

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 2

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

FEBRUARY 2024

MYFAIRFIELD.NET • EMMITSBURG.NET • MYTHURMONT.NET • TANEYTOWN.NET

NEWS

Smart Parking Meters Tabled
Council nixes adding additional meters on replacing existing meters. **Page 2**

Carroll Valley Receives Greenway Grant
\$212,000 grant will be used to build 4,750-foot looping trail in Borough. **Page 3**

Thurmont Readies For Influx of Chicken
Town is ready to accept applications for those who would like to have backyard chickens. **Page 4**

Taneytown's Growth Challenged by Water Supply
Current growth rate can not continue unless supply is increased. **Page 5**

COMMENTARY

The Bulwark
Republican hypocrisy on Ukraine. **Page 10**

Words From Winterbitt
The news, our perceptions and beliefs. **Page 11**

ARTICLES

The Book of Days
The Resurrectionist. **Page 13**

Ecology
Maple Fest: a re-imagined twist on an old classic. **Page 14**

In The Country
The Catocin Christmas Bird Count. **Page 15**

Science Matters
Sex ratios and scientific research. **Page 16**

Gardening
Now is the time to start to think about starting seeds for your spring gardens. **Page 18**

History
The Contralto—A love story set in 1912 Emmitsburg. **Page 26**

Cooking
Recipes for a relaxing but flavorful Valentine's meal. **Page 32**

Four Years at The Mount
It's a Leap Year—what are you going to do with the extra day this year? **Page 34**

Complementary Corner
2024—The Year of the Dragon. **Page 42**

Former Taneytown Attorney calls out Mayor

The City of Taneytown is facing quite a conundrum. A vote on a proposed ordinance designed to clarify who the City Attorney reports to is on hold as the proposed ordinance must be reviewed by an attorney, but that has not been possible since Mayor Chris Miller single-handedly fired the City's attorney of 20 years in November.

One possible solution would be reinstating Attorney Jay Gullo, who claims Miller had no right to “make such a unilateral decision” and claims his action was “illegal.”

In a four-page letter dated Dec. 28, 2023, addressed to Miller, the City Council, and City Manager Jim Wieprecht, Gullo stated he foreshadowed his firing on Sept. 16, 2023, when he wrote what he referred to as a “whistleblower memo” to the Council reporting on the “questionable and undisclosed activities of the Mayor and City administration.”

“It is not my performance that is at issue, but as stated by Councilman (Christopher) Tillman during a meeting, my services

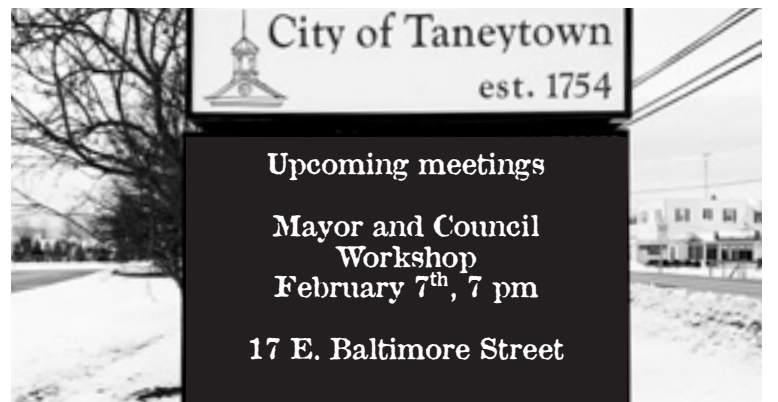
were terminated as an attack on the Council in retribution for my disclosure to the Council of the Mayor's inappropriate activities,” he wrote.

In November, Councilmember Judy Fuller reported that Gullo sent the Council a 29-page memo detailing questionable behaviors revolving around Miller before the Mayor chose to terminate him. Fuller did not specify any of the “questionable behaviors” allegedly cited in the memo.

Council members also disclosed at that meeting that Miller banned Gullo from speaking with them outside of public meetings. Miller said he believed Council members were abusing Gullo's position and there should be a cap on how much each Council member can contact the attorney for to save money. City legal bills are between \$5,000- \$7,000 a month, averaging between \$48,000- \$60,000 a year, Gullo said.

The Council also asked Gullo on Nov. 8 to investigate who leaked privileged information.

In September, a citizen filed



According to several residents, Taneytown's Council meetings are best watched with a bag of popcorn (sic).

a Public Information Act (PIA) request that included specific information only available to Council members and the Mayor, Gullo said. The attorney advised City Manager Jim Wieprecht to reject the request citing “discretionary privilege.” However, Wieprecht was directed to release the document to the requestor against the attorney's advice. In response to the release, which the Council considered unauthorized, the Council charged Gullo with the task of identifying who, besides Wieprecht, was involved in the release of the documents.

“The situation requires investigation,” Councilman James McCarron said, since “the Council cannot have deliberative email conversations about anything without knowing if it would be secure.”

Giving out privileged information is no different than opening the City's bank account and giving out money, Gullo said.

Four days after that November meeting, Miller axed Gullo on a Sunday night – a move Gullo claims is a breach of contract.

“In short, Mayor Miller does

continued on page 5

Strawberry Hill gears up for its first Maple Fest

Cold winter days practically call for hot off the griddle pancakes smothered in fresh, warm maple syrup for hearty weekend breakfasts. Partner these delicious pancakes with outdoor activities and you've got a morning full of fun for the whole family.

This year, Strawberry Hill is proud to announce our freshly reimagined Maple Fest, a new twist on our old classic Mount Hope Maple Madness on Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd and 3rd from 8 to noon. If you've been to Mount Hope Maple Madness in the past, you'll recognize some familiar activities such as our pancake and sausage breakfast. Fans of our previous celebrations can still expect crowd favorites such as a tree identification walk and a modern sugar processing station. And of course, an amazing time in the great outdoors. But overall, Maple Fest is so much more.

This year, Maple Fest will be an at-your-own-pace walking festival at Camp Eder similar to fall festivals in our area. A ticket grants you admission to the pancake breakfast and our full festival of interactive displays, demonstrations, and more. The entire festival layout includes a walk-through time, starting with our Native Ameri-

can station in which you can dive into the ancient history of maple sugaring and see a variety of genuine Native American artifacts and Native American-made replicas.

The pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to noon. Fans of the maple festival can still expect crowd favorites and an amazing time in the great outdoors.

Maple Madness is a seasonal community favorite that's been happening for over 27 years.

Contrary to popular belief, the first sign of spring is not the appearance of a robin but is noted as the running of sap through maple trees, and currently maple sugaring is kicking into high gear in this area. It's a process that goes back thousands of years and has a rich (no pun intended) history.

All ages are encouraged to experience this tradition brought to life by Strawberry Hill naturalists. Demonstrations will exhibit the tree tapping process, detail how trees are tapped, view sap-collecting methods past and present, and see the boiling process that produces delicious maple syrup.

The annual Maple Madness Festival began in 1997 as a small pancake breakfast to raise money for environmental education. Over the years Strawberry Hill has developed their maple-sugaring



Strawberry Hill Naturalists will be giving demonstrations on how to tap a Maple tree for its sap.

program and built a strong connection with Camp Eder and as a result, the pancake breakfast has grown into a festival that serves hundreds of visitors each day.

Strawberry Hill serves more than 6,000 school children annually, providing important hands-on learning experiences. They work hard to keep field trip fees low enough to be accessible by public schools, and fundraisers

like Mount Hope Maple Madness are a community-centered way toward that goal.

For more information about Strawberry Hill Foundation, as well as to purchase tickets in advance for Maple Fest, please call 717-642-5840 or visiting www.strawberryhill.org.

To learn more about this year's Maple Fest, see page 14.

Postal Customer

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gettysburg, PA
Permit No. 53

EMMITSBURG NEWS

Parking meter replacement approved

At its Jan. 8 meeting, the Town Council approved the replacement of current downtown parking meters with new smart parking meters on Main Street. However, the Council rejected a proposal to expand the number of parking meters on West Main Street, as well as installing meters in the pool parking lot.

Civic Smart Inc. of Gaithersburg was awarded the contract to replace the existing 125 coin only parking meters with meters that will accept coin, credit card and mobile pay applications.

While approving the replacement of the old meters, the Council rejected an associated proposal to increase the parking rate from 25 cents to 50 cents an hour, the proceeds of which Mayor Davis had hoped would help offset the cost of the purchase of the meters and their yearly operating cost.

The project will cost \$44,444, of which \$31K will be covered by a Community Facility Grant, with the Town picking up the remaining \$13K.

Currently, Emmitsburg's parking meters bring in roughly \$15K a year, according to Parking Officer Kadeem Brim, all of which goes to the Town.

With the new smart meters however, the Town will have to pay a yearly meter software license fee of approximately \$8,520. The Town will not have to pay a credit card processing charge fee if the Town utilizes Civic Smart's merchant processor.

Commissioners Valerie Turnquist argued against the project, stating the Town should know which meters currently bring in the bulk of the parking money before buying new meters.

The new meters are needed, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets, because the Town's existing coin meters are over 20 years old and some no longer work properly, and parts can no longer be found to repair them.

The effort will also 'de-clutter' Main Street by reducing the number of meter poles from 125 to 84 due to the ability to purchase 'double space meters', according to Willets.

The updated meters would be a convenience to drivers caught without change, said Willets. Town staff predicted fewer parking tickets and fines as a result.

Downtown parking and its difficulties, including locations, has been an ongoing debate and discussion topic for many years in Emmitsburg.

The long-proposed project to replace the existing coin only parking meters with smart meters has been discussed and tabled multiple times by the Council, citing the need for more information.

Downtown Emmitsburg business owners are reportedly in favor of the meter replacement and the increase in parking fees if the increased revenue would be put towards purchasing a vacant lot that could be used for parking, according to Mayor Frank Davis. However, public feedback was mixed on installing meters at the pool, but was decidedly against expanding additional meters down West Main St..

While some residents wished to see the parking meters removed from Town altogether, Davis said, the general opinion was for replacing the outdated meters but not too keen on extending the meters' locations.

Davis noted concern about the fact that only a small percentage of residents chose to voice their opinion on a matter that will affect the entire Town.

The commissioners thanked the residents who did chime in for voicing their opinions and encouraged them to continue to participate in discussion on public matters.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 543
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

301-471-3306

www.emmitsburg.com

Emmitsburg.net, Taneytown.net, Woodsboro.net
Mythurmont.net, Myfairfield.net, & Walkersville.net

Covering the news, events, history; and culture of the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Greenmont, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's, Zentz Mill, Taneytown and Thurmont. The Emmitsburg News Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

Senior Advisors:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation
Greg Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Managing Editor: Claire Doll - MSMU Class of 2024

Assistant Editor: Dolores Hans - MSMU Class of 2025

'Does It Make Sense' Editor: Katie Wherley

Special Assistant: McKenna Snow - MSMU Class of 2023

English Editor: Rachel Sheehan

News Reporters:

Emmitsburg - Andrea Grabenstein
Fairfield & Carroll Valley - Alex Hayes
Thurmont - Tara Hayes
Taneytown - Jamie Kahl

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, or by email to editor@emmitsburg.com.

Whiskey distillery sets sights on town

A representative from Catoctin Valley Distilling presented a plan to the Town's Planning Commission to build a whiskey distillery in the Town's East Industrial Park.

The Distillery will begin as a wholesale production location. They plan on having two warehouses; one for whiskey production and one for storage during the fermentation process, which takes approximately two years. Eventually they would like to have a taproom for sampling

of their product. The taproom would be large enough to serve a maximum of 50 guests and would not serve food.

Commissioner Valerie Turnquist, who serves as the Council's liaison to the Planning Commission, asked if the Town had enough water supply to handle a distillery. "I'm concerned because we hear reports of our water supply being low and businesses are spending a lot of money developing site plans with no guarantee of water

availability. Do we know how much water we can draw from our wells without running them dry?" asked Turnquist.

Town Planner Najila Ahsan said that there has been no study done to determine how much more water the Town can draw from wells, but by comparing current development and potential development, they can have an approximate guess. Once the distillery applicant provides a more detailed expected water usage figure, the Town will know

for sure if there is enough.

Ahsan assured Council members that, in her opinion, the Distillery won't exceed the Town's capacity to supply water to all the current users in Town. The Distillery representative said they expect to use 5,100 gallons of water a day and minimal sewer, however these numbers are not final.

The distillery owners are also planning to mount all their lighting directly on their buildings instead of traditional

posts. Approval of this would be dependent on whether there would be enough light produced to sufficiently light the parking lot, entryway and exits.

Town staff suggested conditional approval of the plan, saying the distillery would benefit the Town by offering employment opportunities to residents as well as add to the Town's tax base. The Planning Commission concurred with the staff's recommendation, resulting that the project will not yet go into the formal planning & permitting process.

Second cable company franchise approved

The Town Council approved, in a four to one vote, entering into a cable franchise agreement with Glo Fiber, a fiber optic internet company owned by the telecommunications company Shentel. Residents will have access to Shentel's broadband services, including cable, internet and phone services. Commissioner Jim Hoover cast

the single dissenting vote.

The agreement allows Shentel to run its fiber optic cables along the Town's public rights-of-way. Previously, only Comcast provided high-speed wired connections within Town, but their contract is nonexclusive, which means the Town can search around for better pricing and services without penalties.

All customers of the new service will be charged a five percent 'town franchise fee' on their total monthly bill, which Shentel will give to Emmitsburg in return for use of its rights-of-way.

The Town's contract with Shentel allows for adjustments to the franchise fee in the event the FCC changes the maximum amount a company can charge from the current five percent. Shentel will be required to match the new upper franchise fee limit, which would ensure the Town is compensated fairly for the use of its rights-of-way.

However, the contract also contains a clause that the Town cannot compel Shentel to pay a higher franchise fee than any other cable operator providing service within the Town.

Hoover cited this clause as the basis for his 'nay' vote, telling his fellow Council members he "did not want to be locked into

language that would prevent the town from potentially charging more."

Comcast's 15-year agreement, which was put in place in 2011, does not allow the Town to require Comcast to charge the maximum allowable 'town franchise fee.'

"If we don't give ourselves the option to allow a higher 'town franchise fee' in the Shentel agreement, we will not be able to put it into the Comcast agreement when it comes up for re-negotiation in a few years," Hoover said.

Facing an incumbent like Comcast, Shentel representative Kirk Costco claimed that the language asked to strike would give Shentel an unfair, competitive disadvantage, as it would be asking Shentel to charge residents more through the franchise fee than Comcast does, thus making the bill higher.

"For us to come in and charge more than Comcast really pre-

vents customers from wanting to switch," he said. "These are the kind of things that have always been barriers to competition in the past," he said.

New to the Shentel agreement and not in the Town's current Comcast agreement is the agreement that the Town has the ability to come in and stop project work if not performed adequately. Shentel also agreed to provide installation of an outlet for both Emmitsburg elementary and Mother Seton schools.

Shentel currently has cable franchise agreements with the City of Frederick, Middletown, and has recently signed with Thurmont.

Costco said he expects to have Glo Fiber's fiber optic network up and running within a year. The lowest price for internet service is approximately \$65 a month for 600 megabits/second. For television streaming packages, the least expensive package costs \$49 a month. An unlimited calling plan costs \$20 a month.



A reflection of quality

A Proud Sponsor Of

The Emmitsburg News-Journal

www.emmitsburgglass.com 301-447-2245

FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Liberty leadership remains unchanged

At its Jan 2nd meeting Liberty Township re-appointed its existing leadership to their existing roles. Supervisor Walter “Mickey” Barlow was reappointed Chairman with Bobby Keilhotz reappointed Vice Chairman.

The Board of Supervisors are elected governmental body officials responsible for overseeing municipal government. Supervisors are tasked with ensuring public services are provided while maintaining fiscal accountability. The Chairman leads discussion for board consideration and the Vice Chair holds responsibility in the absence of the Chairman.

John Lisko will continue as township solicitor, providing legal advice

to the township. Township engineer and sewer enforcement officer was reapproved as KPI Technology Inc., and the township’s zoning officer remains PA Municipal Code Alliance.

Smith Elliott Kearns & Company LLC was again approved as the township’s certified public accountant (CPA) to perform the upcoming yearly audit. The supervisors also approved five more hours to the township secretary’s assistant in January to help perform the audit report.

Barlow was also reappointed Township Roadmaster, tasked with duties pertaining to local municipal roads, including duties such as snow and debris removal, overseeing equipment, and road program strategizing.

Barlow’s reappointment coincided with a discussion about how much Liberty Township’s Roadmaster should be paid has entered a second year.

Discussion about how much Liberty Township’s Roadmaster should be paid has entered a second year.

In early 2023, the Liberty Township Board of Auditors set Roadmaster Walter “Mickey” Barlow’s hourly rate at \$23.10. The auditors set the rate because Barlow is a township supervisor. The auditors also set Assistant Roadmaster Bobby Keilhotz’s hourly wage at \$23.10.

Keilhotz argued Barlow should be paid more than he because Barlow is responsible for the department’s operations. Keilhotz added,

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

During their 2024 reorganization meeting in January, the auditors expressed interest in increasing Barlow’s pay but said they needed

more information to make an informed decision. Auditor Richard Swiat requested a complete review of Barlow’s accomplishments and proof of certifications. Auditor Chair Katie Bostek said she would also like to see pay rates for Roadmasters in neighboring municipalities. Auditor Vincent Gee agreed with his colleagues but stressed Barlow deserves a raise.

“Mr. Barlow is the Roadmaster and anybody under him should not be making the same,” Gee said.

Bostek said she would call another auditors’ meeting this year to settle the matter.

Other than the potential for Barlow to receive a raise, Liberty Township entered 2024 by conducting business as usual.

Borough receives \$212,000 Greenways grant

At the Borough Council’s first business meeting of the year, Hazlett announced the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development awarded the borough a \$212,000 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant to construct a 4,750 linear-foot looping trail. The project site is between Deer Trail to the north, Fairfield Road to the east, Skylark Trail to the south, and Veronica Trail to the west.

Hazlett said the trail will complement existing recreational facilities, including Carroll Commons, Ranch Trail Commons, Lake Kay Mini-Park, Ski Liberty, and three

lakes open to the public for passive recreation and fishing.

Hazlett thanked Rep. Dan Moul, R-91, for his support of the borough’s application. He stressed the project’s goal is to increase public access to a “beautiful area.” A sketch plan for the trail shows a small parking lot on Skylark Trail and two stream crossings.

“This should be minimal effect environmentally,” he said.

“On behalf of the borough, we would like to thank Rep. Moul for his support of this important community project. It furthers the borough’s desire to preserve the land around the tributary while providing additional recreational

space for the residents – something we know has always been important to the community.” Carroll Valley Borough Council President Richard Mathews said.

Hazlett invites citizens who wish to offer input into the trail’s construction to email him at manager@carrollvalley.org.

The trail is one of two major recreation projects the borough plans to begin in 2024. The council unanimously appointed a nine-person committee to recommend plans for a 50-acre borough-owned lot along Route 16, near Frontier Bar BQ. James Detwiler, David Drees, Jessica Kraft, Rob Meier, Jesse Phil-

lips, Tom Pottiger, Theodore Sayres, Christopher Warden, and Heather Wight were named to the committee. Hazlett said 21 people applied for the nine openings. He will ask the other 12 to consider serving on the trail committee.

Hazlett said previously possibilities for the lot are endless. He added the Fairfield area is in dire need of an indoor recreation facility that serves people of all ages.

Police Update

Hazlett was not the only borough official to share good news with council. Police Chief Cliff Weikert announced he is seeing

some reprieve from longtime staffing struggles.

At Weikert’s recommendation, the Council unanimously approved Officer Jonathan Anderson’s hiring. Anderson graduated from the police academy in November and is moving to the area from Williamsport. He will be paid \$70,000 annually with a \$5,000 pay increase the first two years of employment. Additionally, he will receive a \$5,000 signing bonus to cover relocation costs.

Weikert also told the Council Officer Seth Anderson successfully completed his one-year probation period. Weikert and councilmembers commended Anderson for his professionalism.

Hamiltonban Board reorganizes

At the reorganization portion of the Board of Supervisors meeting, Edward Deardorff and Doug Woerner were reappointed Supervisor Chairman and Vice Chair respectively. Nina Garretson was reappointed township secretary/treasurer, CDL coordinator and right-to-know officer.

Supervisor Coleen Reamer was appointed Township Safety Officer as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Coordinator. Woerner was appointed the alternative to those positions.

Supervisors were also appointed delegates and alternatives to the various committees.

Reamer was named representative to the Adams County Council of Government. Supervisor Ryan Picarelli was appointed as representative to the Adams County Tax Collection Committee with LuAnn Dille serving as secretary to the committee.

Deardorff will serve as Planning Commission Liaison as well as representative to the Ag Security Council. Newly elected supervisor Ed Spence was appointed delegate to the Adams Tax Bureau with Picarelli as an alternative.

Township traffic engineer McMahn Transportation Engi-

neers and Planners is now a part of Bowman, but still has a representative of Jodie Evans, according to Garretson.

Reamer and Picarelli were appointed delegates to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Annual Educational Conference.

Board Hears

Fire Service Updates

Cashtown Community Fire Department Fire Chief Jeff Bowling presented updates regarding county wide fire box cards to the Hamiltonban Board of Supervisors on January 2.

Adams County is looking to go live with a new computer-aided dispatch network system in May and has taken the opportunity to adopt standardization protocol for emergency fire department responses across the county, according to Bowling.

Fire box cards map out locations and determine which Department responds to a ‘first due’ area and what departments will follow up with additional resources.

Fire departments have then been working to make minor changes to ensure all residences are receiving the closest responding departments.

The hope is the upgraded lay-

out system will improve logistics and response times for both First

Responders and backup/relief operators.

Four fire departments service Hamiltonban Township: Cash-

town, Fairfield Fire and EMS, Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department, and South Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

We’re Back!

First Friday

B I N G O

Friday, February 2

Bring your friends for a fun filled night

DOORS OPEN @ 5:30 p.m.

EARLY BIRD STARTS @ 6:50 p.m. ■ BINGO STARTS @ 7 p.m.

Food Available

Kitchen open before bingo and at 1/2 time!



Fairfield Fire & EMS

106 Steelman St., Fairfield

717-842-8842

FB: Fairfield Fire & EMS ■ fairfieldfireandems.com

THURMONT NEWS

Town raises water and sewer connection fees

The Town Council voted 4-1 to raise water and sewer connection fees, nearly doubling the fees, effective December 6. The fees had previously been approved in October but the ordinance was reintroduced after changes in the Town Council.

The new water connection fees, will increase to \$4,145 up from \$2,500. The new sewer connection fee is now \$5,065, up from \$2,500. According to Town Manager Jim Humerick, the average household uses 250 gallons of water per day.

The Council originally introduced this ordinance at the October 24 meeting, which was approved 5-0 by the

then-Board of Commissioners but did not include projects already in the preliminary planning phase. Mayor John Kinnaird reintroduced the ordinance at the November 7 meeting after Commissioners Marty Burns and Bob Lookingbill were inducted to the Board so that the new commissioners could review the new ordinance.

The ordinance discussion was reopened at Lookingbill's request at the November 7 meeting. He disagreed that these businesses needed the notice because other costs in business and life frequently change day-to-day without notice. "I go to the grocery store today and some-

thing costs \$5; I go back next week and it's \$6," Lookingbill said. "They don't tell me in advance that things are going up. That's just the way it is. If you want it, you pay."

Lookingbill was also concerned about projects that stop midway due to financial issues or any other reason. The mayor confirmed that under the October 24 ordinance, these projects would not be able to use the previous water and sewer connection fees.

At the December 5 meeting, the Council discussed a second version of the ordinance that added language about projects already in motion. The Town currently has five projects

in the preliminary planning phase, according to Humerick.

This second version would have allowed projects to use the previous sewer and water connection fees for up to four years. Preliminary site plans expire after two years but the Planning and Zoning Commission can grant up to two extensions, up to one year each. "They could have four years or longer and lock us into the previous rate," Burns said.

The Council considered allowing an exception for preliminary site plans that are further along, but all five are around the same stage according to Humerick.

Lookingbill initially pushed for the immediate hike, despite his hesitation regarding the fees' impact on the bank project. He said he would have preferred a subtle increase in increments over the years but that didn't seem possible at present.

Humerick said that he thought the reason the Town did not increase the connection and impact fees in increments over the past 10 to 15 years is because of a lack of development in recent years. "Now that we're moving through the development process on a lot of these projects, I'm sure if we would've been looking at it more frequently, as we are now, we probably would've made that recommendation—but, out of sight, out of mind," he said.

Deadline for backyard chickens registration set

After adopting a backyard chicken ordinance in October, Thurmont is now accepting applications for residents with existing flocks and those who would like to start raising backyard chickens to register their flocks.

The new ordinance, which went into effect Oct. 24, restricts residents to six chickens and bans roosters. Residents who owned more than six chickens or have roosters prior to the ordinance taking effect can register their flock to "age out" of the regulations.

Residents should register their

chickens before March 1, when enforcement will go into effect. While there may be a grace period, Town Code Enforcement Officer Kristi Wood said "If [residents] don't register and they have more than six chickens or they have a rooster, and I'm notified, they're going to have to remove the chickens or rooster," Wood said. She explained later that registering roosters is especially important as that is "the only complaint [she] gets."

In order to get the forms to register new or existing backyard chickens, residents can contact Wood at 301-271-0905, extension 105 or by email at

KWood@FrederickCountyMD.gov. Residents will still need to register with the State of Maryland, which Wood will include when sending the forms for Thurmont.

The new regulations require residents to be living in a single-family detached dwelling unit in order to own chickens. The ordinance would also require the residential lot to be at least 2,500 square feet.

Any chicken coops or runs must be a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. With a four-foot fence surrounding the backyard or the area of the backyard in which the chickens

are kept, residents are not required to confine the chickens to their run. If the area is not enclosed by a fence at least four feet high, run itself must be four-feet high or covered. Without an enclosed area, residents are required to confine the chickens to the run.

The chicken coop must be predator-resistant and follow the same guidelines as the run. The coop must be at least four square feet but no more than ten square feet per chicken. It also may not be more than six feet high.

The ordinance does not apply to those raising chickens for agricultural purposes or own chickens for educa-

tional, commercial or industrial purposes. The regulations would cover resident backyard chickens for personal-use only, prohibiting slaughter or selling eggs or meat from the chickens. Residents are allowed and encouraged by the town to take advantage of the eggs themselves, in addition to the chickens' companionship.

Thurmont now joins Woodsboro and Carroll Valley in officially allowing chickens within town limits. Walkersville and Taneytown are in the process of formalizing ordinances to allow residents in those towns to own chickens.

Town votes to apply for grant to fund substation

The Town Council voted to submit an application for a Maryland Government Infrastructure Fund 2024 Series A Bond to fund work on the Moser Road Substation and additional depart-

mental upgrades. The Town will also search for other grants.

The Town will request \$4 million to cover the Moser Road Substation, estimated to cost \$2.425 million; Catocin

Heights feeders, estimated at \$1.1 million; and \$348,000 for a new bucket truck. The total of the three projects reaches \$3.8 million.

"We put a little extra on there so that if something increases by \$100,000, we're not totally shocked by it," Mayor John Kinnaird said. "We're realizing up front that there can be cost increases between now and when we do the project."

Electric Engineer Jay Waller from Preston Waller & Associates presented the same information from the August 15 meeting for the Moser Road Substation project, where the total quote remained \$2,425,000. The quote includes labor, engineering, all parts and materials, contingencies, etc.

Waller broke the project into two parts: the substation/controls scope and the transformer scope. Under the former, they will replace breakers and disconnect switches and install a

new computerized control system for an estimated \$1,250,000. The transformer scope covers work to refurbish the outside of the transformers, estimated to reach \$1,175,000.

Each transformer will take about 6-8 weeks to repair, according to Waller's rough estimate. The crew is only able to work on one transformer at a time and Waller suggested doing the repairs outside of peak hours to reduce any further disruption. If something should happen to the transformers during the repairs, Waller expects the Main Street Substation to be able to take over its electric load.

The Catocin Heights Feeder project would separate the subdivision and high school so that they are on two different feeder power lines. "Right now, there's only one; if something were to happen, that whole side of 15 would be out of power," Electric Utility Director Tyler Hubbard said.

The project consists of installing an underground wire to the subdivision, which was started in 2018. Completing the project means making the final connections to the transformer and then making any necessary reconfigurations.

In looking into the cost of a new custom configured bucket truck, town staff told the Council that instead of waiting for a truck to be configured specifically for the town, there were premade options that were immediately available and cost less. However, since the prices on the options the town needs have a large range, they used the cost of a new custom configured truck to ensure the cost was covered.

The current truck, from 1997, no longer passes inspection because the fiberglass loom doesn't provide enough insulation to protect against electrical currents. "Without this truck, we can't do our job," staff said.

Tracy's TNT Tag 'n Title
 36 Frederick Rd., Thurmont
 301-271-2617



Immediate tags, stickers, temp tags, tag returns ...and MORE!!
 Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Tues. & Thurs., - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. - Call set up appointment

 <p>HENDRICK'S GIN Flora Adora & Neptuna 750 ML Available</p>	 <p>SCOTTY'S — handcrafted — VODKA 750 ML or 1.75 L Available</p>	 <p>WHISTLEPIG PIGGYBACK BOURBON 750 ML Available</p>	 <p>REYKA VODKA 750 ML Available</p>
 <p>Captain Morgan CHERRY VANILLA 750 ML Available</p>	 <p>JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL 750 ML & 1.75 L</p>	 <p>Surfside Iced Tea & Vodka Peach Tea & Vodka Lemonade & Vodka 4 Paks & 8 Paks Half Tea, Half Lemonade & Vodka</p>	 <p>Crown Royal SALTED Caramel 750 ML Available</p>
 <p>Rain 750 ML Available VODKA</p>	 <p>Paul's Pit Stop DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262 Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p>SUNNYD VODKA SELTZER Variety 8 PAK Available</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

Future growth challenged by water supply

At the City's Mayor and Council workshop, Councilman Chris Tillman brought to light the limited capacity of the Town's water supply and the large number of potential development projects that are in the pipeline. Tillman questioned if the City would have the water supply to continue going forward with not only the developments on the books, but developments on the horizon, such as Sewell's Farm.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht reminded the Council that water use is discussed extensively during the Preliminary Plan stage of any development—specifically how

much water and sewer service would be needed per house and how much is actually available.

As of December of 2023, the City has 42,085 gallons per day of water available for new homes; however, several thousand gallons of the available water is expected to be needed for development projects in the works such as the 50-unit Garnet Ridge development and the Evapco expansion.

Wieprecht noted that the Mountain Brook development—a 454-home development, which at this time, has not presented its finished Preliminary Plan. Based upon what is presented to the planning commis-

sion, something may have to be done to increase the City's water supply.

When asked how the City would increase the supply of water to accommodate future growth, Wieprecht explained that Well 17 on Sells Mill Road is capable of providing more water than it currently is. In order to increase the permitted allocation for that well, the City will need to acquire water recharge easements on acreage within the same aquifer. However, he said, even that well has its limits, and that if the City is going to continue to grow, the City will need to add new wells and recharge easements

on land within the well's aquifer.

Once recharge easements and eventually new wells are added and connected to the City's water system, the City would need to revisit their water benefit assessment fees. Doing so would help recover the costs of providing the new water supplies. Essentially the Town would be 'forward funding,' where the City pays for the easements, construction of the wells and pump houses and connecting pipes up front and is reimbursed for the cost through fees paid on home construction as they are connected to the water system. This is currently including a Water Ben-

efit Assessment fee of \$5,110 and Sewer Benefit Assessment fee of \$7,790 for each new home.

Water and sewer rates that pay for the day-to-day operation of the existing City water and sewer system will remain stable through the remainder of the City's fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The cost of 1,000 gallons of water use is \$7.25 and sewer fees is \$14.24 per 1,000 gallons.

Taneytown is not the only municipality keeping a weary eye on its water supply. An application for a new brewery in Emmitsburg drew concerns when it was revealed that it would use over 5,000 gallons of water a day, equivalent to 20 new homes.

Former Taneytown Attorney calls out Mayor

continued from page 5

not have the statutory authority to make such a unilateral decision and by doing so has breached our agreement to provide professional services, thereby causing damages - not only to me, but the administration and the citizens of Taneytown," Gullo wrote.

Miller contends department heads serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. Gullo agrees, except he argues he was never a department head. Chapter 11 of the City Code lists departments as general administration, finance, economic development, water, sewer, streets, police, planning and zoning, parks, recreation, and code enforcement.

During the December meeting, Wieprecht said the attorney could be viewed as the head of the legal department. Citing the City charter, Gullo claims no such department exists and refers to the claims as "smoke and mirrors."

"Obviously, there is no mention of City Attorney or the fictitious 'legal department' anywhere," Gullo wrote. "Although the current Mayor likes to believe he has the authority to do most anything in the City as the Chief Executive Officer, he does not have the authority to create departments at his whim, nor treat the City attorney 'like a department head' just to suit his purposes."

