehensive plan workshops, though I'm sure, I pray, I doubt as many, let alone

more than that, attended via Zoom.

I attended the workshops, though I mostly observed and later emailed my thoughts to town planner, Najila Ahsan, (nahsan@emmitsburgmd.gov).

Email excerpt: "As an historic town Emmitsburg is already a tourist destination. Promoting that might bring generally unwanted traffic to the town, but tourists eventually leave. The upside of tourists are the moneys they spend while visiting. I'd sooner see more traffic than more housing developments. The historical aspects of this town have barely been scratched."

Pre-COVID I was told 3 million people a year traveled between Gettysburg and Frederick to tour the various Civil War historical sites. With the battlefield reenactments to our north each summer and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, it seems to me holding an after-battle reenactment of the Daughters of Charity rendering aid and comfort to the wounded would be an obvious tourist draw. I believe the Daughters already hold a small event on their property, a brief historical tour/lecture? Bringing in "living" historians from the various factions- the Daughters, period doctors, period entertainers (minstrel banjo players and bands) and the "wounded" from the recent battlefield reenactments to the north would draw some of those millions of tourists off US 15 for a "new" Civil War event that, as far as I know, is not being held anywhere else in this region.

The Emmitsburg Rifle is another unexploited bit of the town's history. Pre-COVID I was in contact with an officer in a national muzzle loading rifle association who told me his organization could not understand why the town refused to promote being the home of a highly regarded gunsmith, another tourist draw. Depending on who's doing the telling, John Armstrong is among the top five 19th-century gunsmiths. I've also been told his work as a metalsmith is recognized in some artist communities.

I've recently learned the Union Army had a campsite where Rutters now is. As I understand it, the site was NOT properly documented in the rush to bring the new business to town. I was also told that a millhouse once stood at the bottom of Tollgate Hill, this side of Toms Creek, on the Daughter's property. I've heard that the Emmitsburg area was once known for its wheat pro-

duction, its mechanic shops and small factories making products for regional use. How these and other facts might be commercially exploited to the town's advantage is beyond me. I worry that the loss of the town's history is going to turn the town into just another gas station stop along US 15.

Over the years I've been attending town meetings I've been told by various commissioners that the town is not in the business of creating businesses. Okay, so whose responsibility is it to reach out to new businesses? Who creates the codes and regulations that new businesses would have to comply with? Who decides where a new business might be allowed to open? Who clears the bureaucratic tangles that might slow, or prevent potential businesses from approaching the town?]

Enter Gary Casteel, the nationally recognized sculptor and painter who restored the town's WWI doughboy statue in 2016 and later proposed a national Civil War memorial within the town limits. According to Casteel, there are national memorials dedicated to the wars America has fought, but not one for the war that turned a nation of sovereign states into the nation it currently is.

Negotiations to build the memorial were underway with the state's tourism board, a landowner and the town during Mayor Briggs' tenure, but fell apart for reasons I've never understood. Also during Mayor Briggs' tenure, Casteel proposed a John Armstrong memorial that also



John Armstrong's rifles are among the very finest of the Kentucky Rifle 'Golden Age', which ran from about 1790 to 1820.

failed to come to fruition. Casteel has recently presented his Civil War memorial to Mayor Davis and a new board of commissioners. Having seen Casteel's drawings of the memorials I have to admit I'm a bigger fan of the John Armstrong than the Civil War. What can I say? I was into the flash, flame, smoke and thunder of flintlocks.

Either memorial will draw tourists. When they arrive they will explore the rest of this place and spend money, if there is anything to spend money on. Which brings me to the community garden on Cedar Avenue.

When Brian McKenney and I took it into our brain-damaged heads to build the garden with

the help of a few friends, we put as much of our money and sweat into it as we could muster. When my enthusiasm for the project grew wobbly, Brian insisted more people would show up to help if he and I built the garden. And so they have this second year.

If Casteel builds the memorials, tourists will come. Someone will see the business potentials. The town will prosper, without greatly increasing the population.

Gary Casteel's pertinent work can be seen at his shop in Gettysburg - 789 Baltimore Street.

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Spring has sprung!

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Many January and February weekends were spent looking at seed catalogs while dreaming of the perfect vegetable garden as well as admiring and desiring the new cultivars of perennials for the garden. Now that the weather is springing, we can make some of those dreams a reality.

Direct Sowing Seeds: When spring arrives I look forward to digging in the soil. Direct sowing seed is a great early chore of the season. April is a good month to direct sow lettuce and other salad green seeds. Work up the garden, digging in compost, and level the soil. Create small furrows for the

seed to be dropped and cover with a thin layer of soil. Peas, radishes, and beets benefit from sowing now as well. Potato sets should also be planted at this time and cold hardy vegetables like Brussels sprouts and cabbage could go in the ground. Note: Depth of seed planting is important information located on the back of seed packs. This information will come in handy when determining how deep to make furrows and how much soil to cover the seed.

Pruning Trees and Shrubs: April is also the time of year to examine the condition of your shrubs and trees. After the winter months, you may find branches that are broken and evergreens with branches that went from green to

brown. Winter damage can be an easy fix if you have the patience and muscles to prune. Any broken branches should be cut. Cut back to just outside the branch collar for best plant recovery. This is for all shrubs and trees, whether evergreen or deciduous. Do not cover the cut with paint, tar, or any plant wound dressing. This only inhibits the callusing needed at the cut area for good recovery.

After inspection of a shrub you may find that it will need replaced or cut to the ground for rejuvenation. Look at this as an opportunity, not a loss. There are many new cultivars of plants that can replace your damaged or dead shrub which may be a better choice. Remember to select the right plant for the right place. Know the sun, soil moisture, and optimum size of the plant before purchasing. Be sure it matches the site needs of the location it is to be planted.

If plant rejuvenation is your preferred choice, check with your local extension office to be sure the plant species you are cutting to the ground will respond to a hard pruning. Rejuvenation is a way to describe the act of pruning a shrub by cutting it all the way to the ground. Plants like common lilacs, forsythias, bayberry, spiraea, and rhododendron all react well to this treatment. Just know that patience is necessary, as the plants are, in essence, starting over; but the results are typically worth it. The plants respond with fresh growth and all the old, dead wood is gone, so it really is like starting new.



When your daffodils start to bloom, you know spring is not far away!

or you can order these from specialty catalogs. After receiving your bare root plants, get them in the ground as soon as you can. If you need to hold them for a short time (no longer than one week) keep the roots covered and moist while placing the plants in a cool, dark area.

When planting these plants, make you the hole wide and deep enough to handle all the roots. Be careful that you don't jam the roots in a hole too small, as this can cause eventual death of the plant. After putting the plant in the hole, backfill with the soil you took out of the hole, not covering the root flare zone of the plant. This is the area that the roots and the trunk come together. Many times we see plants die due to improper planting, like piling soil too high around the base of a tree. After proper planting, water well.

Perennials: Moving on to the perennial beds brings us to another favorite task of mine. Evaluating the garden, while reviewing notes that may have been taken last season, will help determine if anything new may need to be planted or if division is necessary. However, before running to the local garden centers and purchasing new plants, you may have determined while evaluating that some of your plants may need to be divided.

Clumps too big for their spot,

dying out on the inside (a typical happening with Shasta daisies), or just the need to increase the amount of a particular plant to put in other locations, could be a good reason to divide. Generally, if plants bloom in the summer or fall, spring is a good time to divide those particular plants. Division is simply done by digging up the plant and pulling, or sometimes cutting, it apart into smaller pieces. Be sure that part of the crown and roots of the plant are present. Sometimes two pitchforks pulling in different directions is the way to go; other times you may need to take a knife or machete to cut the clump apart. Shovels will also serve as a cutting tool.

After the perennials are divided, re-plant them as soon as you can to avoid roots drying out. Backfill with the soil you took out of the hole and water well. This is a great time to share your love for gardening with neighbors and friends.

If purchasing new perennials, do a little research in advance. Know what kind of conditions you have and choose appropriately. Shade plants really do not do well in sun; and sun plants are not for the shade. Avoid disappointment in the longevity, health, and blooming of plant by selecting the perennial that fits the site.

Annuals: it's still a bit too early for annual planting in the beds, but container gardening is a great way to get that annual color at focal areas. Such annuals as pansies are a wonderful spring welcome as visitors enter your home or garden. Mixing pansies with other cold hardy annuals like snapdragons and pots of bulbs make a great show. Often times you'll find perennials available with colored leaves like foam flower and coral bells (which have pretty spring flowers to boot!) that will add additional texture and color to a spring planter. Use your imagination!

As my garden chore list grows longer, I look forward to every free evening and weekend that I can spend outside in the garden. Unkempt as my gardens may be, nothing can take away from the joy and satisfaction I receive from gardening.

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners April Seminars

April 13: "Keystone Plants in a Pollinator Garden" Find out what native plants help our native birds, butterflies and other pollinators. Discover native alternatives that are beneficial and beautiful.

April 20: "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, including what techniques work best in small

or limited spaces. Find out how row covers and mulching can increase your success.

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 10 to noon.

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

Purchase Bare-Root Shrubs and Trees: April is a good time to purchase trees and shrubs bare-root. This simply means that the plants have roots with no soil and are in the dormant stage. Some retail nurseries have bare-root plants as an option this time of year if they have cold storage; Conservation District offices across the state often have tree seedling sales this time of year;

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THE MASTER GARDENER

When is it too late to plant spring bulbs?

Marc Montefusco
Frederick County
Master Gardener

Most authorities agree that you can plant bulbs up to the time the ground freezes. Although I am embarrassed to admit it, last year's relatively mild winter encouraged me to procrastinate until January to plant alliums and camassias, which did just fine come spring. One problem you will face, if you haven't already purchased bulbs, is finding a good selection this late in the season. On the other hand, some suppliers (local, mail order, and on-line) have bulbs available at sale prices now.

I don't recommend cutting it as close as I did, however – you want to give bulbs some time to develop a root system before they are required to bloom. Bulbs don't just lay there after you plant them. They develop roots and undergo other changes before putting on their big show in spring. Leaving loose soil at the bottom of the hole, and providing a dusting of bone meal (not fertilizer!) helps this unseen development.

When planting bulbs, pay careful attention to the recommended planting depths (usually printed on the package or sent with your

order). Proper planting depth helps make sure that bulbs can develop naturally during the winter, and also helps prevent bulbs from sprouting prematurely. Many gardeners use the familiar tubular bulb planter, and if you're only a planting a few bulbs, they work fine, as long as you don't have to go more than half a foot down – these planters become difficult at greater depths.

Some suppliers carry foot-powered versions of the same tool, which are great for digging holes in compacted or heavy soils. There is a similar tool that uses a chisel-like blade instead of a cylinder – the idea is to pry open a hole, rather than cut out a plug of soil.

If you have lots of bulbs to plant, consider digging out an entire bed to the correct planting depth. This may sound like more work, but after you've stressed your carpal tunnel with a few twists and turns through our Frederick soils, you may see the wisdom in this approach. The advantages are that all your bulbs are at the correct depth, and you can place them exactly where you want, check your work, and re-position them without having to dig new holes. You can also use this opportunity to arrange other plants in the same bed.



Small Town Gardener

Nobody does spring like bluebells

Marianne Willburn

The signs of spring right now are real, but can feel illusory when the wind begins to gust or the sun is covered by a passing cloud.

But assuming that the earth has not fundamentally changed its course, we should be standing at the beginning of something wonderful in the Northern Hemisphere. And that is something to be grateful for in the midst of other worries.

Remember that the outside world can have a transformative effect on our mood. Whether you have a tiny patio or a large back garden, I urge you to take your paperwork outside - take a drink outside - take your spouse outside --- and enjoy it. Even in a tiny apartment or townhome you can sit near the window and observe the season unfolding below.

With increased sunlight, warmth and day length, April is traditionally the month when non-gardeners start thinking about gardening. The majority stop thinking about it somewhere in July, but there are always a few that discover a pastime that will stay with them the rest of their lives.

This year, with the world extremely concerned about war, inflation, and the economy in

general, there is even more interest in growing food and being outdoors; in the past four years, tens of millions of new gardeners have been welcomed into the green fold.

There's a ton of advice out there for them -- and for us -- from social media influencers to youtube sensations, but such diversions are often so diverting, we end up doing more scrolling and watching than actually gardening.

If you're new and feeling overwhelmed by all the advice, not to mention device-addicted, and don't know where to start, my top two tips are:

- 1) Grow vegetables and herbs that you enjoy; and,
- 2) Do yourself a very big favor and start small. You will get the most from a garden that doesn't exhaust you.

However, if you've moved on from establishing a veg plot and are feeling comfortable with your workload and ready to expand – how about giving your garden some early spring elegance and trying one of our glorious native ephemeral plants, the Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*)?

April is a great time to plant them, particularly right after seeing them in the woods or on a riverside walk (or on Instagram), when your jealousy can fuel your desire to get outside and plant in the cold April winds.

Like epimedium, this is a plant which is unlikely to ever be featured in the Big Box stores. When you see

it in your independent garden center, grab it, and add a little bit of ephemeral beauty to your woodland or shade garden for next spring.

You are much more likely to find it from reputable online sources that specialize in native plants however. If planting from an online source, make sure that you get them into the soil as quickly as possible, as they do not take kindly to drying out.

The common name "Bluebell" refers to many species all over the world (which is why botanical names are so useful); but English, Spanish or Texas bluebells have nothing on these silky sophisticates. Our bluebell pushes up through woodland leaf litter in mid-to-late March in my garden, blooming in late March to early April (depending on the weather), and slowly forms large clumps that will in turn, seed into the soil nearby.

The nodding, light blue clusters of flowers held above the ovate leaves begin by budding pink, and have an iridescence about them which is captivating. Sometimes you'll come across a rogue all-pink "blue"bell. The blooms are not harmed by freezes, but if Mother Nature turns the heat up high, you're likely to fry those ephemeral blooms.

After blooming, *Mertensia* foliage extends a little taller, and then slowly dies back to the woodland floor, storing that energy into a tuber.

Virginia bluebells appreciate a soft, fertile soil in deciduous woodlands or winter sunny garden beds with average moisture. Use lots of leaf compost when planting if your soil is heavy. The tubers can be planted about 2 inches below the soil in late winter or early spring (or any time you find them at a garden center!)

They are a seasonal treat, and to be cherished. But then, so is so much of what we are experiencing at this glorious time of year. Enjoy!

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.smalltown-gardener.com.

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PETS

I see you. Yes, you.

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

The person who puts the food out for me every night. The person who somehow, through human wizardry, makes that water dish never freeze, even when the temperature gets cold. It still amazes me what those of you who walk on two legs are capable of doing.

It almost makes me believe in magic.

Almost.

As a cat who's been roaming the neighborhood since I was a kitten, it's kind of tough to believe in anything, but you make me wonder.

I know you're the one who trapped me a year ago and took me to get neutered and shots. I didn't forgive you for a long while after that, but I mean, I am a dude. Come on. And those shots hurt! Plus, I was pretty scared.

But I realize what you did for me. I've seen a lot of cats in my daily wanderings that are sick and getting sicker. I somehow seem to not really catch anything and I know it's because you gave me vaccinations. I'm also not one to chase the ladies, as I've heard

it described. That has helped keep me safe, too.

I watch you in your house at the kitchen sink. I see when you get the food together for those of us outside.

I know there are other cats in your house and you pick them up and snuggle them and it looks like it's an amazing moment.

I'll never be that. I've been on the streets too long. I've seen too much, experienced too much hatred at the hands of humans.

You are somehow different from the others, but I just can't be sure. I've known too many cats who took the chance on someone, only to find out the incredibly hard way that they shouldn't have. Trust is a commodity I don't have the strength to embrace.

I appreciate the box you put out for me. How does that blanket stay warm? I noticed it's plugged into the wall with a cord. That must have something to do with it.

Again, you two-legged folks really are pretty smart when you want to be. That warmth really helps when the nights get cold.

I know I'll never be the kind of cat that you enjoy – the ones who purr and feel confident in your arms. Sometimes it makes me sad,

but over the years I've learned the hard way to own who I am.

I'll never really be enough. I've kind of known this since I was born. I'm not all that pretty. My fur won't grace the cover of a magazine and my eyes aren't all that piercing or memorable. I'm just a brown tabby and there are a lot of us in this world. I'm nothing special and never will be.

I know this.

But I also see you. I see the kindness in your face when I take the chance to make eye contact. I see how every night you put food out – no matter the weather. You have that coat you wear when it's raining and the boots that keep your feet dry.

I see you. I know you want to help us, the cats that live outside. I know you want to help the cats that get to live inside, too, and that's what makes you different from the others. It's me who can't make that step to trust.

It's me who's lacking because I never get close enough for you to touch me. It's really not you. I just can't let my guard down. I can't do it.

Somehow I sense that you're okay with that.

Because through all my days and nights of worry and cold and never being sure if a mean person or out of control animal will hurt me, I see you.

I see your smiles. I see your slow movements. I see your understanding.

And when it's lonely, I take a deep breath and know in my heart that I have one friend.

Because I see you. And you make me want to believe...

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



Mr. Jones is a 4-year-old, happy guy with a gorgeous coat. Just look at that face! Because of his longer hair, he will need to be regularly brushed to keep from getting matted. Mr. Jones is going to make someone a wonderful companion. Could that be you?



Lt. Dan was brought into the shelter after being sighted running around the area for about a week. Lt. Dan is a sweet guy that loves attention and enjoys being with people. He does have a high chase drive with cats, so a home without cats would be best for Dan. He knows sit and lie down. Dan tested positive for Lyme Disease and is currently on antibiotics. He will have to meet all family members in the home. Do you have the right spot for this cute boy?



Sky is a 7-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her, but we do know that she is one loving girl! Sky loves attention and enjoys getting all the pets and rubs she can! She is the sweetest girl you will ever meet! Sky did test positive for Lyme and Anaplasmosis which are both tick borne diseases and is currently on medication to treat them. She also had a mammary tumor removed during her spay surgery, which was found to be benign. Because we don't have any past history on Sky, an age restriction for children may apply. Be sure to discuss this with shelter staff. Sky would love to find her forever home!



Mouse came into the shelter as a stray and she is a petite and sweet girl who is around 2 years old. She's a terrier mix who loves attention and being around people. She would do best in a home without other dogs or cats. Mouse is a happy girl that does sometimes jump up when she is excited. Because of that, she may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Do you have the right spot for Mouse?

For more information about Mr Jones, Lt. Dan, Sky, or Mouse 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



Helen

Bethany Davidson
Frederick County Animal Shelter

With the arrival of Spring, Frederick County Animal Control's cat floor is beginning to fill with new residents. There are cats with black coats and grey coats. We've got torties and tabbies. But there's one cat that stands out in this crowd, Helen. With her snow-white coat, pink nose and of course those sparkling eyes (one blue and one green) gazing back at you, Helen is quite the looker. And all these things that make Helen so beautiful are also indicators of her most special quality. Helen is deaf.

Having two different colored eyes is a condition called heterochromia which occurs in humans and a few other animal species in addition to cats. Heterochromia is most common in cats with white coats and cats with both traits are likely deaf. In fact, according to the Cornell Feline Health Center, researchers have found that up to 40% of cats with one blue eye are deaf.

While there may be potential adopters out there worried that Helen may require more care than they can give, the reality is that caring for a deaf cat is essentially the same as caring for their hear-



ing counterparts with a few easy to manage differences. First, and most importantly, deaf cats must be indoor only. They cannot hear potential dangers such as traffic or other animals. Second, these guys can startle more easily so we want to make sure they are aware of us humans before we engage.

This means using visual cues and vibrations to get their attention before going in for those pets. If a cat is awake, light can be a great tool to get their attention. Flashing a light will cause them to look around and allow them to see you. Some organizations even recommend using a laser pointer to help move your cat around so they can see you. Here at FCAC, we encourage everyone to make sure Helen

sees you and is tracking you before opening the cage and interacting. When cats are asleep, vibrations might be a better way to alert them to your presence. Try stomping your feet or clapping your hands loudly. Because she is more likely to be startled, we have recommended Helen for homes without small children.

Initially, Helen gives a little hiss when people approach, but you'll notice when you visit the cat floor that staff and volunteers aren't deterred by that. She is a favorite. Given her history a deaf stray is understandable that she's a little hyper vigilant at first, but once you start interacting with Helen, you'll quickly forgive her for that first impression. Helen is an incredibly affectionate senior at 7-8 years old. Once you start petting her, she can't get enough. She leans in and shows you all her favorite places and purrs loudly letting you know how happy she is.

But Helen isn't just about cuddles. She's no couch potato. She really likes to play. Toy mice and strings are her go to but put a little cat nip on anything and that'll be her favorite toy for the moment. As she's becoming more comfortable in her surroundings, she's also becoming more curious.

If you think Helen might be a great addition your home and family, but have questions about caring for a deaf feline our staff will be happy to discuss it with you. Call us at 301-600-1546 and we can set up a time for you to talk to our staff veterinarian or another member of our medical team.