To further illustrate his point, Gullo referred to Section C-401 of the City Charter which states the

City Council has the authority to create or abolish offices, departments, or agencies other than those established in the charter.

"Accordingly, it is quite obvious that the City Council has the sole authority to create departments and department heads for the City, and has not done so in the case of the City attorney or the fake 'legal department,'" Gullo wrote. "It should be crystal clear that as the City attorney, I was not an employee of the City, as I did not receive City health insurance benefits, sick and vacation leave, cost of living adjustments, FICA withholdings, nor the protections contained in the City Employee Manual."

Gullo wrote that his services are provided under a contract established between him and the City more than 20 years ago. The contract, Gullo wrote, was approved by the Mayor and the City Council, so the termination of the relationship would also require approval of the Mayor and City Council. Since Miller acted alone in Gullo's firing, it may be invalid.

"The Mayor alone cannot terminate, cancel, or otherwise void a valid contract of the City," Gullo wrote.

Gullo also referenced a second contract the City awarded him to recover funds for the water contamination in the City's wells. That contract, he wrote, included a contingency that Gullo would only get paid if he was successful in the endeavor. He claims to have spent "countless hours of unbilled effort" to retain a recovery and that a partial settlement agreement has been reached.

"Accordingly, by the Mayor illegally terminating my services, the City has breached all of its contracts with me causing damages, not only of loss revenue for services I have been engaged to provide but also for the fees attributable to the recovery made in the pending PFSA litigation," he wrote.

While Gullo classified Miller's misinterpretation of the law as predictable, he did admit he was shocked by what he claims are inappropriate and inaccurate public statements concerning his personal life. Repeatedly, Miller has claimed

Gullo lives in Florida and has been unavailable to the City.

"Aside from these claims being completely false, my personal life, where and how I spend my time, and my business practices are not subject for public discourse," he wrote. "The Mayor should not be making such statements or should be discouraging the spread of such falsehoods instead of stoking the fires on social media, and, along with every Councilperson and City official, correcting the erroneous statements when made."

Next steps

Gullo's letter was dated Dec. 28 but it barely got a public mention at the Mayor and City Council Workshop on Jan. 4 or the Mayor and City Council Meeting on Jan. 8. Fuller attempted to read it, but was dissuaded from doing so.

One option, as suggested by Gullo, is to initiate a dialogue with the former attorney.

"It is difficult to see a path forward given the damage this breach and

ensuing conduct has caused; however, before the City exacerbates this breach by contracting with a new counsel, I am open to a positive resolution and would be happy to discuss it further," Gullo wrote.

Miller has rebuffed such a suggestion from Council members. During his State of the City Address on Jan. 8, Miller claimed a lack of an attorney is not hindering the City's operations.

"We have ways in which we can receive legal advice regardless of whether we have a City attorney or not. We plan to proceed to move things forward," he said. "The City is not at a standstill, the City is moving faster than ever before and I expect that to continue in 2024."

With that, he gaveled the 21-minute meeting to a close. No ordinance was passed since legal review was not possible and Miller did not share any plans to fill the vacant attorney position.

Former Taneytown Attorney Jay Gullo's full letter to the Town Council can be read on www.taneytown.net.

Taxes made easy. Put the hassle & stress on us.

BOUNDS 410-756-6305

Accounting & Tax Services, LLC

441 E. Baltimore St., Taneytown

- 30+ Years of CPA Experience
- Local Company, Big City Experience
- Affordable Pricing

Bounds offers a wide range of financial services:
 Income Tax Preparation ~ Business & Personal Accounting
 Business Planning & Consulting ~ Financial Planning
 QuickBooks Consulting ~ Estate Planning ~ Payroll

www.boundsaccounting.com

"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"

FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

For as long as I can remember, one of the defining debates between political parties in the U.S. has been big government versus small government. Democrats consistently advocate for programs that will lift up those who are in the shadows, while Republicans preach about the need to cut essential government programs and let the private sector provide the programs we need. What's been missing has been a persistent argument in favor of efficient and effective programs to help everyone.

As a progressive Democrat, I believe in the power of government to change lives. I believe in it because I've seen how bold, long-term thinking and historic investments impacted my own life. It was the government that invested in the power grid that gave my family farm electricity when I was young. Government provided the school system that gave me an education that pre-

pared me for college and for life. It was government investments in the roadways that allowed me to put myself through school brokering eggs. And the federal government that backed the student loans that allowed me to complete my graduate degree. Mine is only one of tens of millions of lives changed for the good by programs like these.

But even those who support these programs must acknowledge the simple truth that our government is inefficient. Too often, bureaucracy and red tape get in the way of our ability to make these investments as meaningful and impactful as they can and should be. Washington is broken. Our system is inefficient. And corporations and special interests put their fingers on the scales, preventing us from changing the status quo.

That's why I ran for public office in the first place: we need more leaders with the courage and the

experience to make a difference.

Reducing inefficiencies in government will lead to better outcomes in the areas that require the most attention. First and foremost, we'll be able to devote more time and resources to our education system. The single greatest investment that we can make is in our students and educators — ensuring that our children and grandchildren have the best opportunities to succeed.

Unfortunately, our schools, educators, and students haven't been given the attention — and the resources — that they deserve. Educators are overworked and underpaid. Students needing the most help don't have access to the resources that ensure their success. And our school infrastructure is crumbling and insufficient.

The same is true of our public transportation and infrastructure. Roads and bridges, including here in Frederick, are falling apart after decades of use and disrepair. Our

public transportation is woefully inadequate when compared with other developed nations, placing an outsized burden on low-income families trying to make ends meet.

There are proposals out there that would make progress on these issues. We can fully fund IDEA at the federal level, providing millions of dollars of support to students with special needs. We can take the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and apply it on the national level, making a once-in-a-generation investment in our schools. We can usher in a new generation of public transportation like Maglev, and expand existing systems like rapid bus transit, MARC Rail, and Amtrak. And we can ensure that our infrastructure is maintained to keep up with demand.

Unfortunately, there is something that gets in the way of these ideas, and consistently stops progress in its tracks: the pervasive influence of corporations and special interests. I am not confident that any of this can be achieved if

we don't slam the door on special interests and put public service over politics.

If elected to the Senate, I'll be the only Senator who doesn't take contributions from PACs and lobbyists. Of the \$1.3 billion given to politicians from special interests last cycle, not a nickel of it went to me. If elected, I'll work to ban these contributions outright — and I'll also ban politicians from ever serving as lobbyists after they leave office.

My background in business taught me that to achieve big things, you need to think long-term. You must reject the status quo. And you must propose bold ideas to make progress. Too often, politicians focus on their next election and not the needs of those they represent. They answer the calls of the lobbyists and not their constituents. And this leads to an inefficient government that ignores the will of the people. We can do better. And with your help, I'll fight to make it happen.

County Council President Brad Young

It is that time of the year when the county needs to adopt a

budget for the next fiscal year. Section 503 of the Frederick County

Charter titled, Preparation of the County Budget, states, "Not later than April 15 of each year, the County Executive shall prepare and submit a proposed budget to the County council for the ensuing fiscal year."

Article 5 of the County Charter then goes further in explaining the annual county process for the budget and the County Council's role in that process. We ultimately have to approve the final budget.

The County Council has set the fiscal year 2025 budget public hearing for Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. in Winchester Hall. This is your opportunity to come in person and state your budget priorities.

Adoption of the annual County budget is one of the most important actions that the County Council take. This budget document is the County's fiscal and action for the entire year. The County Executive submits a proposed budget on her spending priorities and the Council then weighs in on where to

appropriate or spend the money.

This is your money. As the taxpayers of the County, you are the bosses of both the County Executive and the County Council. We are stewards of your money, and our spending priorities should also be your spending priorities.

It is imperative that you attend, call, write or email the elected leadership of Frederick County to make your concerns heard on how and where your tax dollars are spent! We do want to hear from you.

The County Executive will also hold a public town hall sometime in March to hear from residents on what items you all deem necessary and worthy of funding. The Executive will then finalize the budget and submit to the County for our consideration. We will have our public hearing on the budget then on April 23rd as I mentioned. We will then hold several budget workshops to hear from the various divisions and agencies on the justification and rationale on their budget requests.

The Charter also mandates that this review and any council budget amendments must be acted upon, and the final budget be adopted no later than May 31. Late April and May will be a very busy time for the Council.

But we cannot do this without hearing from you. It has been said, "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."

The annual budget reflects the values and what we as a community value. This is your budget document. Please make your voices heard. You can call my office at 301-600-1108, email me at BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, email all seven members of the council at: CouncilMembers@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can write us at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, 21701.

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.



24 Month / 24k Mile Warranty

Full Service Auto Repair
Tires & 4 Wheel Alignments
Custom Exhaust Bending & Repair
ASE Certified 

Family owned & operated for over 45 years
210 BOUNDARY AVE., THURMONT
301-271-4444

 Find us on Facebook
 www.gatewayautomotiveinc.com


Need Help Paying Heating or Energy Bills?



The Office of Home Energy Programs Can Help!

Energy assistance is available to all Maryland residents who are eligible. Let us help make your energy costs more affordable.

Call
1-800-332-6347
to see if you qualify and to apply.



Office of Home Energy Programs
Your Home Energy Partner

You do not need a Turn-Off Notice or to be off-service to apply.



GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

February is a month of several occasions including Black History Month and Heart Health Month. In celebrating culture and increasing health awareness, we are excited to host our annual Black History Month celebration and launch Frederick County's first ever Heart Health Campaign this month.

We have so much to celebrate in Frederick County and are striving to keep it thriving by creating a sense of belonging not only for residents, but for our businesses. Our annual Black History Month Celebration will be held on February 5 at 6 p.m. in the first-floor hearing room of Winchester Hall and broadcasted through our own FCGTV. In addition, various events and classes will be held for our Heart Health Campaign. I've included more details on this campaign below.

With session underway for The Maryland General Assembly, I'll be traveling to Annapolis advocating

for the needs of our residents and continuing to host town halls alongside our County Council Members, to receive public input in each district to help me carve out our budget priorities for the fiscal year!

With all the new and exciting developments ahead, I encourage you to stay connected through subscribing to my newsletter www.connect.frederickcountymd.gov/hub/Subscriptions/2396.

Heart Healthy Frederick County

Each year, over 805,000 Americans experience a heart attack. Heart disease claims more lives in the United States than any other cause of death – 1 in 5 deaths, according to the CDC, meaning we likely all know someone who has heart disease.

As public servants, we all play a role in raising awareness of heart disease, which is why I called on staff to create a month-long campaign in February called Heart Healthy Frederick County. Through-

out the month of February, there will be CPR classes, educational events, materials, and public service announcements to share with our residents. I encourage you to learn how you can help by reviewing the calendar of events and other materials at FrederickCountyMD.gov/HeartHealthyFC. Together, we can help create a Heart Healthy Frederick County!

Business Survey Results

In November, Frederick County businesses were asked to share their optimism, concerns, and needs regarding their economic outlook in a survey conducted for the Frederick County Office of Economic Development by Salisbury University's Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON). The results from over 350 respondents showed an overall positive sentiment that Frederick County is a good place to operate a business. The survey asked busi-

ness leaders, including chief executive officers, owners, and senior executives, to weigh in on a range of topics, from the advantages and challenges businesses face, additional assistance needed and their future economic outlook.

Agriculture Innovation Grants

Supporting our farms and our farmers is a priority for my administration. I am proud that the County's grant programs help our agricultural businesses innovate, diversify and generally expand their operations. Seven agriculture-related businesses will receive funding through the competitive grant program, which was designed to encourage diversification and innovation in farm operations. The projects selected for funding are expected to create eight full-time and 27 part-time positions.

Information on the program is available by contacting Becca Tucker, Senior Business Development Manager of Agriculture, at 240-739-2013.

Spanish Language Stroke Awareness Campaign

This spring, alongside county division directors and staff from our Health Department, Division of Aging and Independence, and Frederick Health, we announced the launch of a county-wide project to raise awareness of stroke signs and how to take action within the treatment window.

During our year-long development of this initiative, we recognized how imperative it is to have our PSA video and graphics in Spanish.

With Spanish being the second most common language in our community, having educational materials in the Spanish language is key to ensuring equitable outcomes and that residents feel seen and heard. Not only does this further align with the Livable Frederick Master Plan and my Transition Team Report, it also reaches residents where they are, which is a top priority for my administration. More information on our campaign can be found at <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/696/Stroke-Awareness>.

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

After several months of researching, hearing presentations, and meeting with various experts, the Data Centers Workgroup, formed by County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, is nearing completion of the assigned task. I greatly appreciate County Executive Fitzwater appointing me as one of the co-chairs of this workgroup, and for the opportunity to work with each member. Since last summer, members of the workgroup have devoted a lot of time to this effort, understanding the important implications of their possible recommendations. Everyone brought enthusiasm, expertise, and a desire to balance the risks and benefits that data centers can bring. The result has been thoughtful and robust discussions from a balanced group of stakeholders. This is a unique approach compared to surrounding counties that also have opportunities to incorporate the data center industry into their local economies.

To make this task manageable, three subgroups were formed. One subgroup dealt with issues related to location siting. One of the biggest complaints about data centers in neighboring counties in Northern Virginia is that you can find them near neighborhoods, schools, office buildings, and other areas where industrial buildings interfere with natural landscapes. In Frederick County, we have areas in agricultural preservation, and the intention of adding to the number of acres persevered. The Siting subgroup looked at items such as soil types and different approaches to zoning to make sure any updates to the County's current Critical Data Infrastructure regulation specifically addresses Frederick County's interests, and that they are aligned with the Livable Frederick Master Plan.

Sustainably is an important component of responsibly incorporating the data center industry into the County. Another

subgroup was tasked to research today's industry standards and best practices for energy usage, so that reasonable but meaningful sustainability perimeters could be recommended. Data centers use large amounts of water and electricity. Like other types of buildings, appliances, and automobiles, levels of efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions can vary widely. Another concern we heard was the amount of sound produced by data centers. We learned there are ways to address this issue with site and building design and natural barriers of fields and trees. Although the data center industry has made great market-driven strides in energy efficiency and sustainability, reasonable requirements protect residents and natural resources in Frederick County.

Another subgroup explored how the County could best benefit economically from the data center industry. Neighboring counties have realized hun-

dreds of millions of dollars per year in tax revenue. With society's increasing reliance on technology and internet access to live our lives, the data center industry continues to grow every day. New technologies like AI (Artificial Intelligence) will accelerate this growth. Given Frederick County's proximity to "the heart of the internet" in Ashburn, Virginia, through which 70% of the world's internet traffic flows, we remain a desirable location for data center development. We considered different forms of taxation or fees, which could ensure Frederick County derives an appropriate level of value. The County could also utilize "Community Benefit Agreements" to support local technical education, local technical jobs, and other projects. To successfully integrate data centers into the local economy, a mutually bene-

ficial relationship must be developed. The Community Benefits subgroup has worked to identify ways for that relationship to happen.

The Data Centers Workgroup met on January 25th to discuss the findings of each subgroup. There will be one more meeting in February to determine the final recommendations that will be reported to County Executive Fitzwater in March. I don't have that date at the time I'm writing this month's column. However, you can check the Data Centers Workgroup webpage for this and more information. The address is www.frederickcountymd.gov/8544/Data-Centers-Workgroup.

We are also heading into budget season. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and budget priorities. Your input is always greatly appreciated. You can reach me at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Welcome to the winter of 2024. Mother nature has given us the opportunity to evaluate the recently enacted Snow Emergency Plan and we are pleased with the results. We still encountered vehicles that failed to move from the streets, and with this we ask for your help. If you have someone in your neighborhood that failed to move their vehicles, please offer them a friendly reminder. They can obtain the necessary information regarding the policy on the Town webpage or give the office a call on 301-600-6300.

During our recent snow storms a group of Mount Saint Mary's

University students were out in the community shoveling walks and driveways for our citizens. The students took it upon themselves to reach out to their neighbors and lend a helping hand. I want to thank the students for having a positive impact on our community.

The Town Council voted to replace all existing parking meters on East and West Main St. After much consideration and dialog, a decision was made not to add additional meters in other areas of the town. I want to thank our citizens for their input and the Town Council for investing time in research and commu-

nicating with our constituents.

The Council also approved a contract with a company to provide internet, video, and phone service to Emmitsburg. Shentel will begin designing their system to give you an option when it comes to phone and internet service. This will in no way affect your current Comcast service, it now just gives you options. For more information on Shentel please visit their website.

The installation of new streetlights in the downtown area should begin on January 28th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Office.



MELISSA M. WETZEL
CPA, PC
— Certified Public Accountant —

Get assistance by phone
Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Office open for scheduled appointments only!

301 W. Main Street,
Emmitsburg

301-447-3797
melissawetzelcpa.com
info@melissawetzelcpa.com



FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Did you hear? Based on the Carroll Valley Borough Council guidance, the Borough Manager, David Hazlett, the work of the staff, and the outstanding support of Representative Dan Moul, the Borough was awarded a \$212,200 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant on January 16 by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to construct a forested 4,750 linear-foot looping trail? The project site is between Deer Trail to the north and Fairfield Road (state route 116) to the east — Skylark Trail to the south and Veronica Trail to the west. A residential community surrounds the site, and it is an easily accessible location for residents to frequent the trail.

Groundhog Day falls on February 2 in Punxsutawney, about 170 miles from us. It is said that this legend was brought to Pennsylvania by the German settlers. These settlers determined that the groundhog resembled the European hedgehog, considered the most intelligent and sensible animal for predicting weather. The legend goes that on February 2, if the groundhog, our Pennsylvania Punxsutaw-

ney Phil, sees his shadow, he will return to his underground home. This means there will be another six weeks of winter weather. However, our current weather groundhog forecaster, Mr. Phil, has been correct only 39% of the time. You could enjoy the day by watching the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day" with Bill Murray. It is worth your time.

Presidents Day is celebrated on February 19. In preparation for Valentine's Day, the Carroll Valley Borough is holding its annual fabulous, fantastic "Father-Daughter Dance." The theme for the dance is "Dancing Hearts – A Date with Daddy". The dance will be held in the Liberty Mountain Resort Overlook Ballroom on Saturday, February 10, from 6 to 9. Pre-registration is required at www.carrollvalley.org or 717-642-6269. There is a \$25 per person charge. Hope to see you there. I am the guy with the camera. February 13 is "Fat Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday and the last day of Mardi Gras. It was the custom of the German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania to use up all the fat in their

house before Lent by making the fastnacht. It is a square doughnut without a hole, fried in fat. I hope you enjoy your fried cakes.

Several new laws have been implemented in 2024. A new law makes porch pirating a felony. There are now specific penalties for mail theft, including the theft of a package, bag, or letter. The new law focuses on repeat offenders and uses a grading system to increase penalties if the thief has prior mail theft convictions. Act 1 of 2023 will require insurers to cover preventive breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk women at no cost. Governor Shapiro's office said the law removes out-of-pocket costs associated with genetic testing for hereditary breast, ovarian, prostate, and other cancer syndromes — as well as supplemental breast screenings for women with a high lifetime risk of breast cancer.

Legislation signed by the Governor expanded the Pennsylvania Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit. For example, for a low-income family with two children in childcare,

their refundable state tax credit will go from \$630 to \$2,100. The expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program raises the maximum rebate for seniors from \$650 to \$1,000, increases the income cap for renters and homeowners to \$45,000 a year, and ties the cap to increases in the cost of living. The Pennsylvania dog laws were updated. The Department of Agriculture was authorized to increase annual and lifetime dog license fees, add additional penalties and fines as delineated, and increase violation fees. Contact PA Representative Dan Moul's office at 717-334-3010 for further information regarding these new laws.

On Friday, February 16, from 11 to 5 the Carroll Valley Borough Blood Drive will be held in the Borough's council meeting room. Everyone will receive a \$5 gift card to Ventura's Restaurant and Pizza. A form of ID is required to donate. I suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first, which may result in a significant wait time. Call 800-771-0059. As of this writing, we have experienced two snow storms

and very low temperatures. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. Are you prepared? What happens if there is an ice storm or flood? You can learn about these threats and how to prepare by visiting www.readypa.org. I recommend you download the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide.

If there is a power outage and you have a cell phone, do you know your electric company's emergency number to let them know the power is out or to follow the company's progress in restoring power? If you use a portable generator, do you know how to use it safely? The biggest worry is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust. It would be best to never use a portable generator in a garage, carport, basement, or crawl space, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. Install home CO alarms that are battery-operated or have battery backup. The Red Cross has information on how to use a portable generator when an emergency or disaster strikes. Check the American Red Cross website. For questions, call 301-606-2021.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

I hope everyone stayed warm and safe during our most recent winter weather events. Three snowstorms have happened since the start of the year. The Road Crew wants to thank everyone for their patience as we worked to get the roads cleared. We were able to utilize hot mix with magnesium chloride, which acts better in lower temperatures than salt to prevent freezing on the roads. We applied the hot mix with extra focus at intersections throughout the Township. As temperatures continue to be in the single digits, teens, and low twenties, it is important to be vigilant of black ice on the roads.

Our small Road Crew was out for almost 24 hours straight during these storms. Please remember to keep emergency supplies in your vehicle in case you break down. Some examples would be a blanket, hand warmers, extra water, food with a long shelf life (granola bars, protein bars, etc.), a power bank for your phone to keep it charged until help can come, gloves, hats, and other sustaining items. There is a tendency for a surge in house fires due to space heaters in the winter months. Be sure to plug your space heater directly to the wall outlet and do not use extension cords.

Maintain at least three feet of clearance around the heater and ensure nothing is touching the space heater to help prevent fires.

Although our first major weather event was severe flooding within the region and not snow, it still poses significant risks to those driving. Many Liberty Township roads, and other local roads, were shut down for multiple hours to allow for the flooding to recede. The Road Department placed road closure signs, flooding signs, and barricades out on the affected roadways in our Township. I would like to remind residents and

others who use the roads that the barricades we put up are for your safety. If you go around them and drive through the water, you are putting yourself and others in danger.

The water is very cold this time of year, which poses a risk to you and first responders. If you cannot see the blacktop through any standing water, please do not drive through it, even if the road has not yet been marked as closed. It may take a few extra minutes, but please turn around and access the road through a different entrance to protect yourself. For example, Wenschhof Road floods when there is a significant downfall of rain, that road has three points of access: one off Tract Road, one off Stultz Road, and one off Middle Creek Road in Freedom Township. Please allow extra time for commuting when there are severe weather events.

The Liberty Township Police Department is currently looking for additional part time police officers. Qualified applicants can contact the Police Department for an application and more information. The department email address is libertytownship@libertytownship.org and the phone number is 717-642-6103.

As a gentle reminder, school taxes are due March 31st before they go into collections. You can submit your payments by mail, drop them in the drop box at the Township Office, or contact Jessica Ilko to schedule an appointment

to pay them in person. Her information can be found on your tax bill.

As the year progresses, we are starting to slot out 2024 road projects. I have set up appointments with LTAP's Jason Snyder for recommendations for Bullfrog Road and other areas within the Township. If we have room in our budget, one of my goals for the year is to put a blacktop overlay on Irishtown Road.

At the next Board of Supervisors meeting on February 6th, the Board will be considering outsourcing cleaning for the Township Building due to an overload on employees' involvement. We want to allow our employees to be able to put all their focus on getting their daily tasks completed without having to worry about chores that are not in their job duties. The January Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to the snow. The Planning Commission will hold its reorganization meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 7:30 p.m.. I hope that residents come out and attend both meetings.

I want to thank those who voted to re-elect me for another 6-year term. I also want to thank those who decided to run for local office, and those who were re-appointed to their positions this year so they can help to continue to be involved in your local community. Resident involvement is necessary in order to determine specific local public needs and how these local needs can be met.



5580 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield
717-642-5844
mountainviewrealtypa@gmail.com
www.mountainviewrealtypa.com

FANTASTIC REAL ESTATE MARKET!
 GIVE US A CALL IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL!

ACTIVE	***SOLD***
 <p>580 Car Hill Rd., Gettysburg, PA <small>FAR FROM THE ORDINARY. Builder's own design & beloved custom home for many years, this enticing home is private yet accessible. 10 wooded ac. to explore & abundant wildlife for enjoyment. A definite getaway perfect for hiking in your own woods. Approximately 1,000 ft. of stone walls, 2 beautifully built fireplaces reaching 50 ft. Personal sauna in 2nd bedroom, wood floors throughout. Many items convey.</small> \$620,000</p>	 <p>28 Hillview Ct., Fairfield, PA <small>Only home available at this time in the popular Meadowbrook Commons. Exterior maintenance, snow removal & lawn care by HOA. 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Open space sunroom & dining room that leads to kitchen. Living room w/cathedral ceiling & fireplace. 1st & 2nd BR on main floor. Large 3rd BR upstairs. Walk in closets, new HVAC system, Neutral paint throughout. Close to Liberty Mt. Ski/Golf Resort. Short drive to Historic Gettysburg.</small> \$265,000</p>
ACTIVE - UNDER CONTRACT	***ACTIVE LOT***
<p>4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA <small>Unique 2 ac. parcel, wooded, w/slope for a great view. Close to Liberty Ski/Golf Resort. 215' Toms Creek access for fishing. Close to Historic Gettysburg battle field. Camping permitted for 3 consecutive nights. Check w/Liberty Township.....</small> \$25,000</p>	<p>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA <small>.86 perc approved lot for drip irrigation septic system. Walking distance to Ski Resort/Golf Course. Wooded w/mature trees. Easy commute for Maryland or Harrisburg. 12 miles from Historic Gettysburg.....</small> \$27,900</p>
 <p>Jalé Dalton Realtor Licensed in PA & MD 717-240-0743</p>	 <p>Charles Dalton Realtor Licensed in PA 717-420-0744</p>
 <p>Doris Normand Office Administrator 717-642-5844</p>	



Dreaming Up the Ideal Retirement Is Your Job. Helping You Get There Is Ours.

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit a financial advisor today.



Frank C Pizzuto, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
249 York Street
Gettysburg
717-337-2556

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

Last year, Adams and Franklin Counties worked with a consultant, Design 9, to complete a study outlining the challenges and solutions to our lack of high speed internet. The full study is available at, www.adamscountypa.gov. The study outlined seven recommendations, which the county has been investigating over this year and will continue for work towards in the coming years.

The first recommendation was to manage expectations. Sort of a no brainer, as this is sound advice for any government project. That being said, our consultants were right. As the county investigates and confirms the findings of the study we are constantly asked, “when will I get broadband?”. In our fast-paced world we often expect that once a problem is identified, so too will a solution. In this case the solutions are multifaceted and expensive. Broadband infrastructure is owned by private companies, is not a public regulated, and is expensive.

These issues make it important that government be very intentional with the partnerships we form and the projects that we fund. There is no amount of public money that will solve this problem. We must work with for-profit entities and use state and federal grants to get the job done. While many residents have concerns

about their broadband speeds and reliability, the county must manage grant funds to serve the most unserved people that we can. Many of us will not see improvements in this first round of work, but as a community we will move forward.

The second recommendation was to evaluate our partnership with Franklin County. Since we had started this study with Franklin County this makes sense. As I mentioned, broadband is not a utility. This means that municipal, county, and state lines are meaningless. County staff and I agreed with this recommendation, but also felt that it didn't go far enough. We should evaluate partnering with every county surrounding us, York, Cumberland, Franklin, Carroll, and Frederick. As the county looks for projects in areas of need that border another county, we will reach out to our neighbors. Since broadband doesn't see boundaries, neither do we. If a project can be expanded with a neighbor, we will work to find cost effective ways to benefit our region.

The third recommendation was that Adams County cannot be an internet provider. The truth is we are not allowed to be internet providers. We can however work with other entities interesting in challenging the larger internet service

providers (ISPs). While smaller providers and private networks are slowly being leveraged out of this space, we need to respect providers of all size and types. Traditionally, in America competition regulates pricing. In the case of broadband many areas, such as Adams County, are experiencing de facto monopolies. In my humble opinion this will continue until the industry is publicly regulated.

The fourth recommendation was for the county to seek every possible grant there is to address broadband. Due to the covid recovery funds and the infrastructure funds being release by the federal government there are multiple funding sources to address broadband concerns. From covid we learned that education, healthcare and work are susceptible to the impacts of a pandemic. While we hope to never experience another pandemic in our lifetimes, the silver lining is that covid highlighted a serious lack of broadband infrastructure in our rural communities.

Thankfully, based upon the latest economic data the recession predicted from this unprecedented expenditure of federal funds, have not materialized. What did happen is that businesses are growing again and they need this infrastructure. In a survey connected to our study, we found that

74% of county businesses expect that employees can work from home and 100% of businesses feel faster internet is critical to their next five years. The county must apply for every grant possible to ensure that residents, students, and businesses are positioned for success. We need expanded modern infrastructure to achieve this.

The fifth recommendation was to use fiber for long term solutions and wireless networks for short term. Fiber optic cable is the best way to transmit the most data, but fiber is expensive. This means that in very rural areas, wireless networks will be necessary. Think about that people who live down a quarter mile driveway. No ISP and few individuals can afford the \$5,000+ to run fiber. And why bother, when a small-scale fixed pole wireless system can achieve a similar result. Until we get actual proposals for project, we do not know how much wireless will factor into the solution. We must keep our options open.

The sixth recommendation is to develop partnerships with internet service providers (ISPs) and wireless internet providers (WISPs). This recommendation is obvious. Since ISPs and WISPs, are the businesses providing the services and County government is forbidden from providing the service, we must partner with them. Not only does it make legal sense, it makes financial sense. Last year the

county was prepared to apply for the broadband deployment grant to install fiber in rural communities.

At the same time Comcast was also applying for the same funds. Upon reviewing their application and ours, it was obvious that their application was better. Comcast already has subcontractors in place, own existing infrastructure, understand the permitting process, and their application served more unserved residents than the county's application. As county commissioners our duty is to the taxpayers. Of course, we decided to forego our application in favor of supporting Comcast's. We will continue to work with any ISP or WISP, who is willing to help the county provide broadband to our rural residents and businesses.

Lastly, we need to develop a county wide comprehensive broadband plan. Since the study was completed, the county has been engaged in educating and learning from residents and community groups. Our goal is simple, affordable high speed internet access for every business and household in Adams County. As we develop this plan, we will continue to reach out to anyone to learn more about how to best serve our county. If you have any interest in broadband expansion or in assisting the county, do not hesitate to reach out to me, mqually@adamscountypa.gov.

State News Briefs...

Representative Dan Moul

Expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Now Open

The application period for the state's 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open for eligible Pennsylvanians to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid last year. Income limits increased this year to \$45,000 annually for both homeowners and renters, so if you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The law I supported to increase income limits also increased the maximum rebate to \$1,000. The program is open to residents age 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older. Remember—you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at my.path.pa.gov, or contact my office for help.

New Funding Supports Emergency Medical Services

The arrival of the New Year also brings a much-needed increase in funding for the state's ambulance companies via a boost in Medicaid reimbursement rates. Act 15 of 2023 ties the reimbursement rates to federal Medicare rates and pays whichever amount is higher. As a result, the reimbursement for basic life support ambulance trips increases from \$325 to \$511.35, and for advanced life support ambulance trips from \$400 to \$607.23 or \$878.88, depending on the nature of the call.

The new law also ensures EMS agencies are reimbursed by Medicaid for

100% of the miles they travel with a patient on board receiving care or transport, finally removing the previous exemption for the first 20 miles traveled. The law increases the mileage reimbursement rate from \$4 per loaded mile to \$13.20 per loaded mile.

This is another important step to support our EMS personnel and their life-saving work. The reimbursement increases went into effect Jan. 1, pending federal approval.

\$155 Million in Grants Available for School Safety, Security

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has approved a framework to invest more than \$155 million in federal and state school safety funding:

- \$90 million for noncompetitive school mental health grants.
- \$32.2 million for competitive school safety and security grants.
- \$18.6 million for formula-based school safety and security meritorious grants.
- \$14.5 million for targeted school safety grants for nonpublic schools.

Applications and information about each of these grants, including eligibil-

ity criteria and application instructions, can be found PCCD's School Safety and Security webpage. PCCD staff will also host informational webinars and provide other resources to assist school entities and eligible applicants as they navigate these funding opportunities. The seven-week application period will close on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Education Funding Recommendations Fail Students, Taxpayers

Presented with an opportunity to make transformational changes to the Commonwealth's education system, Basic Education Funding Commission last week approved a series of recommendations that simply throw more money at the problem. Early in 2023, Commonwealth Court deemed our education funding system unconstitutional, and directed lawmakers to develop a remedy with attention to adequacy, equity and timeliness. In response, the commission hosted 11 hearings across the state to gather input from public school finance experts, education advocates and others.

The House Appropriations Committee has estimated the Democrat-approved recommendations, if enacted by the Legislature, would require more than \$8 billion in recurring revenue each year, leading to a significant tax increase. Alternative recommenda-

tions were offered by Republican members of the committee, but they did not earn the support of the commission. Ultimately, it is now up to the full House and Senate to make the necessary changes to ensure all students have access to a quality education. Learn more about the Basic Education Funding Commission, including the final recommendations, at basiceducation-fundingcommission.com.