Funyun was brought to the shelter by a Good Samaritan and found as a stray on Thomas Johnson Dr. He was not wearing a collar, nor was he microchipped. Funyun is friendly, doesn't mind being picked up and enjoys sitting in a lap. He will be a good fit for families with kids of any age and may do well with other pets with proper introduction. The shelter offers pet microchipping every Wednesday from 10am-3pm, the fee is \$20.



Rex needs your help! He is heartworm positive and needs an adopter that is willing to see his treatment through until the end. Rex is approximately two years old, very friendly and loves to play with his stuffed toys. Found as stray on February 5, not much is known about his past. For information on heartworms in pets, please visit www.heartwormsociety.org.



Luna was adopted from the shelter in May 2023 but returned in February because her new owner was moving and could not take her along. At four-years-old, Luna has so much to offer. She is young enough to enjoy walks and play time but old enough to just sit and relax. Young kids startle Luna, so her ideal home has teenagers or older.



Prior to arriving at the shelter, Demi was being trained to be a service dog. She is extremely intelligent and knows approximately ten different commands. So why is she at the shelter? Demi has anxiety; therefore, she was unable to complete the training to become a certified service dog. She hopes to find a family that can help her work through her anxiety and provide her daily exercise as well as mental stimulation.

For more information about Funyun, Rex, Luna, or Demi 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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Top Responders: Adam Jacobs, Steve Bata, Brad Hartdagen, Mike Hartdagen, Bill Jacobs, Miles Lester, and Brad Shugart.



The Vigilant Hose Company stand-by crew.



Fire Police Top Responders: Wyatt Shorb, Steve Bata, and Mike Hartdagen.



Miles Lester was this year's recipient of the Chief Award, presented by Chief Bill Jacobs.



Bingo Committee: Gary Shorb, Bill Jacobs, Brad Hartdagen, Carole Hartdagen, Mike Hartdagen, and Holly Kuykendall, not picture is Dave Martin.



Diana Ratliff and Rose Jacobs were recognized by President Gary Shorb for their long time support to the Fire Company.

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Healthcare where you live, work, and play

Joshua Faust

Think about what you want in healthcare, especially when it comes to caring for you and your family. Most of us crave a seamless experience, a one-stop destination where there's no need to hop from place to place for appointments, tests, or other healthcare needs. A full-service healthcare center offers just that - the care you need, when you need it, at a location close to you.

The growing emphasis on convenience in healthcare helps improve access to care. That's why Frederick Health has community sites in Urbana, Frederick City, Emmitsburg, and Brunswick. Each location provides five essential services: Primary Care, Urgent Care, Laboratory, Imaging, and Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab. They are staffed by expert providers who respect you, your background, individual needs, and treatment goals.

"This is our vision. This is the future of healthcare, and this is the future of Frederick Health," says Amy Arnold, Frederick Health Practice Manager. "Access means a lot to the people of Frederick County. Nobody likes waiting to get the care they need!"

Behind this vision is a team of expert providers who are entirely on board with creating easy access to healthcare providers, comprehensive services, and friendly care right in our community. Frederick Health's goal of establishing full-service healthcare centers aligns with Healthy People 2030, a roadmap for US public health efforts and policy development.

Urgent care has grown rapidly nationwide because of convenience. It offers same-day appointments for non-severe illnesses or injuries during extended hours, including early mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays. Urgent care is a cost-effective option for non-life-threatening issues such as moderate cold and flu symptoms, eye redness, sprains, and strains when you need to be seen immediately and your primary care provider is unavailable. Frederick Health makes care more convenient and connected by housing primary and urgent care under one roof.

"You can visit urgent care, with or without a primary care provider. If you don't have a Primary Care provider, we can help you find one, often the next day," Arnold explains. "You can also get your labs, X-rays, and physical therapy if needed, all at one stop."

This level of connected care is unique in Frederick County, with no other provider or health system offering a similar service. That means building a network of facilities to match the area's growth.

This expansion extends to the northern part of Frederick County, too. Frederick Health Emmitsburg opened its doors in Summer 2022. Natalie Lowrey, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), treats adult and pediatric patients at this new center.

"Expanding treatment options in northern Frederick County is a pri-

ority for Frederick Health," she says. "We understand that driving 15-20 minutes can be a significant challenge for our patients. Our Emmitsburg center brings healthcare closer to our patients, ensuring their needs are met with ease and convenience."

Lowrey, a Frederick County native, emphasizes her deep connection to the community: "The individuals I'm caring for are my neighbors, and ensuring they have access to the incredible services we provide is my top priority."

As Frederick Health continues to look for ways to meet the community's changing needs, they are expanding the services offered at these centers. Currently, Dr. David Kowalk, an orthopedic expert with Frederick Health Medical Group, visits Emmitsburg every Monday, and Dr. Patrick Mansky, the cancer expert, is available every other Tuesday.

"Whether it's orthopedics and sports medicine, oncology, ear, nose,

and throat (ENT), or gastroenterology services, the goal is to broaden our offerings in these locations. We aim to enhance accessibility and ensure a comprehensive range of healthcare services are available to meet the needs of our community," says Arnold.

The growth of ENT services is particularly noteworthy. April is National Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month. So, what do residents need to know about head and neck cancers, and what are some treatment options?

Common symptoms of head and neck cancers can include the feeling of a lump in a throat that won't go away, sudden and dramatic voice changes, or a mass in the mouth. However, a lump in the neck is usually the first sign, and individuals should speak to their Primary Care provider about their concerns.

"If the symptoms don't get better with treatment, you should be eval-

uated sooner rather than later," said Dr. George Coppit, the Medical Director for Frederick Health's Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) practice.

"For most head and neck cancer treatments, people don't need to travel to Baltimore or DC for treatment, especially if we can catch it early," he added.

Dr. Coppit and his colleagues have the ability to treat most head and neck cancers, as well as oral and tongue cancers, salivary cancers, and thyroid cancers here in Frederick. They also work closely with other regional partners to develop the best cancer treatment options for residents.

As with many forms of cancer, early detection yields the best patient results. Regardless, Frederick Health's ENT specialists are available for the patient for follow-ups and treatments post-surgery. However, as with many illnesses, the personal patient journey can vary, and

surgery isn't always the right option for every patient, says Coppit.

"Everyone is a little different, and two people with the same form of cancer, depending on risk factors and other comorbidities, are the same. One person may be a candidate for surgery, and one may not. Sometimes surgical patients still need chemotherapy and or radiation." Coppit added.

"There is a lot that we can do in Frederick. We can certainly get people back on the path to being themselves again," said Coppit.

Lowrey echoes that sentiment. "Every individual deserves good health and to collaborate with someone who understands their unique health needs," says Lowrey.

To learn more about each location or make an appointment, visit frederickhealth.org/GetCare.

To learn more about Frederick Health's ENT care, visit www.frederickhealth.org/ENT.



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Frederick Health

YOUR COMMUNITY OF CARE



“The Importance of Giving People a Second Chance in Life”

DEMOCRAT FOR U.S. SENATE
DAVID TRONE

In April, we celebrate Second Chance Month. It's an opportunity to recognize the values that make our democracy work. Without second chances, I wouldn't be where I am today.

My Business, A Second Chance

When I was first growing my former company, a corrupt Attorney General in Pennsylvania didn't like that I was disrupting the status quo. So he had me, my wife, and my brother arrested. It would have prohibited me from operating my business. I beat those false allegations because of a good education, a good lawyer, and the color of my skin. But today, people of color or of less means and education don't get second chances, and that's a tragedy.

My Family, A Second Chance

When I was young, my father moved our family to a farm. We grew up cleaning hog pens and selling eggs. But my Dad's alcoholism caught up to him. And when I was 28, we lost everything. I started my business to keep my family afloat and help make ends meet. The business gave me a second chance to succeed. It was at that moment I realized my Dad needed a second chance, too. I worked with him tirelessly to get him through 30-day programs and to stay sober — and he got a second chance to work.

Beating Cancer, A Second Chance

When I decided to enter public service, I did it because our government has failed so many Marylanders by not acting on issues that would allow people to live healthy and successful lives. Shortly before the primary election in 2018, I was diagnosed with cancer. Of all the challenges I've faced, this one felt out of my control. I turned to the experts at Johns Hopkins. Today, I am 6 years cancer free. Because of my incredible team of nurses and physicians, I was given a second chance at life. I don't take it for granted.

Giving Marylanders Who Need It A Second Chance

Throughout my time in public service, I've worked to make second chances more attainable for every Marylander. I'm incredibly proud that we were able to pass a bill providing Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals — strengthening their chances of getting a good education, a good job, and staying out of prison. I'm proud that we passed 26 bills into law last Congress tackling the challenges of addiction and mental health. And I'm proud to be an advocate for medical research to prevent the illnesses that take the lives of our friends, family and neighbors year after year. I believe that nobody should be defined by their worst moments, and everyone deserves a second chance. It's one of the reasons I'm running to represent you in the U.S. Senate.



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Girl Scouts: behind the cookies

Mia Ferraro
UMD Class of 2026

We're at the point in the season when those Thin Mints you ordered should be arriving at your doorstep and cookie booths are beginning to make appearances around local businesses to satisfy your year-long cravings. It's official – Girl Scout cookie season is here, and these savory cookies have more to offer than taste alone.

The Frederick County Girl Scouts – Association 37 – have started filling pre-orders after receiving the goods mid-January, said Jennie Mettert-Young, the Frederick County Association Chair. The Girl Scouts begin setting up cookie booths this month and will continue through March, Mettert-Young said.

Entrepreneurship is just one of the four key focuses of Girl Scout leadership activities, according to the official Girl Scouts Nation's Capital website, along with the outdoors, STEM and life skills.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program in itself teaches all sorts of life skills. As the largest girl-run business in the world, the cookie program enables girls to engage with customers and handle transactions. This teaches them life lessons like people skills and business ethics, according to the website.

"The girls don't even realize half the time that they're learning these things, because they're just having fun," Mettert-Young said.

The profit proceeds benefit the girls to provide support for experiences, learning opportunities, girl-led programs, service work and campgrounds.

"It also gives them a chance to make decisions and create budgets and decide how they want to spend the money that they've earned," said Victoria Pnacek, the Walkersville Service Unit Manager.

The cookie program teaches goal-setting, decision-making and money management, according to the website. The Girl Scouts work together to decide how to spend the funds towards opportunities for a troop, regional division – called a service unit – association or council.

Camping is one of the outdoors activities that the Girl Scouts often like to plan, said Allison Wack, the Brunswick Service Unit Manager.

"We love going camping," Wack said. "We have some of the best council camps in the country. I mean, we have beautiful facilities for the troops to use."

Staying true to the guarantee of STEM-focused activities, the association has been working with Hood College for months to form a STEM program for Girl Scouts across the county in seventh grade and up, Mettert-Young said. They are hosting the first session in February and a robotics event will take

place in March where the members will have a chance to create robots.

The association also runs a program called Frederick Older Girls (FROG) in which Girl Scouts from middle and high school – Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors – across the county get together once a month and plan activities. These activities sometimes include escape rooms, roller skating and whitewater rafting, said Wack.

This past year, the association began FROG's sister program, Traveling FROGs, in which the Girl Scouts take trips to the travel destination of their choice. The Girl Scouts have a trip planned for London next year and are also planning trips to Hawaii and Iceland.

The Traveling FROGs took their first trip in September to visit Savannah, Georgia, the birthplace of the Girl Scouts' founder, Juliette Gordon Low. The group visited Low's house and took a tour of the first Girl Scouts headquarters.

Low founded the Girl Scouts in 1912. 11 years later, the first troop in Frederick County began at the Maryland School for the Deaf. Today the Frederick County association is a part of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, the largest Girl Scout council in the country. There are 167 troops in Frederick County, which makes up 2,063 Girl Scouts and 1,142 volunteers, Mettert-Young said.

There is always room for more girls to join a troop, Mettert-Young said. The association hosts multiple recruitment events throughout the year where girls who may be interested in joining can speak to Girl Scouts about what it would be like to join. Eighty-eight girls attended the last recruitment event this past month, Mettert-Young said, and 55 of them were put into troops that day.

"The rest of them we need to form new troops for, which is fabulous," she said.

But getting the word out about recruitment to families isn't easy. Until recently, the Girl Scouts used to be able to occasionally send out flyers in the weekly folders that would be sent home with Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) students.

"It's a challenge to get flyers into the school system," Mettert-Young said. "There's a process in place and you can only submit so many times a year, so if a parent misses a flyer at the beginning of the year, they may not know that there are troops being formed."

In January, however, FCPS implemented a new system to replace the weekly folders in all public schools. Instead of sending home paper copies, Mettert-Young said the public schools are now uploading the flyers online with a fee of \$25 per flyer, per school. The flyers are taken off of the website



The first troop in Frederick County began at the Maryland School for the Deaf. Today there are 167 troops in Frederick County, with 2,063 Girl Scouts and 1,142 volunteers.

after 30 days, she said.

"It's quite an expense when you run a non-profit organization, you know?" Mettert-Young said. "25 dollars would be close to covering the membership for a girl for a year." She also discussed the concern that some families "don't necessarily have that technology readily available at home."

"We're not really sure how we're gonna navigate it yet but we're gonna try to come up with some strategies," Mettert-Young said.

The lack of needed adult volunteers is another issue the association faces. Wack said there are typically more girls who want to join than there are troops available for them. While she would love to have a troop for each level at every elementary school in the area, Wack said, the Girl Scouts typically have multi-level troops

or troops that take girls from several different schools because of the lack of volunteers.

"I think the fear of the time commitment and the lack of experience working with kids intimidates many people," Wack said. "I think people also don't consider that there are positions besides being a leader that are integral to troops' success."

To have a troop, at least four adults need to volunteer. There are always two leaders, a money manager and a cookie manager, so it should never be one volunteer's responsibility to lead the troop on their own, Wack said. All volunteers receive free training through the council.

"I think most adults, once they get in it, their blood gets green like mine," Mettert-Young said.

Anyone interested in volun-

teering or joining a troop can find more information and register through the Girl Scouts of Nation's Capital website. www.gscnc.org.

Being a Girl Scout "really empowers the girls in ways that they may not get anywhere else," Pnacek said. She spoke of her own experiences watching her daughter, a Girl Scout, speak up for herself and display confidence in situations "as simple as going up to a counter and ordering food," she said.

"It teaches you how to respect nature. It teaches you how to get along with people," Mettert-Young said. "It teaches you how to be organized and how to set goals, how to follow through on these goals. I mean, there are just so many life lessons that you learn from being a Girl Scout."



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HISTORY

The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.
St. Joseph's Parish,
Emmitsburg, Md.

Chapter 2
Continued from last month

“A common herd,” translated the Parson, “with-out the protecting guidance of organization or leadership. Did anyone attempt to teach these people that they have rights other than to work for the merest pittance, to join the bucket-brigade to the kitchen doors of their taskmasters, he would bring upon himself the everlasting enmity of both institutions. Father Henry, my predecessor, tried it, and is now on the foreign mission. I fear if you play the game, and particularly if you chance to win you will make things miserable for yourself and the poor fellows who depend on them.”

After the delivery of this explanation the two ate in silence for some minutes; it was evident, however, that the younger man was thinking. At length, he said in very even tones:

“Several summers ago I went west for my vacation, and lived the life of a cattleman, as much as a tenderfoot could hope to do so. I rode trail from my arrival until the fall round-up. I witnessed one stampede, and never desire to see another. For months that herd had grazed and slept like the lambs of the Scripture. One clear starlit night, something started them. Well, ‘there’s a Divinity which shapes our ends’ or I should not be here to tell it. The oldest rangers could assign no reason, all agreeing the cause was too insignificant to seek; the effect was tremendous.

Sometimes in looking at the hang-dog, submissive expression on the faces of these people I have been reminded of that scene. Would it not be remarkable if a little thing like a baseball game should arouse the slumbering spirit of Emmitsburg?”

“It would take a moral earthquake to awaken them from the lethargy of the ages which wraps them round,” commented the Rector shaking his head sadly.

“And yet such things have happened.”

Meantime Forman, as manager, had opened negotiations with the athletic committee of the College, having progressed to the point that the game if played, must be held on Sunday, as the football team had the call on the grounds for all other occasions. The Dentist was of the kind to take the whole village into his confidence and excitement ran high in anticipation of the game. The young girls were busy making pennants of red and blue, the colors which the Professor had adopted out of a sentimental memory for his Alma Mater, while the boys were provided with a song by the town poet. Dr. Brawner was skeptical, declaring the President would never allow the game to be played, and certain church people were loud in their condemnation of the contemplated desecration of the Sabbath.

Affairs were at this pass when one Monday morning the moving spirit rode down Main Street. Turning into the Square, he beheld a group standing outside the post-office to which the manager was reading a letter. Coming to a halt he overheard language of protest:



At one time, Emmitsburg's baseball team was one of the powerhouses in the County. Before the invention of TV, games played at Fireman's Field served as the gathering spot for the community at large.

“They’re askeared of us,” shouted Bob Crittendon.

“Right you are, Bobby, agreed Dr. Forman with evident chagrin.

All looked in mute appeal at the Professor as he read the letter the Dentist handed up. It was in almost illegible scrawl which when deciphered read to this effect: it had come to the ears of the President that certain persons were endeavoring to arrange a baseball game to be played at the college on Sunday. The assurance of these was astounding, as no one had consulted him in the matter, and the idea of holding a game on the Sabbath was insulting to the religious principles of the college people. It ended with an order that Dr. Forman and his abettors refrain from taking any such liberty in the future.

The letter was folded deliberately and handed back while the crowd waited for comment; none was made and after a pause, Bob voiced the disappointment of the group:

“It’s all up with the team for this

year,” and the genuine sadness in his tone caused the man on the horse to look upon him with soft eyes of sympathy.

Bob’s lament was the signal for loud protests which broke out in the crowd, taking the form of assertions that the college was afraid of defeat, that they always practiced on Sundays and compelled their men to work on that day in harvest time. Mr. Annan, the cashier at the Annan-Horner Bank, however, took up an attitude of condemnation of Sunday baseball in general, with particular caustic aspersions on folks from the city bringing their disregard for the Sabbath into this well regulated town.

All the time he was speaking, the Professor sat his horse in a mood of abstraction. The Cashier’s last words seemed to startle him, however, for he immediately got down while the crowd made way respectfully. Crossing to where the objector stood, he said in icy tones:

“I have not the honor of your acquaintance, but it appeared that your last remarks were addressed to me.”

“You may take them if they fit you.”

“It is quite evident you object to baseball on Sunday.”

“I object to you bringing your lack of respect for the Sabbath into our town.”

“I want to ask you, Sir,” and the words cut like a knife, “whether it is more wicked to play baseball out in God’s sunshine, than to sit as you did yesterday up in a back room of the Spangler, playing poker and winning the money that should go to feed, clothe, and educate Jim Elders’ children?”

Annan was petrified, the crowd gasped, while the Professor prepared to remount. With one foot in the stirrup he turned, “There is only one way to handle a cad like you; any time you are ready, let me know, and I shall meet you quietly and break every bone in your damned carcass.” With this he swung into the saddle and he, the dog, and the horse, were soon lost in the September haze.

The members of the assembly repaired to Burkett’s from unanimous impulse, and once inside Dr. Forman broke out:

“Oh me! oh my! did you ever hear anyone put meaning into a cuss word like him? I’ve been using that kind of punctuation for years, but I never understood its value until I heard him say your damned carcass.”

“I don’t approve of cussin’ any more than I do of Sunday baseball,” declared Whitmore, “but I sure would hate to have an altercation with that young feller.”

“We’re going to hear from him before long,” said Uncle Bennett forgetting to take up his antago-



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HISTORY



Travelers headed to Frederick from Emmitsburg did so on what was then called the Emmitsburg Pike. It crossed Toms Creek by way of an old, covered bridge.

nist. "The college people should have writ a more civil letter; they may find he's a bad man to monkey with just like Ike Annan did."

"What do the college people need to fear from him?" asked Dr. Brawner skeptically.

"I didn't say they got anything to fear from him," snapped Bennett, "all I say is they'll hear from him yet."

"Say, Doc," said Forman, "you and some more people around here have an idea that if the college people were to be offended this darned town would disappear from God's footstool."

"Well, I wouldn't advise you to do the offending if you intend to stay in this neighborhood."

The Professor's horse was breasting the mountain at a heartbreaking pace, the dog keeping ahead with lolling tongue and heaving sides. Both were puzzled for they had never been put to it so hard before. Every little while the collicie looked back, an anxious glance in his intelligent eyes. The master took no note of the distress of his pets, his mind was a maelstrom. At times he laughed harshly as he thought of what the people at home would think of him acting as a common street brawler. Again he considered the foolishness of his taking an interest in this stupid village which, as he told himself, would defame him at the first opportunity. Better that he withdraw within himself and spend his time in selfish concentration. Extracts from Renan, Maubert, Nietzsche, the other supermen, chased each other in wild medley through his brain.

At length he seemed to realize that his companions of the trip required consideration, and pulling up the horse, shouting to the dog, he looked at his surroundings. They had come a long way, just around a bend was the Mountain House, where he usually stopped for rest when his rides took him in that direction. Dismounting he led the horse and followed by the dog walked into the yard of the hotel.