Applications for 2024 Pennsylvania House Scholarship Available

College bound high school seniors interested in receiving financial assistance for college can now apply for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Scholarship. Each year the program awards a four-year scholarship to two students preparing for post-secondary education. It is open to graduating

high school seniors who are Pennsylvania residents with plans to attend a Pennsylvania college, university or career school as a full-time student. To qualify, students must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in high school. Other factors taken into consideration for the awards are a student's commitment to community, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities and financial need. The scholarship program is administered through the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Click here for more information and an application. Application deadline is April 15. The scholarship is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. Scholarships are awarded through an independent panel of judges chosen by the foundation



Alexander's Plumbing & Pumps, Inc.
For All Your Plumbing Needs
Specializing In:
Water Filtration & Purification Equipment!
4236 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield
717-642-5285



Village Book & Table Restaurant
• BREAKFAST
• LUNCH
(Including Platters)
29 W. Main St., Fairfield
717-642-5650
Open 7 days a week
Monday - Sunday
6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Fall in love with a new home.
Elin Smith REALTOR
J&B Real Estate, Inc.
301 408 8620 308 271 3487
www.elinrealestate.com

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

The news, our perceptions and beliefs

Shannon Bohrer

Our world can seem small in that so much of what occurs is reported daily, sometimes even hourly, and often as an event is happening. The news and other newsie sources feed us information twenty-four hours a day. I remember going to libraries while gathering research for college papers, and today, much of that same information can be found on my phone. We have access to more information than we could ever use, yet a steady firehose of information is sometimes not enough. You would think that having so much information would be satisfactory. However, sometimes, the information we seek is not for the purpose of learning but to confirm what we think we already know.

While experiencing the news, listening, watching, or reading, we are also aware that we have a diversity of news sources and outlets. With the theory of information freedom, one can find facts and opinions from multiple sources. The diversity also allows many to pick and choose the news source(s) they want. The issue with many of the sources is that no matter what you believe, you can find a news site that supports that

belief. Conversely, one is also able to find information that contradicts one's beliefs. As an example, if you research the pandemic (COVID), you can find documentation of false and misleading information. The false and misleading information was not just prevalent but widespread. No matter what you have read or been told, science is real.

Many of the news sources are social sites and not really news sites. Of course, we do have some national news outlets that are really in the entertainment and opinion business. And many of these sites are often disguised as news. Many of these sites are myopic, only reporting their own opinions and views. Trust in these sites is usually limited to individuals who believe what they are hearing. Conversely, the distrust for the same sites is often founded in the distrust of the sources themselves. Even the mainstream media, the primary and historical national news programs, have often been referred to as the Lame Stream Media, inferring they should also not be trusted.

"If Tell me what I want to know, I will believe you."

The diversity in the world of news is reflected in our divisive society, including our politics. Most people understand the differences between the political

parties; at least, what they think and believe are the differences. For many people, the differences are so obvious, and not in a good way; they see the other party as the antithesis of immorality. These beliefs add to our divisive views and are often reinforced by news sources that present slanted and or distorted information. So, is the news source responsible for our beliefs, or does the news source reflect our beliefs?

Since we see ourselves as a divided nation, should we not expect divisive politics? In the past, there were politicians from both parties who worked together on projects that benefited everyone. Of course, to accomplish those tasks, members of both parties had some common beliefs. The belief that government works for the common good of the citizens, which today almost seems nostalgic. Yes, they had differences, as we all do, but they acknowledged the differences and focused on what they could accomplish - together. Today, parties often appear so separate and distinct, and the atmosphere resembles a hostile environment. For some, you must win, even if it requires lying. However, as Franklin Roosevelt said, "Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth,"

While we know that our differences are reflected in society, how do we acknowledge and resolve our differences? Another question we

should ask is, do we want to? If we continue in our current direction, what will our future look like? If the past is prolog and nothing changes, what does our future bode?

Mark Twain was reported to have said, "if you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed." If true, when the only news of the day was a paper, no one was informed. His quote could be used today, substituting different news sites and sources. However, which sites and sources would you use? A friend of mine once said that they had a great distrust of the mainstream media. The friend went further, saying they had a distrust of all media. Does that mean that the friend is uninformed?

Earlier, it was said that some people choose where they receive their news, providing the news fits with their beliefs. In this model, we are not turning to the news to be informed but rather to confirm what we already believe. Of course, a steady diet, from one perspective, does not inform anyone but only reinforces their currently held beliefs. Why are we afraid of hearing another perspective? Are our beliefs so strong that we automatically dismiss any contrary views?

Social psychologists, and they do exist, have studied this behavior. They say that people can have such strong beliefs that even when

confronted with facts that discredit their position, they ignore the facts. It is as if the contrary facts do not exist. Social psychologists refer to this as "belief perseverance." One's beliefs can be so strong that people sometimes hold tight to their beliefs, even when confronted with facts that discredit their position. When individuals have firmly held views, information that challenges those views can be ignored. Political debate is a good example of "Belief Perseverance" since both sides often deal with the same facts, but the information is filtered differently.

While our world seems small because of the fire hoses of news, the world is also large because of the diversity of information available. Our political and social differences appear similar to tribal culture, but that does not mean that we as individuals should remain uninformed.

"You must always be willing to truly consider evidence that contradicts your beliefs and admit the possibility that you could be wrong. Intelligence isn't knowing everything, it's the ability to challenge everything you know,"

—Author unknown.

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

The Bulwark

Republican hypocrisy on Ukraine

Dalibor Rohac

A common complaint addressed to President Joe Biden is that, notwithstanding his open-ended expressions of support for Ukraine, he lacks a clear vision for ending the war, has an undeveloped notion of the conditions of victory, and can't make a compelling account of what is at stake for the United States. That's the argument of a document released late last year—a "Proposed Plan for Victory in Ukraine" by Reps. Michael McCaul, Mike Rogers, and Mike Turner, who chair respectively the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, Armed Services Committee, and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. They write that the president's "mantra of supporting Ukraine 'for as long as it takes' is a losing strategy."

It is a fair criticism, as far as it goes—and to their credit, the three congressmen use it as a starting point for a constructive plan to mobilize further aid to Ukraine. Their recommendations are far more ambitious than the half-hearted assistance extended to Ukraine by the Biden administration.

But any critique along these lines must also be directed at these congressmen's Republican col-

leagues, who either oppose helping Ukraine at all or would make U.S. support conditional on meeting other (alleged) priorities. They, too, need to game out what will happen if American military aid to our embattled ally dries up in the coming weeks, and how America's interests in the region will be affected if it does.

In the short term, Ukrainians have no available substitute for the U.S. defense industrial base. Europeans may be scaling up their production of both munitions and essential weapons systems, but the reality of this expressed commitment lags expectations—and, more importantly, Ukraine's needs. The EU, for example, will fail to meet its own goal of producing a million artillery shells for Ukraine by March, a shortcoming openly admitted last fall following months of skepticism expressed in private by European officials. Germany's Rheinmetall is still planning to build a new factory in Ukraine capable of producing 400 tanks a year, but such a project is bound to take many years to complete. The company might begin producing other armored vehicles in the country sooner, but those likely won't start rolling off assembly lines until the latter half of this year at the earliest.

Ukrainians might be in for a long war, but they can't wait years for Western supplies. An under-re-

sourced, relatively small military may still hold a defensive line, but it cannot be reasonably expected to conduct successful offensive operations. At a minimum, an aid-depleted Ukrainian military will likely be forced to allow the Kremlin to consolidate its existing gains. In the worst case, however, a weakened Ukrainian military could prove unable to prevent Russia from gaining more territory.

What Options Are The Ukrainians Left With? Negotiations? It is possible that we will see a replay of the Minsk agreements in the coming year, but no Ukrainian will be under any illusion that a lasting peace deal with a neighbor that wants to destroy their country is possible. Such proposals should be seen in the context of Russia's long, cynical tradition of bogus "peace offensives." Unless the peace settlement or the ceasefire in question arrives stapled to tangible security guarantees—the most obvious option being Ukraine's accession to NATO membership—it will amount to no more than a pause in hostilities that will enable the Russians to regroup and attack again at a time of their choosing.

Ukraine being forced into a false peace—a result that some Republican policymakers are explicitly pushing for, and that others are tacitly supporting by using Ukraine aid as a bargaining chip—would irreparably scar Ukraine's relations with the West and possibly derail Ukraine's

progress toward becoming a European-style market democracy and member of the EU. Dangerous fissures already exist. One is opening between the current government and the parliamentary opposition; another between President Volodymyr Zelensky and the highly popular commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

Keep up with all our articles, newsletters, podcasts, and livestreams—sign up today:

Cutting off non-military aid to the country, as some Republicans are also eager to do, is fraught with danger as well. Western financial assistance—disproportionately coming from Europe, where the most recent €50 billion aid package was blocked last month by Hungary's Viktor Orbán—has helped Ukraine to operate as a normal country throughout the war. The \$46 billion of U.S. non-military aid provided so far has helped to protect government operations, keep the country's power grid operational, maintain food security, repair infrastructure, and much else. Take this aid away and Ukrainians may be forced to print money, introduce rationing, and implement the sort of command-and-control system that would make it harder to for Kyiv to deliver on the country's European aspirations.

A divided, embittered Ukraine, left with a sense of abandonment from the West, could easily change from a source of hope for liberal

democracies around the world into a major geopolitical liability for Europe and the United States. Anti-Ukrainian Republicans who still believe in a strong American presence in Europe need to grapple with the ramifications of such an outcome for NATO and security along its Eastern flank. And if their true goal is more radical—an outright U.S. exit from Europe, as Donald Trump has reportedly considered—they need to come clean about it now and explain how such a move would strengthen the U.S. position toward China and how it would support our other foreign policy priorities.

It's true that the Biden administration deserves criticism for acting too slowly and for failing to make a more compelling case to the American people for helping Ukraine. But that shortcoming does not protect those on the Republican right from criticism, especially when it comes to those who have seized on the administration's failure to advocate in bad faith for abandoning Ukraine to its own devices. The Republican party must be held to the same standard that Reps. McCaul, Rogers, and Turner want us to hold Biden to. They should articulate their vision and strategy for victory or a sustainable peace—and if they have none, they should say so.

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

The Triad

What Trump officials say about Trump

Sarah Longwell

Take Yourself Back To The Late Fall Of 2016. Donald Trump has just won the election. The nation is reeling. How are we supposed to run a superpower with a game-show host at the helm?

There was an understandable line of thinking at the time: We need to have adults in the room.

If we're really going to hand over the nuclear codes to this guy, the thinking went, it's better for serious people to have at least some input—people with experience, good judgment, and a baseline interest in the country's well-being. Even if that means serving someone manifestly unfit for the job.

Fast-forward eight years: The results are in, and they're not encouraging. We've seen a steady stream of former Trump officials come out, on the record, to talk about the former president's moral depravity, his incompetence, and his basic inability to faithfully execute the duties of his office.

A representative sample from those who worked most closely with the man himself:

- John Kelly took to CNN to say the former president “has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law.”
- Mark Milley said, in pointed comments generally under-

stood to be about Trump, “We don't take an oath to a king, or queen, or tyrant, or a dictator. And we don't take an oath to a wannabe dictator.”

- Jim Mattis lamented Trump's “use of the presidency to destroy trust in our election and to poison our respect for fellow citizens.” Mattis earlier excoriated Trump for the “abuse” of his office, for his unconstitutional actions, and for trying to divide rather than unify the country.
- Mike Pence, once an admirer of Trump's broad-shouldered leadership, said on CBS News that his former boss “asked me to put him over the Constitution.”
- Bill Barr told PBS that Trump “failed. He didn't do what the country hoped” after 2020, namely “that he would rise to the occasion and rise to the office.”
- John Bolton said flatly, “I think it is a danger for the United States if he gets a second term.”

What we have here is a parade of high-level, serious people (whatever you think about their politics) who served the guy and all came to the same conclusion, independently: He's nuts.

If we want to stop a Trump restoration and the promised MAGA dictatorship, it's going to require building a coalition of people who understand the stakes. And there are no messengers better equipped to convey the peril of a Trump presidency than those who lived it firsthand, on the inside.

But wait, haven't they done that already? Mark Milley posed for a front-page spread in the Atlantic. John Kelly gave a statement to CNN. Others have back-channeled their grave misgivings, off the record, to Puck and Politico.

Hard truth: That's not enough. I talk to Republican primary voters every week in focus groups, and you know what they don't read? The Atlantic, Puck, and Politico. Fundamentally, the reason they seem unbothered by Trump's autocratic tendencies is that a lot of them don't know about them.

(Some do, and are perfectly fine with it, but that's a different story.)

You and I may agonize over the state of our politics, but the people I talk to are worried about other things. They don't process the finer nuances of who's giving blind quotes to whom. Even if they did, do a couple of sternly worded rebukes feel adequate to this moment in American history?

The answer is no. Which is why it's time to step up. The people who served Trump directly need to go on the record, as loudly and frequently as possible, about exactly why he should never get near the White House again.

We need John Kelly on prime-time TV making the case.

We need Bill Barr speaking plainly in swing state ads, with millions of dollars behind them.

We need Jim Mattis talking straight to camera about what it means to serve the Constitution—and what it means to subvert it.

We need John Bolton on Fox News telling Republicans not to vote for Trump.

And yes, we need Mike Pence saying to all Americans—loudly, over and over again—what he knows to be true about January 6th: that it was a betrayal of America and a disqualifying offense.

Kelly recently made the point that he and others have spoken out about Trump: “I came out and told people the awful things he said about wounded soldiers, and it didn't have half a day's bounce.”

“You had his attorney general Bill Barr come out, and not a half a day's bounce. If anything, his numbers go up,” he continued. “It might even move the needle in the wrong direction. I think we're in a dangerous zone in our country.”

Kelly is right about being in a dangerous zone, but wrong about moving the needle. He and Barr and others haven't been talking to the people who need to hear them. They're talking to legacy media organizations, policymakers, and lots of people who wouldn't ever vote for Trump. These are high-information people who have already made up their minds.

Instead, Kelly and the other former Trump officials need to reach actual swing voters. Which requires a concerted, sustained campaign to meet people where they are and alert them to the danger we face.

I'm just spitballing here, but they could call this project Trump Officials Against Trump.

The thing about leadership is that you have to lead. Especially when the stakes are this high.

Right now a twice-impeached, four-times-indicted wannabe dictator is promising to use the full

weight of the federal government to dismantle our constitutional order. This campaign has been going on for three years and will continue for another ten months.

It will marshal an entire political party, thousands of volunteers, and hundreds of millions of dollars for the sole purpose of returning Trump to office. Of course, a couple of TV hits and quotes to intellectual magazines won't register when arrayed against this force.

For these former Trump officials, telling the truth about Trump can't just be a position they take. It ought to be a cause: a sustained project that they pursue with as much focus and vigor as they applied to the rest of their professional duties.

I don't mean to make this sound easy. It isn't. Some former Trump officials are lifelong conservatives who have a deep institutional attachment to the Republican party and a bone-deep interest in opposing Democrats. Others spent their careers in the military, studiously avoiding partisan politics. It makes all the sense in the world for them to want to stay silent.

But this moment demands more of all of us, as Americans. If ever there were a time for broad-shouldered leadership, this is it.

We need former Trump officials—people of conscience, who have not acquiesced to the authoritarianism of it all—to stand as one and to speak plainly to the American people. Again and again, until every voter has heard their voices.

To read other articles by Sarah Longwell, visit www.thebulwark.com.

Good Day, Neighbor

Valentine to educators

A French teacher once said to our class “French is not a translation of English.” One of my classmates was trying to say a simple phrase such as “I am excited to go to the movies with you this weekend.”

Verbs, adverbs and adjectives run in a different order in different languages, and the student was struggling with the basic grammatical differences between English and French. Each culture on Earth has developed language over centuries, some over millennia. The quote has stuck with me ever since. It is a great reminder that there is so much happening under the surface of our actions.

Educators—teachers, librarians, mentors, original thinkers—know that we are not translations of each other, and that the values of a shared country can have different interpretations in daily life.

Educators are keepers of books, and beautiful words such as freedom. In our current phase of social and political disagreement it is worth noting the complexity of human nature illustrated in the different meanings of a sin-

gle word. We learn the history of freedom in libraries and schools. From the Magna Carta, through the Separatists, to the US Constitution, human societies in the Western Hemisphere have hammered out governing documents that have sought to impose order when balancing the rights of citizens with the demands from, and the responsibilities of government.

We keep definitions of two groups of Americans in big boxes with tight lids, perhaps to avoid cross pollination of thoughts. One set of freedoms for Conservatives and one set of freedoms for Liberals. Independents, Greens, Others don't get a box yet, but the other two certainly want your votes.

Educators know that there is not one set of beliefs to fit the experience of every person, box or no box.

Freedom of religion, of speech, where to live, choose a profession, spend leisure time, travel, love, marriage and family. Everyone wants these.

Educators know that there are infinite ways for people to express themselves in the written word and visual art. Inspiration for expression comes from life experience and experiencing works by others.

Both of these authors were inspired by personal experience. In Orwell's case, there is a new book about him, *Burma Sahib* by Paul Theroux. Described in a Washington Post review by Nick Hilden, “...Paul Theroux imagines the life of young Eric Blair (the future George Orwell) when he was a novice police officer in colonial Burma.” Orwell, as a young man, learned the subtle and not so subtle impact the British Empire had on populations around the world. You can reserve a copy of *Burma Sahib* on the Libby app for the Frederick County Public Library. At this moment there is a ten week wait. Twelve after me.

Educators know this bounty of human expression exists, and pave our way to discovery. They invite our comparison of ideas, so we can learn from the people who acted on ideas. We learn from literature and history.

The best Valentine gift to any educator would be to ban book bans.

The best educators lay paths for us to discover the meaning of what's going on around us. Banning books, taking full authoritarian control, has never ended well for societies of the world. A banned book is a stolen book, and robs each of us of an opportunity

to understand ourselves, as individuals and as a group.

Our beliefs are not carbon copies of each other. It is why freedoms for everyone is so important. It is why freedom of speech, religion and the press are enshrined in our Constitution and Amendments. For everyone, not just some of the people in one of our boxes.

Teacher, librarians and mentors know that we are not neat and tidy all the time, in every person. Humans are complicated. There are so many facets in our human nature. The conflicting groups into which we put ourselves are not mutually inclusive, exclusive, diametrically opposed, or mirror images of each other. As we find our way out of the current mess of public discourse, thank and support the educators among us.

French is not a translation of English. We Americans are not translations of each other.

True freedom means not being afraid of freedom for other people. What is America's next step? Future educators will teach that lesson, one hopes.

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

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Timeless Truth”

Pastor Doug Lichty
Iron Springs Brethren in Christ

It is in trepidation, appreciation, and conviction that I write this article. Having freedom of speech is a wonderful tool and opportunity available to us and I intend to use it for the glory of God.

I am anxious to dive into this topic, so grab yourself a cup of coffee and let's go.

The Oxford dictionary provides several definitions for what truth is. It describes truth as, “that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality.” It also states truth is “a fact or belief that is accepted as true.”

The first definition has been the standard description of truth for hundreds of years. However, the second definition allows significantly more leeway for the meaning of truth. This may be in fact where society is heading in its so-called belief system if there is one anymore.”

Someone has written that to them, “whatever satisfies the soul is truth.” The word whatever is a broad description that could include many beliefs or practices. It seems this is the mind-

set the world is going to also.

The things that make one happy, give the most pleasure, bring the highest status, and make the biggest promises are considered most important. Fantastic and “my truth for “my world.” But is that really the case? Perceived truth is not always truth at all, as we will see.

For instance, up until 450 B.C. it was believed and accepted that the world was flat until proven otherwise by Hellenistic Astronomers in the 3rd century.

Not only in a discussion of the earth's surface, but in many areas we can see the beliefs and acceptance of numerous ideas and practices. These may be considered truth or truthful because of our perception, but not reality.

Merriam-Webster in his dictionary describes truth in three ways:

- The body of real things, events and facts or actuality.
- The state of being a case, or fact.
- And, a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality, (often capitalized).

With those definitions, one gets

the feeling that truth is always truth. Truth is truth before it is discovered, before it is understood, and before it is believed or accepted because these things have no bearing or influence on its reality.

Arthur Schopenhauer wrote, “All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second it is opposed, and third it is accepted as being self-evident. And Elvis Presley said, “Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't going away.”

So, you may ask several important questions: what is truth, where does it come from, how can we trust it, who is behind it, will it change, does it matter, and what does it mean for me? (What is truth?)

After considering what dictionaries say about truth, there is a far more important book we must consider in order to get to the bottom of the matter. That Book is the Bible.

Why do I say that, believe it and teach it? There must be a reason, or several that I am convinced the Bible is the Book of truth. Yes, there are many reasons as you will see.

I would ask that if you have never read the Bible, or even if you are familiar with it, that you consider these Scriptures (Bible verses).

John 17:17B “your word is truth.”

Psalm 119:160 “The sum of your word is truth, and everyone of your righteous (Godly) rules endures forever.”

John 10:35A “you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered.”

Isn't it amazing that the Bible was written over a 1,400-year time span? It contains 66 books, by over 40 different authors, yet it does not contradict itself in any way.

People and nations have tried to remove it or destroy it, yet is the longest selling book, and the largest selling book of all time, according to Guinness World Records. It has sold over 5 billion copies.

There have been strong atheists determined to discredit the Bible, who have found substantial evidence supporting it instead. The result was a recalibration of life with its purposes and goals, leading some of those same atheists to Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Since God's word is truth, has always existed and cannot be changed or removed, a sincere and responsible response is required by us. Before you decide if the Bible is true or not, it is necessary to consider a few more things first.

(Who is Behind the truth?)

Glad you asked. Let us look at the answer together.

John 14:6A “Jesus said to them, I am the way the truth and the life.”

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son From the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 18:37-38 “Then Pilate said to Him, so you are a king? Jesus answered, you say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Christ is the real Star of the Show. Having all knowledge, all power, a physical existence yet an eternal spiritual being, certainly gives Him credence to what He says and what He has done. He is truth and His word is truth.

This brings me to my next logical point and why it matters.

(Why it matters?)

All this talk about truth, God, and the Bible—does it really matter? Consider this, if you have good safe drinking water and someone in India does not, would it matter to both? Of course. One would want to keep his or her clean water and the other would like to get better water. So, consider the benefits of accepting truth for all of us.

John 14:6B “No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 8:32 “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will be close to you and He will declare to you the things that are to come.”

John 4:24 “God is Spirit and those who worship Him, will worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

Psalm 25:5 “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; For you I wait all the day long.”

There are so many important reasons why truth matters. Our lives now and in the future will be affected, related to whether or not we have accepted God's truth in our lives.

(What does it mean for me?)

It means that an important and large choice must be made. Christ is calling you to accept Him, His Word, His teachings, and His lifestyle today.

We must allow our commitment to Christ's kingdom to take precedence over culture.

Denis Diderot wrote, “We swallow greedily any lie that flatters us, but we sip only little by little at a truth we find bitter.”

Perhaps the real reason we don't accept God's truth is because we don't treasure Him enough.

I challenge you to enjoy Jesus, read the Bible, and live by it. You will be blessed because you have discovered timeless truth.

To learn more about Iron Springs Brethren in Christ church visit them on-line at www.ironspringsbic.wordpress.com or better yet, join them for Sunday service. The Church is located at 855 Iron Springs Rd, Fairfield.

St. James Lutheran Church
109 York Street, Gettysburg

32nd ANNUAL FASTNACHT SALE
Sunday, February 11 - 8 a.m. to noon
Monday, February 13 - 3 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, February 1 - 5 to 10 a.m.

\$10 Dozen

These are the old fashioned fastnachts made by hand. Pre-order online (preferred) at: StJamesGettysburg.org and select Order Fastnachts, or phone 717-337-1372. We always make extras to be sold, but if you want to be sure to get some, we recommend submitting a pre-order. Payment at Pickup



St. John's Lutheran Church Creagerstown
Drive Thru Dinner & Bake Sale
February 24 - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Pre-orders only - Orders due by February 18
St. John's Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Pepper Slaw, Biscuit & a Piece of Cake

\$13 Per Dinner 8 pc. \$10, 12 pc. \$15, 16 pc. \$20
Buckets of Chicken

To order please call Carmi Saylor: 301-401-0633 or Church Answering Machine 301-898-5290 Include name, phone number

St. John's Lutheran Church Creagerstown
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown Visit Us At: www.emmitsburgnet.org
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)
(Take 194 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodsboro to Creagerstown.)

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church
Come journey with us...

Shrove Tuesday - February 13
Free Pancake Dinner - 5-7 p.m.
Free will offering benefits N.O.W.
(Nurturing, Outreach and Witness) Committee

Sunday Worship Service 9 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Services are livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube
10926 Simmons Rd., Emmitsburg • 301-447-3171
www.tomscreekumc.com



CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
Connecting God & Community

Celebrating Sundays at 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Children's Ministry at 10:30 a.m. as well as 7 p.m.
Watch online at ccaog.org or on Facebook

PLEASE JOIN US!

ccaog.org
301-447-4224

303 West Lincoln Avenue
Emmitsburg
(Next to the town pool)

John Talcott
Senior Pastor
Dana Talcott
Children's Ministry




Graceham Moravian Church

Welcome
FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDS

Join us for Worship
Sunday's at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15am.

Next Served With Grace Free Dinner Feb 5th
at 5:30 to 7 p.m. All Welcome

Graceham Moravian Church
8231-A Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont
301-271-2379
Facebook Live - You Tube
e-mail- admin@gracehammoravian.org



Emmitsburg
Community Baptist Church

Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.

Come, be a part of our family! We welcome you to worship with us as often as you can! God loves you and made you one of a kind. He has great plans for you, He wants the best for you.

Come, discover His goodness!
Seton Square Office Complex
17750 Creamery Rd., Suite 8B, Emmitsburg
301-447-2100
Emmitsburgcbc@outlook.com • www.EmmitsburgCBC.org




The Resurrectionist



February 12

The name of Sir Ashley Cooper recalls a traffic in the recent existence of which amongst us young men of our time might hesitate to believe. It is indeed a startling chapter in the history of civilization which is supplied by the methods formerly resorted to by anatomical teachers, for the purpose of obtaining subjects for dissection. From the year 1800 until the alteration of the law in 1832, the Resurrectionists, or 'Body-snatchers,' were almost the only sources of this supply: they were persons generally of the worst character, if we except the watchmen of that time, who were set to guard the burial-grounds, all of whom received a regular percentage on the sum obtained by the Resurrectionists.

The public were for many years aware of church-yards being robbed; it was known to be effected with wonderful rapidity and dexterity; but the modus was never fathomed by the public, and, curiously enough, no accidental circumstance occurred to furnish the explanation; even the members of the medical profession, with very few exceptions, were kept in ignorance of it, so careful were the Resurrectionists to remove all traces of their mode of working after the completion of their task.

It was generally supposed that

the body-snatcher, in exhuming a body, first proceeded, as a novice would have done, to remove all the earth with which the grave had been recently filled; and having at length arrived at the coffin, that he then, with proper implements, forced off the lid, and so removed the body. This would have occupied considerable time, and rendered the body-snatchers proportionately more liable to detection. To avoid this, they only cleared away the earth above the head of the coffin, taking care to leave that which covered the other end as far as possible undisturbed. As soon as about one-third of the coffin was thus exposed, they forced a very strong crowbar, made of a peculiar form for the purpose, between the end of the coffin and the lid, which latter, by using the lever as one of the first order, they generally pressed up, without much difficulty.

It usually happened, at this stage of the proceedings, that the superincumbent weight of the earth on the other portion of the coffin-lid caused it to be snapped across at a distance of about one-third of its length from the end. As soon as this had been effected, the body was drawn out, the death-gear removed from it, and replaced in the coffin, and finally the body was tied up and placed in its receptacle, to be conveyed to its destination. By this means, in

the case of a shallow grave of loose earth, free from stones, the Resurrectionist would remove a body in a quarter of an hour. Silence was essential for the safety of the Resurrectionists; and in gravelly soils they had a peculiar mode of flinging out the earth, in order to prevent the rattling of the stones against the iron spade.

As soon as the body was raised, it was generally placed in a sack, and then carried to a hackney-coach or spring-cart, usually the latter. When bodies were sent from the country to the metropolis, they were generally packed in hat-crates, or in the casks in which hardwares are sent. Sometimes the subject, instead of being deposited in a sack, was laid on a large square green baize cloth, the four corners of which were tied together, so as to enclose the body. It was not directly conveyed to any dissecting-room, but was generally deposited in some half-built house, or other convenient building, until the following day.

The body-snatcher would then, dressed as a porter, swing the load over his shoulders, and often, even in broad daylight, carry it to its place of destination through the most crowded streets of the metropolis. At other times, the students would receive the bodies at their own houses, and convey them in a hackney-coach to the dissecting-rooms, the coachman being well paid for his job. Sometimes the driver was exorbitant in his demands, and was somewhat ingenious in enforcing them: a pupil who was conveying a body by coach to his hospital was astonished by finding himself in front of the Bow-street police-office, when the coachman, tapping at the front window, said to the affrighted youth, 'Sir, my fare to so-and-so is a guinea, unless you wish to be put down here.' The reply, without any hesitation, was, 'Quite right, my man; drive on.'

At the commencement of a new session at the hospitals, the leading Resurrectionists might be seen looking out for lecturers; and 'fifty pounds down, and nine guineas a body,' was often acceded to; the former being the opening fee from

each school promised an exclusive supply. The competition for subjects, which the exhumators pretended to get up between the different schools, sometimes raised the prices so exorbitantly as to leave scarcely any remuneration for the lecturers. In some cases twenty pounds have been given for a single subject, in healthy seasons.

The competition occasionally led to revolting scenes of riot. Mr. Bransby Cooper, in his *Life of Sir Ashley Cooper*, relates that two Resurrectionists, having gained access to a private burial-ground near Holywell Mount by bribing the gravedigger, sometimes brought away six bodies in one night. Two other exhumators, hearing of this prosperity, threatened to expose the gravedigger if he did not admit them to share his plunder; but he was beforehand with them, and pointed them out to a public-house full of labourers, as body-snatchers come to bribe him to let them steal from his ground, when the whole crowd rushed after the Resurrectionists, who narrowly escaped their vengeance. They ran to a police-office, and, in a loud voice, told the sitting magistrate if he sent officers to Holywell Mount burial-ground they would find every grave robbed of its dead; the rave-digger having sold them to the body-snatchers.' The indignant people rushed to the burial-ground, broke open the gates, dug-up the graves, and finding in them empty coffins, seized the gravedigger, threw him into one of the deepest excavations, began shoveling the earth over him, and would have buried him alive, but for the activity of the constables. The mob then went to his house, broke every article of his furniture, seized his wife and children, and dragged them through a stagnant pool in the neighborhood.

Such outrages as these, and the general indignation which arose from them, having interrupted the supply of bodies, other stratagems were resorted to. The Resurrectionists, by associating with the lower class of undertakers, obtained possession of the bodies of the poor which were taken to their estab-

lishments several days before interment, and often a clergyman read the funeral service over a coffin filled with brick-bats, or other substitute for the stolen body.

Nevertheless, so useful were the services of the regular Resurrectionists, that when they got into trouble, the surgeons made great exertions in their favour, and advanced large sums of money to keep them out of gaol, or support them during imprisonment. Sir Ashley Cooper expended hundreds of pounds for this purpose: a single liberation has been known to cost £160; and an anatomical teacher has paid £5 as a weekly allowance, continued for two years, to a Resurrectionist confined in prison.

Among the papers left by Sir Ashley Cooper was found the following: 'Sir, I have been informed you are in the habit of purchasing bodies, and allowing the person a sum weekly. Knowing a poor woman that is desirous of doing so, I have taken the liberty of calling to know the truth. I remain, your humble servant. Sir Ashley Cooper's answer (copied on the back of the application) was brief: 'The truth is, that you deserve to be hanged for making such an unfeeling offer? A. C.'

The Resurrectionists mostly came to bad ends. There were but few regulars; the others being composed of Spitalfields weavers, or thieves, who found the disguise of this occupation convenient for carrying on their own peculiar avocations.

It is credibly reported of one body-snatcher, that, at his death, he left nearly £6,000 to his family. One, being captured, was tried and found guilty of stealing the clothes in which the bodies were buried, and was transported for seven years. A man who was long superintendent to the dissecting-room at St. Thomas's Hospital, was dismissed for receiving and paying for bodies sent to his employer, he then turned Resurrectionist, was detected and imprisoned, and died in a state of raving madness.

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



Business Service

12 Water Street, Fairfield • 717-457-0551

We are a proud supporter of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

Personal & Business Tax Preparation

So stop in and see why others have switched to us for their tax preparation!
Fees can be withheld from your refund!

Drop slot for customer convenience!

Monday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday by appointment
Extended hours during tax season - Open Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for your convenience!



Tags & Titles

New Tags & Registration
Tag Renewal ~ Tag Return

New-To-State Registration ~ Notary Public

Last PennDOT transaction 30 minutes before closing

ECOLOGY

Maple Fest: a reimagined twist on an old classic

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental
 Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

Maple sugaring is a time-honored tradition with roots that go beyond recorded history. Contemporary writers noted that Indigenous populations had been sugaring across North America for as long as the people could remember. It's truly a tale as old as time. Fortunately for us, this practice has not only endured but expanded. Over the centuries, maple sugaring has become a way of life for many, from backyard hobbyists to commercial producers to families who share laughter around a stack of steaming pancakes. Maple sugar is synonymous with life in North America. And what better way to celebrate it than with a festival?

This year, Strawberry Hill is proud to announce our freshly reimagined Maple Fest, a new twist on our old classic Mount Hope Maple Madness on Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd and 3rd from 8 to noon. If you've been to Mount Hope Maple Madness in the past, you'll recognize some familiar activities such as our pancake and sausage breakfast. Fans of our previous celebrations can still expect crowd favorites such as a tree identification walk and a modern sugar processing station. And, of course, an amazing time in the great outdoors. But overall, Maple Fest is so much more.

This year, Maple Fest will be

an at-your-own-pace walking festival similar to fall festivals in our area. A ticket grants you admission to the pancake breakfast and our full festival of interactive displays, demonstrations, and more. The entire festival layout includes a walk-through time, starting with our Native American station in which you can dive into the ancient history of maple sugaring and see a variety of genuine Native American artifacts and Native American-made replicas.

Continue through the centuries as you visit our colonial-style sugar bush, a maple sugaring camp complete with reenactors dressed in period clothing who will discuss maple sugaring through the 18th and 19th centuries. The sugar bush demonstrations will explore the processing of maple sugar and its revolutionary cultural influences over the centuries. While you're visiting the reenactment, try your hand at old-fashioned tree-tapping and learn how modern tools impacted the practice. Discover some old and new uses for maple sugar in the kitchen including recipes you can try at home.

Need to warm up? Stop by the campfire and hear new tales from the forest, including some fresh takes on European folktales kids of all ages will enjoy. And while you're walking the grounds, don't miss our updated modern processing station, an old favorite with a fun twist. A full schedule of events is available on our website, www.strawberryhill.org/maplefest.

All that walking can make you hungry. When you purchase a ticket, choose an hour block for your party's breakfast seating. Your party may come to Geigley Lodge and begin your meal anytime during the hour block you choose. The festival grounds will be open for ticket holders to explore at their own pace from 8am-12pm. Wristbands will be given when you arrive at the check-in station.

Maple sugaring has been an important piece of Strawberry Hill's history for many years. Our annual maple sugaring festival began in 1997 as a small pancake breakfast to raise money for environmental education. Local backyard maple sugарers brought together knowledge and experience to create a community event that would raise money for our small organization.

Over the years Strawberry Hill has developed its maple-sugaring program into a robust and well-rounded experience that focuses on the science, history, and cultural influences of maple sugaring. We've also built a strong connection with Camp Eder and as a result, the pancake breakfast has grown into an event that serves hundreds of visitors each day. Since its inception, our pancake breakfast has alternated between one day, two days, one weekend, and two weekends. This year, we're going back to our roots and hosting Maple Fest for one weekend only. And this year's festival will be like no other.

Why would we switch things up? As any organization can tell you, change is inevitable. Strawberry Hill is constantly growing and adapting. When covid shut everything down, we pivoted, regained our footing, and kept moving forward. As the world reopened, so did we. And through it all, we've framed our future around continuing our mission, to inspire stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. With that in mind, we've taken the opportunity to reimagine what our favorite pancake breakfast could be. All while respecting and appreciating where it comes from. Maple sugaring, after all, is a Mount Hope tradition and one that many of us have loved since we were quite young.



This year the Maple Fest will include re-enactors dressed in period clothing to discuss maple sugaring through the 18th and 19th centuries.

Those of us who remember the first pancake breakfasts will appreciate how far we've come, as an organization and as a community. From the joy of breakfast on Strawberry Hill campus to the move up the road to Fellowship Baptist Church and now down to beautiful Camp Eder, it's been many incredible years of laughter, friendship, and fun. Which is why we're so excited to bring you this year's Maple Fest. Because at its heart, maple sugaring is community. It's a celebration with friends and family, a festive farewell to long winter days, and a look toward the coming spring.

So, join us on Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd and 3rd, as we take a walk back through time and honor the traditions of long ago while learning new and exciting discoveries about the future of this uniquely North American treat. Whether you've attended Mount Hope Maple Madness in the past, or this will be your first time joining in the celebrations, the 2024 Maple Fest will be a fun and immersive experience into the world of maple sugaring.

If you're unable to make it to the festival or just want to continue the sugaring fun, schedule a private maple sugaring program at Strawberry Hill or check out our public homeschool maple sugaring demonstration on Wednesday, March 6th at Strawberry Hill. There are two program times to choose from: 11 to 2. Each program runs about 90 minutes and

is entirely outdoors. To register for this event, please visit our website or call the office. Our homeschool maple sugaring demonstration is \$10 per participant over the age of four. Our maple sugaring program has been redesigned with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's STEELS standards in mind and can be used in a homeschool portfolio.

For more information about Strawberry Hill Foundation, as well as to purchase tickets in advance for Maple Fest, please call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for kids ages 4 to 12. Children ages 3 and under are free.

And finally, we would like to announce that this project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. The grant was awarded through the South Mountain Partnership, with management oversight of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We are a partner of the South Mountain Partnership, an alliance of organizations working to preserve and enhance the cultural and natural assets of the South Mountain landscape in southcentral Pennsylvania.

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




Plan for Tomorrow

Vinores Financial Services is committed to helping people, business and estates pursue their financial goals. We offer access to a wide range of financial products and services. By working with a skilled financial professional, you will be able to identify your needs and make sound financial decisions to help work toward those goals.

Once we understand your long-term plans, we will customize strategies to implement your vision and objectives. By illustrating your current financial situation we can better work with you in developing the road map best suited to reach your goals.

Call Us Today & Let's Start Planning For Tomorrow

Meet our investment team including a Financial Planner and Advisors.



David Rectenwald
 Eric Vinores
 Ed Gills

Services
 Retirement Planning
 Estate Planning
 Personal Finance
 Financial Planning
 Exit Strategies
 Annuity Products
 Income Planning
 Farm Estate
 Transition Planning
 Retirement
 Education Savings Accounts
 Investment Management

209 E. Main St., Thurmont • 301-304-6004
VinoresFinancial.com

Securities offered through Grove Point Investments, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Grove Point Advisors, LLC. Grove Point Investments, LLC & Grove Point Advisors, LLC are subsidiaries of Grove Point Financial, LLC. Vinores Financial Services is not affiliated with Grove Point Financial, LLC or its subsidiaries.

View Form CRS



March 2nd & 3rd
 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Strawberry Hill's
 Maple
 Fest

\$20 Adults
 \$15 Kids 4 and up
 3 and under free



a reimagined twist on an old classic

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
WWW.STRAWBERRYHILL.ORG

IN THE COUNTRY

Catoctin Christmas bird count

Kathy Brown
Frederick Bird Club

The idea of a Christmas Bird Count was introduced 124 years ago to counter and document the effects of unregulated hunting. The worst damage was due to “market” hunting, the slaughter of billions (yes, billions) of birds for eastern food markets. Total lack of regulation led to the extermination of the Passenger Pigeon and dangerous decimation of populations of many duck, goose, and swan populations.

December 16 was the 75th year of the Catoctin Christmas Bird Count. The Bird Count covers a 15-mile diameter circle in north Frederick County with Thurmont as the epicenter. The circle includes a few towns and a lot of open country including state, national and local parks, forests, numerous waterways, fisheries, and endless farm fields. The Frederick Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, has sponsored the Christmas Bird Count for many years. It is a very tangible example of citizen science and an ideal way to enjoy a winter's day in beautiful northern Frederick County.

Most of the birds seen during winter counts are year-round residents, like chickadees, cardinals, hawks, and woodpeckers. By the time of the count, migrating summer residents have already headed south for warmer territories with open water and plentiful food. We do enjoy a few winter-only visitors that migrate from the colder north primarily due to lack of food. Frederick County's most common winter visitors are Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, often seen at the base of bird feeders in the coldest months. Maryland's rivers, bays and coast also host a variety of ducks, geese and swans during the winter.

The 22 count participants spent

the day driving, bicycling and, where possible, walking through their assigned territories. “Counters” count every bird seen and heard, so the ability to ID birds by sound is very important. Some birders are excellent at IDing birds by sound, an invaluable skill when trying to identify a small, dark shadow, buried in a dense thicket.

This year's results were slightly better than last year, I suspect due to the higher number of experienced counters and improved territory coverage. The species count was 70 vs 66 for last year, and the total number of individual birds seen or heard was 10,373 vs 9,176.

As with prior counts, I compared averages for each species for the most current ten years with averages for the prior ten years. Trends of recent years continue. Many of our common species show significant population declines. A few species like the Bald Eagle and Common Raven continue to show impressive population gains. A recent positive change is the increase in sightings for the Red-headed Woodpecker in just the last three years. Unfortunately, that increase is possibly due to the many trees in the county recently killed by beetles.

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to do well (up 55%), but Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers are much lower.

Studies show that grassland bird populations in North America have declined by more than 50%. Habitat loss is a probable factor in these declines, particularly agricultural intensification and development. Grassland birds like Northern Bobwhite and the non-native Ring-neck Pheasant are no longer found in Frederick County. Sightings for one of my favorite birds, the American Kestrel, have decreased by 33%. This iconic grassland bird is in serious trouble.

A look at the long history of the Christmas Bird Count reveals a few amazing – at least to us now – species numbers. During the mid-60s, there were astounding high count numbers of several common birds: 42 thousand Red-winged Blackbirds; 100 thousand Common Grackles; and 52 thousand Brown-headed Cowbirds. This year, the combined total for all three species was less than 100. In the late 60s, 680 American Tree Sparrows were reported; the average for the last ten years has been two. The Field Sparrow high count was 175 in the mid-50s; the average for the last ten years has been eight.

Many things are contributing to bird population declines including habitat loss, window-strikes, pesticides and herbicides, free-roaming cats, and even light pollution. But climate change is now recognized as the biggest ongoing threat to birds – and yes, humans.

Climate change makes extreme weather more likely. The news this year again featured endless stories about record heat, record numbers of tornadoes, devastating wildfires, massive floods, and, less visible but equally dangerous, permafrost melting. Only concerted action at the national and international level will keep things from getting worse.

Many projects are already underway to achieve the target of a 40% reduction in US greenhouse emission levels by 2030. Meaningful change will take time, but there are seven simple actions Audubon encourages everyone to do now to help birds and our planet: make windows safer; keep cats indoors; reduce lawn and use native plants; avoid pesticides; drink shade grown coffee; avoid single use plastic; and join the Citizen Science Effort.

I want to add two of my own. First and foremost, support national, state, and local officials



Red-shouldered Hawks continue to do well in the Catoctin region, showing a 55% increase over last year's count.

who have the courage to make the difficult decisions required if the beautiful world we call home can be preserved for future generations. Second, if you can, support the many non-profit organizations that work tirelessly to combat climate change throughout the world.

www.frederickbirdclub.org and Audubon Society of Central Maryland www.centralaudubon.org welcome guests and new members. Visit their websites to learn about meetings, bird-focused presentations, bird counts, and bird walks and outings throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about the birds of Frederick County, the Frederick Bird Club

To read other articles by Kathy Brown, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Maple Syrup Festival

MARCH 9-10 & 16-17 • 10AM-2PM
Cunningham Falls State Park—Houck Area

Welcome spring at Cunningham Falls State Park by learning how maple syrup is made from the sap of trees in the park. Enjoy a traditional pancake and sausage breakfast, stock up on maple syrup products, including syrup, maple cream, and candy. Syrup making demonstrations every hour. The event supports the Friends of Cunningham Falls. For more information, call Cunningham Falls State Park 301-271-7574.

visitfrederick.org



Over 30 years in business
CHRISTIAN BASED TO-DO-LIST SPECIALIST
MR FIX IT SERVICES
Interior/Exterior Installations & Repairs
Call or text Ed 443-326-4871
MHIC #78710 PA #114771

Mick's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
Installation, Service & Repair
Oil & Gas Furnaces ~ Heat Pumps ~ Well Pumps
Water Heaters ~ Drains ~ Leaky Faucets ~ Bathroom Remodels
No Job Too Small - 24 Hour Service

The Harry & Edith Show!
Commercials Air on WFRE!

Heat Pump Inspection
\$89⁹⁵

Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning
1 Year Interest Free Financing Available
We Offer HVAC Service Agreements
Call For Details!

27 Howard Street, Thurmont
301-271-2488

REAL SCIENCE

Science...

Michael Rosenthal

... the word scares many people, but the principles of science dominate every event that occurs. Even when you are not a scientist, or even a follower of science, science consistently affects your life.

I fell in love with science, chemistry in particular, in high school, where I was lucky enough to have a wonderful chemistry teacher. So, I have spent the ensuing years of my life studying and teaching college chemistry, a subject of which I've never tired. In this article I'll touch upon a number of subjects that have been in the news lately, and that often have generated controversy, partly due to misunderstanding of the underlying scientific principles, but also often due to a yet incomplete scientific understanding of the issue. In ensuing articles I'll explore these and other topics and encourage readers to make suggestions for topics, to comment to me on reaction to the things I write, and to develop a protocol of learning that goes beyond the simple publicity headlines. I'll respect opinions that differ from mine, but I'll hope for and encourage opinions based on scientific findings, rather than on emotion. We all (even I!) have emotional reactions, but my hope is to balance them with scientific analyses.

Let's start with something with which I had a personal experi-

ence – Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Over the years there has been a romance with UFOs, and the belief that we have been and continue to be visited by those from other parts of the universe. The beliefs were encouraged by the supposed sightings in New Mexico during the Cold War, and the culture built around the town, Roswell, in southern New Mexico. There is no firm evidence that we have ever been visited by aliens! Roswell has become a tourist center around the notion of alien visitors, and all of us are aware of the many science fiction films and science fiction books written about them. But the fact remains that there is no documented evidence that an alien has ever set foot on earth!

I have two personal anecdotes. Crossing the Hudson River once near Kingston, NY (I was a faculty member in those days at Bard College), I saw a mysterious silver, elliptical object hovering over the wetlands! It was hovering, it was an object, and it was unidentified! It would have been so easy to believe it was piloted by aliens. The second story occurred when visiting Roswell. While leaving the Alien Museum, a man behind us said to the staff member that the museum had absolutely convinced him that aliens had visited us. Believe it or not! Until firmer evidence comes along, I cannot believe it.

Another anecdote from that period involves overhead power lines. To a great extent due to a

book and a subsequent three-part series of articles written in 1989 in the reputable and popular (we have subscribed for many years) New Yorker magazine, it became a popular belief that microwave radiation from overhead power lines could cause cancer. This belief led to a period of fear, even of driving one's car under these power lines on a road trip. Electromagnetic radiation must have the energy high enough to do damage to human cells based on the equation: Energy = Planck's constant X frequency, where frequency is inversely proportional to wavelength. Thus high frequency radiation has high energy and can cause cell damage, and low frequency radiation cannot do so. This is why unfiltered sunlight, which has ultraviolet radiation, can tan you and can damage cells, and heat, which does not have such radiation, cannot do so. And why do you get warmed but not get sunburned when sunlight passes through the window? Glass absorbs the high-energy ultraviolet radiation and passes the low energy infrared radiation. We now recognize that there is not enough high energy radiation radiated from power lines to damage human cells.

Sometimes we discover things that do have the potential to harm us. You may have read recently that arsenic in rice, beer, and fruit juices poses a health hazard. It is agreed that inorganic arsenic poses a health hazard, and there are no federal limits for it in juice, rice, or most other food. Of particular concern is arsenic consumption by children. In May 2014 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that they are "conducting a risk assessment as the next step in a process to help manage possible risks associated with the consumption of rice and rice products". I believe that this is a matter worth watching, and that eaters of rice should seek rice with the lowest levels of arsenic. Articles in Consumer Reports magazine, the most recent in the January 2015 issue, are useful in learning about this issue.

Can we trust the FDA? The FDA has done much good work to recognize danger to us from food and drugs. It is worth watching their pronouncements. Can we



Snake oil is a term used to describe deceptive marketing, healthcare fraud, or a scam. Similarly, snake oil salesman is a common label used to describe someone who sells, promotes, or is a general proponent of some valueless or fraudulent cure, remedy, or solution. The term comes from the 'snake oil' that used to be sold as a cure-all elixir for many kinds of physiological problems.

believe that they are totally unbiased and always correct? Well, I am a believer in having skepticism of scientific results. It is well to examine the source of information to be sure the researcher is competent and unbiased, and then it is well to be alert for the confirmation of results, since even the most honest and well-meaning scientist can make a mistake. In our household we are continuing to eat rice, but we seek a product with low arsenic levels, and we limit our consumption.

So how do we tell whose data and results are less likely to be wrong and are not biased? One must always be skeptical of those who are likely to gain from the results. To that end, I have a good deal of faith in Consumer Reports magazine, in articles published in respected scientific journals (for example, Science, the monthly publication of the AAAS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science), a little less faith in government agencies (politics!), and real skepticism of newspaper and magazine articles

that only reflect the opinions of the writer. One of the tenets of science is that one person's opinion should be reviewed and verified by others before publication. Even then mistakes are made, some accidentally, and some willingly. (We will talk about Cold Fusion as an example in a later article.)

Finally it is well to take note of the presence of the phrase, "This product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration". When you see this phrase, beware! The product may not hurt you, but it usually means it has not been proven that it will do you any good. Many, many ads on television and even full-page or multi-page advertisements in respected newspapers and magazines for products to improve your health have this phrase on them. It usually means that it has no proven positive effect, other than to potentially make money for the seller.

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

EMMITSBURG DENTAL CENTER
 Dr. Olumide (Olu) Bolarinwa, D.M.D., MSc
 Continuing care for current patients!
WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
 101 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg • 301-447-6662
 Emmitsburgdental@gmail.com

Hickory Bridge Farm
 FINE FAMILY STYLE DINING IN A BEAUTIFUL BARN
 9 MILES WEST OF GETTYSBURG

TRADITIONAL FAMILY STYLE DINNERS
 Serving Individual Guests
 Friday & Saturday 3:30 - 8 p.m.
 Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Serving Daily
 Banquets & Special Events
 Red Shed Venue
 Weddings & Family Reunions
 Bed & Breakfast
 Cottages, Fireplaces & Whirlpool Baths
 96 HICKORY BRIDGE RD., ORRTANNA
 717-642-5261
 Reservations advised
 Call or book online: www.hickorybridgefarm.com

CRUISE PLANNERS®
 MORE THAN JUST CRUISES

Hawaii 2025!
 February 23 - March 5
 Save \$413 per person with my group pricing!

Visiting 3 Hawaiian Islands - Oahu - The Big Island - Maui
 Some tours included: Pearl Harbor & the Arizona - Kona Coffee Living History Farm
 Festive Luau - Volcano National Park - Punahou Bake Shop - Whale Watching - Lots of free time!

Barb Cline, ECC
 Your Personal Travel Professional
 240-575-5966
 BarbClineTravel.com
 CruisePlannersFrederick.com

Call Today!

THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Seeds & such

Jack Deatherage

“What do you have in the seed fridge?” Is how most conversations begin when I start perusing online seed catalogs. Usually followed by, “Why don’t we plant those?” Which is why I box up most of the seed stash every few years and mail the box to a sister in Florida. Unfortunately, the sister in Florida is no longer accepting seeds from yankeeland. She’s taken to only growing flowers and veggies suited to her growing conditions.

Fortunately, someone in Thurmont is setting up a seed library and will happily accept the seeds I need to get rid of so the DW can’t use my stash to control my, “Oo! I wanna trial those!” Toss in how much the DW hates winter, along with some pictures of pretty flowers, and we’re over \$220 worth of seed orders so far this winter!

It’s unusual the DW agrees to spending more than \$100 on seeds.

“No more!” Comes a command backed by the sudden heat of the DW’s Balor of the evil eye glare.

“Yes dear.”

“Don’t you ‘yes dear’ me. I know you.”

I remind her she wants seed taters and I’ll need some veggie and flower sets for the kids to plant come Earth Day. She mutters something like, “Fine. But NO MORE seeds.”

“Eh-hem.”

“Now what?”

“We have two round beds waiting to be assembled and still need two more for the library’s use. Those are \$120 each. And while we have two larger beds to place where last year’s flowerbed is, I’d like to order three more. Those are \$180 each.”

She’s given up stopping the purchase of raised beds for the library’s use, but continues the argument for only three raised beds for the flowerbed with in ground plantings between them. If I win the argument we’ll have spent \$1,600 on the 2024 community garden and it ain’t even seed starting time!

I back off on buying three more large beds and allow I can work with one more, given we found a wheelbarrow we want that costs over \$200- a tool we can easily transport in the car so we can use it at home and the Cedar Ave Community Garden. We also hope to acquire at least two 16’ hog/cattle

panels to make arches for the kids section of the community garden- about \$30 each, and I need to find someone willing to haul them to the garden. (sigh) I knew I should have bought a pick’em up truck instead of a car. Ah well.

The DW did not bother to total up last year’s layout for the community garden, but my estimate comes to about \$2,000. Obviously we’re on track to spend at least that much this year, which has caused another gardener and more than one town commissioner to tell me I should be turning in my receipts to the town office for reimbursement. Pfft. Not going to happen.

As well as last year’s garden went, the project could still fail, especially if I’m left to make most of the decisions! I see no reason the taxpayers should foot the bills during the establishment of the garden. Besides, I no longer buy motorcycles, imbibe adult beverages, fish or hunt. What else I got to spend money on? Sure, a seriously comfortable recliner and an even more comfortable mattress would be nice, but I’d never get anything done if I had either of those!

First Sister should be occupying the upstairs apartment by the end of the month. She says she’s had enough of the South and wants to enjoy winters again. I’m concerned she may have lost her mind after 14 years of living in the South, but I’m certainly not going to refuse her offer to help with the gardens!

A thing that worries me, First Sister is at least as frugal as is the DW. That, and her having not lived under the same roof with me for the last 44 years, she’s likely immune to my constant jabbering and won’t be as easily swayed by it as the DW is. Not that the DW is easy. Gods no! She’s just worn out after 38 years of enduring my blather. If they join forces, as they probably will, they might, maybe, possibly be able to interrupt my daily naps (about the only time I’m not jabber-jawing) and force me into doing some manual labor other than exhausting myself while doing online searches for new garden stuff to buy!

Other than First Sister helping with the gardens I’m hoping to convince... persuade her to volunteer her time at the library teaching kids to crochet and maybe do a lecture on how to get into drawing and painting without spend-

ing a fortune on art supplies. That would get me out of doing lectures at the library while freeing up more nap time!

I’m also thinking she might crochet some items we can sell at next year’s farmers market. She wants to get the DW back into the craft as well. The pair of them “frogging”, “weaving in ends” and debating projects, patterns, and which yarns and colors to use while throwing around arcane terms like- slip stitch, half double crochet, double treble and yarn over -for hours at a stretch should give me plenty of time to study the insides of me eyelids and contemplate important guy things. Such as what I’ll cook for the next meal, and what I should get the women to harvest and wash for the farmers market table I’ll be napping behind on Fridays. A man’s, at least a lazy man’s, work is never done. (That’s a truism I would add to The Scriptures... if I weren’t too lazy to write them.)

To show some small initiative, as small as possible, I’ll spend what’s left of this winter trialing cookies and breads I think might go over well at the farmers market. I’d thought about selling homemade egg noodles as well, but after reading up on the state and county’s cottage food laws (some of which I’ve probably been in violation of for at least a decade, though I’ll never admit to it) I’ll keep the excellent egg noodles for family and friends that might, but it’s unlikely, be invited to dine with us. Besides, making egg noodles is more active work than making either cookies or bread!



I just had a horrible thought! What if the Oklahoma Homesteader and the Mad One showed up here at the same time this coming warm season? Four females all determined to get me to do some actual work?

Mother of the Laughing Gods! I’d have to acquire an Army surplus tent, a subarctic sleeping bag, some campfire cookware and wander off to the community park

to camp somewhere along Toms Creek until I either succumb to rabies, hypothermia, eat something too toxic to digest, or drown in a flood.

Hmm... That would cut the household food bill by nearly a hundred bucks a week.

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

EMMITSBURG
Tattoo
COMPANY

2 West Main Street
Hours: Tues. - Fri. 12-9 p.m., Sat. 12-8 p.m.

301-447-6837

EmmitsburgTattooCompany@gmail.com Walk-Ins Welcome!

GETTYSBURG
TRADING POST.COM

717-334-3979

2222 York Rd., Gettysburg

THE MASTER GARDENER

Starting seeds

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Why start your own seeds? And when should I do it? Late March-early April is a great time to start many of our annual seeds. Many gardeners have purchased their seeds in February and are just waiting for the growing season to get started. However, folks get antsy for spring in February and begin sowing seeds indoors. I get lots of questions about how to manage seedlings that are long and stretchy. Unfortunately, the answer to that question is to throw them out and start over at the right time.

Starting your own seeds gives you the advantage of a bigger selection of more unusual varieties of flowers and vegetables. Garden centers and nurseries often carry the more popular and common varieties of flowers and veg-

etables in transplants, making it sometimes difficult to get unusual varieties. Take advantage of seed catalogs for information as well as an opportunity to purchase unusual seeds.

Be sure to look on the back of the seed packet for how long it takes the seeds to germinate. Seed catalogs often give this information as well. Count back from the time that you can plant seedlings outside. Allow for one to two weeks of growing time after germination and you'll have your startup date.

For instance, I have a seed packet of red and yellow pear tomatoes. On the pack, it tells me that it takes 7-14 days for the seeds to germinate. In our area, you can safely plant out tomatoes by mid-May. Counting back two weeks for the transplants to grow and another two weeks for the seeds to germinate, I'm looking at

starting these seeds in mid April. Giving a little time for mistakes or possible replant, the seeds should be started indoors by early April.

After determining when the seeds should be started, giving the seeds the requirements they need becomes most important. Seeds need four things: light, water, oxygen, and heat. Getting to know your seeds makes this an easy step. Again, reading the seed packet will tell you the depth to plant the seed. Keeping the seeds evenly moist and the soil temperatures between 75°-85°F should provide just the right environment for these seeds to germinate – this is the heat and water requirements. The oxygen comes from the soil. Use a light, soil-less mixture that is formulated for seed starting. All-purpose potting mixes can work as well, provided the seeds are not overwatered. All-purpose mixes sometimes hold more water. The soil will give your seeds and roots the oxygen that is needed for good germination and growth.

There are a few seed starting setups that you can implement in your home. One choice is to use a heat mat under the seed tray. Heating cables work well too. This provides the needed warmth for the soil. Above the seed tray, mount some fluorescent lights and lower them so they are just above the tray. This will provide the needed light for germination. As the seedlings grow, the light will need to be raised.

Starting seeds in a brightly lit window is difficult. If this is the only option, be sure it's in the south facing window. Supplemental lighting is best, but not always an option. Also be sure the room is warm. The cooler the room, the longer it will take for the seedlings to grow.

Before planting your seeds, find out if they need any scarification or stratification before planting. Scarification refers to breaking the seed coat. This is sometimes needed for quicker germination of some seeds. For instance, morning glory and gourd seeds germinate quicker if you soften the seed coat by soaking overnight. Some seeds may require sandpaper to rough up the surface of the seed, or even a knife to nick the seed coat.

Stratification refers to the tem-



Native perennials, such as these Monarda, are easy to grow from seed indoors for winter sowing.

peratures required for the seed to break dormancy and the seed to germinate. An example of this would be some types of acorns. It needs a cold period for the seed to break dormancy. Also many of our native plants will require a cold period for their seeds to germinate.

After the seeds begin to grow, they will send up what appears to be leaves. This first set of "leaves" is called cotyledons. Next to develop are the true set of leaves. The true leaves take on the identification features of the plant. At this point, the seedling can be transplanted into a larger container or planted into the garden, if soil and air temperatures are adequate.

Before putting the plant out, you may want to "harden-off" your plant. This means that the plant needs time to acclimate to the outdoors. This is done simply by setting the seedlings outside in a protected area for a few days to one week, then planting them in the ground. Be sure there is no danger of frost if you are keeping them outside overnight. You could bring them inside each evening if you are hardening off the plants during the time of possible frost damage.

Another way to start seeds is to do it now, outdoors. This is referred to as winter seed sowing. January is the preferred month in our area to do this technique, but February works as well.

Winter sowing has to do with the stratification, as mentioned above, needed for some seeds. This technique typically uses milk jugs, orange juice containers, or water containers. These are almost cut in half, so that the top of the jug and bottom of the jug are "hinged". Holes should be made in the bottom of the jug, allowing for drainage.

Soil is placed in the bottom (about 2"-3" deep). Seeds are then sown, as the packet recommends, and the "lid" is then closed and taped to the bottom part of the jug. The jugs are placed outside, which gives the seeds the needed cold period. Allow the snow and rain to coat the jugs. Check the seeds for water throughout the rest of the winter, to avoid drying out.

This technique can be used for both perennials and annuals. Cole crops do well with this treatment, as do native perennials. Annual flower seeds, especially the plants that do well in the colder temperatures, take to this process. With some trial and error, this will prove to be successful for many types of plants.

An upcoming series, The Vegetable Patch, begins Thursdays, February 22 – March 14, from 6:30 to 8 will give you a good basis for growing a vegetable garden, from starting seeds to harvesting, and everything in between. We will talk about seed starting and give you an opportunity to start your own seeds in class. To register, go to: www.extension.psu.edu/the-vegetable-patch. Space is limited.

Whichever technique you choose, seed starting is fun; and you get to grow the plants that you want, not what the nurseries provide! From vegetables to annuals to perennials, this allows you to learn a bit more about plants and how they grow.

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners February Seminars

February 3: "Bay-wise Principles" Encourage wildlife; control stormwater runoff; mow & water efficiently; mulch appropriately & recycle yard waste; fertilize, plant & manage yard pests wisely; and protect the waterfront. These 'best practices' can earn you Bay-Wise certification - and a distinctive yard sign.

January 24: "Indoor Plants & Wellness" Having indoor plants just makes us feel better. Learn about the therapeutic benefits of houseplants. Iden-

tify plants that can make for a healthier indoor environment.

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 Master Gardeners Frederick County Maryland Facebook page, or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.



Cub Cadet

SALES  **DAYS**  EVENT



\$100 OFF*

2X® AND 3X®
SNOW BLOWERS

*Restrictions apply. Visit cubcadet.com/offers or your local retailer for complete details.

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS  VISIT CUBCADET.COM

HARRINGTON & SONS

427 E. Main St., Emmitsburg

301-447-6666

harringtonandsons.com

Winter Hours:
Mon. - Wed. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. - Noon

*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. †† As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3500 RPM per SAE J1349 as rated by engine manufacturer. **Limited warranty - normal wear parts 30 days. For full warranty details, visit cubcadet.com or see your local dealer. © 2023 Cub Cadet LPV_2307

PONDSCAPES



Create a Sanctuary in Your Own Backyard!

- Watergarden Design
- Installation & Maintenance
- Custom, Quality Stone Masonry
- Koi Ponds, Streams and Waterfalls
- Natural Stone Patios, Walls & Walkways

WATERGARDENS ...
Lower Stress Look Beautiful
Attract Wildlife Raise Property Values
...Just relax and enjoy!!

Owners Paul & Stacie Zelenka
240-446-2846
www.PondscapesMaryland.com
or email us at: pspondscapes@msn.com

MIBC #88198

THE MASTER GARDENER

The dead of winter

Maritta Perry Grau
Frederick County Master Gardener

Is February the “dead of winter”? Maybe. According to several web sites, the “dead of” anything doesn’t mean lack of life, as I had always thought, but rather, being in the middle of whatever it is—winter, night, etc.

“In the middle of” winter makes much more sense to me than dead, as in lack of life, ever did. After all, if we look closely, we see signs of life all winter long, whether it’s December or February. Last fall’s leaves, slumped-over pampas grass, Russian sage, and flattened hostas all contribute to the life cycle of your garden—they provide shelter and food in the form of insects, larvae, seeds, for winter birds and other creatures, as well as the spring and summer guests on their way.

Look up at your garden’s vertical structures. On those bare, sculpted branches, in the evergreens whose tall, jagged silhouettes pierce the sky is life. Buds are breaking dormancy on branches. Pine cones are fattening in the high branches of pines, junipers, hemlocks.

Now look down. On your garden’s floor, you see dead, shriveled, collapsed stems and leaves. Yet, snow drops, crocuses and other early spring flowers are popping out of the soil. Scratch away a little bit of the surface detritus and you will see more itty-bitty tendrils peeping out of the soil and dead leaves.

But I know what you’re thinking—Looking at all that dead stuff, you’re getting itchy garden fingers. Go ahead—start pruning, spading, cleaning up (a little). However, a word of caution—know which plants will be happy with your grooming efforts and which ones want to hold onto their winter scruffiness just a little longer.