Seated on the porch of the hostelry he gazed on one of the most calmly beautiful scenes that is anywhere unfolded before the human eye. For miles at a thousand feet below stretched a peaceful val-

ley, in certain fields of which the yellowing corn stood breathless. The whole appeared as one huge chessboard on which the white farm-houses, the red barns, the stacks of straw, held the places of pawns, knights and castles. Over all hung the blue haze suggestive of infinite calm. Looking off to his right he thought of that July day when the flower of southern chivalry marched through the gap in the mountains to the great struggle which sealed the destiny of a nation. An elemental battle was beginning in his own soul, an obsequious waiter who had learned his commercial value was the enemy incarnate.

"Mornin' suh, anything this mornin'?"

"I shall take lunch here."

"Yas, suh; hors bein' tended to, suh?"

"Yes, and by the way, you might fetch me a mint julep," with some hesitation.

While giving the order a voice deep in his conscience warned him not to do it, but he argued against it. One would not hurt him, it would make him feel better after the upsetting scene of the morning. The opinion of the business-like specialist came to him like a blow in the face: "If you

don't wish to go blind you must cut out the alcohol." But there was not sufficient in one julep to rob him of his eyesight, and moreover those specialists were cranks on some points.

The waiter returned with the appealing concoction, placing it on a small table at his side and discreetly withdrawing. Raising the straws to his lips he inhaled the odor of the fragrant mint. Memory was at work again, another scene came strikingly to his mind; a railroad depot, an elderly woman and a young daughter waiting anxiously while he helped an old pedagogue up the steps of a car. He recalled with hot blushes the scorn in the faces of the ladies, for he had taken the old fellow out between trains to have a julep and had allowed him to become drunk. During this vision the glass was slowly returned to the table, while a sickly smile spread over the features of the Professor. After a moment more of thought, he took a sprig of mint from the glass and held, it to the collicie who lay at his feet.

The wise animal smelled the herb, then turned away in disgust. "You wouldn't touch it, boy, neither shall I," so saying he emptied the glass over the railing and

walked into the dining room.

Luncheon over he once more sat on the porch and looked down on the quiet valley. Outwardly he was in perfect harmony with his environment, but a blazing fire within. The blood coursing through his veins seemed aflame; while at odd moments he felt his pulse, exclaiming aloud: "My God! it's an awful fight. How long is it going to last? That one struggle today is but a sample. How many more, O Lord, how many more!"

Nearing the town on the return his ears were pierced by the shrill calliope of an auto, an unaccustomed sound in that region, and rising above the last descending hill a large car sped past him, a noisy crowd of college boys within. He smiled as the youthful occupants yelled with all the contempt of the plutocrat for the less fortunate, the horse shying at the waving hats and arms. The dog trotted on ahead, coming to an abrupt stop at the foot of the hill where he gazed at the form of a young woman who sat on the roadside, her face buried in her hands. The posture attracted the attention of the Professor who,

halting, murmured to himself, "a fair demoiselle in distress."

"Beg pardon," he said aloud, "you seem to be in trouble."

"Yes, air, " aising her tear dimmed eyes, "my horse took fright at that auto which just passed and ran off."

"Did he throw you?"

"No," with spirit, "I got off to hold him when I saw the machine approaching, and as I attempted to remount he took it into his head to bolt."

"Did he drag you?" dismounting.

"No, simply gave my ankle a twist," with a smile that ended in a twitch.

"You must take my horse, he is very gentle; I shall remove the saddle."

"That isn't necessary," with a light blush as she directed his attention to the divided riding habit.

"Of course not," he agreed with an arriere pensee to the effect that everyone in Emmitsburg was not behind the times.

"But really I couldn't think of making you walk," she protested weakly.

continued next month



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 4

April Fools Snow

There surely was an April Fool for everyone on Tuesday morning, April 1, when they open their doors and found snow.

The snow broke all local records for snow in April, it was also the heaviest fall of the season. Starting about 3:30 in the morning the snow fell steadily until nearly 6 o'clock in the evening, registering a depth of 9 and 3/4 inches. At times a slight wind blew, but not enough to drift roads or interfere with highways or railroad traffic. No damage was reported to telegraph or telephone lines.

The snow was a genuine April Fool's joke. It crept up from the Gulf States undercover of Spring like weather, but the temperature changed suddenly, white clouds covering the sky, and then the snow sit in. At 3:15 stars were shining and a 3:20 snow was blowing in every direction. It melted at first almost as fast as it fell, but after an hour or two a foundation was laid upon which nearly 10 inches of white finally rested. It was reported that from 10 to 12 inches of snow fell in the northern part of the county.

Unlike the snow and sleet of two weeks ago, which resulted in widespread damage, the snow this time was light and fluffy. In some sections the wind blew, however only a few county roads, which were in bad conditions before the storm, or interfered with

New Minister Moves Into Taneytown Church

The Reverend and Mrs. Walter Garnett are now occupying the Taneytown Lutheran parsonage, having arrived on Thursday. Their personal effects were moved on Tuesday, the event being a strenuous experience for the truckmen. Members of the congregation left Taneytown at 11 o'clock Monday night on the 118 mile run to Middleborough, Penna., beyond Harrisburg, which made it about six hours from Taneytown. After loading, the return trip was started at 11:15 Tuesday morning, arriving in Taneytown in the evening around 7 o'clock.

The trip was anything but a pleasant

joint, due to the heavy snow and cold, and the danger from skidding. But all is well that ends well. The trip was made without accident, and the good safely housed in the parsonage, with a help of a few more members of the congregation.

The Reverend and his wife arrived on Thursday afternoon, a day, late, due to the drifted conditions of the roads, and with the help of members of the church, they are now getting fixed up and hope soon to be at home to callers. Thier moving to Taneytown, and especially the big April snow, will be a long time remembrance, if not, and altogether agreeable one.

Treatment Of Horses

The farmer works with his horses, they are his partners, his faithful helpers in all work. With them, day after day, and year after year, he goes out to tend the fields, or to bring home the fruits of his labors, and so working with them season after season, he and they grow close to each other and come after a while to work together with a confidence and an understanding the few human partnerships ever know. The good farmer, and the good horse, come not only to understand, and to appreciate each other, but even to love each other.

I have seen big mares in the pastures, pick up their ears at the sound of their owners voice, and come up to be petted and then to wait contently around, grazing near him until he left the field. I have seen the faithful and dependable old buggy horse with children all over his back, and two or three about and under his feet, walking with unwonted slowness and carefulness under and among them, and accepting with patient gentleness to all their pullings and poundings.

I have seen the heavy-loaded team, take the wagons up to long steep hill while the farmer walked behind, speaking, never a word to them, but leaving them stop and start it as they wished. I have seen the farmer, at the top of the hill, take time to lift the collars and rub the noses and stroke the necks of his sturdy helpers, while they took deep breaths, and waited for him to climb on the wagon that they might go again.

I have seen the strong farmer with

tears in his eyes, bending over the horse he had raised from a colt, when that horse, grown aged and feeble, was waiting the end that must come to all that live.

Remembering these things I have seen, and remembering the days, when as a barefooted boy, I rode and drove and clamored about the big, fat, steady, mares with clear eyes and glossy coat, full of confidence that they would do what I ask, and yield to the slightest turning of my hand. I have known that there was a very real affection in all these relations, and that the partnership between the farmer and his horses is a partnership not only a fellow workers, but also a friends.

Harney Quilt Maker

We noticed in one of the local papers that someone had pieced together a quilt that had 2,100 pieces in it. Mrs. Cora Sappington of Harney has pieced together a star quilt that has 14 squares and each square has 200 pieces. After the quilt was finished it had 3,272 pieces.

Navy To Explore Airstrip In Taneytown

A party of aviation engineers from the U.S. Navy where in Taneytown on Wednesday, and are now reported to have a very favorable view of George Sauble's field, adjoining the baseball grounds, for an aviation station, for the summer. They left with the expectation of returning soon, and may try to arrange for the use of the location.

April 11

Fire in Taneytown

Last Sunday morning the fire bell sounded for a fire in the incubator building of the Reindollar Brothers Co. building on Baltimore St.. The fortune discovery of the fire, and the prompt response of the fire company prevented the destruction of the plant, and perhaps a very disastrous fire in what is the most dangerous section of the town for fires, due to the many frame buildings closely built together.

The fire was confined largely to one end of the building, only slight damage being done to the egg incubators and other contents. At the time of the

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fire there were about 12,000 eggs in the plant undergoing various stages of incubation, but they are thought to be uninjured. The ceiling was also pretty badly charred. The exact cause of the fire is unknown, but may have been due to some defect in the wiring. Current was installed a year ago both from the town system and the emergency Delco plant.

Struck By Train

He didn't hear or see it coming – of course not – but Mr. Winton Ridenour, of near Thurmont, who is driving west in his Paige automobile, and a Western Maryland eastbound passenger train tried to occupy a road crossing at the same time Monday morning. The Paige being the lighter vehicle was knocked from the crossing some distance. Mr. Ridenour stuck to the wheel until the car landed. It is stated the car can scarcely be classified as junk, so badly was it demolished. Strange enough, with the exception of a broken nose, Mr. Ridenour received only a few minor bruises – a miraculous escape.

Petition Filed For New Creagerstown Road

Frank Gaver has filed a petition to meet with County Commissioners on April 21, for the opening of a public road at least 30 feet wide in Creagerstown, beginning from the point where the lane leading from the building now occupied by Charles Kolo intersects the public road leading from Creagerstown to Rocky Ridge and running then in a westerly direction through the lands of Isaac Hankey, Frank Garver and Russell Hockensmith, connecting with the old Woodsboro and Creagerstown Pike at a point a short distance north of the lane used as an outlet from the John Ahalt farm and others.

April 18

Residents Disagree Over Proposed Creagerstown Road

As an aftermath of a long-standing dispute concerning A right away in Creagerstown a large delegation, consisting of two factions, appeared Monday afternoon before the Board of County

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strongly emphasized. In a climate where weather changes are as rapid as in Maryland, the entire outlook may change in a few hours. Forecasts are issued by the Weather Bureau every 12 hours. The morning forecast, issued about 10 a.m., is broadcast by many radio stations at noon or even before that hour. This is the forecast that appears in the afternoon edition of the newspapers. The evening forecast, issued at about 9:30 p.m., is broadcast about 10 p.m. on the same date.

Radio is an excellent way for farmers, fruit growers, and others living in rural districts to obtain the forecast, although it may be necessary for you to bring this matter to your nearest broadcast station, requesting that the weather forecast be sent out at stated intervals.

In Maryland nearly every County Agent, receives the morning forecast at about 10:30 a.m. and it may be obtained from his office by telephone immediately after that hour. In some towns the postmaster also receives the morning forecast soon after 10 and sends it out by the mail carrier. If, however, rule carriers leave the post office before 11 o'clock, this service cannot be arranged.

And some such service as this is not already established in your section, why not take the matter up with your County Agent or postmaster. A petition to him from a number of farmers may bring results.

Fairfield-Zora Bridge Closed

Following an inspection by the County Commissioners of the old covered bridge on the Fairfield-Zora Road, it was decided that in order to insure the bridge against possible damage by heavy trucks passing over it, certain repairs were necessary. Repairs were also ordered to the bridge over Willoughby Run on the Mummasburg road.

April 25

Father Drinking, Son Driving

Dr. John Winnfield, of Fairfield, was arrested last Sunday afternoon charge with allowing his son, James, age 13 years old, to drive his car without a license. They were brought to Woodsboro and taken before the Justice of the Peace, who fined the son \$10 for driving a car without an operators license. The arrest was made after the police

were informed that an automobile, driven in a reckless manner was headed towards Thurmont. As the machine approach Creagerstown it was stopped. After being placed under arrest, Dr. Winnfield omitted that he had taken a few drinks and that was why the youngster was driving the car. Dr. Winfield and his son spent the night in the Woodsboro lockup before proceeding home to Fairfield.

Annan-Horner Creditors Dissatisfied

Entirely dissatisfied with the outcome of the resolution of the affairs of the defunct banking house of Annan-Horner, 50 creditors met last Monday evening in Fireman's Hall, Emmitsburg to discuss the situation.

A few of the creditors had consulted with attorney, who has already filed objections with the court. This is the first time since the case has appeared before the courts that the creditors have had a private council. Previously, the State Attorney handled the affair entirely.

Four Mount Students Held For Theft Of Automobile

For young men, claiming to be students of Mount Saint Mary's College, were arrested last night after 11 o'clock charge with attempting to steal an automobile belonging to Lawrence Phobos. They were sent to jail and are being held until the authorities can get in touch with Father Bradley, President of the college.

Two young men on their way home from the American Legion play noticed the men in the automobile, which was parked in front of the home of Phobos and notified a Sheriff's Deputy who resided in a neighboring home. The Deputy arrived on the scene in time to see the boys driving away with the car. He ran a distance of about 36 feet and caught up with a machine. Three of the boys jumped out and ran away, the driver was caught by the Deputy, who then drove the lone student around until his three accomplices were sighted and arrested.

Emmitsburg Ends Fiscal Year With Balance On Hand.

Emmitsburg is shown to be in good financial conditions according to the

report of the Burgess and Commissioners, submitted by Edwin Ohler, treasurer. The following report includes receipts and distributions for the fiscal year ending last Friday, April 25.

General account, receipts: balance, \$106.81; collection of taxes, property tax, \$1,290; franchise tax, \$23.36; County Commissioners Bank Stock tax, \$127; fines, \$19; total, \$1,706.

Disbursements: P.F. Bucket, register and judge of elections, six dollars; J.S Andrew, clerk, one dollar; Chronicle Publishing Company, advertising, \$13; Farmer State Bank, interest on demand note, \$30.39; J.S Agnew, collecting garbage, \$30; Samuel Kugler, work on streets, \$3.25; Patterson's Brothers, crushed stone, \$13; Joseph Fraser, wood for fireman, three dollars; Bernard Peters, work, \$21.70; James Spangler, work, \$23; Boyle Brothers, sewer pipes, \$5.50; Ridenhour Brothers, tile, \$27.66; Francis Matthews, hauling, \$2.50; Frailey Brothers, iron gates, \$7.60; Herbert Gingel, crushed stone, \$80; interest on \$2,600 bonds, first issue, \$100; Emmitsburg Water Company, \$187.50; Emmitsburg Electric Company, \$562; James Stokes, Burgess salary, \$25, William Morrison, Commissioner salary, \$15; William Morrison, Streets Commissioner, five dollars; C. P. Rotering, Clerk to Commissioners, \$15; Francis Matthews, Commissioner salary, \$15; Peter Burket, tax collector, \$46.48; Edwin Ohler, treasurer salary, \$15; three \$100 bonds, first issue redeem, \$200; accrued interest on the above bonds, \$4.54; total, \$1,577, leaving a balance of \$189

Street improvement account; receipts, balance, \$1,300; disbursements, Bernard Peters, cement work, \$133; Farmer State Bank demand note, \$750, balance on hand \$117.

Report shows that there is a balance of \$496.50 on hand on the interest and sinking fund account, making a total balance on hand on all three accounts of \$303.27.

Bonds outstanding; first issue, \$1,700, second issue, none; third issue, \$6,700, Total, \$8,403.

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

Commissioners, relative to the establishing of a road, the necessity of which was disputed.

One faction presented a petition to the Commissioners asking that a road be built from the road leading from Creagerstown towards the Rocky Ridge Road. The opposing faction presented a petition opposing the construction of the road

The entire proceedings was the aftermath of lengthy on-going disputes concerning the right away through the property of Russell Hockensmith. It is understood that Frank Gaver has been having a dispute with Hockensmith concerning the right of way, and the road such as it was, was desired by one faction to settle the dispute it was stated. The Commissioners, however, made no promises, but suggest Garvey and Hockersmith get together and settle the dispute in their own way.

One Commissioner suggested the two 'duke it out' in public, with the winner getting his way. "Given how much trouble you've cause the community, I'm sure alot of your neighbors would enjoy seeing you 'knock the lights' out of each other."

Anti-Japanese Immigration Bill Passes

The Senate is face-to-face with a momentous decisions - whether the Japanese exclusion policy passed by the House should be written in law. The house bill would exclude immigration of Japanese into the United States do to 'negative' effect they have in western states.

A protest by the Japanese government had no effect upon the vote of the house, which passed the immigration bill with its exclusion provision by a margin of more than 4 to 1.

The Senate answered Japanese Ambassador's protest against Japanese exclusion legislation today by voting 76 to 6 against recognition of a gentleman agreement with Japan on limiting immigration of all Asiatic peoples.

Republican leaders regarded the Japanese letter as of veiled threat, and declare that in the face of that threat. They were blunt and outspoken in their declaration that immigration is a domestic question and outside power should have any effect on our decision to allow, or disallow, immigrants into the country.

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PAULA SOCKS

FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

From John Ashbury's... And All Our Yesterdays: A Chronicle of Frederick County

April 4

On April 4, 1992, officials in the Town of Walkersville re-enacted the signing of the town's charter by Governor Frank Brown on the 100th anniversary of that action.

In the second year of President James Buchanan's term in office, the son of Francis Scott Key was murdered on the street in front of the White House.

Like his father, Francis, Philip Barton Key was the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. Having just become a widower, Key was a dashing man about town when, at the Inaugural Ball for President Buchanan in 1857, New York Congressman Daniel Sickles introduced Key to his young wife Teresa.

During most of the next year, Key and Teresa Sickles developed a "close" relationship. Sickles was frequently busy with government business and Key escorted his wife to numerous social functions.

The pair became the talk of Washington, and when confronted by Sickles, Key denied everything.

Sickles accepted the disavowal. But Key had rented a large house at 383 15th Street, just two blocks from the Sickles residence on Lafayette Square, for his liaisons with Mrs. Sickles.

Sickles himself was finally convinced that indeed his wife was having an affair with Key. On February 27, 1859, the morning after Sickles forced Teresa to write a full confession, Key made the mistake of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

As was his usual custom, he signaled Mrs. Sickles from across Lafayette Square with a white handkerchief. Sickles saw him and dashed out of the house with gun in hand.

"Key, you scoundrel," he yelled. "You have dishonored my bed - you must die." The first shot missed. The second struck home and Key fell into the street.

Sickles fired at least twice more, according to witnesses, and Key died.

On April 4, 1859, Sickles' trial for the murder began. However, the jury returned a not guilty verdict on April 26. Sickles was the first defendant in the history of American jurisprudence to use the temporary insanity plea.

Sickles later became a Civil War general and was wounded at Gettysburg. His presidential ambition, however, were dashed forever because of the indiscretions of his wife and his own violent temper.

April 11

On April 11, 1845, Louis Baughman, a Comptroller of Maryland, a leader in Democratic politics and editor of The Citizen, was born in Frederick.

Newspapermen seldom reach the pinnacle of their ambition, but Louis Victor Baughman, who was born in Frederick on April 11, 1845, came as close as any.

He was the son of the editor of The Citizen, one of Frederick's most influential newspapers for many years.

His father, John W. Baughman, purchased the paper in 1844, espousing the Southern cause. His newspaper was suppressed by the Union military and was even banned from the mail. He and his family were arrested and sent beyond Federal lines. He escaped to Richmond where he remained until after the war.

When he died in 1872, he left the newspaper to his three sons, William, Victor and Charles. Victor agreed with his father as to the righteousness of the Southern cause and when The Civil War broke out he immediately joined the Confederate Army and rose to the rank of general.

After the war, he went to New York to study law, but upon his father's death he returned to Frederick for good. Very early he became involved in Democratic politics and was elected State Comptroller in 1887 and served two terms in that post. He also was president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company for some years and also served as president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

In national politics he was quite popular and often entertained

national figures at his home "Poplar Terrace," on Shookstown Road, just west of Baughman's Lane.

Perhaps one of his greatest assets as far as Frederick Countians were concerned was his insistence in every speech he made, no matter where it was, of the beauty, fertility, worth of its people and the sterling quality of the Democrats in Frederick County.

In his newspaper columns he sought civic improvement, including better country roads, the introduction of electricity into the county's almshouse, and public works to assist men in supporting their families. He raised thoroughbred horses and was quite an expert "four-in-hand driver."

He was married in 1881 to Helen Abell, the daughter of the founder of The Baltimore Sun. They had two children, Austin and Helen.

His death on November 30, 1906, a scant 18 months after he announced that he would be a candidate for Maryland governor in the next election, brought praise for his life from The Sun, which said: "Few men in Maryland were better known socially, both within and outside the state, and few men of his generation of Marylanders have been so cordially liked by so great a circle of political friends."

April 18

On April 18, 1964, William Delaplaine, president of The Great Southern Printing and Manufacturing Company, and publisher of The Frederick News-Post, died suddenly at his home at 273 Dill Avenue. He was born January 22, 1891.

We all keep a special place in our thoughts for the person who gave us our first job in the profession we make our life's work. And so it is that William Delaplaine, Jr., often comes to mind.

He was born January 22, 1891, the son of the founder of Frederick's first daily newspaper The News, William Delaplaine, Sr., who died in 1895.

In 1906 he graduated from Boys' High School and went on to get a degree from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. While

there he received numerous academic honors and was elected president of the student government association.

Upon graduation, he immediately he went to work for The Great Southern Printing and Manufacturing Company, which published The News. His older brother Robert Edmondson Delaplaine ran the company.

When Bob died on August 15, 1955, he took over and instituted many innovations that remain a primary feature of the newspaper.

Just a year after he joined the Great Southern, competition for the only daily newspaper in the county surfaced. The Frederick Post began publishing in direct contention as an afternoon paper. Within three years, The Post switched to being a morning publication. But the competition was still fierce.

On February 1, 1916, The Great Southern bought The Frederick Post and combined operations. In 1917, The News bought The Post building on North Court Street and until September 30, 1968, when it moved to 200 East Patrick Street, the newspapers published from here.

"Mr. Will," as he was affectionately known throughout Frederick County, was also very interested in civic affairs. He was involved in numerous campaigns to raise funds for the Frederick City Hospital, The Y.M.C.A., and the two World War efforts. He was secretary and president of The Kiwanis Club of Frederick, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Hood College.

In 1916 he married Janie Quynn. It was through his wife's family that he became interested in farming and fruit growing. As with his interest in newspapers, Mr. Will threw himself into this industry with great zeal and devoted his newspapers to the promotion of farming, a tradition that remains.

Mr. Will was quiet and soft-spoken. He presented an imposing figure, tall and slender. He possessed a warm smile and was equally friendly with all he chanced to meet.

When he died unexpectedly on April 18, 1964, Frederick lost an exemplary citizen. His brother, George Delaplaine, and his nephew

George Delaplaine, Jr., took over the newspapers, enhancing the product into one of the best of the family-owned newspapers in the country. Mr. Will was buried in the Frederick Memorial Park Mausoleum after funeral services at All Saints Episcopal Church

His only son, William Delaplaine III, was killed during World War II in a flying accident. The airport terminal at Frederick Municipal Airport is named in his son's honor.

April 25

On April 25, 1971, Frederick City Police Private Landis Wolfe shot and killed Charles Brown after Brown attempted to shoot him several times on the parking lot behind the first block of East Patrick Street.

It had been a routine shift for Wolfe in the early morning hours of April 25, 1971, when he was dispatched to the parking lot behind the first block of East Patrick Street.

Officers in a squad car had observed someone in that area going from door to door at the rear of businesses attempting to gain entry. Their observation point did not give them vehicular access to the area, so they called Wolfe on his walkie-talkie and asked him to "check it out."

Wolfe immediately spotted the man and informed headquarters that he was approaching the individual who was seated in a car. When he got to the car, he asked for identification and the man got out of the car, pulled a gun and stuck it in Wolfe's stomach, saying "You better back off."

The man - later identified as Brown, a Frederick native who was living at the time in Baltimore - then pulled the trigger. The old Smith and Wesson pistol misfired.

Brown continued to threaten Wolfe and pulled the trigger again. Again the weapon misfired. Brown pulled the trigger a third time as he backed away from the officer. He then began running toward East Patrick Street.

Wolfe ordered him to halt and Brown turned toward Wolfe and pulled the trigger for a fourth time. Wolfe then threw his walkie-talkie at Brown. Brown's gun then actually fired, but the bullet missed Wolfe.

The policeman pulled his service revolver and fired at the fleeing Brown. Wolfe told his superior officers later that he thought he had missed Brown because Brown kept running up an alley to Patrick Street.

A few minutes later other officers found Brown slumped against the entrance to a store on North Market Street, bleeding from a wound in his chest. The United Fire Company ambulance was called and took Brown to Frederick Memorial Hospital where he died following several hours of surgery.

The investigation of the incident revealed that at least three cars parked on the lot had been entered by Brown. Brown was, at the time of his death on parole from an arson conviction.

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Tales from the Oriolanders' diamond

David Buie

Years ago, during an annual spectacle, Taneytown would burst onto the professional baseball stage with sleek cars, impeccably dressed gentlemen, and boys proudly donning the Oriolanders emblem on their jerseys, captivating the crowd's gaze. Unbeknownst to many spectators, hidden among them were two budding talents destined for the professional leagues. Two more hometown heroes from Taneytown stood by, poised to join their ranks with hopeful anticipation.

The Oriolanders, a baseball team drawing talent from several states, including Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York, served as a beacon for aspiring players in the late 20th century. The team was led by scout Jim Gilbert and engaged in a rigorous selection process, ultimately forming a squad that competed in approximately 50-weekend games. Only a few of the hundreds who vied for a spot, such as Billy Pulsipher and pitcher Matt White, earned coveted positions. While Pulsipher found his place in Major League Baseball (MLB), White's journey was marked by remarkable twists and unforeseen challenges.

Billy Pulsipher emerged as a standout player among Oriolanders, exhibiting exceptional talent that propelled him to the upper echelons of professional baseball. His career, spanning from 1995 to 2005, saw him don the jerseys of renowned

teams like the New York Mets, Milwaukee Brewers, Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox, and St. Louis Cardinals. Initially hailed as a cornerstone of the Mets' heralded "Generation K," Pulsipher's trajectory encountered impediments in the form of injuries, including a debilitating torn ulnar collateral ligament that necessitated surgical intervention. Moreover, battles with major depression and anxiety further complicated his journey, underscoring the multifaceted challenges faced by athletes striving for success at the highest level.

Contrasting Pulsipher's tumultuous path, Matt White embarked on a journey fraught with trials and triumphs. A product of Waynesboro High School, White's baseball odyssey commenced in Taneytown, Maryland. Despite being selected seventh overall in the 1996 MLB draft by the San Francisco Giants, negotiations faltered, leading to White exploiting a little-known rule from 1990 to secure free agency. Under the guidance of his advisor, Scott Boras, White capitalized on this opportunity, clinching a record-breaking \$10.2 million signing bonus from the Devil Rays.

White's meteoric rise, fueled by immense potential, captivated the baseball world. His professional debut in the New York-Penn League in 1997 showcased his prowess, amassing impressive statistics despite competing against older adversaries. However, subsequent seasons witnessed fluctuations in performance,

indicative of the unpredictable nature of athletic pursuits. Despite receiving accolades from Baseball America for his formidable skill set, including a potent fastball and adept breaking ball, White grappled with inconsistency and injuries that hampered his progression.

As White traversed through various minor league tiers, glimpses of promise intermingled with setbacks. Despite a brief resurgence in 2000, highlighted by a commendable performance across Double-A and Triple-A levels, his aspirations of donning a major league jersey were marred by persistent shoulder issues. Subsequent surgeries and prolonged rehabilitation efforts failed to restore him to his former glory, culminating in his retirement in 2006, bereft of the opportunity to showcase his talent on the grand stage of MLB.

The journey of Oriolanders, epitomized by the trajectories of Billy Pulsipher and Matt White, underscores the unpredictable nature of athletic pursuits. While physical ailments and mental health struggles marred Pulsipher's career, White's narrative epitomizes the precariousness of talent amidst the unforgiving landscape of professional sports. Their stories testify to the resilience, perseverance, and indomitable spirit of athletes who dare to dream amidst the uncertainty of their chosen vocation. As the baseball world continues to evolve, the legacies of Pulsipher and White endure as reminders of the sport's enduring allure and inherent challenges.

Though they never achieved a professional career, two native Taneytown standouts, Vince Stonesifer and Wes Peters, were asked to participate with the Oriolanders. In an article in the Baltimore Sun on October 18, 2018, the Sun noted that Stonesifer, 16, participated in a



In 1996, the Tampa Bay Rays selected Matt White in the draft, yet his career peaked at the AAA level. Nevertheless, he appreciated the City of Taneytown's support for his journey into professional baseball by spearheading renovations to the stands, field, and fencing on the fields where he played.

tryout camp in Hershey, last month and was chosen for the team. The Sun also noted that the Oriolanders play at Taneytown Memorial Park most weekends this month.

Stonesifer was also selected for the Mid-Atlantic Showcase Team, which the Orioles sponsored. He continued traveling to tourna-

ments from Taneytown and Gettysburg, to Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., and later played collegiate Division II baseball at Tusculum University in Tennessee.

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COOKING

Springtime taste

Sonya Verlaque

As temperatures get warmer and the sun stays out for us later, it is fun to look forward to fresh produce and springtime flavors. This article may be a little “carb heavy” with pasta and baking, but I hope they are enjoyable and a harbinger of bright days ahead.

Asparagus Pesto

Be sure to you use raw unsalted pistachios, or you can use pine nuts or cashews. This pesto is great hot and cold pasta or also can be used in soups, or on sandwiches. The pesto can also be stored in the fridge in a mason jar or airtight container for up to 3 days.

Ingredients

- 1 lb asparagus
- ½ cup pistachio nuts - (see note 1)
- 2 tbs lemon juice
- 1 tsp lemon zest - (from 1 lemon)
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove - small, optional salt & pepper
- 12 oz pasta of choice - farfalle, penne, spaghetti, rigatoni, linguine

Cooking Instructions : Bring a small pot of salted water to a boil. Chop the asparagus into small bits, making sure to remove and discard the fibrous ends if needed. Wash them, and blanch them in the boil-

ing water for about 5 minutes until slightly tender. Drain the asparagus and rinse them under cold water to stop them from cooking. Set the asparagus tips aside as we will use them for decoration.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to the package instruction. Reserve about 1 cup of the pasta cooking water. Add the pistachios (or nut of your choice) to your blender or food processor and blitz. Then add the cooked asparagus, garlic, lemon juice, parsley leaves, olive oil, a pinch of salt and pepper. Puree until smooth. Taste and adjust seasoning. Once the pasta is cooked, drain it and mix it with the asparagus pesto. Toss well until combined. Add some of the cooking water to the pasta to make the pasta silky and saucy. Plate the pasta, add the asparagus tips you kept on the side, sprinkle with lemon zest, and serve while hot.

Strawberry Cream Tart

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg, beaten
- raw coarse sugar, for sprinkling (optional)
- 6 ounces creme fraiche, mascarpone, or cream cheese
- ½ cup plain greek yogurt
- 1 tbs Meyer lemon juice + 1-2 tsp zest, to your taste
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ tbs honey, plus more for serving
- 12 oz sliced strawberries

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. On a lightly floured surface, roll the puff pastry out into a rectangle about 1/4 inch thick. Place the pastry on a parchment lined baking sheet. Using a sharp knife, score a 1 inch border around the edge. Brush the pastry with egg, sprinkle the sugar around the edges. Transfer to the oven and bake for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown. It's OK if the edges get dark.

Let cool, before assembling. Meanwhile, make the whipped yogurt. Using an electric mixer, whip the creme fraiche (or cream cheese), yogurt, and lemon juice together until smooth and soft peaks form. Add the vanilla, honey, and lemon zest. Whip to combined. Spread the whipped cream over the tart. Arrange the strawberry slices over the cream. Serve with additional honey, if desired.

Grapefruit Scones

Ingredients:

For the scones:

- 1¾ cup all purpose flour
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- zest from one grapefruit
- 5 tbs cold butter cut into small cubes
- ½ cup fresh grapefruit juice
- ¼ cup plain yogurt
- 1 egg
- 1tbs milk

For the glaze:

- 1 to 2 tbs fresh grapefruit juice
- ½ cup powdered sugar

Cooking instructions Preheat the oven 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place



flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and zest in a food processor and pulse a few times. Add the butter and pulse until the butter is in pea size crumbles (about 8 quick pulses). Dump the contents into a large bowl and add juice and yogurt. Mix with a spatula until just combined. Absolutely no over mixing here otherwise you will have tough scones. Dump dough onto the prepared baking sheet.

Form into an disc, about 1” in thick (it will be anywhere from 6” to 8” in diameter). If dough is really sticky flour your hands a little for better handling. Cut into 8 wedges and separate evenly on the baking sheet. Whisk egg and milk vigorously together. Brush the top of each scone with egg mixture. Place in oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until bottoms begin to brown and tops are just starting to turn golden.

Allow to cool on sheet. While the scones are baking make glaze but combining the powdered sugar and juice...1 tbs at a time. If glaze seems too thick add more juice. Too thin add more sugar. When scones are completely cooled drizzle glaze over the top one.

Chocolate Chip Zucchini Bread

This easy recipe makes 2 loaves of moist chocolate chip zucchini bread. Includes step-by-step photos and tips to help you make perfect chocolate chip zucchini bread.

Ingredients

- 3 cups grated fresh zucchini about 3-4 medium zucchini
- 1 ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- ¾ cup butter melted
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups mini semisweet chocolate chips

Cooking instructions: Preheat the oven to 350F. Grease two 8x4-inch loaf pans. I like to use nonstick spray with flour. Set aside. Place the grated zucchini in colander in the sink while you continue. Don't wring or squeeze the zucchini. Whisk together sugar, eggs, vanilla, salt, and butter in a large bowl. Add flour, baking soda, and cinnamon. Whisk in until just combined. Batter will be very thick at this point. Stir in grated zucchini until just incorporated. Add chocolate chips, and stir in until just combined. Divide batter between prepared loaf pans.

Bake for 40-60 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Run a thin knife around the edges, and remove zucchini bread out onto wire cooling racks to finish cooling.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Fundraising 101

Michele Angel

Every month it goes about the same. Around the second week I start wondering what I am going to write about. Sometimes by then have an experience or a thought that is simply "It". I immediately know it is the subject of that month's article. Other months do not go as smoothly. Those are the months when I start quizzing friends and family with the phrase, "What should I write about?" Not once have they said, "how about this" or what about that" and I have been inspired. Inevitably their suggestions somehow spark an idea or inspiration in my pea picking brain. This month a friend said, "Why don't you talk about volunteering for a fundraiser, you are so passionate about it." So, I am going to tell you about the good, the bad, and the ugly of fundraising.

Almost a year ago a friend of mine was at a bingo fundraiser that I used to run many years ago. Supposedly she cracked a joke asking them if they wanted her and I to take over again. Bottom line, they jumped at the idea. I suspect they realized how much work it was, and no one wanted to run it. Honestly, I can't blame them. Fast forward almost a year and I am in my basement frantically trying to fill bags and wrap them for the bingo. It took several weeks every evening filling bags to get them all done. For the first time since I had started bingo, I actually received bag filler donations the day of bingo. It was a crazy time.

I should probably back up a little bit. In the past I ran bingo with my very best friend. We were the perfect match. She would bob when I would weave, she was the yin to my yang,

Ultimately, where I had weaknesses, she had strength and where she had weaknesses I had strengths. This time I was doing bingo with someone new. What we learned was that we had a lot of the same weaknesses and the same strengths. I learned that some of the things my best friend took care of I didn't even realize happened. The last time she and I ran bingo we made a timeline for anyone who came after us. That way they would know when each step needed to be taken care of. I, however, did not follow my own timeline.

When I had been involved in bingo before I was a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom. So, when things needed to be done, I would tell the kids to grab their books and we would do certain subjects in the car. It was much easier to follow the timeline when I wasn't working a 40-hour workweek. My flexibility and free time were all but non-existent. To squeeze a fundraiser into that was almost madness.

Well, last weekend we pulled it off. To everyone else it seemed to have a few hiccups but ran fairly smoothly. From my perspective it was an absolute train wreck. Every part of my timeline was late by at least a week, I was still filling bags on the day of bingo, which meant that the booklet was not completely accurate, which meant that I had to make table signs for every table to make corrections and have the announcer make corrections. Although there were very few it was still not the seamless bingo I was hoping for, and I felt a bit like a failure. The next day, as I didn't get home until after one in the morning, I told my husband about all the mistakes I had made and he said, "I guess you won't be doing that again". I was shocked and I told him just that.



Of course, I will do it again. If they want me too, I would be happy to do it again. This fundraiser supports the kids, maybe not my kids anymore, but other kids. Kids that start high school and don't feel like they fit in, and can't find their group, are welcome in the instrumental music program. With zero musical talent they are welcomed with open arms. This is where they learn to feel a sense of belonging and find their place, so of course I will do it again. I will just do it differently.

I learned a valuable lesson this year. I tried so hard to fill my best friend's shoes that I didn't even notice that I am not her. What I mean is, she used to have these lists and detailed reports and she was the most organized person I know. I am not that person, and I needed to not try to be something I wasn't. Two days after bingo, when I could stand without wincing, I decided to come up with my own system for tracking information. For me, I deleted all of the information in the bingo booklet from this year and just left blank charts to fill in. When I

receive any donation, whether filler or sponsorship, I will assign it a spot in the bingo booklet. Not only will this mean I have tracked information more effectively, but the booklet will be completed as I go along.

Since I am also working full-time this go round, I need to not only find my own way of doing things, but a few ways to streamline the process. Filling in the bingo booklet as I go along means it will be ready when I need to go to print, instead of stressing everyone out. Even if I have to tweak some things at the end, I will still be better off than I was this year. I also realized I love doing something that gives back or helps other people (especially kids).

Sometimes as moms we are so involved in work and our families that we don't find time to do things we love. Whether it be hobbies, quiet time, or volunteering, we need to make some time for ourselves and what we see as import-

ant. If that something means we are helping other people, all the better. This is a wonderful lesson for our kids to learn, to help others. All of my kids, my parents, and my husband helped in some way with bingo. They helped drop off donation request letters, pick up donations, make phone calls, fill bags, curl ribbons, load cars, and that is not to mention all of their help the day of bingo (before, during, and after). When we volunteer together, as a family, I am overjoyed. Tell your kids how important it is to give to others, show them that you do it too, and encourage them to do it with you. You will be making some amazing family memories that will last a lifetime! Lastly, support your school's music program! Thanks for allowing me a shameless plug!

To read past editions of *Moms' Time Out*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our writers to choose a topic and respond to it in 500 words. Then, we asked Chat GPT to do the same thing to compare our human writing abilities to A.I.

Freshman

Why was the Battle of Gettysburg significant?

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

Chat GPT's response

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, is often regarded as the turning point of the American Civil War, crucial to the Union's eventual victory. Its significance lies in several key aspects that tilted the balance in favor of the Union:

Firstly, strategically, Gettysburg was vital. General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia had been on the offensive, aiming to invade the North and deliver a decisive blow that would demoralize the Union and potentially secure foreign recognition and support for the Confederacy. However, Lee's invasion culminated in the Battle of Gettysburg. The Union's victory at Gettysburg not only halted Lee's advance but also forced him to retreat southward into Virginia. This effectively ended the Confederate invasion of the North and thwarted their hopes for a decisive victory on Northern soil.

Secondly, the Battle of Gettysburg showcased the prowess of the Union

Army under the leadership of General George G. Meade. Despite initial setbacks, the Union forces, bolstered by defensive advantages and strategic positioning, managed to repel repeated Confederate assaults. The defense of key positions like Cemetery Hill, Little Round Top, and Culp's Hill demonstrated the Union's resilience and determination, turning what could have been a Confederate victory into a Union triumph.

Thirdly, the high casualties sustained by the Confederate Army at Gettysburg were a severe blow to their military strength. Lee's forces suffered heavy losses, with estimates suggesting around 28,000 Confederate casualties compared to approximately 23,000 Union casualties. The Confederate Army, already facing challenges in terms of manpower and resources, could ill-afford such losses. Conversely, although the Union also suffered significant casualties, its larger population and industrial capacity allowed for more effective replenishment of troops and resources.

Moreover, the Battle of Gettysburg had profound political ramifications. The Union victory at Gettysburg bolstered Northern morale and determination to see the war through to victory. It also dashed any hopes the Confederacy had of securing European recognition and intervention, as foreign powers were less inclined to support a losing cause.

President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered months after the battle, further solidified the Union's commitment to the principles of liberty and equality, rallying support for the war effort.

Additionally, Gettysburg marked a shift in the Union's military strategy. Following the battle, Union forces became more aggressive and began to exert greater pressure on the Confederate Army, leading to a series of victories that eventually culminated in the defeat of the Confederacy.

In conclusion, the Battle of Gettysburg was significant to the Union victory in the Civil War due to its strategic importance, the demonstration of Union military prowess, the heavy losses inflicted upon the Confederate Army, its political impact on Northern morale and international relations, and its role in shaping subsequent Union military strategy. This pivotal engagement altered the course of the war and ultimately contributed to the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery in the United States.

Gracie's Response

It's incredible how three days could change the history of America. Truth be told, the Union was not doing well in terms of victories when the Battle of Gettysburg occurred in the summer of 1863. General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army had just won an unexpected victory

at Chancellorsville against Major General Joseph Hooker's Army of the Potomac. The Confederate Army had half the men that the Army of the Potomac had, which makes this Confederate victory at Chancellorsville so significant, and ultimately important to why Gettysburg occurred and is so significant to the Union Army.