Prune: Master Gardeners recommend that you prune both to improve the shape of the plant and to open up the center of the plant for better air circulation. You can find lots of advice in gardening magazines and on web-

sites. For example, the Garden Helper (www.thegardenhelper.com) recommends that you first remove all dead, decayed, or broken branches. From there, the method of pruning depends on the type of plant.

Most important with pruning is that you know when the plant blooms. If it’s a springtime bloomer, such as rhododendron, azalea, forsythia, don’t prune until AFTER the blooming season. However, if it’s a summer bloomer, such as many crepe myrtles, it can be pruned now before buds form.

Make sure your pruners or clippers are sharp, and disinfect them between usage. Jessica Damiano of NewsDay.com recommends using “a 10-percent bleach/90 percent water solution, or disinfectant spray.”

Take a look at your hollies, roses, grapevines, and honeysuckle (plant native American honeysuckle, not the invasive Japanese varieties). Do they look a bit ragged and rough around the edges? February is a good time to make them happy with careful pruning, cutting out diseased canes and branches.

Damiano also suggests that you prune deciduous trees (those that drop their leaves in the fall) now, except for those she calls “bleeders”: maple, beech, dogwood, elm, and sycamore. She notes that those trees should be in full leaf before you prune. Now would also be a good time to mark with bright paint the branches you want to prune later.

Replant, water, dig: As you make your garden rounds, you’ll find that Mother Nature has given the heave-ho to some bulbs, tubers and plant crowns. Gently press them back into the ground. We had so much rain and snow this past fall and in the early part of winter that you probably don’t need to water evergreens, but if the ground isn’t frozen, check to see how dry it is; water as needed. Turn the compost pile, Damiano commands.

Check trees and shrubs for damag-

ing insects. You might see small, cottony masses on evergreens that could be woolly adelgid egg sacs. Make sure the wrappings on tree trunks are still secure to keep some larvae from inching their way up to burrow under tender bark. Treat woody plants with dormant oil spray to destroy overwintering aphids, mites, and scale. If

you’re unsure what kind of insect or disease is causing a problem, help is available by way of the University of Maryland Frederick Extension website www.extension.umd.edu. On the lower right portion of the page is a link to “Ask an Expert”. This will connect you to professionally trained horticulturists that will help identify the

problem to the best of their ability. Fertilize: You can also fertilize shrubs, trees, evergreens, and spring-flowering bulbs now. Use an acidic fertilizer for plants such as rhododendron, azaleas, conifers, evergreens, etc. For deciduous trees and shrubs, and roses, use an all-purpose fertilizer

Small Town Gardener

No interest in ‘Winter interest’

Marianne Willburn

I have developed a strong antipathy for the term ‘winter interest’ in garden writing. Do we truly have nothing better to say about winter gardens or the plants growing in them than to damn them with faint praise? I have been guilty myself, but now repent wholeheartedly.

To term something ‘winter interest’ is to reject the capacity of the winter garden to charm on its own terms. It is to begin in the premise that the winter garden is markedly inferior to the summer garden; and as such, cannot hope to inspire, energize, or uplift the gardener, but only clinically interest him. As in, “It’s a pity everything looks like hell out there. But I did notice a gumball-pruned holly while making a beeline for the front door.”

By that definition, an abandoned wheelbarrow is winter interest, as is that pile of black pots you meant to stash away but never did. They drew the eye for a moment, disappointed it, then released it in a wash of guilt and/or regret. It is at core a statement of absence and comparison. We do not use or need its equivalent in spring and summer – no one in their right mind terms a tulip “spring interest.” Judge Them Differently

Yes there is less to admire. Less in-your-face frippery –

less of the cheap and easy thrill. But there is a deeper, more resonant quality to the winter landscape. The superficiality of one’s summer play is laid bare, and we are forced to contemplate the underlying structure – or lack thereof – and fix it if we dare. We are faced with our weaknesses as gardeners – the bones that were never planted, the structures unpainted, the winding paths never laid. That pile of pots.

Enough winter interest! Expect more of your garden. Expect more of your plants. How much better to create a scene and name the attributes of a plant or structure in the winter garden for what they are adding to the overall effect, in the same way we effortlessly discuss those characteristics during the growing season?

In summer, grasses soften hard lines and provide movement. In winter, that sexy sway stiffens and morphs into fountains of tawny beige. In summer, an uber-thin ‘Taylor’s’ juniper is a vertical statement, in winter, it becomes a launching point, drawing your gaze upwards to an icy blue sky. The pinkish cast on a ‘Silver Lining’ pyracantha is something unachievable in the summer garden – revel in that blush! Do not hand it second place in a beauty contest with the too-easy condescension of ‘winter interest.’

Big Picture Thinking Is Required Do we dare move beyond winter interest and claim our gardens in winter? To build a winter garden, or at least, a garden that continues to enchant and surprise us with strong colors, textures, shapes

and views, a layering, patient approach is necessary – especially in smaller gardens where players must assume many parts. That requires more than a quick and casual approach to planting.

For instance, a red or yellow twiggled Cornus (or a bit of both in the cultivars ‘Midwinter Fire’ or ‘Arctic Fire’) is a striking beacon in the winter months, but the shrub is dull during the growing season. It must be tucked in where it can bide its time least offensively as a green backdrop in order that it may stun the pants off you the minute it loses its leaves and the temperatures drop.

But that’s not enough. It must echo elsewhere – even if it’s simply a bunch of pruned whips from the original shrub poked into potting soil in a pot or pots on the porch. One shrub on an arctic tundra qualifies under the insipidity of ‘winter interest,’ two or more bright fiery displays make it look like you planned it.

Because You Did.

One Thing Leads to Another And from there perhaps you build on a good thing, underplanting your deciduous shrubs with some resilient heliobores, cheerful snowdrops and winter aconite, Chino-doxa, Puschkinia, etc.. – plants and bulbs that will play a huge part at soil level and then either disappear or happily enjoy a summer shading.

Layer follows layer – it takes time to build a garden that holds its own in winter. We commit to that endeavor when we stop talking in terms of ‘interest’ and start talking in terms of colors, shapes, textures and views.

Right now on Instagram (@marianne.willburn) I’m celebrating the winter garden and the many gifts of this cold but captivating season all the way up to the first day of spring. If you’re having trouble moving from ‘Winter interest’ to ‘Winter garden,’ join me there and perhaps I can change your mind. - MW

Marianne is the author of *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

PATRICK ARENTZ GENERAL SERVICES
Landscaping & Light Excavation Services
Topsoil & Mulch Sales • Lawn & Field Mowing
Shrub Trimming
Junk & Debris Hauling
Lot Clearing & Demo
Storm Clean-Up
www.arentzs.com
717-642-6802
License # PA002802

WEEDS TAKING OVER?
Land + Forest Conservation can help you get your property back!
Brush and Weed Control
Tree and Brush Mulching Services
Stump Removal • Excavation
Call 717-253-5548,
email landandforest@gmail.com
or visit our Facebook page

HAWKINS LANDSCAPING

- Patios/Walks
- Retaining Walls
- Paver Driveways
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Firepits
- Outdoor Landscape Lighting
- Planting
- Seeding/Sodding

301-898-3615 Fax: 301-898-1150
8408 Links Bridge Rd. Thurmont
Email: DavidJr@Hawkinslandscaping.com HawkinsLandscaping.com

Environmental ENHANCEMENTS
LAWN & LANDSCAPE

Contact us:
301-241-3719
www.eellserves.com

PETS

Empty nest

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

I didn't expect the house to be so quiet. I knew it would be a little strange, but this is almost cacophonous in its silence.

When I helped Lilly move into her dorm room last weekend – I knew my life was going to change. Anna went off to school two years ago and she's doing so well, I couldn't be prouder. I knew Lilly will flourish just like her sister did.

Being a single mom was so tough. There were some days I really didn't think I was going to make it, but somehow the three of us battled through and came out on the other side and I have two very strong, intelligent young women who I am not only proud to call my daughters, but also honored to have as friends.

It's just. What do I do now? Sure, I've got work and it's good and I've got friends there, but for the last 20 years, my true purpose in this life has been to care for my kids and make sure they had what they needed and that they were okay.

Some days I catch myself just standing in one of their bedrooms, looking around. It's kind of skeletal. Nothing of them really remains. Remnants from when they were younger, sure. Stuffed

animals and a few dolls and childhood trappings, but the essence of them, I know, is really somewhere else.

Can you believe I leave the television on that ridiculous Kardashian show just to make it feel like they're still here?

I know it's crazy and yet.

Here I am. Just me. Not really sure who to be anymore.

Weeks pass and I'm working myself into what I think may be a serious depression and I try to feel valuable somewhere, somehow, and I absolutely treasure the phone calls I get from my girls when they tell me about their lives and their classes and the friends they're making, but it just doesn't feel the same. It's different from when they were right next to me talking about that kind of thing.

I call in sick for the second day in a row even though I don't have any real symptoms – I just can't seem to get out of bed.

I've managed to turn on the coffee pot when I hear it. This odd sound. It's almost like the cry of a baby, but not really, and I would swear it's coming from my front bushes.

I'm in a horribly stained robe and worn out bedroom slippers when I open the front door. There, under the boxwoods beside my porch is the tiniest little kitten I think I have ever seen. The little thing looks up at the noise of the door and he doesn't run. Not at all. In fact, he takes a hesitant step forward – one little paw on my porch.

I whisper, somewhat reverently I'm afraid, "Hey there, little one. Where did you come from?"

The meow this time is much louder and the steps toward me are far more certain. I can hear the purring already.

When the ball of orange fur gets to my feet, I swear he looks up, right into my eyes and something happens. It's as though I can hear him ask, "Can you help me?"

And in that instant, on that somewhat chilly morning on my porch, I know my house won't be quite so empty anymore.

I get him an appointment at the vet and find out he really is a "him." I name him Oliver and I get him treated for fleas and purchase all sorts of supplies for him and that first night, I kid you not, he sleeps on a pillow by my head.

From that moment on, we're pretty much inseparable.

He greets me at the door when I come home at night and we watch TV together (no more Kardashians for me!) and it all just somehow fits.

I become the lady at work that's always showing pictures of her cat to all the other employees and I know it drives some of them crazy, but I just love little Oliver so much.

The girls say things like, "We were never allowed to have a pet growing up and now you have a cat???" But the first time they meet him, they fall as hard for him as I did.

And this time, when they pull out of the driveway to head back to school, I feel that same pang in my heart I always have, but just as I finish my sigh, Oliver hops up beside me and I know that even though my girls may be growing up and getting on with their lives, I'll always have someone to care for.

Little Oliver, who arrived just when I needed him, seems just fine with it.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, PA, 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.



Pickleball is a 3-month-old boy who just loves attention. He also enjoys feather toys and is going to make someone an amazing companion. Pickleball would love to know what a forever home is all about. Could you show him?



Quince came into the shelter after being found abandoned in a house with 20 other cats in July. He was covered in fleas, skinny, and was missing a lot of fur and his left ear was damaged. Since his arrival at the shelter, he has been treated for the fleas, gained some weight and his fur has grown back. Can you show this sweet 3-year-old boy what a forever home is all about?



Forrest is a handsome, smart guy who loves to be with you! He is a 2-year-old terrier mix who knows sit, down and shake. Forrest enjoys going out to the yard to run and play! He would do best in a home without cats because he likes to chase them and will not leave them alone. Due to his size and energy level, Forrest may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Can you help this sweet boy out of a kennel and into a forever home?



At the Beginning of December 2023, CVAS had 12 dogs surrendered after their owner had passed away. Trooper was one of them. He was the dirtiest of the group and did very well with several baths since his arrival. He has lived his whole life in a barn stall and has come a long way since that day in December, but as far as we know, Trooper has never lived in a house and will need time to adjust. He will need a home where people have the patience to work with him in new situations and help him blossom. He is a 3-year-old Shepherd mix who is always on the move. He enjoys going to the play yard to smell all the interesting smells and would love to find a home where he can go on walks. Do you have the right spot for Trooper?

For more information about Pickleball, Quince, Forrest, or Trooper 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.

BUDDY'S PLACE

Dog Grooming For Every Buddy

9 Middle St., Taneytown
(Right next to the Taneytown Post Office)



Stephani Rickerd & Aslan

Tuesday - Saturday By Appointment Only!

410-756-1200

 Check us out on Facebook @BuddysPlaceDog Grooming

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



Prius

Shawn Snyder

At the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, kitten season is usually between the months of April through September. “Kitten season” is a term that refers to the timeframe that animal shelters experience what seems like an endless intake of pregnant cats, nursing queens (Mama cats), and kindles of kittens of all ages. However, weather patterns in general will affect the length of kitten season as well as the population of felines it generates. While it is still winter time, we want to be sure to remind potential adopters that we actually still do have young cats available for adoption that arrived last kitten season.

Prius was brought to the shelter on July 14th along with several other kittens from the same person. Recognizing Prius’ quiet nature,

we categorized him as a Fraidy Cat. Shelter Fraidy Cats receive special TLC from staff and volunteers who understand that not all felines are created equal. Fraidy Cats are adoptable, but not as resilient or adventuresome as other cats or kittens. They do best in a home that understands the concept of giving them space while incorporating them into the family—an effort in balancing skill and patience. From the shelter perspective, Fraidy Cats are capable of acclimating to new homes just like any other cat. However, potential adopters have overlooked shy Prius for his more outgoing littermates. As a result, the others have already been adopted.

Prius has now been with the shelter for over six months, placing him in the age category we refer to as “juvenile.” He is current on all vaccines, including rabies prevention. He has been neutered, microchipped, and tested nega-

tive for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. And, like many other shelter felines, has recovered well from an upper respiratory infection. Prius is essentially ready to go.

There are benefits to every age of animal, including our juvenile population. With juveniles, you get the play level and young enthusiasm of a kitten while bypassing the getting-into-everything-possible stage. You have a relatively young cat that will still spend fifteen-plus years as a family companion. If you think your family would be a good match for Prius, we encourage you to visit her at the shelter. If you have the patience and interest in making a difference for other cats like Prius, consider fostering or contact us to learn more about our Fraidy Cat program.

To learn more about Prius and the Fraidy Cat Program call 301-600-1546, or better yet, come in and meet Prius!



Taco

Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

Dogs can be incredibly resilient creatures with an amazing capacity to trust and love and at FCAC there’s no better example of this than Taco. There’s a common misconception that shelter animals have been abused and/or neglected. Fortunately, that’s just not the case. Most of our residents have been well cared for and loved for majority of their lives. Sadly, however, Taco falls into the minority. This handsome terrier mix has been abandoned not once, but twice. When we first met him in April of 2023, he was living in an unsanitary, empty house infested with fleas and rats. He had only the trash left behind for toys and a bed and no one to give him the cuddles he adores. But you’d never guess this is where Taco came from when he greets you with a huge pittie smile, friendly tail wag and big, soulful brown eyes.

After going without them for most of his life, Taco really thrives on the simple things... Stability and Consistency. We’ve found that a routine for meals, potty breaks and most importantly exercise allow Taco to be the best version of himself. Training and protocols like the Say Please Program help him understand exactly what’s expected of him and redirect him when he gets too excited.

While some may view train-

ing as work, for Taco it’s game and one of his favorites at that. He loves figuring out how to win all those delicious treats. So far he has mastered sit and paw. He’s also familiar with down, find it and search. He’s incredibly treat motivated and will work for most any food.

Taco’s love of training proves that he’s got brains, but he’s also got brawn. Our boy Taco is a bit of a gym rat. Not only does he think exercise is fun, but it’s an important part of his mental health regimen. He’s definitely a fan of cardio and a fenced yard with plenty of room to run would be great for him, but he also enjoys hikes and long walks in the park. When it comes to toys, he’ll play with them a little but he doesn’t have a favorite and really prefers to zoom back and forth.

Also known for being a social butterfly, Taco is the complete package. He’s friendly with every human he meets and while he’s quite energetic, he loves a cuddle. His go to is to put his front paws on your lap and soak up all the pets while his tail wags with joy. He’s also been known to give you paw for a little hand holding.

What about furry friends? When Taco first came to live with us we were told that he fought with his former housemate, Champ. However, they were both unneutered males at that time. While Taco can be a bit reactive in the kennel environment, outside he reacts favorably to other dogs. Sometimes he doesn’t even notice them at all

and is easily redirected. Taco has done really well at recent meet and greets with potential adopters and their dogs. Meet and greets and slow and proper introductions between dogs are highly recommended.

So with all these great qualities why has Taco been a shelter dog for nearly 250 days? Honestly, we’re not exactly sure why this volunteer favorite hasn’t been adopted. He doesn’t have many challenges. Taco’s biggest issue is that he can get pretty amped up when he doesn’t get enough exercise leading to some jumpiness and mouthiness. He can pull on lead like most dogs of his breed and sometimes bites the leash, but those are both things that can be resolved with a little bit of training. All in all, Taco is a sweet and fun-loving guy who will make a great pet for someone who sets boundaries with him and makes sure he gets enough exercise.

If you think you’re just the right person to give Taco a new life in the new year complete with the loving home and family that he deserves but has never had, call 301-600-1546 to learn more.



Reifsnider’s Farm Supply & Hardware Store



Pre Season Early Order
Baler Twines
(plastic/sisal)
& Net Wraps

We Sell
DRYSHOD
WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR
Boots



Feed
For Horses



Kalmbach Feeds For
Dogs, Cats, Sheep, Goats,
Chickens and Cattle.

Animal Bedding
Saw Dust & Shavings
Animal Health Supplies

We carry everything from tools to paint! • Tools • Household Goods • Fencing & Gates • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies • Paint & Painting Supplies

2080 Francis Scott Key Highway, Keymar • 410-756-6066
M - F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Catoctin Veterinary Clinic
Caring vets for your family pets
Jonathan S. Bramson, VMD
Susan P. Keane, DVM

Grooming Services Available

4 Paws Place, Thurmont ♥ 301-271-0156
catoctinvetclinic@gmail.com ♥ www.catoctinveterinaryclinic.com
www.facebook.com/catoctinvetclinic ♥ Fax: 301-271-3242

FIRE & AMBULANCE COMPANY AWARD BANQUETS

Vigilant Hose Company



President Tim Clarke presents a plaque to outgoing President Town Ward recognizing his service to the Company.



President Tim Clarke accepts a check for \$25,000 from Auxiliary President Patty Kuykendall.



The Emmitsburg Town Council was well represented with Commissioners Valarie Turnquest, Amy Boeham and Jim Hoover all cheering on award winners.



Outgoing President Tom Ward presenting his 2023 President's Award to Julie Davis.



Chief Josh Brotherton presenting Jason Powell with the 2023 Chief's Award.



Chief Josh Brotherton, Member Austin Umbel, and Outgoing President Tom Ward presenting Mr. Umbel with his Length of Service Award showing 60 years of service as a VHC member.



County Department of Fire Rescue Services Career Staff stationed at the Vigilant Hose Company: Vince Powers, Scott Johnson, Nathan Gilbert, and Brian Hames shown with VHC Chief Josh Brotherton and Outgoing President Tom Ward.



VHC Auxiliary Officers - seated - Patty Kuykendall, President; Jo Ann Boyd, Treasurer; Joyce Glass, Secretary; Helen Topper, Financial Secretary. Standing - Mary Ann Wivell and Diana Hoover, Co-Historians. Missing from picture—Sharel Boyle, Vice President



Administrative Officers: seated - Tim Clarke, President; Doug Wivell, Vice President; Pam Ellison, Secretary; Sharon Keeney, Assistant Secretary; Steve Hollinger, Treasurer; Bill Boyd, Assistant Treasurer; John Talcott, Chaplain; Ed Little, Board of Director. Standing - Board of Director Members: Pam Bolin, Mary Lou Little, Doug Orner, Kenny Clevinger, Scott Maly, Cliff Shriner, Randy Myers



Operational Officers: Seated - Josh Brotherton, Chief; Jim Click, Deputy Chief; Doug Yingling, Assistant Chief; Matt Boyd, Captain; Dave Zentz, Lieutenant; Frank Davis, EMS Captain. Standing - Fire Police - Steve Orndorff, Lynn Orndorff, Sam Cool

Administrative Officers for 2024

President: Timothy Clark
 Vice President: Doug Wivell
 Secretary: Pamela Ellison
 Treasurer: Steve Hollinger
 Asst. Treasurer: Bill Boyd
 Chaplain: Rev. John Talcott

Board of Directors for 2024

Pam Bolin, Kenny Clevinger, Ed Little, Mary Lou Little, Scott Maly, Randy Myers, Douglas Orner, and Cliff Shriner.

Line Officers for 2024

Chief: Joshua Brotherton
 Deputy Chief: James Click
 Asst. Chief: Dog Yingling
 Captain: Mathew Boyd
 Lieutenant: Alexander McKenna
 Lieutenant: David Zentz
 Lieutenant: Christopher Stahley
 EMS Captain: Frank Davis

Auxiliary Officers for 2024

President: Patricia Kuykendall
 Vice President: Sharel Boyle
 Secretary: Joyce Glass
 Treasurer: Jo Ann Boyd
 Financial Secretary: Helen Topper
 Co-Historians: Diana Hoover & Mary Ann Wivell

Fire Police for 2023

Captain: Steve Orndorff
 1st Lieutenant: Lynn Orndorff
 2nd Lieutenant: Samuel Cool

FIRE & AMBULANCE COMPANY AWARD BANQUETS

Thurmont Volunteer Ambulance Company



Administrative Officers: Lowman Keeney, Denny Ott, Joyce Stitely, Judy White & Glen Muth.



Board of Directors: Dennis Stitely, Dianne Kelly, Tammy Wolf, & John Ruppel. Missing, Becki Coyle.



Danny Ott, Matt Moser and Glenn Muth



Jim & Tammy Wolf



Diane Kelly & Bea Trout



Shrilly Stackhouse



Joyce Stitely



Lowan Keeney



Trina Wiltrout



Dennis & Betty Stitely, and Randy Demaris



LaRue Long, Rose Ray, and Kathy Knipple

Administrative Officers for 2024

President: Lowman Keeney
 Vice President: Dennis Ott, Sr.
 Secretary: Joyce Stitely
 Asst. Secretary: Shirley Stackhouse
 Treasurer: Judy White
 Asst. Treasurer: Glen Muth

Operational Officers for 2024

Chief: Dennis Ott Jr.
 Asst Chief: Jen Frushour
 Lieutenant: Renae Collidge
 Lieutenant: Brooke Ott
 Sergeant: Hilary Blake
 Sergeant: Keegan Coolidge

Board of Directors for 2024

John Ruppel, Tammy Wolf, Denis Stitely & Diane Kelly. Missing, and Becki Coyle.

Thurmont Community Ambulance Service
Proudly Serving Northern Frederick Co. for Over Half a Century

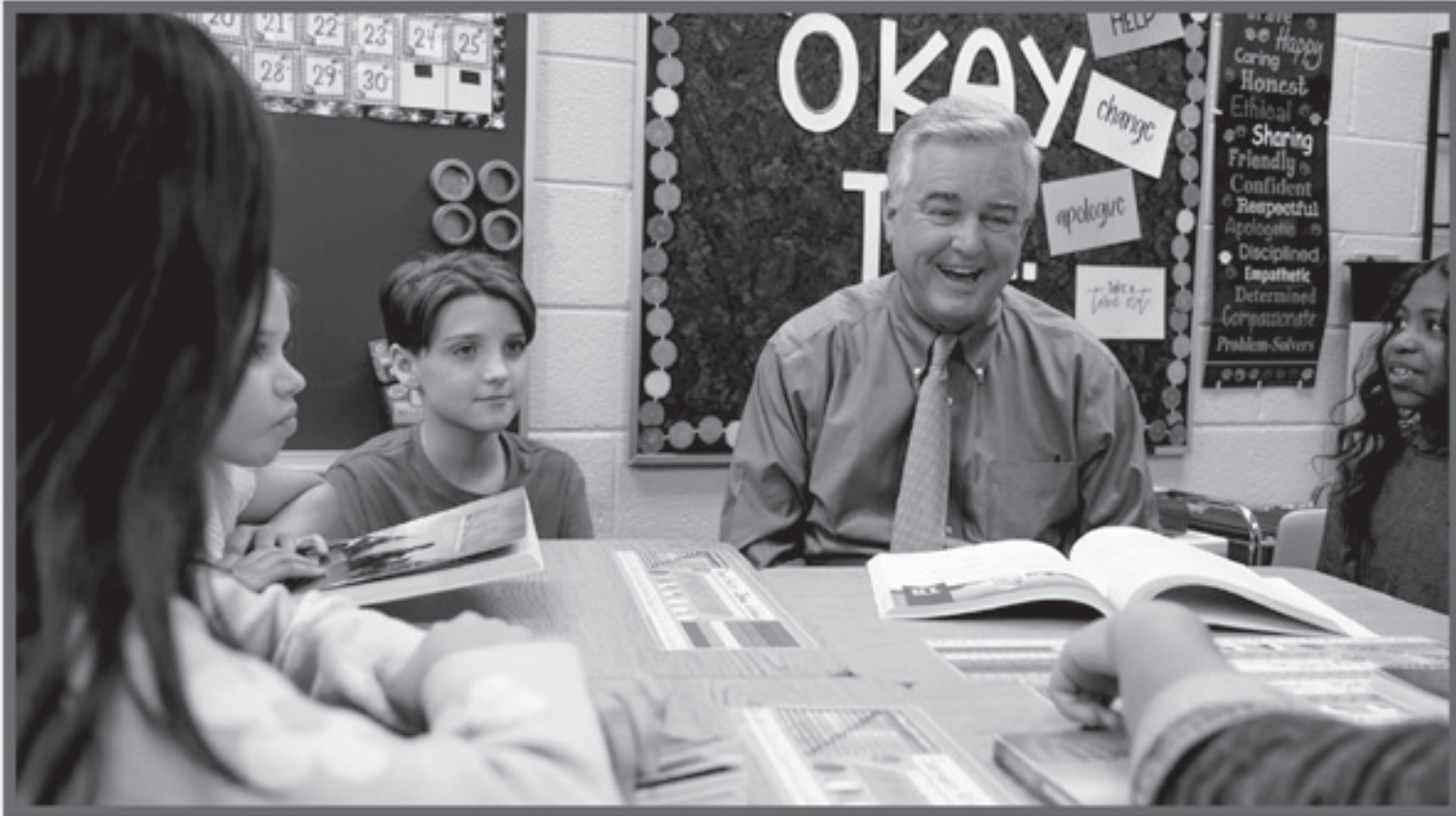
YEAH! Friday Night YEAH!

BINGO

Bring your Friends & Family for a fun filled night

Doors Open @ 5 p.m.
Bingo begins @ 7 p.m.

Thurmont Event Complex
 13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont
301-271-7550 www.thurmonteventcomplex.com



"My mother was a public school teacher, and I saw firsthand how education can transform lives. That's why I'm dedicated to fighting for our kids, our teachers, and our public school system."

CONGRESSMAN
DAVID TRONE
FOR U.S. SENATE

Fight Inequality, Invest in Our Schools, and Expand Access to Pre-K

I worked with Sen. Ben Cardin to introduce the True Equity Act to align with our state's Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Act would add \$1.4 billion in federal grants to address education inequities, expand access to all-day Pre-K, fund additional teacher training, and give all students access to career and college pathways.

No Hungry Kids in Schools Act

Children don't just come to school hungry for knowledge. Many are hungry for food. That's why I cosponsored the Universal School Meals Program Act, the No Hungry Kids in School Act, the Expanding Access to School Meals Act, and the School Meals Expansion Act. In the Senate, I'll fight to expand these programs and ensure no child has to go to school hungry.

Mental Health Care

One of the most important, yet ignored, issues is the mental health of our children. We successfully fought for more than \$3 billion to help fund school-based mental health programs. It is especially important that we help kids who still feel loneliness and isolation because of the pandemic. And I introduced the Comprehensive Mental Health in Schools Pilot Program Act to establish comprehensive mental and behavioral health programs in our schools.

Address Teacher Shortages and Support Special Education

In the Senate, I will lead the charge to address teacher shortages and shortfalls in special education funding. The innovative Four for Four program will provide a cost-free college education for students who commit to being an educator or support staff, with extra incentives for those who work in underserved communities. And I will champion the IDEA Full Funding Act — ensuring that Congress fulfills its commitment to provide 40% of the cost for special education.



Maryland's Teachers and Educators Recommend

DAVID TRONE
U.S. SENATE

DavidTrone.com    davidjtrone

Paid for by David Trone for Maryland.

VFC celebrates 140th banquet & awards program

The Vigilant Hose Company held its 140th Anniversary Banquet, January 13, at the VHC Activities Building. The company swore in its 2024 officers, presented awards, and inducted two new members into its prestigious Hall of Fame.

Postponed later in the month due to inclement weather, members and their families nonetheless gathered in droves to celebrate the fire company and all its accomplishments.

Greetings were offered by United States Deputy Fire Administrator Tonya Hoover and Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, Eriks Gabliks. Frederick County Division of Fire/Rescue Services Director Chief Tom Coe offered remarks on behalf of Frederick County. VHC Chaplain Rev. John Talcott officiated a memorial service for VHC members who passed away in 2023: Edward Ridenour, Clarence Orndorff, and Dale Sanders.

The annual award and recognition ceremony is an event to pay tribute to members for their dedication and service to the community.

This year VHC chose two members of the department, Scott Maly and Jo Ann Boyd for the Hall of Fame award, the highest honor in the Company: presented to those who have made lasting contributions to the department, the community, and the region.

During Maly's induction, VHC President and Master of Ceremonies Tim Clarke called Maly "an individual every firehouse wishes they had," and "with a unique sense of humor."

"Maly," Clarke said, "has been noted for his dedication to various boards and committees as well as a family history of fire service that runs in his blood. Maly has been instrumental in enhancing the VHC's fundraising efforts by attracting new supporters as the point person for the fundraiser."

Also inducted into the Hall of Fame, was Jo Ann Boyd, who was recognized for her above and beyond attention to the auxiliary banquet and bingo assistance.

Boyd has held numerous auxiliary officer positions including Auxiliary President and Vice President, and currently serves as Treasurer which she has held faithfully since 1995.

"Boyd's dedication to VHC has led her to serve as the chairperson for various boards including bingo, catering, canteen, VHC Banquet, By-Laws and Audit committees. Boyd's work ensures all required yearly permits are secured and Frederick County Gaming law requirements are met. She has never ceased to be a voice of encouragement and mentorship for new members," said Clarke.

Jo Ann joins her husband Bill, mother Betty Ann Baker, brother Gabe Baker, and her late father and both grandfathers in the Hall of Fame. Her son Matt was the VHC's Member of the Year in 2022 and her daughter Jen is a member of the VHC Auxiliary. Her son Matt was the VHC's Member of the Year in 2022.

Clarke presented awards to members for years of service, top responders, and special recognition awards. Top Responders included Jim Click as top fire responder, Frank Davis as top EMS responder and Steve Orndorff as top Fire Police responder.

The 2023 Member of the Year Award was presented to Scott Maly for his contribution and dedication to one of the fire company's most prominent fundraising activities, the Six of Hearts Jackpot that has continually brought in thousands of supporter dollars during every weekly drawing.

"With his leadership, the Six of Hearts raised over \$1.1 million in 2023 for the VHC," Clarke said.

In addition to crucial fundraising efforts, Maly has remained strong in operations of the department, responding to emergency incidents and attending training workshops. Maly also served on the small equipment committee for the new Tower 6 and was selected to serve on the replacement committee for Engine Tanker 64.

This year's President's Award was presented to an individual member instead of an entire committee due to Julie Davis' tremendous dedication to lending a hand wherever it may be needed. Davis was also recognized for her contributions to crucial department fundraisers including bingo and her overall excellent firehouse presence. In presenting the award, outgoing President Tom Ward said: "Anytime a page was sent asking for help, she was there."

This year, Jason Powell was the recipient of the Chief's Award for his 20 years of tireless efforts including significant leadership ensuring a continual state of readiness for all department apparatus, including care and maintenance.

"Powell," said Chief Josh Brotherton, "has committed himself as an on-duty driver every Saturday and also stepped up to take on significant leadership as Co-Chair of the Engine Tanker Replacement Committee and the necessary required forethought into the future needs of the department."

"With a fleet of seven front line apparatus and several support vehicles, this can be a time-consuming task," Brotherton said.

The VHC Training Award was presented to John Carnegis for his outstanding dedication to bettering himself for his community and attending the most hours of training, drills, and recertification including at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, the National Fire Academy, the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Association, and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Length of service awards were also awarded; Randy Myers and Scot Maly were recognized as Life Members for their 25 years of service; Doug Wivell, Dave Wilt and Cliff Shriner were recognized for their 30 years of service; Tim Clarke and Steve Valentine for their 35

years; Karl Kuykendall, Vince Boyle and Gabe Baker for 40 years; Sam Cool for 55 years; and Austin Umbel for 60 years of service to the company.