Lee, and the rest of the Confederate Army, were on a victory high so to speak after winning such an unforeseen battle. With that being said, Lee acted boldly when he decided to invade Union territory for the first time. This act alone said a lot. By this, I mean it's clear that the Confederates were taking a risk; however, they expected fully to win given that they won last time with such slim odds. During the Confederate invasion of the North, a lot was happening with the Union Army after the defeat at Chancellorsville. The new Major General George Meade, promoted by Abraham Lincoln, became head of the Army of the Potomac just 3 days before the Battle of Gettysburg on June 28th, 1863. The change of Union command was the first strike against the Confederates. Lee, still under the assumption that invading the North would be easy, quickly realized that his army's efforts would have to be much greater than anticipated given General Meade was the new commander of the Union Army.

On the first day of the battle, the Confederates suffered a major blow when

George Bufford's Calvary claimed the higher ground at Seminary Ridge. Although they did fight for it, General Reynolds's First Corps of the Union Army arrived to reinforce Bufford's Calvary and take the high ground. This ultimately set up the Union to have better ground for the remainder of the battle, leaving the Confederates at another disadvantage.

The Union's efforts on the second and third days of the battle helped to further push back the Confederates through their strategic positions that we know as the Union Line. The use of interior lines established a strong enough defense system during that battle that the Confederates could not break, as demonstrated in Pickett's charge. From these interior lines, the Confederates had to constantly work harder to weaken the Union—which was proven pointless.

From the Confederates' defeat at Gettysburg, Lee never invaded the North again for the remainder of the war. Furthermore, the morale of the Union Army spiked after defeating the Confederates and leaving them with thousands of casualties. With these two key things, the significance of Gettysburg remains the turning point in the war. In 3 days, the Confederates went from almost winning the war to retreating South in defeat.

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

What feeling does this song invoke in you?

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

Chat GPT's response

The song "You're Gonna Go Far" by Noah Kahan seems to resonate with themes of departure, change, and the passage of time, evoking a mix of emotions ranging from nostalgia to acceptance. As I delve into the lyrics, I can't help but feel a sense of bittersweet reflection intertwined with a tinge of melancholy.

The opening lines set the stage for a journey, both literal and metaphorical. The mention of praying for a red light, usually an inconvenience, speaks to the desire to delay the inevitable, to prolong a moment before facing a destination that looms like a deadline. This sense of urgency and impending departure sets a somber tone, tinged with resignation.

As the song progresses, the narrator reflects on the changing landscape around them. They observe the passing of time, the encroachment of youth, and the shifting dynamics of their surroundings. The imagery of college kids correcting graffiti and the weariness of driving after nightfall paints a picture of a world evolving beyond recognition, leaving the narrator feeling out of place.

Yet amidst the uncertainty and upheaval, there's a glimmer of hope, a recognition that life goes on despite farewells and separations. The chorus speaks of acceptance and resilience, acknowledging that while one may be leaving, life for those left behind will continue, albeit altered by the absence.

The repeated refrain of "we ain't angry at you, love" suggests a sense of understanding and forgiveness, even amidst the pain of departure. It's a poignant reminder that love transcends distance and time, and that parting doesn't diminish the bond shared between individuals.

The song's bridge delves into themes of regret and missed opportunities, acknowledging the complexities of human relationships. The narrator grapples with the realization that they may have contributed to the departure of a loved one, haunted by the knowledge that they shut them down when they expressed a desire to make a difference.

Yet despite the weight of these regrets, there's a sense of resilience and determination to carry on. The closing lines of the song offer a message of encouragement, urging the departing individual to embrace the journey ahead and reassuring them that they will always be welcomed back with open arms.

Overall, the song evokes a complex array of emotions, from nostalgia and longing to acceptance and hope. It's a poignant meditation on the inevitability of change and the enduring nature of love, leaving the listener with a sense of introspection and a reminder to cherish the connections that make life meaningful.

Devin's response

The song "You're Gonna Go Far" by Noah Kahan is one that touches a deep part of my heart in the absolute best way possible. For me, it has served as a reminder that the world will still go on if I leave home and focus on what is best for me rather than what is best for everyone else around me. The chorus of this song has the ability to either

make me cry on my drive home from work or feel uplifted and relieved. It starts with the following: "So, pack up your car, put a hand on your heart. Say whatever you feel, be wherever you are. We ain't angry at you, love. You're the greatest thing we've lost," it feels as though the song is speaking specifically to me with these lines. Growing up, I was stuck in the middle of my parents fighting, divorce, and four yearlong custody battle—and in-between all of this there were quite a bit of things that went unsaid by me to them. It was hard, and it was a rough experience; I had to grow up much quicker than the other kids my age, and I was faced with challenges from both of my parents that put me in some very uncomfortable situations. When choosing where to go to college, I took into consideration the fact that it was close enough to home that I could go back on occasion, yet far away enough that I couldn't go back at every beck and call of my family needing a mediator. These lyrics served as a reminder that even though I left home, that doesn't mean I left my family behind completely—they still love me, and me leaving provides both sides with opportunity to grow and thrive. The next part of the chorus goes: "The birds will still sing, your folks will still fight. The boards will still creak, the leaves will still die. We ain't angry at you, love. We'll be waiting for you, love." I always found it comforting to hear that life will go on if I choose to leave. I always worry about my family—my siblings the most—because they are my lifeline, and it was really hard leaving them. Hearing someone else speak on the experience of leaving home like this is both comforting and relieving—I'm not left feeling as guilty as I once was. I have often been told that I don't see my

own worth and that I believe in myself much less than I should, so when hearing the lyric "you're the greatest thing we've lost," it makes me feel valued and seen as a person worthy of love and good things.

Overall, this song invoked many feelings in me because it spoke to

me in a way that touched my soul. It allowed me to take the feelings of guilt that I held on to so tightly and let them loose—which, in turn, helped me to let myself loose too.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Junior

What is it like to be in a big family?

Dolores Hans
MSMU class of 2025

Chat GPT's response

Growing up in a big family is akin to living in a bustling community within the confines of one's home. With siblings aplenty and relatives always around the corner, there's never a dull moment. From the early morning chaos of getting ready for school to the late-night conversations echoing through the halls, the energy of a big family is palpable and invigorating.

One of the most remarkable aspects of being part of a large family is the constant companionship it provides. Whether it's playing games, sharing meals, or simply lounging around, there's always someone to share the moment with. This abundance of company fosters a deep sense of camaraderie and support, creating lifelong bonds that withstand the test of time.

However, living in close quarters with so many personalities inevitably leads to its fair share of conflicts and

disagreements. From petty squabbles over trivial matters to more serious disputes, navigating the dynamics of a big family requires patience, compromise, and a healthy dose of humor. Yet, it is precisely these challenges that contribute to personal growth and resilience, teaching valuable lessons about communication, empathy, and conflict resolution.

Despite the occasional chaos and commotion, being in a big family is a source of warmth, love, and belonging. Shared traditions, inside jokes, and cherished memories weave a tapestry of shared experiences that form the foundation of familial identity. Whether it's celebrating holidays, milestones, or simply the everyday moments of life, the presence of a big family transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, creating a lifetime of cherished moments and treasured relationships.

Dolores' response

I am one of eight kids. I am the third oldest child, but the oldest daughter. I have two older brothers, four younger brothers, and a younger sister who is eight years old. The ages of us siblings range from twenty-three to six and a half. Being a part of a big family

is something I have always been proud to say, mostly because it is something a lot of people can't begin to imagine for themselves, and usually because when I follow it up with "I have six brothers," I get a lot of sympathy. I loved it when my family could make up a whole soccer team, or when we would take up an entire pew at church (sometimes two depending on the size of the pew). I loved having big Thanksgivings and barbecues, and all of us piling into a fifteen-passenger van to go on trips. But the older I get, the more aware I become of just how hard it can be to be a part of a big family. My siblings and I are all getting along well now that most of us are older, and we live more separate lives from one another, but when we were kids, there was times when my mom would worry that we would never talk to each other after we moved out. We fought so much. At times I hated my brothers. There are a lot of scars within me from my childhood that may not have been there if there weren't so many of us. Now as an adult, I worry about money, insurance, taxes, credit, and all the things that would scare me away from having too many kids myself, out of fear that they would struggle. However, I have also taken on

a big role of responsibility in my family, and I am grateful for it every day. The experience I have in caring for babies and children is something I will never regret. One of the greatest joys of my life is the opportunities I was given to be a sister and sort-of-mother to my siblings. I would do anything for them. Because of my big family, I have grown in patience, understanding, generosity, and responsibility from a very young age. I would want my kids to know what its like to take care of a baby, or to go shopping for the family because I simply do not have the time, or have a wonderfully intimidating group of siblings ready to scare off anyone that tried to hurt them. Are the struggles worth the goodness?

There are things about being a part of a big family that even now I struggle with. The three youngest of my siblings are all under the age of ten, and there is a large gap between us. In age, in distance, and in experience. With this, comes a lot of sadness and guilt. When my sister needs hugs from me, or someone to watch princess movies with, or teach her how to handle the drama in her friend group, I'm not there. Right now, I can still go home over breaks, but I am bur-

dened by the knowledge that soon I won't have opportunities to go home to her as often as I wish I could. When my brother needs someone to understand him and defend him, and make him feel special, I can't be there. I still haven't processed seeing my family dynamic changed so much now that half of us are moved out and my parents aren't burdened by us financially. I find myself jealous of my six-year-old brother because he gets fun snacks for school and to grow up in a house with a working septic system and the ability to get dental work done because now, we can afford insurance. But I know that they struggle too. I can't imagine what it is like when you're just a child and half your siblings are not living at home and are beginning their own families far away. My sister had to go to the ER recently and has been in a lot of pain, and I simply cannot stand that I am not by her side, holding her hand and kissing her and telling her it's going to be okay. These are struggles that I have yet to cope with, but at the end of the day I am grateful to have so many people to love.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

What is love?

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Chat GPT's response

Love, a concept as timeless as humanity itself, transcends mere words and definitions, encompassing a spectrum of emotions, actions, and connections. Attempting to encapsulate its essence within the confines of a single definition is akin to confining the vastness of the universe to a mere speck. Yet, through introspection and observation, we can begin to unravel the intricate tapestry of love.

At its core, love is a profound and intense feeling of affection and attachment towards someone or something. It is a force that binds individuals together, forging deep connections that withstand the trials of time and adversity. Love exists in myriad forms - romantic love, familial love, platonic love, and self-love, each unique in its expression yet united in its essence.

Romantic love, perhaps the most celebrated form, ignites passions and kindles flames within the hearts of those enamored. It is a dance of vulnerability and intimacy, where two souls intertwine in a symphony of emotions. Romantic love embodies devotion, understanding, and acceptance, fostering an unbreakable bond between partners.

Familial love, rooted in blood and kinship, is a steadfast beacon of support and belonging. It is the love between parents and children, siblings, and extended family members, built on a foundation of shared experiences and unconditional acceptance. Familial love embodies sacrifice, nurturing, and the innate desire to see loved ones thrive.

Platonic love, often overlooked yet equally profound, is the bond shared between friends and kindred spirits. It is a love born out of companionship,

mutual respect, and shared interests. Platonic love celebrates the beauty of friendship, offering solace and companionship in times of joy and sorrow.

Self-love, the cornerstone of emotional well-being, is the unconditional acceptance and appreciation of oneself. It is a journey of self-discovery and self-care, where individuals learn to embrace their flaws and celebrate their strengths. Self-love fosters resilience, confidence, and a deep sense of inner peace.

Beyond these delineated forms, love permeates every aspect of human existence, shaping our interactions, decisions, and perceptions. It is the driving force behind acts of kindness, compassion, and altruism, transcending boundaries of race, religion, and culture. Love is the foundation upon which societies are built, fostering empathy, cooperation, and collective flourishing.

Yet, love is not without its complexities and challenges. It is a paradoxical force, capable of bringing both ecstasy and heartache, joy and sorrow. Love requires vulnerability, courage, and a willingness to embrace the uncertainties of human connection. It demands patience, understanding, and a commitment to growth and compromise.

In its purest form, love is a transformative power, capable of transcending the bounds of the individual self and uniting humanity in a shared experience of interconnectedness. It is the guiding light that illuminates the darkest of nights, the balm that soothes the deepest of wounds. Love is not merely an emotion; it is the very essence of what it means to be human, binding us together in a tapestry of empathy, compassion, and understanding.

Claire's response

Love is a Friday in December. The sun sinking beneath the horizon, and branches of birch trees holding a thin sheet of snow, and a dusty pink sky. It's watching from the window, drinking hot chocolate and scooping balls

of cookie dough. It's having a sleepover and playing Hannah Montana music because my little cousin learned from the best (me) and baking cookies, so many kinds that we forget, and then playing Barbies, because at heart I'm still nine, like her. It's painting nails and laughing about third-grade gossip when I'm really twenty-one and it's the three days before Christmas, what did you ask Santa for, and falling asleep on the big couch while she takes the little one, wrapped in a light blue blanket.

Love is the summer farmers market, a rising sun painting the Baltimore highways a sparkling gold, and Mom's Honda Accord parallel parked nearby. It's the flowers that a man hands my grandmother, and the chocolate croissants for two dollars, and fresh coffee from a local shop. It's the sky before everyone wakes up, the hum of a city before it grows too loud, the morning being written into my young mind as a memory I'll always remember. It's the drive back, falling asleep in the car, and church, July sunlight caught in the stained-glass windows.

Love is my father in his uniform, the sound of the front door closing behind him, his twenty-four-hour shifts, his crimson station wagon. It's my childhood swimming pool, and he lifts me over his shoulders, the sky stretching above me, a loud splash and I'm deep in the water. It's laughter. It's smores under a setting sun and my mother's denim apron and burgers on the grill.

Love is a first date in an orchard. It's picking apples off trees and talking about his childhood of living in the suburbs and the pieces of someone you collect as you meet eyes and smile. It's him paying for your flowers, and ice cream on a hot summer's night, and watching movies that you already know the ending to.

Love is a glass of wine and a friend from home, a letter tucked in a mailbox, pancakes for breakfast rather than the usual eggs. It's a dance, a tango between lovers. Long naps on the couch, or

drawing the curtains, or staying up late. The sunset at airports, the smell of bonfires, or the smile you wear when you pass yourself in the mirror. It's human, the most human thing possible, scarred and battered but irresistibly tethered to us the way this earth will never get rid of the sun, the way we'll always have ground beneath us and sky above. How can it possibly be robbed from us? The

memories etched into our minds, the fluttering butterflies in the pit of your stomach. The stars that dot the sky on a Friday in December. A twinkle in your eye and hushed breaths under the covers and three words, dancing at the tip of your tongue.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

A.I. vs. Humans

Sophi Toth
MSMU Class of 2027

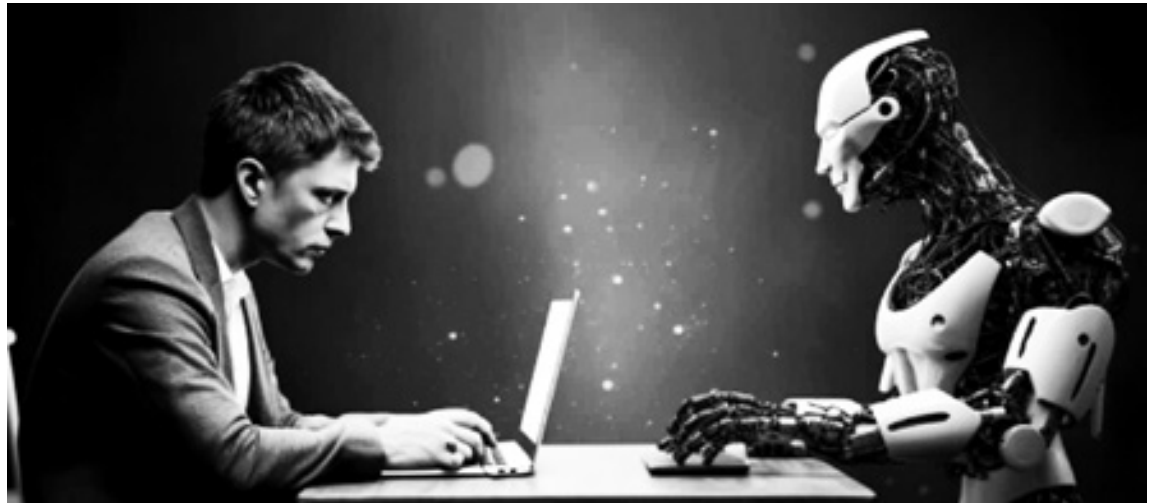
where knowledge of AI and how to use it is vital. But are these fears still justified?

A Forbes article argues that although AI may replace up to 300 million jobs, it would be hard pressed to take creative jobs (Poiniski, Forbes). Although AI is an incredibly useful tool, the technology is still developing and much more expensive than maintaining labor or trade jobs (Syed, LinkedIn). However, the question remains if AI can steal creative jobs. After all, generative AI is creating art in seconds, while a human digital artist would take hours or days to create the same art.

The short answer is, not exactly. AI, while helpful, is an algorithm. It's an advanced algorithm, able to act human in conversation and give answers to questions that are almost humanlike. But as of right now, it's not a whole lot more. It can list facts, gather information, give definitions, solve what it perceives a problem to be. It can identify major themes, medium, and styles of art, replicating it to the brushstroke. But

“We can't underestimate the value of computers. Yes, they are great for playing games and forwarding funny emails. But real business is done on paper, okay? Write that down.” The comical, if misguided words, of Michael Scott from *The Office* insist upon the importance of paper in business as opposed to computers, which he sees rather as playthings. AI, however, is much more.

The popularization of artificial intelligence has applications in a variety of industries, such as self-driving cars and serving food at restaurants. As a result, the most common fear about AI is the threat of cheaply automating many types of jobs, taking them away from people. However, its creation has prompted the invention of new STEM jobs, such as AI consultants, AI product managers, robotic scientists, or deep learning engineers (Verma, Simplilearn),



does this make AI an artist?

A better question might be if AI can create a piece without relying on human authors for material. Inspiration and material are two different things: inspiration for Van Gogh was the night sky, what motivated him to show his perception of it. Material is copy-and-paste and a form of plagiarism, one of the reasons why AI platforms such as Chat GPT are banned or regulated in school settings.

This month, we asked our Four Years at the Mount writers to have AI write the answer to a prompt, then write their own responses to the same prompt.

The open-ended questions of Dolores Hans and Claire Doll, when run through the AI writing program ChatGPT, tended to give very definitional answers to the questions, “What is love?” and “What is it like to be in a big family?” It defines the prompts in a very detached way, describing love as “a transformative power,” and having a big family as full of “cherished moments,”

but without any experiences or examples to back its responses up. It wrote a lot of pretty, fluffy words in order to try and capture these experiences, utilizing a tell-not-show method, which is shunned by professional authors and essayists and used almost primarily by inexperienced writers.

AI's reflection on Devin Owen's choice of prompt, the song “You're Gonna Go Far,” by Noah Kahan, was nonexistent at first, as ChatGPT hadn't been updated since before the song's release in January 2022. But even after seeing the lyrics, the AI writer focused on the song's themes, narrator's point of view, and basic meaning of the lyrics while going through them line by line. It took only meaning, again, in a very detached way that didn't truly convey the meaning in an emotional way.

For Gracie Smith's historical prompt, different problems arose. Detachment is somewhat necessary for a historical essay, making the AI response better

technically. However, the AI writer summarized the historical importance of the battle of Gettysburg point by point, like a middle schooler's five paragraph essay. It answered the question, but in a very uninteresting way.

Our human writers' responses, however, differed vastly from the AI writer. Claire Doll, Dolores Hans, and Devin Owen used specific human experiences from their own lives to help demonstrate what love is, to show the trying and thriving consequences of having a big family, to explain how a song's meaning goes beyond the sum of its parts. The language used is more interesting than AI's insipid rationalizations of emotion-based questions: Doll's essay was peppered with romantic phrases like “a Friday in December,” or “Love is my father in his uniform,” as opposed to AI's definition of love “encompassing a spectrum of emotions, actions, and connections.”

Hans writes about the emotional conflict she has when thinking of having her own family later in life, wondering if “the struggles are worth the goodness?” while AI hem-haws around the cliché that in a big family, “there's never a dull moment.” While AI starts grandly and stereotypically, “amongst the uncertainty and upheaval,” Owen speaks from the heart about her “parents fighting, divorce, and a four yearlong custody battle.” Leaving the reader in catharsis and relating to the people they just read about, these writers garter awe, admiration, pity; anything other than indifference.

Gracie Smith's historical prompt, although more devoid of emotion, still put the AI's essay to shame. Instead of organizing the importance of the battle of Gettysburg point by point, Smith organized her essay by what happened the day of the battle and how specific strategic moves resulted in the North's win of the battle. AI did add more reasons for Gettysburg's importance, but it was much less interesting to read than Smith's paper. The stratagems and effects were more integrated and flowed better, as opposed to AI's five paragraph essay format.

With this evidence, it seems that AI, while useful, is better used in factual, algorithmic fields. In creative areas, it is useful in gathering research or information, but it's not yet reliable to produce satisfactory pieces to be used in place of creative professionals. AI can copy human work very well, but it cannot create its own. And until a learning AI model is produced, it's up to humans to dream of things that don't yet exist.

To read other articles by Sophi Toth, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT ARTS

Annual SPARC Festival and Dido & Aeneas

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU class of 2024

The flowers are starting to bloom, and with the help of Mother Nature, we only hope for rain before summer. Here we are at the end of the spring semester and the end of the 2023-2024 school year. It sure has flown by fast, but we still have many events on campus, that being the annual SPARC Festival. However, the Mount is also featuring its first-ever opera, Dido and Aeneas, which will be performed by Mount students. Be sure to check out other events here on campus before the end of the school year.

The SPARC Festival

The annual SPARC Festival will occur this year from April 17th through April 19th. The SPARC festival is an event where students on campus showcase their work over the course of a year—or in the case of the honors seniors, their capstone work—to the student body and community. The festival takes place over a duration of time because of the grandeur of the event. Each student has carefully crafted their work to demonstrate their interests as well as gather academic scholarship to further their understanding of an area of research. The acronym ‘SPARC’ stands for scholarship, performance, art, research, and creativity, which is what each of these projects aim to achieve.

There are several projects and events to view while the SPARC festival occurs. Throughout the course of the first two days, the campus will showcase Lightning Talks; these are single-student presentations that are brief and concise, hitting key points in academic papers to express the important content and argument. Each of these presentations will be held in the Knott Academic Center, also known as the AC. On Thursday, there will be poster presentations, which will be held at the Palmieri Activities Center, also known as the PAC. With these, a group of students will create poster boards, detailing the results of a project and the process which reached the final conclusion.

The Honors Thesis presentations will occur over the course of two days, each presentation lasting a half hour. Honors projects, to reiterate a bit, are capstones to the honors project, in which students get to showcase their year-long work and findings to everyone in the community. These students dedicated many hours to research and investigation to come to a credible conclusion. These presentations are not to be missed.

The Mount will also have other presentations, such as Fine Arts presentations, which includes a music recital, a theatrical performance, and an art exhibition. Other Mount students will be revealing two student journals and

the literary and arts magazine, for spring 2024. Tolle Lege, our journal for philosophy and theology, and Moorings, our humanities journals, will release these publications on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Lighted Corners, our literary and arts magazine, will be releasing this year’s publication on Thursday at 12 p.m. Finally, be sure to check out our Keynote Address speaker, which is Dr. Bartley P. Griffith, and our Honored Faculty Address, Dr. Rika Dunlap. More information can be found online at msmu.edu. Be sure to attend, and you might catch some of our staff members presenting as well!

Dido and Aeneas

A story like no other told in the form of an opera, Dido and Aeneas will be the Mount’s first-ever student-sung opera on campus. The story tells of Aeneas, the hero of Virgil’s The Aeneid, and his tragic love story with the Carthage Queen, Dido. The opera is based on Book IV of The Aeneid, which is called Fate of Queen Dido. Even though this story is told for a Roman audience, the opera itself is regarded as an early English opera from the Baroque period. Henry Purcell composed the opera and Nahum Tate composed the libretto, but little is known about the completion of this opera. It is said that the first copy of the libretto was dated in the 1700’s, however several parts of the original composition has been lost, including music for the

Prologue, the end of Act II’s Grove scene, and several dances. It is also said that the opera could have been composed and performed as early as 1684, but it is also uncertain when the original composition came about.

Like a play or musical, the opera is broken up into Acts, and each act has different scenes. The first act takes place in the Palace, where we meet a now-widowed Dido, proclaiming she will not be remarrying, and an Aeneas, Belinda, and an attendant trying to persuade her to marry to combine two kingdoms. Act II has two scenes, the first one being in the Sorceress’s Cave, where our main antagonist, a sorceress, and her witches plan Dido’s downfall; a storm will occur, and an elf disguised as Mercury, the god of translators and interpreters, will convince Aeneas to sail for Italy for war. The second scene is the Grove, where the storm occurs. Panic ensues and Aeneas is stuck at a metaphorical crossroad: travelling for Italy and leaving Dido, or staying here and dishonoring himself and his city. Act III, the final act, has two scenes as well, with the first scene being at the seaside, watching Aeneas’s men preparing to set sail. The second scene takes place in the Palace, where Dido is informed of Aeneas’s departure. She confronts Aeneas during this scene, and while Aeneas vows to stay, Dido orders him to leave. The ending of the opera is similar to the ending



This photo is taken from the SPARC Festival in 2019, exemplifying a poster presentation given by a student.

of tragic Dido, where she knows she will have to die.

Of course, this being the first student opera at the Mount, we encourage you to watch this spectacular show. The performance will be held in Horning Theatre in Delaplaine on April 25th at 7 p.m., a week after the SPARC Festival. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

We are rapidly approaching the end of the semester. With that, these are the last few chances to visit campus and check out some of our Fine Arts students. First up, we have the Senior Music Recital in Horning Theater, located in Delaplaine, on April 5th at 6:30 p.m. The music department will be showcasing Liyah Curry, Jade Powell, and Eryn Fitzgerald as sopranos, and Rohan Gabay as bass. Next, we have the Small Ensembles Concert, located in Knott Auditorium on April 13th at 7 p.m..

We will have another Gallery Exhibition from April 25th through May 10th, which will showcase senior works. The reception will be April 25th at 5 p.m. in the Williams Gallery in Delaplaine. We will have the Dido and Aeneas showcase performance on April 25th at 7 p.m., in Horning Theatre in Delaplaine. We will also be featuring a May Day Concert at McGowan Fountain in patriot Plaza on May 1st at 4 p.m. And finally, we will have a Student Music Recital at Horning Theater in Delaplaine on May 1st at 7 p.m.

The next few events will only be held during the SPARC festival. We will have the Lab Band open for the festival at Founder’s Plaza on April 17th at 3:30 p.m.. We will also hold a preview session of Dido and Aeneas in Horning Theater, in Delaplaine, on April 17th at 7 p.m.. Finally, Evening of Theatre is on April 17th at 8 p.m., in Horning Theatre.

We hope to see you there!

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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library
Mondays – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, 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 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays – Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on April 16. 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 April 15 at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.felspa.org or call 717-792-2240.

Frederick County Libraries

Spring is in full swing, and our North County libraries are celebrating with a few big events beginning with the “Total Solar Eclipse Viewing Party” at Emmitsburg Library on Monday, April 8 from 3 to 4. This Total Solar Eclipse is a rare event as it is expected to create a longer period of darkness along a narrow path through the U.S. where the sun will be hidden for an amazing 7.5 minutes. It will be another 20 years before the next vis-

ible total solar eclipse will cross over the U.S. Join us outside the library on the front lawn for a viewing party of the Total Solar Eclipse! Eclipse glasses will be provided to attendees while supplies last. For those early birds, glasses are currently available at branches; one pair of glasses per person or up to two per family. Curious to learn more about the eclipse, read the Sky at Night Column on page 44.

“Spring Fling” at Emmitsburg Library is back this year filled with games, crafts and more! Join us on Saturday, April 20 from Noon–2 Rain or Shine!

The Maryland Writer’s Association Teen Writer’s Club is back for two more programs on Thursday, April 4, and 18 from 5:30 to 6:30. April is National Poetry Month and Teens are invited to “Blackout Poetry” programs at Emmitsburg Library on Saturday, April 27 from 1 to 2 and Thurmont Regional Library on Thursday, April 11 from 4 to 5.

The Annual Thurmont Green Fest at the Thurmont Regional Library in partnership with the Town of Thurmont and the Thurmont Green Team is back and everyone is invited to join us for an exciting day of family nature activities, connecting with local and county Green organizations and participating in the Home Electronics Recycling and Children’s Gear Swap Event. On Saturday, April 13, from 10 to 2 there will be free tree saplings giveaways and a special raffle for a Tumble Composter. Key 103 will be broadcasting this special event live and the “Boxcar Burgers” Food Truck will be on site so treat yourself to lunch. This is a Rain or Shine event! Please call the library for details on the

electronics recycling and the children’s gear swap event.

Families can meet and greet live turtles when the Fountain Rock Nature Center visits with turtle friends and fun facts on Wednesday, April 17 from 11 to 11:30.

Do you know what the “Role of the Executor in Maryland” involves? In partnership with ILR 55+ Frederick Community College, FCPL presents this 5 to hour, two parts, no fee program at Thurmont Regional Library on Saturday, April 6, and April 20 from 10:30 to 1.

For Adults, there are three great history programs this month at Thurmont Library. On Wednesday, April 10, Tracy Lewis presents “Braddock’s Road: The French and Indian War April through Maryland” from 7 to 8 and on Wednesday, April 17, join the National Museum of Civil War Medicine’s docent Dr. Bill Adams as he presents “Frederick in The Civil War, One Vast Hospital” at 7 to 8 and finally on Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 – Noon, the community has an opportunity to learn about the “North County Recovering Identity Project”, the study that changed how northern Frederick County’s African American history is perceived and studied. Sponsored by the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Frederick County Parks and Recreation, and the FCPL Maryland Room.

Visit the library website to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301-600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301-600-7212.

Emmitsburg Branch Library

Monday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 to 11.

Monday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Little Adventurers (Birth to 5), 11 to 11:30.

Thursday, Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30 to 4:30.

Monday, Apr. 8: Total Solar Eclipse Viewing Party (All Ages), 3 to 4.

Thursday, Apr. 11: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6 to 7.

Thursday, Apr. 11, 25: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Grades 4 to 7), 5:30 to 6:30.

Saturday, Apr. 20: Spring Fling (All Ages), Noon to 2.

Thursday, Apr. 24: Get Framed! (Elementary, Teens), 4:30 to 5:30.

Tuesday, Apr. 2, 16, 30: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30 to 6:30.

Thursday, Apr. 4, 18: Maryland Writer’s Association Teen Writer’s Club (Teens), 5:30 to 6:30.

Saturday, Apr. 27: Blackout Poetry (Teens), 1 to 2.

Tuesday, Apr. 9: 1922 Marines April Through Emmitsburg to Gettysburg (Adult), 6 to 7.

Saturday, Apr. 27: The Learning Café: Coffee with a Foster Care Advocate (Adult), 10:30 to 11:30.

Thurmont Regional Library

Monday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Preschool Storytime (Ages 3 to 5), 10:30 to 11.

Monday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Let’s Get Ready for Kindergarten (Ages 3 to 5), 11:15 to 11:45.

Tuesday, Apr. 2, 16, 23, 30: Baby Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 to 11:30.

Wednesday, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24: Toddler Storytime (18 months to 3), 10:30 to 11.

Thursday, Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25: Musical Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 to 11.

Saturday, Apr. 6, 13, 20: Family Storytime (Birth to 5, Elementary, All Ages), 11 to 11:30.

Monday, Apr. 8: Solar Eclipse Viewing Station (All Ages), 2 to 4.

Tuesday, Apr. 9, 16, 23: Elementary Afternoon Stem Mini to series (Elementary), 4:30 to 5:15.

Thursday, Apr. 11: Tween Evening: Stem Mini to series (Elementary), 6 to 6:45.

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Totally Turtles with Fountain Rock Nature Center (Birth to 5, All Ages), 11 to 11:30.

Wednesday, Apr. 3: Teens Create: Perler Bead Bookmarks (Teens), 4 to 5.

Wednesday, Apr. 11: Teens Black Out Poetry! (Teens), 4 to 5.

Wednesday, Apr. 24: Teen Anime Club (Teens), 4 to 5.

Wednesday, Apr. 27: Teen Book Bites (Teens), 10:30 to 11:30

Friday, Apr. 5 to Apr. 7: Memory Lab by Appointment (Adults), Library hours.

Saturday, Apr. 6, 20: The Role of the Executor in MD, 2 Part Series (Adults), 10:30 to 1.

Wednesday, Apr. 10: Braddock’s Road: The French and Indian War April through Maryland (Adults), 7 to 9.

Saturday, Apr. 13: Thurmont Green Fest (All Ages), 10 to 2.

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Frederick in the Civil War, One Vast Hospital (Adults), 7 to 8.

Thursday, Apr. 18: Off to Site, Thurmont Senior Center: Digital Learning (Adults), 10 to Noon.

Saturday, Apr. 27: Recovering Identity: A Study of African American History in North Frederick County (Adults), 9:30 to Noon.

Way Off Broadway Theater's summer theatre camp

Registration has begun at The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre for its 2024 Summer Theatre Camp which will begin on July 22nd.

For over 20 years, Way Off Broadway has been offering bud-

ding young actors and actresses the opportunity to hone their craft during the theatre’s annual summer camp. These camps focus on all aspects of musical theatre through vocal music, acting exercises, and basic choreogra-

phy as students rehearse for a full musical production at the end of the session.

This year’s camp will be held July 22nd – August 1st from 10 to 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Camp is open to students ages 9

and older. Registration is \$500 per student. Instructors for Way Off Broadway’s 2024 Summer Theatre camp will once again be Bill Kiska, the theatre’s Executive Producer, and Megan Elizabeth West, one of Way Off Broadway’s

performers and music directors.

For its theatrical production this summer, the camp will be presenting Legally Blonde, JR. Adapted from the hit movie and award-winning Broadway musical, Harvard’s beloved blonde takes the stage by glittery pink storm in this fun and upbeat stage show. Legally Blonde, JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle’s boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, claiming she’s not “serious” enough, Elle takes matters into her own hands, crafting a showy song-and-dance personal essay and charming her way into law school. Befriending classmate, Emmett, and spunky hairdresser, Paulette, along the way, Elle finds that books and looks aren’t mutually exclusive. As Elle begins outsmarting her peers, she realizes that law may be her natural calling after all.

Registration is limited and being done on a first-come, first-serve basis. For complete details about this year’s camp, including registration information, visit the theatre’s website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho
Frederick County
Board of Education

Spring break began on March 29 and runs the first week of April. Students and staff will return to school on April 8, just in time for the solar eclipse.

Speaking of the eclipse, the Earth & Space Science Lab (ESSL), in conjunction with Frederick County Public Libraries, will host an Eclipse Day on April 8. Planetarium shows will run on the hour from 11 to 2. An eclipse viewing in the upper fields behind the ESSL building will begin around 2. For more information on the eclipse, please read the Astronomy column on page 44.

The ESSL will also be the host of an Arbor Day celebration on April 26. It will take place in the South Frederick Arboretum (beside the

ESSL) at 10 am and will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Arboretum.

The Board of Education will hold an in-person meeting on April 10 at Frederick Community College. Please check the FCPS website for the exact location. The audio/visual upgrades to the Board Room are still ongoing and on schedule. If you are signed up for Find Out First (FOF) announcements, you will get the information on that meeting on April 4th. If you are not signed up for FOF, please go to www.fcps.org/fof and sign up for notifications based on your interests within FCPS.

If everything stays on schedule, the Board will hold its final virtual meeting on May 1 and be back in the Board Room for the May 15 meeting.

The FCPS budget will be one of the Board's biggest topics of conversation through the next few months.

The County Executive will present the county budget on April 15. The County Council will then adopt their final budget by May 31. At this time, every indication is that the school system and Board of Education will have to make cuts from our requests to achieve a balanced budget. Although the Board already held its public hearing on the budget, members of the community can always email us or provide testimony during public comment times during our regular Board meetings. Directions for how to sign up are on the FCPS website, Board of Education tab, then scroll to Board of Education Meetings.

System recognitions for April include Month of the Young Child, School Library Media Month, and National Autism Acceptance Month. National Assistant Principal Week is April 4-8, Paraprofessional Apprecia-

tion Day is April 5, and Administrative Professional Day is April 26.

Forty-one FCPS teachers earned their National Board for Professional Standards certification for the first time and eight teachers became recertified. We congratulate all these professionals for going through the rigorous process. The newly certified National Board Certified Educators will be celebrated at an event on April 22.

The Academy for the Fine Arts, located at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, is in need of repairs and upgrades to the Auditorium. There is currently an online fundraiser through the program's website. You can also contact Jonathan.Kurtz@fcps.org for more information.

The Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14. The deadline to register to vote and update registration information is Tuesday, April 23. There are 17 candidates running for Board of Education to fill three

seats. Did you know that in Maryland, BoE is the only office unaffiliated voters can vote for in the Primary because it is the only non-partisan race? In 2022, about 7% of unaffiliated voters voted in the Primary. If you do not let your voice be heard with your vote for the Primary, the candidate you hoped to vote for in November might be off the ballot. The Board of Elections website has all the voting information you need. www.elections.maryland.gov.

The Maryland State Department of Education is conducting its annual Special Education Parent Involvement Survey. It is linked on the FCPS website main screen and is open until May 24. This is your chance to have input on how to improve the special education process.

Happy Easter, chag Pesach samech, and Eid Mubarak to those who celebrate. And happy Spring to all from the BoE.

Fairfield Area School District

The Fairfield Area School District Board of Directors has some hard choices to make as the budget process unfolds over the next several months.

At their March workshop, Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board they are facing "a perfect storm" because a previous administration ignored advice from the federal government. When COVID-19 relief funds were given to local school districts in 2024, school leaders were advised not to use the money

for staff salaries because the funds were temporary.

Fairfield ignored the warning and used the money for three intervention specialists, a curriculum administrator, outsourced nursing services, and a licensed practical nurse. According to Business Manager Tim Stanton, the district must find \$367,533 to continue funding those positions.

"At the end of the grant, because the funding is not sustainable, you have to prepare to let staff go unless you found another funding source," Stanton said.

Haupt said the intervention specialists are currently under a one-year contract. If the board decides to keep them, they will become permanent employees.

Aaron Taylor, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum, special education, and student services, advocated for keeping the intervention specialists. He told the board that they have benefited students who struggle in reading and math. The school also has reading specialists, Taylor said, but those specialists are not able

to help students with math. The board asked Taylor and Haupt to present data that supports his claim before they make a final decision.

Pennsylvania law states the board cannot raise taxes more than 6.4 percent. If the board keeps all positions funded with COVID grants and raises taxes to the maximum amount, it will still not have enough money. Last year, the board raised taxes by 4 percent.

Stanton also told the board it must decide if it wants to fund requests for new playground

equipment (\$113,909), a tractor (\$30,000), and a high school courtyard (\$40,000). The board could decide to not fund a new playground and instead use the money for one intervention specialist. The high school courtyard is a request from students. Stanton said the students offered to fundraise for the project, but he doubts fundraisers will raise \$40,000.

Board members favored funding the playground in place of a \$60,000 LED athletic field lighting project.

The board will discuss the budget further at its April 8 meeting.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

The pinnacle of Catoctin's winter season

Richelle Zheng
Class of 2025

Even if mother nature can't make up her mind, winter sports slowly approached their end as spring sports began to take their places on the field. However, Catoctin's girls varsity basketball and the indoor track teams continued their journey into off-season competitions.

The Lady Cougars basketball team continues to demonstrate their prowess in off-season competitions. The Lady Cougars finished off their regular season with an astounding win against Walkersville High School, 50-34, and ending with a seasonal record of 19-3. With the closure of the regular season, they kicked off their off-season competitions at the CMC Championship on February 24. The Cougars faced Middletown High School at North Hagerstown, which was where the semi quarter finals were.

The first quarter of the game began with the Cougars leading 11-7. The girls maintained their lead over into the second quarter of the game as well with 15-8. The team's rock-solid defense stood their ground into the second half of the game only letting the Middletown Knights score 12 points, further increasing the gap to a double-digit lead 26-15. The strong defense allowed the team to take the win 43-27, with senior Grace Williams leading the team with 16 points and five rebounds. Additionally, junior Taylor Smith contributed 12 points and four assists along with sophomore Brooke Williams scoring ten points, six rebounds, and five steals.

On March 1, the Lady Cougars headed into the playoffs against Boonsboro High School. The Lady Cougars had a slower start to the game and tied with the Boonsboro Warriors 8-8. Then, the girls stepped up their game in the second quarter and made easy points with some turnovers, taking a lead against the Warriors, 26-14. This great lead allowed the girls to start off strong into the second half of the game where they increased the gap, 36-18. The Lady Cougars

continued to stay ahead of the Warriors all throughout the third and fourth quarters of the game, ending with a 46-35 victory. Top contributions made in this game were: Kelsey Troxell who made a double-double with 11 rebounds and scored 16 points; Brooke Williams who chipped in with 15 points, eight rebounds, six steals, and five blocks; and lastly Smith who bagged nine points and five assists.

At the MPSSAA West II Regional Championship game against South Carroll High School on March 6, the girls continued to be undefeated. They won the 1A Regional Championship, 48-38! The number three seed South Carroll High School came into the game strong by scoring 18 points during the first quarter, taking the lead 18-14 against the Lady Cougars. However, the Lady Cougars, the number one seed, quickly turned the game around by only allowing the South Carroll Cavaliers to score five points as they struggled against the Cougars' intense defense. The Cavaliers made headway at halftime 23-19. The Lady Cougars are always up for a good fight, solidifying their defense and taking the lead 34-27. The girls maintained their lead into the fourth quarter, resulting in their victory. This hard fought match was led by Smith who racked up 16 points, four assists, and four steals. Additionally, Brooke Williams contributed 12 points. Grace Williams chipped in with nine rebounds and Troxell aided in the team's win with eight points and eight rebounds. The victory from this close match moved the Lady Cougars onto the next level—the State Quarter Finals.