In addition to its numerous volunteers, VHC also recognized its hard-working career staff, without which many aspects of the department would not be possible and whom Clarke called, "a wonderful group of individuals."

VHC Auxiliary President Patty Kuykendall addressed the attendees to report on behalf of the Auxiliary, 2023 was an incredibly successful year, including the implementation of a new tower, Tower 6, raising \$80,000 for a brand-new Chevy Tahoe duty vehicle, and upgrades to the activities building.

Last year the Auxiliary voted to purchase a much-needed duty vehicle for the department to replace the existing 2001 Ford Explorer. Because of production issues a Ford duty vehicle could not be secured and VHC members worked with another supplier to select a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe. The Auxiliary paid for the Chevy Tahoe in full upon receipt, Boyd said.

The new Tower 6 was also recently delivered to VHC and gleams cherry red inside the department engine bay. This piece of equipment, costing approximately \$1.5 million was paid in full using funds raised by the department at the many community fundraisers – primarily Six of Hearts and bingo.

Kuykendall also presented a donation of \$25,000 to the department.

VHC's statistical report for 2023 included 409 total fire calls and 1,262 EMS calls.

A year in review video was also shown highlighting the recent accomplishments and comradery of the



Scott Maly, flanked by Chief Josh Brotherton and outgoing President Tom Ward, not only was inducted in the VHC's Hall of Fame, but also was this year's recipient of the Member of the Year Award.



Jo Ann Boyd joined not only her husband Bill in the VHC's Hall of Fame, but her mother Betty Baker as well.

department. Members then enjoyed an evening of dancing and music. Mutual assistance was provided to fill-in coverage so VHC personnel could enjoy the evening.

Promising to meet all challenges with professionalism and dedication,

Clarke declared, together VHC will continually provide professional services to the highest-level of service in thanks to its strong membership, backing from the state, county, and local government and steadfast community support.



FREDERICK KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



- Complete kitchen & bathroom remodeling
- Designers on staff
- Personal attention

\$600 OFF
COMPLETE KITCHEN REMODEL

\$300 OFF
COMPLETE BATHROOM REMODEL

Visit Our Showroom
47 W. Frederick St., Walkersville

MHIC # 146736

301-845-7070
FKandB.com

License # 144542
ENJ

HISTORY

The Contralto

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

Chapter 1

The regular morning gathering of Emmitsburg notables was in session in Peter Burket's store. It was just such as had assembled every day for over fifty years, even in the time when Peter's father conducted the grocery business and catered to the wants of the village in the valley. The personnel changed, new members replacing those who were gathered to their fathers, but subjects of discussion, ranging through local gossip, politics and religion, remained ever the same, and were carried on with that love of argument for its own sake which characterizes those who dwell far from city strife.

On the entrance of a stranger the assemblage became mute, mildly suggesting devout Orientals in worship about their idol, the fane in this case being the white-bellied stove in winter and the capacious box of sawdust in summer. This attitude was assumed in order to give the intruder striking evidence that he was an outsider, as well as to afford opportunity to observe the nature of his purchase for subsequent remark.

In these meetings were threshed over the latest action of the President, the last enactment of Congress with consideration of the position taken by the local Representative, and the ruling of the Squire in the most recent arrest that came before him. The improvident farmer about to be sheriffed out, together with the luckier one upon whom prosperity had smiled to the extent of requiring a barn-raising, received his due need of praise or blame.

Religion was sure to become a bone of contention at some moment of the discussion, and then the debate was monopo-

lized by Uncle Bennett Tyson, the town carpenter, and Deacon Whitmore who mixed the making of cigars with the profession of local exhorter. At this stage the other members looked on in amusement, prodding the embers of theological discord with spasmodic remarks. Victory invariably rested her crown on the carpenter's brow, the Deacon never learning discretion from oft-repeated defeat.

This particular morning debate waxed strong on the propriety of the Chief Executive eating with a leader of the colored race. Living on the borders of the Southland, opinion was almost unanimous in condemnation, Whitmore alone supporting the President's action. He could not refrain from taking a religious view of the question:

"The Bible says, all men are equal before the Lord," he drawled.

"The Bible don't say nothing of the kind," snapped Bennett. "The Declaration of Independence has something to that effect, but that ain't the Bible by a darned sight. As far as I know the Good Book it says the sons of Ham are to be subject to the white race."

"So it does, Bennett," in a tone of conciliation, "but you fought to free the colored people."

"No, I didn't, I fought to preserve the Union, and that feller in Washinton is trying to break it up again. I say keep the niggers where the Lord put them."

"That's all right," retorted the Deacon pulling the straggling goatee which ornamented his chin, "but Paul saith, the Lord ain't no respecter of persons, before Him there ain't no bound nor free."

"The Lord is a long ways off, and Paul didn't run no underground railroad, but sent the slave back to his master."

There was a pause during which



Historical Society note: The Contralto was a book published in 1912 and based on actual residents of Emmitsburg. In the original version, the author modified the names of the residents slightly, such as changing the name if Isaac Annan to Isaac Hannan. In this version, we have taken the liberty to change names back to the real names. In addition, we have added photos of the time period depicting scenes and characters in the book (the original book had no photos).

While the book is 'theoretically' fiction, it does nevertheless correctly depict the life and attitudes of the residents of Emmitsburg during the time period in question. We take note of the depiction of the ill feelings held by some towards Mount St. Marys and St. Joseph's College stemming from their poor treatment of the residents of Emmitsburg. The percentage of the book dedicated to this subject is itself a statement of the depth of those ill feelings. Fortunately, those ill feelings have long since vanished and both institutions are looked upon as a treasure to this community.

The first and only mention of the book appears in the November 20, 1912 edition of the Frederick News Post: "The Con-

tralto a new book which has just been published and in which the scene is laid at Emmitsburg. A love story is given in which a number of well known characters about Emmitsburg are interwoven. The names are disguised in part, but not so much that they cannot be recognized by a person familiar with the names in that section. The book is by Roger M. Careu, who spent the summer of 1910 in Emmitsburg. It is said Careu's real name is Charles M. Maloy."

The Historical Society has also determined that the story was in fact written by Rev. Charles Maloy, C.M. who resided at St. Josephs Rectory during 1906-07.

Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we can only print two photos per edition of the paper — or we would never get through the book! But for those who's interest is peaked by the book, we encourage them to access the on-line version on our websites as we have paired this story with a multitude of photos which will allow you to put faces to the names in the story, as well hyperlinks to related stories in our on-line archives.

Whitmore sought vainly for a telling rejoinder, the onlookers dug elbows into each other's ribs and the champion munched his tobacco in semi-triumph. Flattery of his opponent seeming the better part of valor, the Deacon at length said: "Why Bennett,

you know the Scriptures good enough to be a preacher."

"What's that?" he asked, for he was slightly deaf and used his affliction as a ruse to obtain time to think out a reply.

"I say," repeated his antagonist in a higher key, "you know your Scriptures good enough to be a preacher."

"Only one thing lacking, Whitmore, only one thing lacking."

"What's that?"

"A few damned fools to listen to me."

The volley of laughter that greeted this victory of the carpenter died out in short lived chuckles on the entrance

of Bob Crittendon, the red-haired, freckled boy from St. Joseph's parsonage, who generally had something to tell which served as pabulum for the gossips. Bob's face was alight with a broad smile on surveying the expectant assembly, he evidently realizing the important position he occupied in village affairs, and enjoying the prominence derived there from. He waited until the inevitable question should be put to him; it came.

"Anything diddin', Bobby?" inquired Forman the dentist, who showed his superior education by his manner of pronouncing the current idiom.



MYERS-DURBORAW FUNERAL HOME

Dedicated assistance for families during times of loss.

We provide a dignified and meaningful funeral or memorial service for every family's loved one.

We view our service as a sacred trust!

- Compassionate Care • Knowledgeable Guidance
- Attention to Detail • Unparalleled Professionalism
- Grief Counseling • Pre-Planning Available
- All Services and costs are clearly itemized and explained at the time arrangements are made.

For Questions, more information or to schedule an appointment

Call: 410-756-6688 or 301-447-6244



136 E. Baltimore St.
Taneytown
410-756-6688

210 W. Main St.
Emmitsburg
301-447-6244



Licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania
www.myersdurborawfh.com

"Your Community Cemetery"



Traditional Plots
or
Columbarium
available for your
loved ones final
resting place.

EMMITSBURG MEMORIAL
CEMETERY

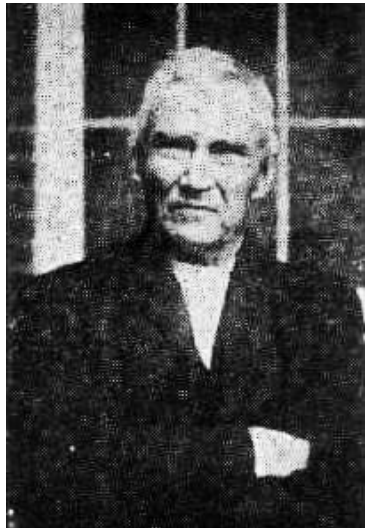
ESTABLISHED 1845

301-456-3233

HISTORY



Peter Burket



Bennett Tyson

At the upper or west end of Main Street just where the roads fork stands the Emmitt House another of the five dispensaries of liquid optimism which cater abundantly to the thirsty ones of the village and the surrounding country.

About a mile to the south one comes to the first of the institutions which shape the ends and rule the destinies of Emmitsburg. It is the Academy for young ladies, St. Joseph's College, that has, for more than a century, developed in things educational, its share of the first women of the land.

Some two miles further and part way up the mountain is the College, Mt. St. Marys, from out whose portals during its hundred years of existence, have passed men famous in Church and State. Both are centered in magnificent isolation, surrounded by hundreds of fertile acres, upon which labor the townspeople, and over which rule the respective presidents and faculties with all the authority and sometimes haughtiness of medieval barons.

The village folk are kept in subjection not with guns and donjons but by the much more respectable, though none the less effective measures of economic pauperism and social ostracism. The professors rarely visit the town except to call at the parsonage, or to inquire into some misdemeanor perpetrated by the hopefuls entrusted to their care.

There are a few families in the village dwelling at the east end of Main Street, not dependent on the institutions for their means of subsistence; families whose circumstances raise them above the twelve dollars-per-month rate of wage which prevailed. These form a social group apart, taking only a mild interest in the affairs of the town, though on familiar terms with everyone and furnishing a ready subject for envious gossip when others fail.

Outside the crowds of alumni who come at commencement time and occasional drummers, the people meet few from the great world that lies beyond the mountains. It is small wonder then that the arrival and residence amongst them of a handsome stranger should pique their curiosity to the utmost.

In the early days of August the evening train brought him to the town. All the way up from Rocky Ridge, where the change is made from the Western Maryland railroad, he rode in the last seat of the smoker, his head sunk on his breast, in his mouth an unlighted cigar. No effort of Mr. Webb, the genial conductor, was sufficient to awaken a response, and that worthy confided with a wink to Mr. Seabold, his opinion that the stranger must be sick.

Mr. Webb was right in his surmise, the stranger was sick—sick with a disease all too common in this hustling land of ours. He was a victim of overwork and one of its most serious accompanying evils. Had he been asked to describe his own condition, he would have summed up his outlook on life by saying, "he did not care whether school kept or not." Thinking of this as he rode over the anything but smooth right-of-way which leads from Rocky Ridge to Emmitsburg, a mixed smile of fatalism and self-pity played on his features.

At the conductor's announcement of the end of his journey, he pulled on a light overcoat, picked up his handbag and stepping out on the platform, became the cynosure of the crowd that always meets the evening train.

He was a tall man just barely short of six feet, shouldered, athletically stooped, his fine face bearing signs of recent if not present illness. At temples the thick brown hair was threaded with, premature, one would say on close inspection his face. Pince-nez glasses hid his eyes, which deep blue and could flash fire when the spirit behind them was moved. The hand

that held the was muscular, though as white as any woman's.

On leaving the train his ears were assailed with of "Hack right out to the College! Hotel "Spangler bus!" Handing the bag and check to of the drivers he climbed into the nearest conveyance; the trunks being lifted to the seat, he destination discovered, the horses started up this declivity, followed by the boys who speculated audibly on the newcomer's identity.

At the rectory the Pastor seemed to be waiting, for as soon as the hack arrived the Stranger was wrapped in welcoming arms, and the driver heard this much:

"Is it you, my boy? I am pleased to death to have you, what was it anyway?"

"I don't know; doctors said brain fever, overwork, every and any old thing in medical history; I would not like to tell you what some people said."

"Don't mind, I know; it doesn't go with me. Take those trunks up to the third floor," this to the driver, "and come down, Harry, and have some supper."

Pad way up the walk, as the hackman reported afterward on the Square, the Stranger halted and said with a laugh, "I say, Governor, why don't your educational institutions influence the town?"

"In what way?"

"I saw a sign on one of your Noah's arks at the depot: 'Free Buss.' Do they supply a kiss with every ride?"

"Hush, my boy, you are not in the city now," and the driver heard no more.

continued next month

"Yep; the Professor has come to."
"How was it did?" asked Peter Burket hastily, from behind the counter where he was retailing soda crackers, having broken one to secure the exact weight, and given the piece to the child customer.

"Tell us all about it," encouraged Whitmore.

"Well it was all on account of my baseball and mitt—"

"Can he play ball?" interrupted Forman.

"Can he? You'd just ought to see him make me duck about after inshoots, outs, and drops; man dear! he's got a arm like a trip-hammer, and when he began to burn 'em in he made my hand sting like as if I had it in a beehive."

"I knowed he was a all right feller," declared the Deacon nodding his head.

"Why you was the one said he was dangerous to have around with so many young girls in town," said Uncle Bennett scornfully.

"So he is a ball player," continued the Dentist, anxious to prevent hostilities which might delay the obtaining of knowledge about the mysterious being who had been the object of talk for Emmitsburg during the past month. "Did he tell you anything about playing on a team?"

"Nope, but I'll bet he played on some university."

"How do you know he ever saw a university?" Sniffed Doctor Brawner, the town's physician.

"Ain't I heard him and the Rector talk at table?" retorted the youngster indignantly.

"What did he talk about while he was catching with you?" injected Forman again anxious to keep the peace.

"He asked me if we had a team in town, and when I told him there wasn't enough young fellers

Left here to make one up, he said if he was here nex' spring he would organize one out of schoolboys."

"Let him get it up now and wallop the pants off the Mount St. Marys bunch," suggested the Dentist.

"They wouldn't play with a team from this town," aid the Physician scornfully.

"I'd like to know why not? We're just as good as they are."

"Well, try it and find out."

The whistle of the morning train ended the contention for all were due at the post office, yet everyone felt that Bob had imparted an important piece of news. Strangers were aves raree in Emmitsburg, and this one had the superadded attractions of youth, good looks and mystery.

The town is situated at the base of our most easterly mountain chain in a valley noted, according to the local paper and the school catalogues, for the salubrity of its climate. One central street with houses of every conceivable architectural plan, baroque a critic would call it, though the history and financial rating of a hundred years could be read therein, bisected by the road over which a division of the Union army marched on its way to the high water mark of the rebellion, makes up the topographical aspect of the village.

"Emmitsburg's a pretty place, not far from the mountain, Most of it's along one street, and in the Square's a fountain," sang a native truthfully, if not with poetic inspiration. The hills look down on the town with a suggestion of the fixity of the everlasting, telling the inhabitants of the vanity of all change and progress, and the town nestles at their feet in the pose of a tired, sleepy pupil who has heard the lesson a thousand times before.

Flanking the square are the Spangler Hotel, the Annan's Bank and General Store, the Seabold Building, with the law apartments of the owner, the post office and what was Peter Burket's Grocery.

A hundred yards west is the printing office, the home of the "Chronicle" which had lately passed into the hands of a progressive and was attracting the notice of the scissors editors on the city dailies.

TOY AUCTION

Sponsored by Taneytown Fire Company



Sunday, March 10th - 8 a.m.

**Taneytown Fire Co. Carnival Grounds
49 Memorial Drive, Taneytown**

Consignments for auction will be received between February 26 and March 2 to be included on website. Farm toys and farm collectibles please

**Items will be listed on websites:
www.tvfc.org and www.auctionzip.com**

Food available all day
Breakfast sandwiches start at 8 a.m.
Sausage, ham, bacon, eggs

**Contact: Donald Shoemaker
5 Antrim Street, Taneytown
410-756-4351 or 443-277-6204**

**REMODELED, REIMAGINED
& REOPENED UNDER NEW OWNERS!**

(TANEYTOWN SHOPPING CENTER - FORMERLY MEMORY LANE)

Visit Us for Holiday finds & everyday Treasures!

443-918-7479

520 East Baltimore St., Taneytown

Hours:
Wed. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Furniture
- Handmade Crafts • Home Decor
- Jewelry • Records & much more!

thedogwoodtreevintagemarket@gmail.com

Licensed Insured

REAVERS WOODWORKING

Quality Hand-Crafted Cabinets/Furniture
Brian P. Reaver, Sr.



**We Now Offer
Natural and
Engineered Stone
Countertops!**

- Kitchens, Armoires
- Hutches, China Cupboards
- Computer Stations
- Entertainment Centers
- Fireplace Mantels
- Vanities, Gun Cabinets
- Children's Furniture
- Corner Cabinets, Bookcases
- Dressers, End Tables... etc.

Shop: 301-788-7143
Fax: 301-447-1750

Visit us online at: www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 1

Proof Drinking & Dynamite Don't Mix

A thoroughly inebriated Will Hoffman met with a bad accident while playing with dynamite caps, one exploded in his hands, injuring his left hand so that three fingers and a thumb had to be amputated. We are told that the tips of the fingers on the right hand were badly torn up, and he had a number of cuts about the face. This is another proof that high explosives are very dangerous, and should always be handled with the greatest care, and never taken up as a dare from fellow boozers to see how long one can hold onto a stick of dynamite after lighting the fuse.

Honey As An Antifreeze

In using honey as an antifreeze mixture in automobile radiators, it should be mixed with water, half-and-half. Engine head gaskets and hose connections should be tightened up before using the solution as the honey water will pass through apparently tight connections, causing stickiness. The solution becomes more efficient with evaporation, whereas an alcohol solution loses strength. A dollar a half worth of dark honey, unfit for table use, should last all winter.

Delinquent Taxes In Frederick

A large number of Frederick County tax bills remain unpaid. About a week ago the number was 808. Following the custom of the County, parcels of real estate on which taxes are due, will be advertised a public sale, beginning this week, and if unpaid will be sold at the courthouse door. This course will be pursued until the whole list is disposed of.

Fairfield Raises Taxes ... Again

Being enacted and ordained by the Burgess and Town Council of the Borough of Fairfield, there is here by levied and assessed upon all real estate, personal property, offices and professions subject to taxation for municipal purposes, within the boundaries of Fairfield, a tax rate of 7 mils. for the general purpose of revenue to run the Borough. - Charles Rife, Burgess.

February 8

Fairfield Fire Company Expands

Indications of the progress being made by the Fairfield Fire Company were seen in the announcement made at a meeting of that body this week that as soon as alterations have been completed on the property recently purchased, the Company will move into its new home.

The two-day festival held by the Company sometime ago, netted sufficient funds to liquidate the debt on the property housing the Company, it was announced by the committee. Over \$310 was cleared at the affair.

Arrangements have been made to stage a musical at the Old Fellows Hall in Fairfield for the benefit of the Fire Company, the Gettysburg College Glee Club being engaged for the event.

That the Fairfield Firemen are out to make a record for themselves as one of the most efficient fire companies in the Adams County Firemen's Association was evident from the report presented by Fairfield Fire Chief S.I. Allison, describing the fire which threaten the home of Harry Sanders there.

"When a blaze broke out in an outbuilding, insufficient means were at hand to stop the spread of the flames, and the dwelling house was soon in danger. By the time a alarm was sound, firemen found the entire property threaten," the Chief, reported.

"The chemical engine purchase sometime ago from the Gettysburg Fire Company was brought into play, and in the short time the danger had passed. This was the first time the engine had been used since his purchase." The Chief took advantage of the occasion to commend the work of members of the Fire Company and the engine.

Roads For Frederick County.

Frederick County Commissioners went to Baltimore on Friday and conferred with the State Road Commission in regard to 'street road mileage' for the county for 1924. The Commissioners were informed that this county's allotment for this year will be five to five and a half miles.

The commissioners were told the county shares of funds for approved road for 1924 would be approximately \$233,000. Of this amount, \$63,000 has already been set aside

for two miles of State Road now being built between Liberty and New Windsor. This will leave about \$179,000 for the miles yet to be built.

To obtain the \$233,000 for state and federal aid the county must contribute \$62,550. The Commissioners will shortly recommend a list of roads, embracing about 12 miles on which the County's allotment will be spent.

February 15

Cast At Work On Fairfield High School Show

"If I Only Had A Million", a wish that has been made many times and by many an individual, is the title of a play to be given by Fairfield High School students on February 23. The show is said to contain all the elements necessary for a captivating performance and the actors and actresses are striving diligently to put the show across with a bang under the tutelage of Mrs. Ira Henderson.

Annan-Horner Trial To Come Up On Saturday

The trial of Andrew Horner and Edgar Annan, both Emmitsburg bankers, is scheduled in Frederick on Saturday. Horner is indicted for false pretenses and embezzlement, and Annan will stand trial for false pretenses, while both are under joint indictment for embezzlement.

The collapse of the banking firm of Annan-Horner is well remembered in that town, and it has been reported that several local persons were caught in the collapse of that bank.

Sale Prices Higher

The range of prices in the first farm sale held in Frederick County for the present year was somewhat higher than those prevailing last year. This was indicated at the sale Thursday of Eugene Connor, near Creagerstown.

Especially was this the case with livestock. The highest cow sold for \$101 while the lowest was \$23. Cows have sold recently at public sale for as low as one dollar. Horses sold for \$150, \$135 \$125, \$120, \$80, \$80 and \$3. A wagon body brought \$68. The receipts for the sale totaled \$3,430. The cattle sale amounted to \$1,550.

Frederick Provision Co

Phone 816. 328 N. Market St. We Deliver

Headquarters For Fresh And Frozen Fish

Extra Fancy Halibut Steak 35c lb.
Frozen Fish 10c lb., 3 lbs. for 25c

Just Received a Large Supply of
ORANGES and GRAPE FRUIT
Will Sell at the Following Prices:

Grape Fruit 6 for 25c
Grape Fruit 10c each or 3 for 25c
Extra Large Size Florida Oranges 60c doz.
Large Size 50c doz.
Good Size 50c doz.
Medium Size 25c doz.
Small Size 20c doz.
All This Fruit is Very Fine Quality

Smoked Hams Special 21c lb

Strip Bacon 1 7 1/2c lb Whole Piece

Veal Chops 30c lb. | Sliced Bacon 35c lb.
Frankfurts ... 3 lbs. 49c | 1-lb. Carton

Place your order for a fresh Dressed Chicken. Your chicken is dressed after your order is placed, therefore you are sure of fresh stock.

Look! Look! Look!

Hominy 8 lbs. for 25c
Soup Beans ... 3 lbs. for 25c
Can Corn 2 cans for 23c
Peas 20c can
Ginger Snaps, 2 lbs. for 25c
Morton's Salt, 2 boxes 25c

OYSTERS
Selects, 70c qt.
Standards, 60c qt.
CRACKERS
15c lb.

Cracker Meal 3 lbs. for 25c

Cabbage 5c lb.
Potatoes 50c pk.
Kale 20c 1/2 pk.
Lemons 30c doz.

Fresh Tomatoes
20c lb.
Turnips 30c pk.
Fresh Lettuce and
Celery

Spredit Nut Margarine Oleomargarine
Special 4 lb. 99c

In spite of all the wintry weather people flock to the sale from all parts of the County and adjoining Counties. Men were there from Thurmont, Rocky Ridge, Woodsboro, Johnsville, Frederick, and even from as far away as Loudoun County and Adams County. Competition on the part of the buyers was keen at times and the bidding was brisk.

February 22

Snow Storm

Frederick County is recovering from the most severe snow and sleet storm in recent years. Snow started to fall early Tuesday morning. At 6 o'clock Tuesday evening there were six inches flakes on the ground. The snow then turn to hail, bringing the total for up to 8 1/2 inches. During the night, the temperature rose and there was a steady downpour of rain that did not end until 8 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Despite the unusual heavy precipitation, no lines were reported out of commission by the telephone company. This is believed to be due to the rising temperature which prevented the sleet and rain from freezing much on the wires, and adding materially to their weight.

Taken as a whole, the present week has been the worst of the winter, in the matter of weather. It has contained snow, rain, blizzard, freezing, thawing, wind, & slush -all in a changing pattern.

Controversy Rages Overuse Of History Text In Schools

Books on American history, which are in everyday use in the schools of

Adams County, are included among those now under fire in the controversy that is raging over the textbooks in use in all the public schools Pennsylvania.

Dr. Becht, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is keeping close tabs on a committee of nine Pennsylvania citizens which have been asked to decide whether the heroes and events as described in certain textbooks of American history now in use in the schools are disparaging and presented in a light that makes them unfit for study by students.

"It is a question," said Dr. Becht, "of whether the critical view or the fundamental view of history is to be taught in schools of the state. "There is a school of historians who want to present history from a new viewpoint, believing that many events in heroes of American history are yarns that should never be taught.

"Another group questions the wisdom of this view as improper for the classroom where the textbook must meet with certain requirements deferring from those of the history.

"The 'moderatis' view of the type of men who formed the legion of American heroes is severely criticized by defenders of revolutionary lure. They don't like the way West describes George Washington 'holding well in hand that fiery temper which still on occasions could make him swear like an angel from heaven.'

"Nor do they favor derogatory statements about John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, as well as other heroes, and they believe these histories went out of the way to expose their faults and conceal their virtues." Said Becht.

It isn't a question of if, but a matter of when.

Making funeral arrangements in advance ensures that someone you care about will never have to make all the decisions alone. It's a simple thing to do if you know who to talk to. Please send for our Informative Personal Family Guide to help answer any questions you may have. It's free and you'll learn why making these arrangements is for your family's sake.

BLACK'S FUNERAL HOME
17324 Sunshine Tr., Sabillasville

240-288-1300



Yes, I'd like more information on advance planning
(There is no cost or commitment.)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Mail To: Black's Funeral Home, 17324 Sunshine Tr., Sabillasville

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH



Fine Walnut Suit, \$94.50.
Dresser, Bow Bed, Semi Vanity.
Everything in the Furniture line
way below the market prices

Low Prices, Easy Terms, Auto Delivery.
C. O. FUSS & SON,
Leading Furniture Dealers and Funeral Directors
 2-8-1f
TANEYTOWN, MD.

Annan-Horner Realty Brings \$11,300

The sum of \$5,870 was obtained at a public sale held Tuesday at the Frederick County Courthouse of the real estate located in Emmitsburg District, which was sold under power sale contained in a mortgage executed by Anna Horner to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, March 16, 1922. The property consisted of 274 acres of land. The purchaser was the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore.

The same bank also purchased the real estate in the same district, which was sold by power of sale contained in a mortgage to the Baltimore bank executed by J. Stewart and Elizabeth Annan. This property consisted of 182 acres more or less. The price obtained for this property was \$3,160.

Thurmont Debate Team Victorious

First honors in the senior high school debating league of Frederick County was taken by Thurmont High School, Wednesday night, while Walkersville High School won the debate championship among the smaller high schools. The debate team representing Thurmont High School defeated Frederick High School in Frederick, and Middletown High School at Thurmont.

The Walkersville High School team triumphed over Emmitsburg High School at Walkersville, and over the Liberty High School in Liberty. Liberty also lost its debate with Emmitsburg High School at Emmitsburg.

The team Thurmont sent to Frederick, which carried away the debate

honors, was composed of Eloise Weant and Grady Finch. Their team at home was Lucille Eby and John Pryor. Both of Walkersville's teams were composed of girls. Elizabeth Cramer and Catherine Hahn composed the team that triumphed for Walkersville at Liberty, while the team that won at home was Blanche Rice and Clara Zimmerman.

All seven of the high schools bailed: 'Resolved that the government should own and operated the railroads.' The home team defending the affirmative side in each case.

Paroled To Get Second Chance On Life

Desiring to afford Richard Staub another opportunity to "make a man of himself," Chief Judge Burner opted not to execute a sentence of two years in the penitentiary on Staub, 21 years old, near Thurmont.

The charges are a result of Staub and George Miller, breaking into the out-buildings on the premise of Colonel Lehman, near Creagerstown on October 28 and stealing a keg of wine containing seven or eight gallons. Miller, who had gave bail failed to appear in court and bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

Staub pleaded guilty and some very damaging evidence against him was brought out. According to his own testimony he and Miller got a gallon of wine from Lester Lewis, of near Thurmont and after consuming it, which made them drunk, they proceeded to the farm of Lehman. Here they were given a drink of cider. They asked for

more, and this being refused, they carried off a keg of wine. After taking a drink out of the keg Staub and Miller took the remainder home. He admitted that he was drunk.

According to Layman and Bruce Hauck, who works for Layman, Staub and Miller came to the Layman farm and ask for some wine. Being refused Miller is said to have handled young Hauck roughly and kicked over a lantern in the barn where 16 head of cattle were being shelters. Later they broke into an out building and stole a keg of wine.

A day or two later the keg, filled with scrap suds, was found at the home of a brother of Miller. Staub testified that the door of the building, where the wine was kept, was unlocked and standing partially open. The testimony of Lehman and Hauck's showed that the door was locked and they broke into the building.

Testimony also showed that Staub did not have the best reputation in the community in which he lived, although two witnesses testified that he worked from time to time and was not considered dishonest. At the conclusion of the testimony all the charges except statutory breaking where withdrawal, and as he pleaded guilty in the beginning of the trial, the court passed a sentence of two years in the penitentiary but refrain from putting a sentence into execution.

Paroling the young man, the judge informed him, was to give him another opportunity to make good. The Judge told him that he must "abstain from intoxicants, avoid evil companions and led a straight, orderly, decent and industrious life. If he violated any of these injunctions or in any way misbehaves he would be brought before the court and the penitentiary sentence would be carried out." The judge warned Staub's that everything depended upon his mode of living in the future. Staub promised the court to head the warning and was allowed to go.

February 29

Accidents

Harvey Frock fell while helping to unload a gasoline engine, and injured his head. After an examination at Frederick Hospital, he returned home and his believe not to have been seriously hurt. Harvey's

wife said she was not worried, as he didn't have much in his head to hurt to start with.

Harry Dern, of Keysville, had his right leg taken off above the knee, at Frederick Hospital, on Thursday. About six months ago he fell into a posthole, the bruise from the fall causing tubercular trouble.

John Brown of near Thurmont, met with an accident on Monday that put him in the hospital. Mr. Brown was falling a tree and while attempting to evade it as it fell, his feet became entangled in the underbrush, which threw him to the ground. The tree fell on him, breaking his right leg above the knee. Dr. Birley rendered surgical aid and had Brown removed to the Frederick City Hospital.

Walter Spaulding, also of Thurmont, got two fingers of his right hand caught in a planer at the Thurmont Manufacturing Company. The ends of his fingers were badly squeezed, causing a severe but not serious injury.

Taneytown Fireman Supper

The Washington Birthday Supper for the benefit of the Fire Company was quite a success. The weather was favorable and the attendance was good, the tables being filled from 5 o'clock until nearly 8 o'clock. Financially, it was very satisfactory. Over \$200 being cleared, which has been added to the sum already set aside for improved equipment in the future. 700 feet of new hose, which has been ordered to replace some that is no longer serviceable, will be received in a short time.

The members of the Company are grateful to all who contributed in anyway to the success of the supper. Especially are they thankful to the ladies who worked so faithfully and did so much to help.

There are a few dishes, jars, &c., that could not be returned, as the owners were not known. They are at the Fireman's building, and can be gotten if the owner's will call for them. Should there be any bills that are out, or that the committee overlooked, please present them that they may be paid.

Ladies Groundhog Social

The Harney Ladies' Groundhog Social, held on the evening of Groundhog Day, was a success in every way, and was largely

attended. The carpet rug balls brought good prices. The ladies placed their names on the inside of the balls and the lady whose name was found in the ball was supposed to give the gentleman who presented it his supper. That feature of the social was both profitable and amusing. The ball had to be unwrapped to see whom you were to eat supper with. The supper balls made a profit of \$36.39.

Hogs that had been sent out all over the country to be fattened and returned the evening of the social, were put in a large pen where they were auctioned off, the proceeds were \$101. The ladies wish to extend their many thanks to all those who fattened pigs, as well as those who helped make the social a success.

Emmitsburg Postmaster Dies At Age Of 67

James Elder, age 67, a descendent of Emmitsburg's oldest families and well-known citizen, died at his home in Emmitsburg, Tuesday afternoon, after an illness of five months. He was 67 years old and a native of Emmitsburg, being the son of the late Doctor James Elder, who was one of the leading lights in Democratic politics years ago and was once Postmaster of Emmitsburg, as were his grandfather and father.

Snake Found In Snow, Harbinger Of Approaching Spring

A black snake, a foot and a half and length, was found alive Tuesday morning by David Weddle, an employee of the Potomac Edison Company. Weddle was walking along a high-tension line when he saw the snake lying in the snow. After picking the reptile up, he traced its track back and found that the snake had crawled out of a chestnut tree stump. Weddle put the snake back into the trunk.

It is very unusual for a black snake to be out at this time of the year, it is said, and its appearance is considered a harbinger of the coming of spring.

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



Tony Little & Jane Moore with Real Estate Teams LLC Broker: (301) 695-3020

It's a great time to buy or sell!
 Call us and see how we can help!
 Don't settle for less... Get a Little-Moore!
301-662-2468

As your neighborhood realtor we have the expertise to optimally position your home for sale.
Now is the time!
 If you're thinking about a move...
CALL US!



Established 2023

SETON AVE BARBER CO.
 Walk-ins Welcome

130 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg
301-447-4024
 Mon. & Tues. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PAULA SOCKS

FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

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

January 1

The education of the children of Frederick County has a rich and storied history. The man who built the first house in Frederick Town in the 1740s - John Thomas Schley - was a school teacher by trade, and attained a remarkable reputation for his scholarly pursuits.

During the 1800s, one-room school houses sprang up all over the county, but it wasn't until February 1, 1955, that the last of these facilities closed.

In the 23-year history of Phillip's Delight School, located in the Catoctin Mountains about six miles from Thurmont, there was but one teacher - William McGill.

Born at Catoctin Furnace, McGill spent his life there and traveled to Phillip's Delight by bicycle most of the time. When the weather was "iffy," he would walk, and when it was real bad, he drove a car.

When the Board of Education announced it was closing the school, the parents of the eight remaining students protested vehemently, not so much because their children would have to ride a bus into Thurmont for school, but primarily because Mr. McGill would no longer be the instructor.

McGill said he had fun teaching the students in the old logging trail school, but that, at times, it was hectic, especially when he had as many as 84 students.

"Got arrested twice for fighting with my pupils," he recalled. "They were as old as 21 in those days and didn't have a whole lot of respect until I drilled it into them."

McGill kept his students out of trouble by keeping them busy with their lessons, and at chores, such as chopping wood for the pot-bellied stove, and carrying water from a spring a quarter mile away.

According to the school board the cost of transporting the students to Thurmont for school was only 1/8th as costly as keeping the school open. The day before the actual closing a bus was placed in service to carry the high school students to Thurmont. For several years they had ridden in a station wagon which picked them up at Phillip's Delight.

On the last day there were no classes. Students in grades one through seven were picked up by the bus and taken to Thurmont, ending an educational era in Frederick County.

February 8

Perhaps we are more conscious of our history than our forefathers were just 111

years ago. Today we extol our history and glorify it, even the things that weren't so prominent, but which shaped the future we live.

Frequently our forefathers paid little attention to the preservation of those structures where our history was made. Of course, buildings like Roger Brooke Taney's home on South Bentz Street, and the courthouse on Court Square were exceptions.

A case in point is the tavern where Col. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and British General Edward Braddock met to plan the British assault on the French-held Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh.

On February 8, 1913, final plans were announced for the construction of a new milk processing plant on the north side of All Saints Street just west of its intersection with South Court Street. At the time Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church was still holding services at The Old Hill Church on East All Saints Street.

George M. Oyster, of Washington, who operated a plant in Walkersville for several years, negotiated the purchase of the land with the idea of building a plant capable of processing 2,000 gallons of milk per day.

Earlier in the week news columns had been filled with the story that this plant would require the demolition of the tavern, which had been in ruins for several years and had become an eye-sore. It was located on the banks of The Carroll Creek, a hundred feet from West All Saints Street. But the milk plant would need driveways on both side which would accommodate trucks and wagons.

The new building itself was to be 70 by 30 feet and was built right on the southern building line of the lot. It had a terra cotta tile exterior and a cement floor. At the time the Historical Society of Frederick County took no action to preserve the tavern, saying there was no historic record that it was actually the meeting place of the three famous men.

Miss Nellie Carter Garrott, the society's secretary, issued a statement which indicated that the first public record on the property appeared in 1764, a full nine years after the April 23, 1755, meeting of Washington, Franklin and Braddock. She said that on May 11, 1764, Daniel Dulany (the younger) conveyed a lease-

hold right to Lot 22 to John Kimball for one penny and 4 shillings annual rental. This was the lot upon which the old tavern, torn down in 1913, was situated. The milk plant opened in mid-April 1913 and operated there for many years.

February 15

During The Civil War, many residents around Frederick County lost livestock and property to the armies of both sides. George Blessing was more determined than most to protect his farm.

When he and his daughters returned from caring for the wounded at the Battle of Antietam, he had stumbled across six rifles. He took them home, cleaned them and put them in the back of a closet.

A year later they would come in handy. Blessing, who was born February 15, 1794, was 70-years-old when Confederate troops crossed his property on July 9, 1864, on their way to Frederick. Several neighbors had enlisted Blessing's help in order to hide their horses from nearby troops.

A squad of Confederates entered Blessing's farm, which was three miles west of Myersville, and began to investigate the contents of his barn, when Blessing shouted: "The first man who touches that door again is a dead man."

When the rebels ignored the warning, Blessing and his son Tom fired together. The soldier at the barn door took two mini-balls in his right arm, and the squad, unable to determine the size of the force, began to ride away. Blessing fired again, mortally wounding the captain of the unit.

A half hour later, twenty-five rebel cavalrymen rode onto the Blessing farm to determine the size of the force. Blessing shouted the order that the first man to stir would be shot.

The Confederates began to shoot in the direction of the voice, and Blessing was grazed on one ear, his only wound despite the more than 50 shots fired in his direction.

Blessing's aim was truer and he wounded the rebel leader. Confused, the Confederates rode away.

Later, a large armed contingent could be seen approaching the farm, but rather than Confederates seeking retribution, it

was Cole's Rangers - one hundred Union cavalry who had come to the rescue.

Weeks later the story of Blessing's encounter with the Confederates was reported in the New York Tribune. When Blessing saw the title - "The Hero of The Highlands" - he laughed and said to his wife, "what nonsense, if they mean me."

The Examiner of Frederick reported the death of George Blessing in its issue of December 24, 1873.

It reads: "The highly esteemed gentlemen died at his residence near Wolfs-ville, Catoctin District, in this county, on Thursday last (December 18) in the 80th year of his age. Mr. Blessing was our best citizen and will be remembered as 'The Hero of The Highlands,' in connection with the barnyard fight with the rebels in 1864."

The Examiner went on to detail the story from its editions at the time, but the editors also included a copy of a letter written by Blessing to correct their report of the incident. The day after his death, Blessing was buried in Harmony.

February 22

Frederick County firefighters have a long, storied and distinguished history. Frederick City is home to the oldest, continuously operating volunteer fire company in the State of Maryland - The Independent Hose Company, now located on Baughman's Lane just south of Rosemont Avenue, after 116 years downtown.

Back on February 22, 1878, The United Fire Company purchased "The Lily of The Swamp." The purchase committee of the fire company had been instructed to buy an engine that "would throw more water" than the engines of the other two fire companies in Frederick.

Fifty-four years later, on February 22, 1932, Uniteds took out the old steam pumper for one last "fire." It was a grand celebration of the old reliable piece of fire fighting equipment.

A shell-building was constructed on the city parking lot off South Court Street. At precisely 1:30 p.m., an "alarm of fire" was sounded and "The Lily of The Swamp" was pulled from the station house on South Market Street. Up the street she went, pulled by several members of Uniteds.

William E. Hahn, one of the "horses" tripped and fell. The engine passed over his body, breaking his arm. But the rest of the men continued to Patrick Street, west to Court and down Court to the "fire."

Hoses were laid to Carroll Creek and preparations were begun to "get the steam up." In about 10 minutes, the old "Lily" began pumping water on the "fire." In less than 25 minutes from the first "alarm," the fire was out and "The Lily" was back in her station house.

At 3 p.m. an extensive parade went up Market to Seventh Street and back. That evening, in the halls of the United Fire Company, a banquet was held just prior to the presentation of "The Lily" to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, where it was to be on permanent display.

To read past editions of Frederick County History, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



LNG Contracting Inc.
30 years roofing experience
Roofing is our specialty

Contact
Claude "Jr" McIntosh
for estimates
301-748-7483
MHIC #132583

STRATEGIES FOR THE USE OF
**HOME EQUITY
CONVERSION
MORTGAGE (HECM)
IN RETIREMENT**

Call Today for More Information



James McCarron | NMLS: #134401
Home Equity Conversion
Mortgage Specialist
Office (877) 756-5006
4 York St, STE. 3
Taneytown, MD, 21787
jmccarron@mutualmortgage.com
mutualreverse.com/james-mccarron



Scan to Apply



Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees. The Lifestyle Home Loan is a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage for Purchase. Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc. dba Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage, NMLS ID 1025894, 3131 Camino Del Rio N 1000, San Diego, CA 92108. Subject to Credit Approval. These materials are not from HUD or FHA and the document was not approved by HUD, FHA or any Government Agency. For licensing information, go to: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org Delaware Lender License 02850; Maryland Mortgage Lender License 23678; Pennsylvania Mortgage Lender License 72932; Virginia Mortgage Broker and Lender License, NMLS ID #1025894 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) 100948792 Equal Housing Lender

Pay Off A Mortgage

Eliminating a mortgage in retirement increases cash flow. A HECM does not require monthly mortgage payments. Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees.

Stand-By Credit Line

A retirement strategy where the homeowner uses the credit line as a bucket to draw from during bear markets.

Long Term Care Protection

Set up a credit line and let it grow untouched, to use only if needed.

Emergency Back-Up

Set up a credit line to use only as needed.

Tenure Payments

Tax-free lifetime income stream, thereby reducing the need to make withdrawals from tax portfolios. Consult a tax specialist.

HECM For Purchase

Use the HECM to purchase a new home ("right-size"), and invest the difference for retirement.

Divorce Settlement

Use the HECM to buy out a spouse's portion of the home without selling or withdrawing funds from portfolio.

TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Taneytown's African American Civil War Soldiers

David Buie

On February 15, 2020, the Mayor and City Council members of Taneytown placed wreaths honoring five of the seven African American Civil War Soldiers buried at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Cemetery. The five men: John Coats, John Wesley Cook, Randolph Frealing, C. David Hill, and Caleb Johnson. The inaugural event was the passion project of Carroll Yesteryear contributors David Buie and Mimi Ashcraft. William E. Bivens, buried at Trinity Lutheran Church and James A. Coats (Sergeant, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry) killed outside Petersburg, Virginia, also served in the U.S. Colored Troops from Taneytown.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Taneytown did not have a Black church; thus, there was no associated cemetery. It appears members of the local Black population probably attended White churches and were buried in the church's ground, particularly St. Joseph Roman Catholic Cemetery on Frederick Street. A school for Black children operated after hours in rooms of the church at one point.

According to the census of 1860, there appears to be a relatively significant free Black population in the Taneytown Election District. As might be expected, many of the Black families intermarried aiding researchers in identifying and following veterans from this period.

The Miller Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post only existed for no more than five years and was exclusive to White veterans. If Black veterans from the Taneytown area wanted to participate in post-war activities or receive aid, they likely joined the Thaddeus Stevens G.A.R. Post located in New Windsor.

The following are brief biographies of the five Black soldiers honored on February 15, 2020, at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Cemetery (The information is derived from several sources including the

1890 Veterans Census and articles published in the Carroll Record, a Taneytown newspaper):

- **Private John L. Coats, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry:** In the 1860 census appears that John L. is still living at home with his father John (age 47), his mother Henrietta, and his brother James A. (age 21). In the 1850 consensus, John L. appears as being age nine. By the 1860 census, John L. would have been approximately nineteen. There is no other information regarding John L. additional than he returned home and died probably around 1890.
- **Private John Wesley Cook, Co. D, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry:** John Cook was born in Taneytown in 1820. He enlisted in the Union Army on March 17, 1865, for one year. He mustered out at Brazos, Santiago, Texas, on February 12, 1866. His obituary appeared in the Carroll Record on April 19, 1902.
- **Private Randolph Frealing, Co. C., 30th United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.):** Randolph Frealing was born in Taneytown about 1832. There appears to be confusion in his military record in recording his name. According to the History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, Randolph "Tailing" enlisted May 27, 1864 and mustered out December 10, 1865. In the Carroll Record on May 19, 1906, Randolph's death is reported as having occurred two days prior. It was not until Randolph's wife's obituary on November 23, 1923, that confirmation is made when her obituary states that she was predeceased by her husband Randolph, who served in the 30th U.S.C.T. during the Civil War.
- **Private C. David Hill, Co. D, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry:**

C. David Hill enlisted March 17, 1865, for one year at age 26. He was mustered out at Brazos, Santiago, Texas.

- **Private Caleb Johnson, Co. D, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry:** Born in Howard County, Maryland, Caleb Johnson enlisted on March 17, 1865, at age 23 to serve for one year. He was discharged for medical reasons from the Corps d'Afrique U.S.A. General Hospital in New Orleans because he was incapable of performing the duties of a soldier. From 1865 onward, Caleb suffered from health issues suffering from scurvy and rheumatism (inflammation of the left knee). In 1873, he died from consumption/tuberculosis while residing in Taneytown.

Two other Black soldiers from Taneytown fought in the Civil War:

- **Sargent James A. Coats/Coates, 2nd U.S. Colored Cavalry:** The only Black soldier from Taneytown to be killed in action during the Civil War. He was the brother of Private John L. Coats/Coates.
- **Private William E. Bivens/Bivans, Co. H, 39th U.S.C.T.:** William E. Bivens enlisted on March 1, 1864, at age 24. He mustered out on December 4, 1865, in Wilmington, North Carolina. William E. Bivens born in Baltimore, Md, and spent most of his time in Baltimore as a "sailor" with his wife, Henrietta, and two sons. However, in the 1880 census, he appears in the Taneytown as being age 38, with his wife (Henrietta) and four children. 1900, lists him as a widower, his wife dying in 1899. Around

1902, he married his housekeeper, Miss Coats, but again appears in the 1910 census as a widower. Although the exact date of his death is not known, he is known to be alive in 1911. He is buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Taneytown.

It should be noted that a large contingent of African Americans served in the American Civil War. It is believed that 186,097 Black men joined the Union Army, which consisted of 7,122 officers, and 178,975 enlisted soldiers. Approximately 20,000 black sailors served in the Union Navy and made up a large portion of many of the ships' crews. Later in the War, many regiments were recruited and organized as the United States Col-

ored Troops, which reinforced the Northern side during the last two years. Both Northern free blacks and Southern runaway slaves joined the fight. Throughout the Civil War, Black soldiers served in forty major battles and hundreds of minor skirmishes; sixteen African Americans received the Medal of Honor.

Thank you to the Mayor and City Council of Taneytown for recognizing, Taneytown's African Americans who were willing to sacrifice their lives for freedom.

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

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



1 South Main Street, Woodsboro
 Joel Rensberger, Owner
 MHIC# 4286161 • MHBR# 6677 **301-370-4042**
www.cerensbergerbuilder.com

**Custom Homes
 Historic Restorations
 Major Home Remodels**



FrederickCustomHomes.com



The Taney Corporation
 Manufacturers of Wood Stairs & Stair Parts

Locally owned continuously
 for over 50 Years

5130 Allendale Lane, Taneytown • 410-756-6671

Visit us at www.taneystair.com

A sponsor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

Chaz's

Used Auto Parts

U-Pull-It

Over 10 acres to pull from!

* Bring your own tools *

We buy junk cars and scrap metal!

Pick up or drive in available
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



6035 Taneytown Pike, Taneytown
 888-212-8775
 License# J085900



COOKING

Cupid cooking

Sonya Verlaque

I love pasta, and I think it is romantic. Maybe because Italy seems so fanciful or I watched “Lady and the Tramp” at too young an age. But, pasta is comfortable and cozy and an easy date night food because it is all finished at once. There is no timing of side dishes with the main course and getting everything ready and plated at the same moment. This month there are two sauces to choose from, which I recommend with pappardelle, fettuccini or linguini (maybe it was “Lady and the Tramp”) and a desert you can make the day before to have a relaxing but flavorful Valentine’s date.

Mushroom Cream sauce

Ingredients:

1/2 cup unsalted butter divided
2 cloves fresh minced garlic, or a pinch of garlic salt
16 ounces fresh sliced mushrooms (more if you love

mushrooms!)

1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 pound fettuccine
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
1 cup reserved pasta water
1 tbs salt (more to taste)
fresh ground black pepper
parsley for topping

Cooking Instructions: Clean the mushrooms. Add the garlic and mushrooms to a large skillet with 2 tablespoons of the butter. Sauté until the mushrooms are soft with deep brown color – 10-15 minutes. Add the cream and the rest of the butter. Simmer over low heat. Cook your pasta in a large pot according to package directions. Drain, reserving a little bit of the water, and return to pan. Add mushroom sauce to the hot noodles in the pan. Toss with tongs to mix. Add Parmesan and up a small amount of pasta water (start with 1/4 cup) to get the consistency creamy and smooth. You may need a little more, but start small because

we are not making soup. Season with salt and pepper.

Slow Cooker Beef Ragu

This recipe comes from the Skinnytaste cookbook, Fast and Slow. The great thing about this is at dinner you just have to boil the pasta and you have plenty of time to make the signature cocktail as well. This recipe makes a lot, so if you are having a small casual dinner party it’s a great idea. You can also freeze the sauce if you don’t use it all.

Ingredients:

1 tbs olive oil
6 garlic cloves, smashed slightly
1 1/2 pounds flank steak, cut against the grain into 4 pieces
salt and pepper
1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
1/4 cup reduced sodium beef broth
1 carrot, chopped
2 bay leaves
2 sprigs fresh thyme
Parmesan, ricotta, and parsley for topping

Cooking Instructions: In a small skillet, heat the oil over medium high heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until golden and lightly browned, about 2 minutes. Season the beef with 1 tbs salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker. Pour the tomatoes and broth over the beef and add the garlic from step one, plus carrots, bay leaves, and thyme. Cover and cook on high for 6 hours or on low for 8 to 10 hours. Discard the herbs and shred the beef in the pot using 2 forks. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain, return to the pot, and add the sauce from the slow cooker. (If you are serving 2-4 people you will not need all of



Beef Ragu

the sauce), then reheat for a minute and stir to combine. Serve in some beautiful bowls with grated parmesan and parsley.

Winter Rose Cocktail

A romantic and familiar with a drink or two, Ernest Hemingway is the inspiration for romantic cocktail. The Winter Rose is a twist on the Jack Rose, which played a minor role in “The Sun Also Rises.” George, the bartender at the Crillon, makes several for Jake Barnes. This cocktail is a bright red color due to the grenadine. The Jack Rose is apple brandy and citrus (usually lime or lemon) with grenadine. Hemingway is believed to have invented the drink “Death in the Afternoon” sharing the name with another book about bullfighting, is absinthe and champagne, which after drinking you may not make it to desert. So, I will recommend this instead.

Ingredients:

2 oz. Applejack
1 oz. Pomegranate Juice
1/2 oz. Grenadine
Ice

Cooking Instructions: Shake Applejack, pomegranate juice and grenadine together until chilled. Strain into chilled coupe glass or a martini glass.

Lemon and Raspberry Cheesecake Bars

After such a sweet cocktail, these tart lemon bars provide a not too sweet desert. Make them on the 13th and store in the refrigerator.

Ingredients:

For the Crust
1 box Nilla Wafers
5 tbs. butter

For the Cheesecake
32 oz. cream cheese
4 eggs
4 tbs. lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar
6 tbs whole milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract

For the Raspberry Marble
1/2 cup raspberries
2 tbs. sugar

Cooking Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a pyrex with butter and set aside. Crush the Nilla Wafers into tiny crumbs - use a food processor or put cookies in a baggie and crush with a rolling pin. Melt 5 tbs. of butter and mix together with the crumbs in a medium sized bowl until fully incorporated. Pour crumb mixture evenly into a 15x10 inch pyrex, then press with a spatula to pat it tightly down. Bake for 10 minutes, then set aside. Beat together sugar and cream cheese, then add eggs, milk, lemon juice and vanilla. Mix till everything is perfectly smooth. Spread evenly over cooked crust. Blend raspberries in a food processor or blender, then press through a mesh strainer into a bowl to remove any seeds or solids from your puree. Mix the raspberry liquid with 2 tbs. of sugar. Once sugar is dissolved, dot the cheesecake mixture with little circles of raspberry, then use a toothpick to mix the puree in circles and squiggles until you have a lovely marble pattern. Bake for 40-45 minutes until the edges are slightly brown and the center is a little soft. Cool on a baking rack, then refrigerate for 3-4 hours before cutting into squares.

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



Valentine Dinner for 2 is back!
Serving
Feb. 9th, 10th & 13th - 17th
Valentine's Day Buffet - February 14th
Accepting Reservations Now!

301-447-2366
200 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg
Full menu online at chouseinn.com



LOS AMIGOS
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Finest Authentic Mexican Food



\$3 Off
Any Purchase Of
\$25 or more
With Coupon Only
Cannot combine with
any other offers.
Valid Monday - Thursday
Expires 02/29/24

**Buy 1 Entree
Get 1 1/2 OFF!**
Buy 1 Entree at Regular
Price & Get 1 50% Off!
With Coupon Only
Cannot combine with
any other offers.
Valid Monday - Thursday
Expires 02/29/24

205 Frederick Rd., Thurmont
301-271-8888
For Take Out or Delivery visit LosAmigosOnlineOrder.com
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

FIND US ON  @losamigosthurmont

Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company

**COUNTRY BUTCHERING
& PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Saturday, February 17
6 - 10 a.m.

(Activities building - 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge)

Place orders by February 9
Pick up orders February 17 - 6 to 10 a.m.
For orders call:
Helen 410-775-2758 - Kelsey 240-397-0351 - Cindy 301-471-2143
or Paulette 240-674-4944

Valentine DANCE

**Saturday
February 10**




ONLINE TICKETS can be purchased by scanning the QR code below and at www.EmmitsburgEvents.com




OR, you can contact
Cathy Deneeny at 301-447-1712 or
Dianne Wa Brecker at 301-476-1961
for tickets.

Doors Open 5 p.m.
Dinner 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. dancing

**Dinner, dessert, snacks
BYOB w/setups provided
Raffles & Adult Gambling
Door Prizes**

**Single ticket: \$15
Couple ticket: \$25**

Vigilant Hose Activities Building
17701 Creamery Rd.,
Emmitsburg

MOMS' TIME OUT

Grandma's advice

Mary Angel

Recently I was feeling a bit nostalgic. Reminiscing about when the kids were little. As I was looking through an old photo album, actually several, I kept having the grandparents' voices pop into my head. They used to say the craziest things. I am sure they were all old wife's tales from their generation (or a little naivety on occasion). Nonetheless they definitely gave my husband and I quite a chuckle in the younger years of raising the kids.

It actually began before we started having children. I remember from a very early time in our marriage my husband's mom started hinting and then eventually quizzing us about when we were going to give her grandchildren. As much as she pushed my parents said you should wait until you can afford to have kids. My mom mentioned how expensive babies are and that waiting a while would not be a bad idea. Little did I know that they only get more expensive as they grow. Between sports, the grocery bill for feeding a teenager, and car insurance and cell phone bills, she was definitely worried about the wrong stage of development. Don't even get me started about the ABCs of affording kids, automobiles, birthdays (theirs and friends), college.

Then I got pregnant, and it was open season on advice and old sayings. "You have heartburn, that baby is going to have a full head of hair." "Morning sickness, that means a girl!" You are carrying in the front, it's a boy" "You are carrying all over, it must be a girl." (vice versa on these last two depending on who I was talking to.) "The heart rate will tell

you what you are having if you really want to know." Although one of these did end up being true, the rest were not. He was not a girl, and he was almost as bald as a cue ball (but the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life). This was actually the time in my life when everyone offered their advice. Whether it was on names, what or what not to eat, or the age-old breast-feeding debate, they would offer their advice while rubbing my belly. It seems when you are pregnant there are no longer rules on personal space.

When my first son, Will, was born, I ended up with nerve damage and one of my legs didn't work properly for about six months. The night we brought him home from the hospital my husband told the two grandmas that we would be fine and declined their offers to come over and stay with us to help out. Around 2 am when I got up to feed the baby, I fell because of the nerve damage. My husband was at his wits end by morning and contacted both grandmas and arranged a schedule for each of them to stay overnight. Compounding the stress of the nerve damage was the fact that our first baby had colic (spoiler alert, so did the second one).

When he was approximately a year old, he was diagnosed with acid reflux and put on medication, which helped with the colic symptoms a little bit. One day when we were visiting the in-laws, I had forgotten to bring his medication. My father-in-law suggested simply supplementing it with his own reflux medicine. After the shock wore off, and I made it clear to my husband that our baby was never to be left alone with his father, we explained that you can not

give a baby adult medication. Not to worry, my mother-in-law said he would never be unsupervised (she meant her husband).

When he was a toddler, we went to visit my parents and have a good old fashioned Sunday family dinner. We all looked forward to those sweet family times. After a delicious meal, some laughs, and a lot of play time for my little one, we loaded onto the car and said our goodbyes. As we put the car into reverse, my mom asked if we were going to put the windows up. We explained that Will loved to have a breeze and listen to all of the noises of nature. She was mortified and explained that riding with the windows down would give a child gas. I had never heard of that and promised to ask the pediatrician. This time, not only did we get a laugh, but the pediatrician cracked up!

My pediatrician took this opportunity to dispel many misconceptions on child rearing. He began by explaining that the reason they call them the "terrible twos" is so you don't realize that age three can actually be more challenging. There was stern discouragement from rubbing any sort of alcohol on their gums. This one can be dangerous and there are much safer, more effective ways to battle teething. He told us that wearing shoes would not help them walk sooner, nor would an infant walker. Your cat will not steal the air from your baby but should still be supervised around the baby. Thumb sucking will not cause damage to the teeth, unless it continues into elementary school. There are so many things that have simply been proven wrong.

I don't mean to sound like I am bashing any of the grandparents, as I really do believe it takes a village. My point here is that things change, and science and technology make



advances every day. Honestly, child rearing rules change all the time. All four of my kids were born at the same hospital, and with each birth the birthing center had been remodeled, relocated, or changed in some way. Everything changes! With each child they changed the rules on how to place your child for sleep, belly, back, belly, back...I am not sure what it is now. Rock them to sleep, let them cry it out, you are holding them too much, they are going to grow up insecure if you don't hold them more. Every part of raising a child is confusing and dynamic.

Although the grandparents' advice wasn't always accurate, and some-

times hysterical, their love and support made the good times better and the tough times easier. I hope one day I will be able to give my kids crazy parenting advice and the support I received, but until then I hope I can share their crazy advice and bring a smile to a mom who is having a bad day. We all have them, and we can all use a laugh now and again. When in doubt ask your pediatrician! Just remember not to ride with the windows down and your child will never be gassy!

To read past editions of *Moms' Time Out*, visit the *Authors* section of Emmitsburg.net.

Needle & Thread - Wooded Hamlet Design
 FABRIC - NOTIONS - PATTERNS
 2215 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg
 717-334-4011
www.needleandthread.biz • www.woodedhamlet.com
 Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
 Darlene Grube Proverbs 31: 10-31

The Upholstery Shop ✂️
 Custom Upholstery
 Furniture Repair & Restoration
 Wide Selection of Top Quality Fabrics
 ~ Family owned and operated for over 50 years ~
 Michael Woodhams - Owner
 5810 Taneytown Pike • Taneytown
 Look for the Blue Sign!
 410-596-1935
 MichaelWoodhamsUpholstery@gmail.com

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
 VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Valentine' Day is coming quickly!
 Jewelry is one of the best gifts you can give that special someone. Its beauty lasts, and can go with any outfit. Give the gift of sparkle this Valentine's Day! We have estate jewelry, modern styles and catalogs so you can pick the perfect piece!
Olde Towne Jewelers
 36 E. Frederick St., Walkersville
 301-845-2200
 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Fri. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Wed. & Sun.
oldetownejewelers.store

Thurmont Community Ambulance Service
 Proudly Serving Northern Frederick Co. for Over Half a Century

THE REAGAN YEARS
 THE ULTIMATE 80'S PLAYLIST LIVE!
Saturday, February 24
 at the door or Friday Night Bingo or www.eventbright.com
 Cash Bar & Food Available
 No Coolers
 Must be 18 - Must show ID

Thurmont Event Complex
 13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont
 301-271-7550
 For more info visit our website at www.thurmonteventcomplex.com

FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Given 2024 is a leap year, we asked our writers what they would do with the extra day afforded to them.

Freshman

My Extra Day

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

In all honesty, the idea of having an extra 24 hours every 4 years seems irrelevant to me. While people make these grand plans for leap day, do any of them actually see it through? For instance, this year our leap day is on a Thursday. How can anybody make any plans to do anything when our extra day is in the middle of the week? There is no use taking the day off for a long weekend because then you would have to take Friday off as well, and that's too much. Not to mention, it's pointless skipping classes on Thursday for a long weekend because again, Friday. While realistically speaking may not satisfy our desire for an extra day, that doesn't mean we can't fantasize about the perfect "extra" day.

On my perfect "extra" day, I would do a day trip to Disney World. This seems very controversial compared to what I previously said about leap days being pointless. However, this is

fantasy. Believe it or not, I have constructed the perfect way to have the perfect day in Walt Disney World. Allow me to lay out the itinerary.

First thing is first, waking up at 2 a.m. to get ready, gather our things, and get to the airport by 4:30 a.m. for a flight to Orlando at 6 a.m. Of course, we have to allow ourselves some wiggle room since airports can be so unpredictable. Not only that, but we have to get food before we get on the plane. Also, security is a whole other issue. A flight from BWI to MCO takes approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes if there are no delays and little turbulence. This gives us 2 hours and 10 minutes to, hopefully, sleep and prepare for our magical day.

Landing in MCO at roughly 8:15 a.m., we have to travel from our gate to the baggage claim—not to pick up our luggage but to meet our Uber driver. Once we locate our driver and get in the vehicle, we can estimate around 30-45 minutes to get to Disney's Magic Kingdom. PERFECT! Magic Kingdom opens at 9 a.m., so we'd be right on time.

Arriving at Disney's Magic Kingdom, we can begin to use our mobile

app to book rides for certain times, getting the most out of our visit. Designating roughly three hours to Magic Kingdom, this gives us plenty of time to ride the rides we desire, shop, sight-see, and character meet. Given how many times I have visited Magic Kingdom, I would be in and out, with a dole whip to go, of course.

Leaving the park around noon, we would take a bus to Disney's Animal Kingdom. Due to the irregular bus patterns, we can assume that this would take about an hour to do. Immediately entering Animal Kingdom, we can use our mobile app to start booking some rides while heading over to Flame Tree Barbeque for lunch—easily the best restaurant in that park. In Animal Kingdom, I would designate around 2-2½ hours since there are only three main attractions to ride—Flight of Passage, Expedition Everest, and the Kilimanjaro Safari. With this, we would head off to our next park—Hollywood Studios.

Hollywood Studios is always such a fun park. Similar to Animal Kingdom, this park can be completed rather quickly with help from the mobile app and booking rides. In this

park, there are four main attractions to hit—Rock n' Rollercoaster, Tower of Terror, Slinky-Dog Dash, and Mickey's Runaway Railroad. However, Rock n' Rollercoaster is closed for refurbishment until the summer of 2024, so we can cross this one off our list (unfortunately). I would designate the same amount of time for this park as we did for Animal Kingdom. When leaving Hollywood Studios, we would take advantage of the Skyliner transportation method to travel to Epcot at around 5-6 p.m.

Once in Epcot, we would walk the world showcase enjoying all the food from countries around the world—this is what we would count as our dinner. However, there is one attraction I would say is a must, and that is Test Track. Saving Epcot as our last park is most desired since it is the park that closes at the latest—typically around 11 p.m. This means that we would have as much time as we wanted in any of the parks, theoretically, and not have to worry about not making every park. However, it is unlikely that we would stay until park closing since we would need to Uber back to MCO airport to catch our

flight back home to BWI.

With all of this being said, that is how I would choose to spend my leap day in a perfect world. It would probably take at least two days to recover from this adventure, but it would be worth it in my opinion. Disney has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. From my first trip in 2012 to my most recent in 2022, I can say that I have officially become a Disney adult. Over the past ten years, I have visited Disney eight times and am currently planning my next visit for 2025—fingers crossed.

If I were given an extra day to do whatever I pleased, I would go to Disney for a day and leave all my problems here in a heartbeat. Nevertheless, this year our leap day is a Thursday... and that makes it rather impossible to really do anything with it. That's not to say that in other four years, or eight years, or 12 years, it might fall on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. When that happens, you can believe I'll be doing my much-needed day trip to Disney.