On March 9, the second seed Lady Cougars competed against the seventh seed Surrattsville High School Hornets in the State Quarter final. Starting the game off strong, the Cougars came out with their feared defense creating a 16-4 lead in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Cougars preserved their lead with 16-0 as well as into halftime, with a 32-4 lead against the Hornets. The girls made their way to victory by eas-



Lady Cougars come together for semifinals. Photo by Amber Reaver

ily scoring points, totalling up to 48-8 in the third quarter. The Cougars effortlessly secured a victory with the final score totaling 55-18. Rebakah Zentz and Harley Fitzpatrick, making up the solid defensive wall, held the lead scorer from Surrattsville to only two points during the entire game. Brooke Williams contributed to the win by scoring 14 points, and making five steals and four assists. Furthermore, senior Peyton Davis and Kylie Perhach also pitched in, with Davis adding five points and Perhach making five steals.

The Lady Cougars moved into the MPSSAA State Semifinal game on March 13. Their opponent was Southern Garrett High School. Even with the teams' star point guard, Taylor Smith, out for the season due to an injury, the girls continue to show their strength. The Lady Cougars started off the first quarter with a strong 9-2 lead. By the end of the first quarter Southern Garrett began to gain momentum, closing in on the gap against the Cougars, 15-14. The tension in the game began to build up as both teams fought for the lead in the second quarter. Southern Garrett taking a one-point lead into halftime. The Cougars clapped back during the third quarter, and held Southern Garrett to seven points and took the lead by the end of the quarter, 37-36. Still, Southern Garrett managed to defeat the Lady Cougars in the fourth

quarter, where the Cougars originally had a one point lead with under a minute left in the game. In that minute, Southern Garrett stole the ball with ten seconds left in the game, scoring a layup and taking the win. This tough match ended 55-52 in a Southern Garrett victory. Leading the team was Brooke Williams with 18 points, six rebounds, and four assists. Grace Williams chimed in with 12 points, and Troxell with nine points and six rebounds. Zentz and Sam Orndorff both made four assists as well. The conclusion of this season marks the second time that Catoctin's girls basketball has made it to states in only three years!

Indoor track and field were also able to advance into off-season competitions: the New Balance Nationals and the Adidas Track Nationals. First, the New Balance Nationals, was held at Boston, Massachusetts from March 7 - March 10. Furious Trammel ran in the 400-meters championship preliminary and placed 11th, with a time of 48.85 seconds. Shaymus Stull, Dennis Lease, Gabriel Riling, Deacon McIlvaine, and Trammel, from the boys track team, all qualified for the Adidas Track Nationals. The Adidas Track Nationals was held at Virginia Beach Sports Center, Virginia from March 15-17. Stull competed in the 55-meter dash elite prelims and placed 74th, with a time of 6.80 seconds. Stull also

ran in the 60-meter dash, finishing with a new personal record of 7.32 seconds. Trammel ran in the 400-meters championship finals with an incredible time of 48.55 second. His performance placed him in second and marked his new personal record in the event! In the 800-meters elite finals, Lease placed 74th out of 101 runners with a time of 2:07.29 minutes. Riling competed in the 1600-meters elite finals and ran a time of 4:34.25 minutes, putting him in 25th. From the girls team, Olivia Baker, Aniston Casne, and Keira Taylor were all invited to the event. Baker ran in the 800-meter elite finals. Baker finished her event with a time of 2:31.87 minutes. Casne and Taylor ran in the 1600-meters elite finals with Casne finishing at 5:41.58 minutes marking her new personal record and Taylor finishing at 6:00.69 minutes. Both teams worked hard and represented Catoctin well!

There will be some exciting new developments from Catoctin's spring sports teams, as they are all training diligently in preparation for regular season competitions. Catoctin tennis, outdoor track, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and unified track teams are all preparing to show their Cougar pride throughout the season.

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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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 - \$500
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
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MOUNT SPORTS

Women's lacrosse to impress in conference play



The Mount looks to build on a good first year in the MAAC after reaching the quarterfinals last year.

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

At the end of the 2023 Metro Atlantic Athletic Association, the Mount St. Mary's lacrosse team finished sixth in the conference standings. This was the team's first ever season in the MAAC after coming to the conference with a season full of successes in 2022. In their last season in the Northeast Conference, women's lacrosse was crowned conference playoff champions in a 15-13 win against Bryant and booked themselves a spot in the NCAA women's lacrosse tournament. Even though they lost in the first round to No. 6 Loyola, the Mountaineers proved their worth. But where does that experience stand two years on from an appearance in the National Tournament?

In 2023, the Mountaineers entered a tough lacrosse conference in the MAAC, and no matter what the team looked like on the field, it was always going to be a tough step up for coach Lauren Skellchock and her players, as it was for the rest of the teams at the Mount. But the team persisted, as they reached the quarterfinals of the conference playoffs, eventually losing out to Niagara. To show how tough the conference was last year, you must look to the eventual champion, Fairfield's, record. The Stags had an overall record of 14-5 and a conference record of 7-1, eventually overpowering Siena in the championship by a score of 17-4.

As it stands, the Mount has a record of 2-5, with their wins coming from a 14-8 away win against Bucknell on March 3rd and a 15-6 win against Robert Morris on March 12th in Emmitsburg. The rest of their games have come down to close losses that could have swung either way, with their largest margin of defeat belonging to an 18-9 lose to No. 17 Navy on February 21st. With all the defeats aside and if last season accounts for anything, the Mount is in an optimistic place for success.

A team is nothing without its players and coaches, and the Mountaineers are more than up to the task of success in that department. The head coach, Skellchock, is a veteran of Mount lacrosse, that is a testament to her 10 years in charge of the program. In her tenure at the helm of the team, she has tallied an overall record of 80-66 and a conference record

from both the NEC and the MAAC of 44-18. In that time, she has led the team to two NEC conference titles and in verse, two appearances in the NCAA Tournament. She has also taken the team to two conference semifinals, a conference quarterfinal, and a separate NEC final in 2019. Skellchock is also a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and was an integral part to their dominance in NCAA women's lacrosse.

On the other side of the coaches box on the field is associate head coach, Samantha Pratt. The UMBC graduated has been alongside Skellchock since the beginning of the 2018 season and was an integral part of the teams who went to the National Tournament. This corps group of coaches is what made the team so successful over the past couple seasons, including runs in the postseason.

The group of players assembled over the past by the coaching staff over the last years has been nothing but integral to their high scoring style of play. Three players make up nearly half of the goals this year scored alone. Those players being senior, Mackenzi Furlong with 18 goals, junior, Anna Salerno with 17 goals and junior, Madison Harmening with 12 goals. Those three have 47 of the teams' 81 goals scored during the season so far, with a further 8 players contributing the remaining 34 goals.

In the lead up to a goal, the Mountaineers have dominated in assisting, with 21 assists spread out amongst the team. Furlong, who leads the team in goals, also leads the team in assists with eight. That is followed by four assists from senior, Abby Yesko and three from senior, Christina Haspert who has three assists. The small number of assists in contrast to the number of goals means that the team has a very headlong strategy on goals. They are not likely to pass that much in the crease and are more suited to fast breakaways on a turnover.

Related to turnover, on the defensive side of the field, the Mount is well equipped to force the opposing team to make a mistake or take the ball away from them. They have created 109 turnovers against the opposition while turning it over themselves only 111 times. This is remarkable to take into consideration, especially when more than three quarters of these turnovers have turned into goals themselves. Haspert leads the team with 12 turnovers across seven games and Yesko has 11 across eight games. Furlong, Harmening, Salerno and sophomore, Hailey Chester are all behind the two upperclassmen in turnovers with 10 apiece.

The team also has a young corps of players that could turn into something special for Skellchock and Pratt in the future. First years

Olivia Nelson and Camille Thomas seem to have gotten the most playing time out of any of the rookies Skellchock's team so far this season, as Thomas herself has played in goal four times for the team so far this season. Another player to make an impact for the team this season is Shannon McTavish, who has played in six games so far for the Mount this season.

In her 10th year in charge of the team, Coach Skellchock will go into an even tougher conference, with the former Top 2 seeds in Fairfield and

Siena looking more poised than ever to continue their dominance. The Mount will play Quinnipiac, Canisius, Rider and Siena away. And in turn will welcome Niagara, Fairfield, Manhattan Marist to Emmitsburg. With MAAC play to start on March 23rd against Iona at home, the Mount will kick off their battle for their first ever conference title in their sophomore year in the MAAC.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

American Legion Post 168 Golf Tournament

What! It's that time again already? Oh well there's not many things better than a Friday off work to play golf, drink beer, eat good food and win prizes! Mark your calendar for Friday, June 21st and put in for a day off work.

The Thurmont American Legion Post 168 will be sponsoring their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament! The tournament will be played at Maple Run Golf Course and is a four-person scramble. Registration and Putting Contest will be 7 to 8:30 in the morning am with a Shot Gun start at 9.

This year the cost will be \$340 per team, and we are only accepting 24 teams. Paid teams will have priority so register early. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

place, Closest to the Pin and for all you hammers, Longest Drive for Men, seniors (over 65) and of course the ladies. Raffle prizes will be plentiful.

The American Legion is always trying to help our fellow Veterans. Again, this year we will be donating the proceeds to Platoon 22 of Frederick. Platoon 22 is best known for being Veteran Focused Transitional Services. Their mission is to end Veteran suicide through the successful reintegration of service members and their families by assembling critical resources, providing peer support, and developing transitional programs. Check out their website at www.platoon22.org.

If you are not a golfer but are still interested in participating to raise money for Platoon 22 there are several ways to sponsor.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Dry needling and acupuncture

Jefferson Breland

I have been asked about dry needling a number of times recently. It is a controversial subject in the acupuncture community. Rather than simply share my opinions with you, I thought, let me learn more about this practice performed by chiropractors and physical therapists and share it with you.

As the Emmitsburg News-Journal serves a readership in both Maryland and Pennsylvania, I will present the current training and practice guidelines for both dry needling and acupuncture in both states.

My goal today is to provide information to help you make informed choices. To achieve this goal, I will cite sources from healthcare organizations, state health agencies, as well as professional associations. I will reserve my opinion until the end of the article.

First off, what is dry needling?

According to the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) (the national professional certification organization),

“Dry needling’ is acupuncture. Acupuncture is the insertion of thin solid needles into anatomical locations to treat disease, injury, pain, or dysfunction, and to promote health and wellness. ‘Dry needling’ is a recently coined name for an acupuncture technique that involves the insertion of acupuncture needles directly into muscles and ‘trigger points’ for the relief of musculoskeletal pain.”

From the Cleveland Clinic website-my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treat-

ments/16542-dry-needling: “Dry needling isn’t the same as acupuncture. Both procedures involve penetrating your skin with needles. They use the same type of needles, but that’s where the similarities end.

Different providers with different training perform dry needling. Acupuncture is performed by licensed acupuncturists and based in Eastern medicine, while dry needling is based in Western medicine and evaluation of pain patterns, postures, faulty movement patterns and orthopaedic testing.

Acupuncture treats musculoskeletal pain but also treats other systems of your body. Dry needling treats muscle tissue with the goal of reducing pain, inactivating trigger points and improving movement. Typically, it’s used as part of a broader physical therapy approach that includes other physical therapy treatments.”

In the state of Maryland, the requirements for physical therapists and chiropractors are similar since chiropractors must have physical therapy privileges to perform dry needling so I have only listed the requirements for physical therapists:

Minimum Education and Training Necessary to Perform Dry Needling.

“A. In order to perform dry needling, a physical therapist shall have at least 80 total hours of instruction, which includes:

- (1) A total of at least 40 hours of instruction in the following dry needling-specific course content areas: (a) Theory and application of dry needling; (b) Dry needling technique, including spine and extremities; (c) Dry needling indications and con-

- traindications; (d) Infection control, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Bloodborne Pathogen Protocol, and safe handling of needles; (e) Emergency preparedness and response procedures related to complications associated with dry needling; and (f) Appropriate documentation of dry needling.

- (2) At least 40 hours of practical, hands-on instruction in the application and technique of dry needling, under the supervision of a licensed health care practitioner competent in dry needling procedures who has: (a) Completed the requisite course work under §A(1) of this regulation; and (b) Practiced dry needling for at least 5 years....

- (3) A physical therapist shall have practiced physical therapy for at least 2 years before performing dry needling in the State.... (edited for brevity)“

“Standards of Practice in Performing Dry Needling.

A physical therapist shall: (1) Fully explain dry needling to the patient in advance of treatment; and (2) Obtain written informed consent specific to dry needling that shall be included in the patient’s medical record.... (edited for brevity)

Dry needling is not within the scope of practice of limited physical therapy and shall only be performed by a licensed physical therapist.” www.health.maryland.gov/regs/Pages/10-38-12-Dry-Needling-(.aspx

According to my research, the education and hands-on training for dry needling vary from state to state which is to say there are no national standards. Maryland requires the most training of any of the jurisdictions where dry needling is allowed.

According to the website of the American Physical Therapy Association as of June 2023: “Law permits physical therapists to perform dry needling in 39 states and District of Columbia. Law prohibits physical therapists to perform dry needling in 4 states: California, Hawaii, New York, and Oregon. The law is silent on physical therapists performing dry needling in 7 states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania.”

If you live in Pennsylvania: “The State Board of Physical Therapy

would like to remind you that ‘Dry Needling’ is not currently within the scope of physical therapist practice... it is not legal to perform this procedure as a physical therapist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

According to the Maryland Acupuncture Practice the minimum requirements to obtain an acupuncture license are: “§ 1A-302. (Sections 1-2 removed for brevity): Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting one of the following standards for education or training:

- (i) Graduation from a course of training of at least 1,800 hours in acupuncture, including 300 clinical hours, that is: 1. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

2. Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or, 3. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

- (ii) Achievement of a: 1. Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or 2. Passing score on an examination that is determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the NCCAOM; (Edited for brevity)”.

For the purposes of acupuncture licensing requirements in Pennsylvania I will cite the minimum requirements from the NCCAOM certification which is mandatory for licensure in the state:

Complete a minimum of three years or 1,905 hours of postgraduate education, including a minimum of 660 hours of supervised clinical training.

Graduate with a Master’s degree or Professional Doctorate degree in Acupuncture or Oriental Medicine that is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). ACAOM is the only accreditation agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education.

Successfully pass three psychometrically validated NCCAOM National Board Examinations: Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, Biomedicine

Document completion of an NCCAOM approved course and

assessment in Clean Needle Technique.”

From the American Medical Association: “Our AMA recognizes dry needling as an invasive procedure and maintains that dry needling should only be performed by practitioners with standard training and familiarity with routine use of needles in their practice, such as licensed medical physicians and licensed acupuncturists.”

“The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation recognizes dry needling as an invasive procedure using acupuncture needles that has associated medical risks. Therefore, the AAPMR maintains that this procedure should only be performed by practitioners with standard training and familiarity with routine use of needles in their practice, such as licensed acupuncturists or licensed medical physicians.”

In my opinion, it is important to be one’s own advocate. As with any healthcare provider it is very important to make sure they have sufficient training to do what they say they can do. You have the right to ask to see their credentials.

You also have the right to make “Informed Consent.” You should know what you are agreeing to. Generally speaking, you have the right to decline any treatment offered to you. There are exceptions. This article from the National Institute of Health is helpful- www.apta.org/patient-care/interventions/dry-needling/laws-by-state.

For me, the primary difference between dry needling and acupuncture is two fold. Firstly, there is a whopping difference in the amount of training (dry needling- 80 hours vs. acupuncture- 1800 hours).

Secondly, dry needling only treats the physical symptom unlike acupuncture which is designed to treat the whole of you: body, mind, and spirit including the “root cause” of your symptoms. Acupuncture is not just the needles. It is also a philosophy of living which supports not just health, but quality of life. A qualified acupuncturist will help you reconnect to your natural healing ability and live life more fully.

If you would like to know more about how I help people please call me at 410-336-5876 or visit my website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org. Be well.

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Weight loss benefits and concerns

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

We are hearing so much these days about weight loss and the many ways to achieve the weight we are looking for. Some people can cut back on the kinds and amount of food they eat and loose weight. Others have a much harder time and seems no matter what they do the weight just won't come off. Talking to a doctor may be the answer and a safe way to achieve their goal.

No matter what method you choose to use to loose the weight you want to shed, being healthy is a must. Some diets cut out certain groups of food or incorporate certain groups of food and that can cause problems for your health.

Vitamins, minerals and nutrients we get in the food we eat is necessary for maintaining our health. When certain foods are removed from our daily diet we are also removing essen-

tial elements we need to keep our body functioning properly. This is when the concerns come into play with some of the diets out today. Not consuming the nutrients we need to live an energetic life can cause many problems down the road.

Depriving ourselves of healthy food can contribute to the development of issues like diabetes, heart problems and muscular and skeletal problems. Our body needs the proper amount and types of vitamins, minerals and nutrients to keep growing and being strong, especially as we age. Cutting back on the amount and types of food we eat can limit the amount of nutrition we are giving our body.

The benefits of loosing weight are important for many people. Carrying too much weight can put a strain on the knees, hips, heart, lungs and just about all parts of our body. The important thing to remember is to loose the weight in a way that is not counter produc-

tive. It can be a fine line between shedding the weight necessary to improve your mobility and ability to do the things you need and like to do. The thing to watch out for is not to eliminate the foods that give you the important daily diet we all need to live a healthy productive lifestyle.

While loosing weight can be a struggle for some, the important thing to remember is we are all different and are not all the same size. One persons healthy size is not the same as another persons. Find a comfortable weight that works for you and try to maintain it while still eating a healthy diet.

In today's world too many people are judging what a person looks like instead of being concerned with their health. Living the best life you can live is the best way to manage your weight. Don't compare yourself to anyone else. You are you and keeping yourself healthy is more important that trying to blend in



with the rest of the world. Once we realize that and don't put so much pressure on ourselves to be the perfect size life becomes a little easier when thinking about how we should feel about ourselves.

Remember to keep moving and eating healthy and the rest will all work out. I like to hear any ideas

or strategies that have worked for you. Please let me know and I will be glad to share them with others. Talking to people is the best way I have found to learn what has helped others and what may help you. You can share your ideas with me at 717-334-6009. I look forward to hearing from you.

Parents & newborn sleep

Lauren Heckhaus, PA
Frederick Primary Care
Associates-Walkersville

A topic that we tackle as family practice providers with every newborn parent is sleep - when do the parents get any? Here's our tips and tricks as well as advice when it comes to newborn sleep.

Day/Night confusion is typical for newborns. Your baby has been cozy in the womb for 9-10 months and they're in a big and scary world. For some babies this confusion may be more significant and in others more subtle. The question is what should you do as the parent?

There are 4 things to consider to help baby figure out when is play time versus sleep time - starting your day at a regular time, offering full feedings during the day, being intentional with your wake hours, and using light/dark to your advantage:

- When starting your day at a regular time, your baby is learning their external cues from you. This will create a routine for your baby, so that they begin to differentiate daytime versus night time. Getting up at the same reasonable time in the morning may seem hard after you've been up all night, but remember this is the cycle we are trying to change and it will pay off in the end.
- Encourage full feedings now during the day, as opposed to snacks. This will allow for the

baby to get the majority of needed calories during the day to help with growth and development, but it also may rouse them to be more awake during the day. Remember, babies have small stomachs, so you will still feed during the night about every 2-3 hours as well. Eventually as they grow this time will spread itself out.

- Be intentional with your baby's wake hours, which are short at first and then become longer. Noticing sleepy cues will help you establish a rhythm. At 0-4 weeks baby's wake window should be about 35-60 minutes and then gradually lengthen. At around 4-12 weeks, the wake window will be 60-90 minutes.
- Use light and dark to your advantage. Use daylight to encourage wakefulness - open your curtains, flip the lights on and spend time outside, if the weather permits. At night time, maintain a dark room and use the safest amount of low light during feeds and changing, whether that's a small night light or open blinds.

And of course let's also discuss safe sleep. The recommended position for your baby is on their back in a bassinet in the parent's room. This allows for easier night feeds as well. At around 4-6 months the baby can be transitioned to their own room in a crib. Swaddling is also encouraged but should be.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of April

Professor Wayne Wooten

For April 2024, the last quarter moon occurs on April 1st. It is a week until the best total solar eclipse of most of our lives with the new moon on April 8th. On April 6th, the moon passes just below Mars (on top) and Saturn in the dawn sky, a great photo opp. Then two days later, the moon's umbral shadow crosses the center of these United States for the last time in 21 years!

Having seen two totalities and one even more exciting broken annularity in May 1984, I assure you the three-four minutes of totality in the umbra is the greatest sky show you will ever see...so dark, cold, eerie, and with the chance to see a Comet as well as Venus (lower right) and Jupiter (upper left) of the eclipsed sun during the totality, which since the moon is closer and larger now than in August 2017, means this eclipse will last twice as long and give us a much darker sky.

If you are lucky enough to be in the umbra, remember that through out the partial phases, the bright photosphere is still partly visible, and safe viewers are mandatory! But once the moon completely covers the Sun, for those glorious minutes, whip off the glasses and enjoy the black disk of the moon in front of the sun, with red prominences all along its edge, and the glorious solar corona.

Of course, the partially eclipsed crescent sun (over half gone by maximum coverage around 2:30 locally) is also dramatic, especially if your telescope captures an erupting prominence on the cusp of the solar and lunar limbs. If past weeks are to be a judge, we expect large, complex sunspots to be rotating across the solar



On April 8th, a total eclipse will be visible across North America. During this eclipse, the moon will pass in front of the sun, causing the sun to be blocked entirely and creating a period of total darkness.

disk on April 8th, and they will help us track the progress of the Moon across the face of our star.

And what about that comet that might flare brightly enough to be seen in the sky of totality, between Jupiter and the Sun? Its name is Comet Pons-Brooks, and it has flare brightly in the last several months, and last week developed a tail that I photographed with my 50mm See Star digital telescope. By April it may become visible with the naked eyes below Jupiter in the western twilight. Check the www.spaceweather.com daily post for updates on its progress, and also more tips on capturing the eclipse and sharing your best shots in their gallery.

Because the moon will be about as close to Earth as it can get, and we are also near aphelion, most distant from the Sun, making it appear smaller, note how much broader the umbra will be in 21 years! Something to live for!

After this climax on April 8th, the month goes on. On March 11th,

the waning crescent passes just north of Jupiter in twilight, and reaches first quarter on April 15th. The Full Moon, the Worm Moon, will be on April 23rd, but the last quarter moon will wait until May 1st.

Mercury and Venus are too close to the Sun to observe, except during totality when Venus will be 15 degrees west of the Sun, and Mercury just above it. Mars overtakes slower moving, more distant Saturn in the dawn sky on April 11th, only the diameter of the moon apart, a striking view with the naked eyes and a fine photo opp. Jupiter also overtakes much smaller, more distant Uranus on April 20th. Here is the telescope view of the giant, his four moons, and Uranus.

Jupiter vanishes into the Sun's glare in early May, and Saturn and Mars are both in the dawn, so not a great month for telescopic observations on the planets. But Comet Pons-Brooks will be nice in binoculars, and perhaps visible low in the west with the naked eye, if it has another of the sev-

eral outbursts it has shown us in the last several months, but this is entirely unpredictable!

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the northwestern sky. 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. 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.

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. 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. At 8 light years, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see here.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle. Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star".

Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to

bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy, but now trapped by our Galaxy's gravity.

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again.

As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib"...so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity. There is indeed a rich harvest in Virgo, of galaxies. The supercluster that lies in the arms of Virgo has more than a thousand members visible in our telescopes, and actually gravitationally bonds our own Milky Way and Local Group of Galaxies to it.

Farmers' Almanac

*"God bless my bit of garden
And make its flowers grow
That it may give some pleasure
To all the folks I know"*
—John Gruber (1768–1857)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Showers, then turning seasonably warm and dry (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then very warm with showers and severe thunderstorms (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, then a quick round of gusty showers, falling temperatures and flurries (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry, sunny and much colder with a morning hard freeze (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); turning very warm with isolated afternoon showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and quite mild, then showers to end the month (26, 26, 28, 29, 30).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorms in the Mid-Atlantic Region (7, 8) and the possibility of a hard freeze (19, 20).

Full Moon: April's Full Moon occurs on April 23rd. Many Native American tribes referred to April's full moon as Pink Moon because of the many pretty flowers that begin to display their bright pink hues as they bloom through-

out the month. It also has been called Fish Moon because the fishing starts to improve as the weather warms up.

Special Notes: April Fool's Day falls on Monday, April 1st in 2024 (which also happens to be Easter Monday!). Watch out for practical jokes and pranks that may be coming your way from family, co-workers, and friends! Tax Day is Monday, April 15th. Earth Day is observed on Monday, April 22nd. Check out The Earth Day Network at www.earthday.net offers some interesting, fun, and easy activities that you and your family can do that will help promote a healthier relationship with our fragile Mother Earth! Arbor Day falls on Tuesday, April 30th. Go to www.arborday.org for more on The Arbor Day Foundation's mission, which focuses on helping others understand and use trees as a solution to the many global issues we face today that include air quality, water quality, a rapidly changing climate, deforestation, poverty, and hunger.

The Garden: A good test of "soil readiness" is to take a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it remains in a ball, it's too moist and should be allowed to dry further. If it crumbles, start planting! Set out

annuals and other perennials now. Cool season vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce. Water new plantings and blooming shrubs (such as azaleas & rhododendron) regularly. Don't forget to water plants under overhangs. Don't forget to do an all-points check on the old lawn mower. Sharpen or replace dull, worn blades, install new spark plug, clean or replace the air filter, and change the oil. Fill it up with gas and be sure to check the pull cord (if manual start) for any undue wear. Replace it immediately if frayed.

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (1, 2); weeding and stirring the soil (12, 13); planting above-ground crops (14, 15); harvesting all crops (26, 27); to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meats (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); transplanting (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 3, 14); harvesting and storing of grain (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7); weaning of animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

Gardens are for all ages: the young for hope of the future, the elderly for fond memories of the past, and for those in between, the rewards of a good life, now.

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COMPUTER Q&A

Internet scammers

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

Unfortunately, scammers are finding new and clever ways to trick unsuspecting users into providing access to sensitive personal information. The most common methods continue to be via emails, phone calls, and sometimes text messages. It can sometimes be difficult to determine which ones to take seriously and which ones to ignore. At Jester's Computer Services we hear of just about every new scam that comes along. Read on to learn a few tips to help you spot a few common scams, how to protect yourself and what to do if you do find yourself involved with one.

Amazon has become a frequent target – scammers know how many people use the retail giant and their using it to their advantage. The most common Amazon scams typically involve an emailed purchase confirmation for an item that you clearly did not purchase which will also be addressed to a physical delivery address that is not yours. This is an example of phishing and emails like these, as well as similar emails from Amazon (and other businesses and online retailers) that warn you of "fraudulent activity" or other account concerns should be investigated but with caution.

If you receive a notice for a purchase that you don't recognize or if you are ever asked to click a link including verifying your account security, pause and be on alert for the following indicators of a scammer. First, check the email address that the email is from, not just the name itself. Be sure to check on the full @xyz.com address and pay extra CLOSE attention for subtle misspellings. An email from Amazon or any other big organization is not going to be coming from a public domain like Gmail or Yahoo, they should come from amazon.com for example.

Second, if the email contains an attachment, you can almost bet it's a scam, definitely don't open any attachments! Third you can check the "reply-to" email address and ensure that it matches the 'From' address. If all three check out you can still visit the website in question directly rather than via any links within the email. If the notification is legitimate, you should be able to locate the notice from within your account on their website.

The same concept applies if you were to receive a phone call from Amazon or any other individual who calls that wishes for you to provide personal information including but not limited to; your address, date of birth, social security number or a code obtained from a website or software in order to provide remote access to your device. Instead hang up the phone, do not provide the caller with any information or engage in conversation with them.

If you are concerned that the call is potentially legitimate the caller should understand if you tell them that you will call them back at a more convenient time. Do not call the number back that called you or any phone number that the caller may have provided. Instead, find a verified phone number to reach the company by using a billing statement, by using a quality search engine such as Google or, by finding the contact information on their website. Even if a caller comes up with a legitimate name and or phone number, they could be a scammer.

Comcast users have been a huge target for scammers as of late. Their latest trick once they gain access to your email account via a compromised password, is to forward all of your emails to a new email address with the same username but a different domain, usually outlook.com. For example, if your email address was abc@comcast.net the email address the scammer would create to forward your emails to would be abc@outlook.com. In addition to doing this, the scammers are creating a filter rule, which redirects any new emails to your correct email address into the inbox and is deleted. As a user you may notice

that you stop receiving emails all together or you might notice that only your usual contacts aren't responding to your emails at all.

What the scammers are actually doing is emailing your contacts in an attempt to extort them for money. They don't do so in an obvious way. They might for example, request that the email recipient send a gift card to them as a favor since you're out of town and need to get a birthday gift for a family member. If you notice this happening to you change your email password right away and notify your contacts NOT to respond to the email. If they have already, ask them to change their password and inform them that they too should notify their contacts.

To be clear none of the above indicate that any security breach to your device has occurred unless you have given someone access to your device, clicked on a link or if you opened a malicious attachment. Anyone can access your email account from anywhere if they have the email address and password, as is the case in the Comcast scam mentioned above. Comcast users should also note that any emails received from a comcast.net email account are NEVER correspondence from Comcast themselves. All emails



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your device, advice or one-on-one support. Contact Jester's Computers located in Fairfield by calling 717-642-6611, emailing customer-service@jesterscomputers.com or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE ...

Chris Hyser (D)

I am a decorated retired Maryland State Trooper, medal of Valor recipient. After retiring I continued by serving our great nation with 7 tours in Iraq and 3 tours in Afghanistan as a military contractor, tasked with protecting our Generals throughout these war-torn nations. Upon returning to the US, I completed my master's degree in Chaplaincy. I now serve as a volunteer Chaplain at the Veterans Service center of Frederick, Family Rights for religious Freedom in Montgomery County and the Homelessness Task force for both Frederick City and Frederick County. I would

like to share my vision of district 6 as your next congressman.

Imagine a community where parents have the power to choose the education that best suits their children's needs, where the phrase "school choice" isn't just a buzzword but a reality. Picture a town where the brave men and women in blue are not just valued but supported wholeheartedly. This is the vision I bring to you tonight.

Now, let's delve into the heart of my commitment. Beyond my extensive background and commitment to community service, I stand for three core initiatives that will redefine the landscape

of District 6. First and foremost, I advocate for parental choice in education – empowering parents to decide what's best for their children's academic journey. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of having a say in your child's future.

Secondly, I am a staunch supporter of school choice. Every child deserves access to a quality education tailored to their unique needs. By championing school choice, we can ensure that our educational system meets the diverse needs of our students, preparing them for success in an ever-changing world.

And finally, let's talk about "Back the Blue." I've walked the thin blue line, and I understand

the sacrifices our law enforcement officers make to keep our communities safe. It's not just about supporting the police; it's about recognizing the vital role they play and providing them with the resources and backing they need to carry out their duties effectively.

District 6, our home, faces unique challenges and opportunities. From education to law enforcement, these issues directly impact our lives. It's not just about grand ideals; it's about addressing the real issues that matter to you, the residents of District 6.

Feel the passion in my words, not just as a candidate, but as a father who wants the best for his children, as a veteran police officer

who understands the importance of security, and as a community member who values the well-being of our neighbors.

Now, I invite you to be a part of this conversation. What are your thoughts on parental and school choice? How do you envision supporting our law enforcement officers? This isn't just my campaign; it's our campaign. Let's make it a dialogue, not just a monologue.

In conclusion, remember that the future of District 6 is in our hands. Together, let's build a community that values education, supports our law enforcement, and empowers parents. Visit my website, at www.chrishyserforcongress.com and look at my detailed action plan.

Adrian Petrus (D)

In a bid to champion democracy, environmental protection, and the defense of individual rights, Adrian Petrus has announced his candidacy for the United States Congress in Maryland's 6th District. With a profound commitment to ensuring fairness and equality for all, Petrus aims to address critical issues ranging from workplace discrimination to climate change and beyond.

Petrus's journey into politics stems from a personal experience of facing workplace discrimination and forced arbitration, witnessing collusion between unions and employers. Determined to eradicate such injustices, he

pledges to put an end to forced arbitration in the workplace and tackle workplace discrimination head-on. As a disabled US veteran, Petrus is particularly passionate about advocating for fellow veterans, striving to improve access to healthcare, disability services, and mental health support.

One of Petrus's key priorities is to enhance transportation infrastructure, connecting western Maryland, including Deep Creek Lake, to Washington, D.C., to stimulate economic growth and prosperity across the entire district. Recognizing the urgency of combating climate change, Petrus proposes a groundbreaking

solution: mining the moon for helium-3 to develop clean nuclear fusion reactors by 2030. This innovative approach not only promises to mitigate the impact of global warming but also propel technological advancement by centuries.

Petrus asserts that while the nation is projected to spend trillions combating climate change, harnessing helium-3 could achieve the same goal at a fraction of the cost, revolutionizing energy production and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, his platform resonates with a broad spectrum of voters, including independents and some Republicans in western Maryland, positioning him as the strongest Democratic candi-

date capable of winning the general election.

Addressing pressing local issues, Petrus emphasizes the need to combat the opioid epidemic plaguing the 6th District and advocate for homeowners' rights. He proposes policies to facilitate the removal of private mortgage insurance (PMI) based on home value or loan percentage, without penalizing homeowners for imperfect payment histories. Additionally, he advocates for foreclosure prevention measures to safeguard homeownership and promote financial stability.

Petrus advocates for equal access to education and healthcare, emphasizing the importance of affordable housing and comprehensive healthcare cov-

erage for all residents. With a vision for an inclusive and equitable society, he seeks to uplift marginalized communities and ensure equal rights and opportunities for every individual.

Adrian Petrus's candidacy for US Congress in Maryland's 6th District offers a bold and comprehensive vision for progress and prosperity. With a unique blend of experience, dedication, and innovative thinking, Petrus aims to lead the district towards a brighter future, grounded in principles of democracy, environmental stewardship, and social justice. As the only candidate capable of bridging partisan divides and securing victory in the general election, Petrus represents the best hope for meaningful change and progress in the 6th District and beyond.

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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE ...

Brenda Thiam (R)

We are seven weeks (and a few days) from Maryland's primary election day on Tuesday, May 14th. If you're planning to vote early, you can do so starting Thursday, May 2nd to Thursday, May 9th. I hope you are as excited as I am to cast your vote for our future political leaders who will represent us in various levels of government; local and federal. As you know, I'm running for U.S. Congress in Maryland's sixth district. The campaign trail has been exciting, and it has allowed me to meet and talk to so many wonderful citizens who live in the district.

I went door-knocking in Thurmont a couple of weeks ago and talked to several voters. The common thread when talking to voters has been very similar: the chaos at the border, the econ-

omy, and education for our school-aged children. These things are high on the radar and in the minds of voters because of the bad policies being pushed by the Biden-Harris administration. Policies should be written to achieve the greatest good possible with the least amount of harm to the public. As your representative when I'm elected, I will always seek good solutions to the problems we face in our district and the country. I will listen to you and partner with you to determine what policies are necessary for you and your families.

At the top of the three concerns among voters is the border. The mayhem at the border is at an all-time high. In fiscal year 2023, encounters at the southern border have increased by over 40% since fiscal year 2021.

Encounters at the northern border are worse. In September 2023, encounters increased by 409% compared to September 2021. These numbers are dangerous since known terrorists whose names are on watchlists have entered our country illegally. This should be alarming to every American citizen, Democrats and Republicans.

With the recent passing of the budget in the House, funding is allocated for twenty-two thousand more border agents. The passing of another 1 trillion dollars that is added to our country's deficit is an even greater travesty. We would not be in this crisis if President Biden had not proceeded in an overzealous manner to overturn all of President Trump's immigration policies. We need policies that will protect American citizens and do more good than harm. We need to return to the policy of migrants remaining in Mexico until the person's

asylum case is heard. Mexican authorities agreed with this decision with President Trump, and it worked to curtail migrants abusing the asylum system and avoid deportation and detention. The immigration system is badly broken and must be fixed expeditiously.

I will support policies to improve the immigration system that will help people legally become American citizens, but the system must be free from loopholes and those attempting to come must be vetted thoroughly. I support immigrants coming to America, but they must come to America legally and safely. My husband, who is from Guinea West Africa but is now a naturalized American citizen, legally came to America many years ago. He works hard every day to provide for our family. He often tells me and our daughter what a great country America is, and no other country grants such freedoms to its cit-

izens like America. We must remember we are blessed to be born in this country and to never take it for granted.

When I am elected to represent you in Congress, I will champion common-sense policies for our district and America. I will work alongside other Republicans and levelheaded Democrats to sponsor and support policies that will help us be a better country. I will not be a representative who will sit in my office and create policies that I think are good for you. I need your help to develop policies that will eventually become the law of the land. Join me in the work to get us across the first finish line (primary election), then we'll advance to go toe-to-toe with the Democrat nominee in the general election in November. With the help of the almighty God, we will be victorious in November and declared the winner. See you out on the campaign trail!

Lesley Lopez (D)

My boys have always seemed to have impeccable timing. My oldest was born only a few months after I was elected as a state delegate, and my second was born two weeks before the final year of that term. I've loved every minute of being their mom, but it certainly hasn't been easy. From trying to find a place to nurse while voting on legislation to trying to find affordable childcare, the obstacles have seemed insurmountable at times.

Any parent will tell you that having a child changes your life and having our two boys was no different. Being a mother also shapes the way I approach my job as a lawmaker.

After having his first child, a male col-

league confided in me that he had no idea how hard it was to find childcare, especially with the long and irregular hours of working in the state legislature. But parents in Frederick County certainly know. A recent report from the county government revealed the lack of childcare spots in north Frederick are at near crisis levels.

Many lawmakers are unaware of these struggles, but I know firsthand the juggling act of last-minute childcare arrangements and rushing home to tuck in kids after long days. Our family was lucky to simply find a daycare that could take our boys, even if the cost did eat up my entire legislative salary.

I'm sure every working parent knows

the feeling of being pulled in a thousand directions. But these common challenges shouldn't be the norm, and I've spent my years in Annapolis trying to make that the case.

Last year, I was proud to support paid family leave in Maryland, allowing parents and caretakers to be there for their loved ones, and to allow parents to take the time they need after the birth of their children. As President of Maryland's Women's Caucus, I fought to expand access to childcare, support the expansion of the child tax credit, and protect reproductive rights so women can make their own healthcare decisions.

My first bill that I ever passed made the penalty fine permanent when someone drives past a stopped school bus with its stop-sign out. In Annapolis, I even

lobbied leadership for a lactation room in the complex to support breastfeeding parents, whether they be elected officials, staff, or members of the public. Part of supporting working parents is ensuring every space- from the workplace to the halls of Congress- is accessible for parents.

If we want to support working moms, we need a Congress that includes them. Right now, less than 7% of members of Congress are moms of kids under 18. We need to change that. Our country is at a turning point and working moms, who are juggling jobs and the heavy responsibility of raising kids, need additional support. If we want Congress to take action to help working moms, we need representatives who know what's at stake. Who have lived or are living those same challenges.

As someone who has breastfed on the job while writing laws that affect millions of other women, I'm ready to take my experience to Congress and get to work on the big problems that families across the country are facing. My own ability to handle those challenges and tough calls has shaped me into the legislator and candidate I am today.

Moms have been leading the way on many issues: whether it be childcare, family leave, or gun violence prevention. And I am so proud that my boys are growing up seeing their mom take on the big challenges and not shying away from any fight.

They inspire me every day to keep working for a better future, and I am excited to show them what their mom can do in Congress.



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11 ANTRIM BOULEVARD TANEYTOWN

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Rain Date: Sunday, May 26



ALL SHOW CARS MUST BE "POWERED BY FORD"

JUDGING IS OPEN BY POPULAR VOTE WITH BALLOTING

OPEN TO REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS ONLY

REGISTRATION: 9 A.M. - NOON • AWARDS BALLOTING: NOON - 2 P.M.



**DASH PLAQUES
TO THE 1ST 100 ENTRIES**



- A: '64½ - '68 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- B: '69 - '73 MUSTANG- HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- C: '74 - '93 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- D: '94 - '04 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- E: '05 - PRESENT MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONV.
- F: MODIFIED MUSTANG
- G: SPECIAL INTEREST MUSTANG (COBRA, SALEEN, ROUSH, ETC)
- H: SPECIAL INTEREST "POWERED BY FORD"
- I: 1901-1959 FORD PRODUCTS
- J: 1960-1970 FORD PRODUCTS
- K: TRUCKS
- L: TRUCKS MODIFIED (2+ MODIFICATIONS)

- AA: AC COBRA
- BB: 1965 - 1966 SHELBY
- CC: 1967- 1968 SHELBY
- DD: 1969 - 1970 SHELBY
- EE: 2006 - 2009 SHELBY
- FF: 2010 - 2014 SHELBY
- GG: 2015 - PRESENT SHELBY (GT350 & GT350R)
- HH: 2020 - PRESENT SHELBY (GT500)
- II: 1969 - 1971 BOSS MUSTANG
- JJ: 1994 - PRESENT BOSS MUSTANG
- KK: REPRODUCTION (COBRA, GT40, ETC.)
- LL: FORD GT



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* SAAC GROUP MARYLAND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CLASS VEHICLES

CROUSE FORD SINCE 1941

11 Antrim Blvd, Taneytown
(410) 756-6655

Showroom Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am - 7pm
Saturday 9am - 3pm



**2024 Ford
Bronco Sport**

Weekly Specials at
CrouseFord.com