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

February 29th: a rare opportunity

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

Every four years, our calendars have gifted us with the rare occurrence of an extra day in Feb-

ruary—a bonus 24 hours that disrupts our annual rhythm. But what to do in a day that only occurs every four years? Lucky for me, Mount St. Mary's will be on spring break the week of the leap year for 2024, so from February 24th until March 1st, I will be sitting on a sunny beach in Florida from sunrise to sunset; with that being said, February 29th will be a day spent soaking in the warm Florida sun and rem-

iniscing on my favorite feelings of home—which typically involve the beach and summer break.

My favorite memories always involve the warm summer sun, time spent with family, and days at the beach in Cape Henlopen State Park; these are memories of home, the ones I hold on to tightly as the cold, winter air hits at the Mount and my seasonal depression kicks in. Instead of going back to the cold air of my hometown this time of year, I'm lucky enough to have planned a vacation with my boyfriend for spring break. And so, to end the month, I'll be spending a week curing this seasonal depression and enjoying the beauty of warm, sunny days. The 29th will actually be our last 'official' day of vacation; our last day to enjoy the warm sunny days offered to us by the beautiful state of Florida, as we will be headed to the Fort Lauderdale airport around 6 a.m. of March 1st to catch our flight back home. It's all timed so perfectly: the extra day of February is giving us our last day of solitude and relaxation before we head back to reality.

In all honesty, February 29th is a day I forgot about. Technically, I forgot about leap years completely up until we talked about what to write about this month. It really is an interesting phenomenon though. I mean, why do we even have leap years? What is the science behind it? How exactly does it work? Well, I can fill you in with my limited knowledge from high school...and I apologize if I don't do the science justice with my explanation! Leap years occur due to the need to align our calendar with the Earth's orbit around the sun, and because the earth takes about 365 days (give or take a couple decimals) to orbit the sun once, if we allow our calendars to

proceed without any adjustments, they will gradually fall out of sync with the astronomical year based on this orbit. From the beginning of time, adjustments have been made to try and fix this idea. For example, I remember growing up being taught about how early civilizations, such as the Egyptians and Romans, were aware of the discrepancy between the solar year and the calendar year and in cases such as the Romans, a calendar was made with a 355-day year with an occasional intercalary (which means the insertion of extra time) month added to synchronize it with the solar year. The concept for the calendars we follow now, though, is based off of Pope Gregory XIII's introduction of the 'Gregorian Calendar' in 1582, which refined the leap year rule, therefore allowing the calendar year length to be closer to the solar year, and thus reducing the discrepancy brought forth by other calendars of the past. As I said earlier, the current leap year system also follows the rules established by the Gregorian calendar: a year is considered a leap year if it is divisible by 4, except for years divisible by 100. However, years divisible by 400 are still considered leap years; essentially, this concept is based off of multiples of fours—at least that's the easiest way I have found to remember it! This system has provided a close approximation of the solar year and helps to keep our calendar in sync with the Earth's orbit around the sun! This, my friends, is science at its finest!

One of the downsides to this day though, is everyone who has a birthday on February 29th...I mean, they don't get to celebrate their actual birthday on the day except for every four years when it finally comes around again! Fun-

nily enough, my best friend is going to be having a baby in late February. She is actually due on my other nephew's birthday, the 24th! Small world, isn't it! There is a chance though that she could have this sweet baby boy on the 29th instead, and poor Easton won't get to celebrate his birthday on the actual day aside from those years by a multiple of four. While on the topic of birthdays, my dad made a point as I was writing today about how every four years, he has to wait an extra day to celebrate his own birthday. My family really enjoy making a big deal out of birthdays and my dad is the biggest celebration enthusiast of us all. Last year for his 50th, he took a trip to Cancun! I bet he wished it was a leap year for that last year, he would've gotten an extra day to spend on vacation.

It really is so interesting to look at the science behind our daily lives; I mean, we are told that the world works a certain way, and it influences our lives for eternity, or until someone new makes a point that changes our way of viewing the world. I was never one who quite cared for science, but I can't help it but be completely intrigued by the phenomenon here! Frankly, I am excited to see what the year of 2024—the year of the leap year—has in store for me. So far, it is looking pretty good! How I cannot wait to be spending February 29th on the beach, fully embracing the resolutions I made this year to take time to myself and do good by me! I hope everyone else reading this gets to enjoy this extra day as well: by all means make a cake, have a special dinner, do something that makes you feel good, and use this day as an excuse to celebrate life!

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



THE OTT HOUSE PUB

Casual Dining
301-447-2625
5 W. Main St. Emmitsburg

Extensive menu to choose from

Valentine's Day
February 14th!

Open Wednesday - Monday
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
(Closed Tuesday)

Carry-out available

Daily Lunch Specials

Call now to make your Valentine's Reservations!

LEAP DAY POSSIBILITIES

Junior

Twenty-four hours

Dolores Hans
MSMU class of 2025

It is hard to wrap my brain around the fact that there is an extra day coming up because it is just another Thursday. I will admit that in a world where time passes far too quickly and laughs as we desperately try to find a moment of joyfulness, having an additional twenty-four hours seems daunting. Twenty-four extra hours, but at least eight will be spent sleeping, and many more will be spent doing the seemingly mundane parts of life we spend most other days doing anyway. There is so much I could do with that time. So much I wish I could do. I could write a letter to everyone I have ever loved telling them how much they mean to me. I could lie at the top of a grassy hill, feeling the wind pass through me as if I am nothing but a blade of grass. I could take my siblings out for ice cream and on an adventure, trying to reclaim the wonder I felt as a child. I could read a book at the foot of a weeping willow and

weep alongside it as the sun sets, recalling those whom I miss who have passed, because it has been too long since I have allowed them to cross my mind. I could prepare yet another twelve-hour date with my beloved, and we could delight in how awesome it is to be completely in love. Honestly, I could spend twenty-four hours just looking at him, hearing him play guitar, and finding ways to make him smile. I could spend the whole day learning new recipes and perfecting my own, so I can add my own cookbook to the stacks on my desk. I could go out, breathe deep, feel everything, and live.

Alas, my day will likely be spent on my couch, recovering from my appointment at the dentist, probably deleting photos to clear up storage on my phone, and going crazy because I long to be with my dearest friends here in Maryland. It will probably be cold, so I won't be outdoors basking in the sunlight and hearing the birds sing their melodious songs. I will probably clean up after my siblings and fall asleep with the sounds of the television on instead of the faint sound of the cars on Route 15.

Why must this extra day be at

the end of February? When the earth is covered in a delicate layer of snow, wind ripping at the glistening fractals, blowing cold air through the cracks in our windows. When the people of the world are in the middle of the chaos of work and school. It will be just another Thursday. Why do we create such a poor stigma about how we spend our time, adding to the pressure not only to live rightly as we would any other day, but to make this one count? Twenty-four hours. Why are we presented with a blessing, only for it to be revealed that it was just a facade for the ordinary and tiresome, taunting us with the idea of something more.

I will be on spring break prior to and during this leap day. How ironic, no, how cruel is it that every day of my break prior to the extra twenty-four hours, I could be spending with the love of my life, exploring nature, and feeling happiness like never before. But when that leap day comes around, I will be hundreds of miles away from him in a mundane world of appointments and busy work. When people ask me how I spent my leap day, this rare and sup-

posedly fruitful day, I will simply say that I spent it with my family, because it is too hard to admit without shame that I did not live life to the fullest. I did not seize the day. I did not lay on a grassy hill or watch the sunset or write letters.

Although, I guess that's the way of time. Time teases us with its presence and acts as though it is a victim of neglect, believing we do not appreciate it or see its value. It would have us believe that we are careless and joyless, seeing time as only something to be lost. In actuality though, time is an oppressor. It rears its face towards us, pressuring us to make the most of it and take the gifts it offers us even though they are poisoned. It feeds our minds with images of warmth and jubilation, only to shame us for not taking advantage of the sun that didn't shine and the joy that had no name. It exploits our desires and coerces us to accept the empty promises it provides. It presents itself as an under-appreciated gem, but truly it is a master of despair.

That is, until we change our minds to accepting this truth, and embracing it. Instead of saying "make every moment count

because soon this time will be gone," believing time is a gift and we must appreciate it, ultimately causing pain if we don't, let's say "do what makes you happy as often as you can, and even with time against you, you will thrive."

There will come a day when my life catches up to my dreams. Spending unbroken time with my love, cooking new recipes, writing letters, taking kids on adventures, and all the joys that come from raising kids, teaching, and being married, all things that I see in my future. One day, it won't be so daunting to have a leap day, because I will already be living the life that consists of all the ways I wish I could've been spending extra time. One day, I could spend my leap day at the top of a grassy hill having a picnic with my family while my husband smiles and plays guitar, and the kids eat ice cream while reading. And there I will be, writing them each a letter as the sun sets, feeling the wind pass through me, breathing deep, feeling everything, living.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

Life's Limits

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Humans often struggle with the concept of limits. There is limited time to travel, limited time to pursue our careers, and limited time to spend with family and friends. In fact, there's limited time on this earth. We plan for so much because it's all we know. Life is short, so do it all! It's what we hear all the time, and it's a statement filled with pressure. Since when is there the time to "do it all"?

This year, we have been granted an extra 24 hours in 2024. I'll be honest—I've never really thought much of the leap year. I have one friend who was born on February 28th during a leap year, so we laugh about that, but it's never crossed my mind otherwise. In fact, I didn't know that 2024 had one extra day until I was assigned to write about it. But after some research, I realize that it's quite a gift. It's a little loophole in the whole system: extra time. We could always use extra time.

The last leap year was 2020. Anyone who has any memory of that year knows how haunting, eerie, and unbelievable the events of 2020 were. The more I think about it, the beginning and end of my college years are bookended by leap years. The way I see it, this year, I have more time to enjoy my dwindling moments at Mount St. Mary's and await the future. And it's hard, when you're on the brink of a vast change and you can't help but plan for the months and years ahead. It's hard to enjoy the now. But this extra 24 hours, in this transformative year, could help.

I have 122 days until graduation. If this were an ordinary year, I'd only have 121.

February 29th, 2024 falls on a Thursday. I think Thursday might be my favorite day of the week; there's a sense of anticipation for the weekend without the disruption of routine, and you still have Friday to get through, and then the weekend itself. Only, my weekends will be from Thursday to Tuesday, due to having no classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, giving me probably the most relaxed and flexible schedule I'll ever have. Sometimes, I joke to my friends that I will be living the retired life this spring. I'm able to work out when I want, travel on long weekends, schedule lunch dates in the middle of the day—all on a fixed income, too! On Tuesday and Thursdays, I'll be taking three classes: ethics, personal finance, and ceramics. I haven't decided quite how the structure of my days will go yet, but I intend to give myself time to sleep in, get in some movement, and have free time as well.

I want to truly soak up my last months of college, and I fully believe that this leap year was meant to help me. Although an extra 24 hours is not a lot in the grand scheme of things, it grants me one extra day of the Mount experience, one extra day with my best friends. One extra day to be 22. One extra day in my life, often gone unnoticed—but not this time.

So, let's imagine it's February 29th. I wake up to one more day in February, in one of the most underrated months of the year. If I'm lucky—if we're all lucky—it will snow. Maybe I'll wake up to fresh flakes dancing in the air, or ice painting the roads. Or maybe it'll be an ordinary day with ordinary,

crisp, February weather. It's Thursday, and to my surprise, I'm already on spring break—can you believe the Mount's spring break starts in February and bleeds into the month of March? Last year, I spent spring break at the beach with my friends, and it was freezing. Wind sweeping sand in the air, and icy cold ocean water, not yet warmed by the sun. I had to leave this trip early because my sister and I had also planned a trip to Nashville. I found myself in Delaware one day, and the next day, on a plane to Tennessee. The year before, I was in London with my very best friends, exploring the historic, beautiful city. Now writing this, I realize am so fortunate to have amazing spring breaks that I can reflect upon.

This year, I want to do the same. Go somewhere I've never been.

I'm planning a trip with my boyfriend to Boston because I've always wanted to go, and I've never been that up North before. Or maybe I'll hang out with some friends and travel to another totally new and random spot. What they say about college spring break is true: you need to soak up every last minute of it. Travel and be with friends and enjoy the moment. I think we were meant to have spring break during the leap day, during that extra 24 hours.

I challenge you this leap year to spend February 29th intentionally. What are your favorite, little moments of the day? Making your coffee in the morning and having that first sip? Driving to work and passing scenic views? Your lunch break? Finally getting home and settling on the couch? Reading a book or watching a movie before bed? Or, do you find yourself with some free time this leap year? Who would you be with? What would you do? What spots can you explore nearby, or far

away? I urge you not to waste this extra day. It is a lucky thing to go to bed on February 28th and wake up on February 29th, if only for every four years.

Like I said, life is full of limits. Choose to spend your time wisely. Do not feel pressured to fit everything into this leap day, but rather

take it slow and truly reflect on the fortunate experience of having an extra 24 hours to live. For one day, the limits are stretched just a bit. Enjoy it.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



SPIKE'S
TIRE EMPORIUM & AUTO CARE

TIRES! TIRES! TIRES!
Servicing all your tire needs!

**Free Front End Alignment
& Lifetime Balancing
and Tire Rotation
with purchase of 4 tires***
* Call store for details

We work on all makes & models

Wheel Repair, Brakes, Oil Changes
Engine & Transmission Repair
Factory Scheduled Maintenance
Maryland State Inspection

CALL DANNY TO SCHEDULE
301-447-4734 ASE
17307 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg
Visit us online at www.SpikesAutoCareInc.com

LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library
 Mondays – Children’s Story Time 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 - 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?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – February 13 at 6:30. Learn the German art of paper cutting design.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on February 20. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet

February 26 at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-224.0

Frederick County Libraries

Love Your Library Month, Valentine’s Day, and Leap year 2024, we have so many great, fun, and informative new library programs to share with our communities this month.

Emmitsburg Library celebrates Valentine’s with local Author Tristen Crone in a special program on February 10, at 10:30 am for adults. In this two to part program, Tristen discusses her book “Playing for Keeps” and explains the process of writing and publishing her work. Following the book talk, everyone is invited to spend an hour hanging out with Tristen playing fun board games and more.

“Love Your Library Celebration!” for elementary kids and teens, begins at 2 on Feb. 10. Join us for an exciting game of book character trivia, crafts, and snacks and don’t forget to bring your favorite book to share!

Thurmont Library celebrates Valentine’s with several programs including: “Teens Create: Valentine’s Sugar Scrub” on Feb. 7 and “Teens Create: Valentine’s Fortune Cookies” on Feb. 13. Families and kids of

all ages are invited to the “Valentine’s Social” on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2.

Adults have an interesting array of programs to choose from this month beginning with “United States Colored Troops of the Civil War” on Feb. 10 at 2. Continuing with history, join us on Feb. 14 at 7 for “Paddling down the “river with many bends”, the Indigenous people of Frederick County and Maryland”, a discussion of the early residents of the county and Maryland and how their fates were sealed by European colonization. Finally, discussing current events, we have “Mad, Mad, Mad World” with Shaun Donnelly, retired U.S. Ambassador on Feb. 28 at 7.

Did you receive a new phone or tablet over the holidays and would like to learn how to use it properly? Drop by the Thurmont Senior Center for “Digital Learn” February 15 from 10 to 11:30, where we can help you discover new skills and answer any questions you may have.

Beginning in February, VITA Tax Preparation volunteers will begin accepting reservations for tax preparation of Federal and Maryland State income taxes for Northern Frederick County residents who earned less than about \$60,000 in 2023. Please note that assistance is by appointment only, and appointments at the Thurmont library will be on Tuesdays from 10 to 5:30. Contact 301 to 471 to 5757 after Jan 22, for more information.

And finally, we are very excited to announce that our annual Celtic Concert will be held March 9 at 7 p.m. at MSM Knott Auditorium featuring “Enter the Haggis”. For over two decades, this Celtic group from Toronto has combined bagpipes and fiddles with a rock rhythm section to create a distinctively eclectic sound, singalong melodies and deep, meaningful lyrics which tell the stories of every-

FCPS Middle School Music Festival

The 2024 Frederick County Public Schools All-Middle School Music Festival is fast approaching.

“Please mark your calendars and encourage family, friends and neighbors to attend this festivals to show support for these extremely talented students and to support music education,” said Kimberly Hirschmann, FCPS curriculum specialist for secondary visual and performing arts.

The Middle School Festival will also showcase an all-county student choir, band

and orchestra and is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday, February 3, at GTJHS and will feature approximately 199 students.

Proceeds from admission support these events and the Secondary Visual and Performing Arts Programs.

General seating tickets may be purchased in advance at GOFAN.co and are \$6 for adults and \$2 for students. Senior citizens 60+ (ID required) and children under school age are free. FCPS employees are admitted free when presenting their FCPS badge.

day hard to working people.

Free Tickets will be available at Thurmont Regional Library and Emmitsburg Branch beginning February 19 at 10am. Tickets are limited to 2 per person and are required to secure your seat. For all your information needs, contact us online at fcpl.org or call us at 301 to 600 to 7200.

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries (librarycalendar.com) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600 to 6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600 to 7212.

Events at the Emmitsburg Branch Library:

- Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11 to 11:30.
- Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Little Adventurers (Birth to 5), 11:30 to Noon.
- Feb. 1, 8: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30 to 4:30.
- Feb. 8: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6 to 7.
- Feb. 10: Love Your Library Celebration!

bration! (Elementary, Teen), 2 to 3.

Feb. 1, 15, 29: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Grades 4 to 7), 5:30 to 6.

Feb. 6, 13, 27: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30 to 6:30.

Feb. 20: Post It! Art Gallery (Teens), 4:30 to 6:30.

Feb. 10: The Learning Café: Coffee with a Local Author (Adult), 10:30 to 11:30.

Feb. 10: “Playing for Keeps” Board Game Meetup (Adult), 11:30 a.m. to 12:30.

Events at the Thurmont Regional Library

- Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22: Musical Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 to 11.
- Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Preschool Storytime (Ages 3 to 5), 10:30 to 11.
- Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Let’s Get Ready for Kindergarten (Ages 3 to 5), 11:15 to 11:45.
- Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27: Baby Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 to 11:30.
- Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28: Toddler Storytime (18 months to 3), 10:30 to 11.
- Feb. 14, 28: Movement and Action Play, (Ages 2 to 5) 11:15 to 11:45.
- Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: Family Storytime (Birth to 5, Elementary, All Ages), 11 to 11:30.

Sunday, Feb. 11: Valentine’s Social (Birth to 5, Elementary, All Ages), 2 to 3.

Feb. 29: Leap Day! (Birth to 5, Elementary, All Ages), 4:30 to 6.

Feb. 7, 28: STEAM On! (Elementary), 6 to 7.

Feb. 15: STEAM On! (Elementary), 6 to 7.

Feb. 20: STEAM On! (Elementary), 6 to 7.

Feb. 7: Teens Create! Valentine’s Sugar Scrub (Teens), 4 to 5.

Feb. 13: Teens Create: Valentine Fortune Cookies (Teens), 4 to 5.

Feb. 21: Teens Learn: Healthy Relationship with Heartly House (Teens), 4 to 5.

Feb. 28: Teen Library Council (Teens), 4 to 5.

Feb. 10: United States Colored Troops of the Civil War (Adults), 2 to 4.

Feb. 14: Senior Center Library Day (Adults), 10 to 12:30.

Jan. 18: Digital Learning (Adults), 10 to Noon.

Sunday, Feb. 23 to 25: Memory Lab by Appointment (Adults), All Day.

Jan. 31: The Troubled World: A Retired U.S. Ambassadors Perspective (Adults, Teens), 7 to 8.

FSK Instrumental Music Boosters Presents:

DESIGNER BAG BINGO!

Featuring Coach, Michael Kors, Kate Spade & Vera Bradley

Sponsors Needed!

Tickets Available

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

\$25 IN ADVANCE - \$30 AT THE DOOR

DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M., EARLY BIRD AT 6:45 P.M.

FIRST REGULAR GAME AT 7 P.M.

FSK HS CAFETERIA

FOOD, REGULAR RAFFLES, CUPCAKE RAFFLE, BINGO BANDIT, 50/50, DOOR PRIZES, WRISTLET RAFFLE

Tickets are available now and may purchased by emailing fskimbbingo@gmail.com



Individual Style...

Studio 24E Individual Style...
 Boutique and Custom Framing
 21 E. Main St. • Thurmont
 Call/Text 443-679-7916 • www.studio24e.com

THE FURNACE

HOT CRABS COLD BEER

Grill & Crab House

240-288-8942

Sun. 12 - 8 p.m. ~ Tues., Wed., Thurs. 3 - 9 p.m.
 Fri. & Sat. 12 - 9 p.m.
 Closed Monday

Delicious Steamed SHRIMP & CRAB LEGS!

Crabs available by the dozen, half bushel & bushel in season!

A.Y.C.E. EVERYDAY!

Call For Pricing!

Tuesday - 80¢ Wings & Yeungs!
Wednesday - Appetizer Specials!

12841 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont

SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Rae Gallagher
Vice President,
Board of Education

Happy New Year from the Board of Education. During the month of February, our school Board meetings will be held on February 14th and February 28th. The Board and Control Rooms are scheduled to undergo modernization this year, including the installation of new audio and video equipment, to replace dated infrastructure utilized since the building opened in 2010. While construction takes place, the Board Room will not be accessible for meetings. Thus, the Board will meet in a combination of virtual and off-site settings beginning with the Wednesday, February 28 meeting and continuing through the Wednesday, May 1 meeting.

More details will be released as they are finalized.

With the new year comes the new budget planning for Frederick County, inclusive of Frederick County Public Schools. Dr. Dyson presented her proposed budget to the Board at the first January meeting – proposing an approximately 8.9% increase and requesting a total of just over \$991 million dollars. Dr. Dyson’s request focused on four primary areas: recruiting & retaining staff; responding to enrollment growth across the county; overcoming inflationary increases; and expanding programs and additional supports for students, with a focus on special education services.

From 2022 to 2023, FCPS enrolled an additional 801 students. In 2024, FCPS anticipates another 1,200+ students enrolling

in the system. A significant portion of the FCPS budget request will focus on supporting all of our over 47,000 students as our County’s population continues to grow.

At the January 23rd Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to move the superintendent’s budget forward to receive public comment at the budget hearing on January 31st at Urbana High School. At the first scheduled meeting in February, the Board will make any recommended changes before voting on the budget to send forward to the County Executive. Budget comments can be submitted to fcps.budget@fcps.org.

In 2023, the Board passed an updated meeting policy to incorporate three community-based listening sessions to hear directly from students, families, and our broader

community. The first session was held in the Board room in October. On February 21st, the Board will hold our 2nd community listening session at Catoclin High School at 6 p.m. The format of the community listening session is less formal than a typical Board meeting and allows our Board members an opportunity to directly engage with, hear from, and respond to community members.

FCPS continues to focus on the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, which also has an impact on the Board’s budget planning. At the end of January, FCPS released our new Blueprint Unlocked podcast, hosted by Chief of Staff Dr. Sarah Sirgo. The podcast is part of our district’s stakeholder resources available to highlight the work to bring the Maryland Blueprint to life. The “Blueprint Unlocked” podcase will be released twice

monthly between January and March to unpack, understand, and unlock the work of the Blueprint. It provides an opportunity to hear directly from the experts leading these efforts.

Our first episode looks at our progress on Pillar 1: Early Childhood Education. Dr. Sirgo is joined by the two co-chairs of this pillar, Thurmont Primary principal Dr. Michele Baisey and Early Childhood Education Supervisor Leslie Frei. Look for the next episode on Pillar 5: Governance and Accountability in the coming weeks.

During our February 28th Board meeting Dr. Sirgo will be sharing the status of our Phase 2 Blueprint plan development and areas of focus. Please check out The Blueprint Quarterly newsletter and Milestone Reports at www.fcps.org/Blueprint and click on «Stakeholder Resources» to learn more.

Fairfield Area School District

Fairfield Area High School teachers hope to give students the opportunity to add one more credential to their resume.

At their Jan. 9 meeting, foreign language teachers Ute Cline and Tara Phillips asked the district’s board of education to adopt the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy. The seal recognizes students who can speak, listen, and write at a high level in English and another language, the teachers said, including American Sign Language.

“Learning a foreign language makes you more diverse and makes you more employable,” Cline said. “There is just no negativity to it.”

Phillips said the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association created the seal in 2019 as an award for students who achieved language excellence. It helps employers and universities identify bilingual people, recognizes students with 21st century skills,

and encourages the study of other languages and cultures.

To earn the certificate, Cline told the board that high school seniors must earn at least a B in all English and foreign language classes they take in grades 9 through 12. If successful, they must also either score proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exams or earn a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Literature Exam. Instead of testing, a student can submit a portfolio that includes listening, reading, writing, and speaking sections.

Students must apply for the seal by Jan. 15 of their senior year, Phillips said. If the board approves Cline and Phillips’ proposal, 2024 seniors will have until March to apply. The honor will be distributed annually at Senior Class Awards Night. Successful applicants will be given a medal they can wear to commencement.

Cline said the district will incur few costs if it adopts the pro-

gram. The only related expenses are the costs of the certificates and medal, which she estimates is \$100 annually.

School assessment

Aaron Taylor, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum, special education and student services, presented the school’s Future Ready Scores to the board. The Elementary School earned

79.3, middle school a 68.2, and high school a 60.

The Future Ready PA Index is a collection of school progress measures related to school and student success. The index includes a range of assessment, on-track, and readiness indicators, to more accurately report student learning, growth, and success in the classroom and beyond.

Colleen Rebert, elementary school principal, said her school is above the state average for English

Language Arts/Literature but did not meet the assigned target. The school exceeded goals set for Mathematics and Science, Rebert said.

Fairfield Area High and Middle school did not meet its goals in all assessed areas, according to the report. All principals cited challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for the lower scores. The principals noted attendance is especially an issue at all grade levels.

QUALITY AUTO REPAIR!
24 HOUR TOWING



WE REPAIR DENTS AND DINGS FROM SCRATCHES TO ROLL OVERS!

PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE TO THE SHOP!

Complete Auto Body Service!
All Major Insurance Carriers Accepted
Lifetime Warranty On All Repairs
Car Rentals Available On-Site
All Makes And Models

SERVING OVER 20 YEARS IN THURMONT

AAA

MIKE’S AUTO BODY
Collision & Towing, Inc.
12917 Catoclin Furnace Rd., Thurmont

301-271-7626



the Y
YMCA

CAMP OPEN HOUSE
Feb. 3
SAVE 10%

FIND YOUR FUN. FIND YOUR Y.

At Y day camp, your kids will make new friends and have tons of fun as they explore new adventures each day.

FIND YOUR Y AT
YMCA OF FREDERICK COUNTY
FREDERICKYMCA.ORG

ARTS

Way Off Broadway kicks of 30th season

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will begin its 30th Anniversary Season with a classic murder mystery from the Queen of Mysteries, Agatha Christie. The 2024 Season will kick off with *A Murder is Announced* on Friday evening, January 19th. The whodunnit will then run through March 2nd.

In the play, an announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's home in the English village of Chipping Cleghorn. What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, a second death, and a determined inspector grimly following the case's twists and turns. Fortunately, Miss Marple is on hand to provide the solution – at some risk to herself – in a dramatic final confrontation.

A Murder is Announced was first published in 1950 and was the fourth novel featuring the amateur

sleuth Jane Marple. At the time, one reviewer said, "The plot is as ingenious as ever..." while another referred to it as a "brilliantly conducted parlour game."

In 1956, NBC's Goodyear Playhouse presented a television adaptation starring Gracie Fields as Miss Marple, Roger Moore as Patrick Simmons, and Jessica Tandy as Letitia Blacklock. Another television adaptation came in 1984 as part of the popular BBC series *Miss Marple*, starring Joan Hickson as Marple.

The stage version of *A Murder is Announced* first premiered at the Theatre Royal, Brighton in 1977 before transferring to the Vaudeville Theatre in London later that year.

Way Off Broadway's production of *A Murder is Announced* brings together a cast who, in large part, appeared together in the theatre's record-breaking production of another Christie mystery in 2022, *Murder on the Orient Express*.

A Murder is Announced is based on Agatha Christie's novel of the same name and was adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon. Justin M. Kiska, one of the theatre's owners and a mystery writer himself, directs the production.

A Murder is Announced runs through March 2nd, with performances are every Friday and Saturday evening, and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Tickets on Friday evenings are \$56; Saturday evenings are \$60; and Sunday afternoons are \$59 per person. Tickets may be purchased by calling the theatre's Box Office at 301-662-6600. A specific Performance Calendar can be found on the theatre's website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

To learn more about *A Murder is Announced*, or any of the shows in Way Off Broadway's upcoming 30th Anniversary Season including *Diana – The Musical*, *Tootsie*, *Anastasia*,



or *Christmas Chronicles*, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, under the direction of the Kiska family since 2002, will celebrate its 30th Anniversary Season of producing live theatre in 2024. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's theatre community, proudly

bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage. Way Off Broadway also presents *Marquee Mysteries* – an interactive murder mystery series where the audience helps solve the case – not only at the theatre, but regularly on the Walkersville Southern Railroad and other venues through the area for private functions. www.wayoffbroadway.com.

This month at the Weinberg Center

Swan Lake Comes to Weinberg Center

Swan Lake, one of the most beloved ballets of all time, comes to the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick Maryland on Wednesday, February

14 in an original new production. The one-night-only performance is part of World Ballet Series ongoing 2023-2024 U.S. tour.

Brought to life by an exceptional, multinational ensemble of 50 dancers,

Swan Lake features vivid hand-painted sets, detailed hand-crafted costumes, rich storytelling, and Tchaikovsky's unforgettable music. The production features Marius Petipa's original choreography, lovingly retouched by Nadezhda Kalinina. Sergey Novikov is the scenic and costume designer, with special effects and makeup designed by Irina Strukova. World Ballet Series' Swan Lake is produced by Gorskaya-Hartwick Productions.

Based in Los Angeles, Gorskaya-Hartwick Productions is led by Sasha Gorskaya and Gulya Hartwick, who have created, produced, and toured original productions of some of the world's most cherished ballets as part of World Ballet Series. Through their work, Gorskaya and Hartwick aim to develop the ballet audiences of tomorrow and ensure that the whole country has access to the art form. To date, World Ballet Series has travelled to more than 280 cities reaching an audience of more than 250,000, many of whom are first time attendees to a ballet.

Tickets start at \$55.

Celtic Fusion Band Scythian to Ignite the Stage at Weinberg

Scythian is set to bring its thunderous energy and eclectic mix of Celtic, Eastern European, and Appalachian

roots music to the Weinberg Center on Friday, February 16.

Named after Ukrainian nomads, Scythian, pronounced as "sith-ey-in," is a Washington, D.C. based quartet, consisting of Alexander Fedoryka (Vocals, Fiddle, Mandolin, Harmonica), Danylo Fedoryka (Vocals, Guitar, Accordion), Ethan Dean (Vocals, Upright and Electric Bass, Percussion, Guitar), and Johnny Rees (Vocals, Drums, Percussion). Described by Nashville's Music City Roots as "what happens when rock star charisma meets Celtic dervish fiddling," Scythian is a fusion of technical prowess and infectious enthusiasm.

The Washington Post attests, "Scythian's enthusiasm is contagious, and shows seem to end with everyone dancing, jumping around, or hoisting glasses." The band's diverse influences, including Ukrainian folk, bluegrass, and 60s & 70s folk-rock, come together in a technically precise and folk tradition-steeped conglomerate. For over 12 years, Scythian has been a headliner on the US Celtic Festival Circuit and a notable name in the Bluegrass/Americana Festival Circuit. The band's success as an independent group, having played over 1,300 shows across the United States, Europe, Canada, and even as far away as Australia, speaks to

the universal resonance of their "old time, good time music."

Tickets start at \$25.

Trey Kennedy Brings "Grow Up Comedy Tour"

Get ready for an evening of side-splitting laughter as comedian Trey Kennedy takes the stage at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick Maryland with his *Grow Up Comedy Tour* on March 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM. The highly anticipated tour promises an unforgettable night filled with humor, wit, and relatable anecdotes.

Trey Kennedy, a born and raised Oklahoman, unexpectedly entered the entertainment industry during his college years at Oklahoma State University. His journey to stardom began on the mobile app Vine, where he quickly amassed more than 2.5 million followers. Trey became a top creator on the app for over three years, igniting his passion for entertainment. Continuing his social media success, Trey has transitioned to platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, where he now boasts a combined following of over 12 million fans.

The multi-talented comedian is also the host of the popular podcast titled "Correct Opinions." Having recently concluded a wildly successful comedy tour, Trey Kennedy sold out venues across the United States, showcasing his comedic prowess and connecting with audiences on a personal level. Trey's self-produced comedy special, "Are You For Real?" is available for streaming on YouTube, providing fans with a front-row seat to his hilarious and relatable content. Tickets start at \$29

Tickets for all these shows may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2023-24 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.



FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

CELTIC
CONCERT

ENTER THE HAGGIS



TUES.

Mar. 12

7 - 9 p.m.

Marion Burk

Knott Auditorium

Mount St. Mary's University

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(on the west side of US 15)

Free & family-friendly event



TICKETS AVAILABLE STARTING

Feb. 19 at 10:00 a.m.

THURMONT REGIONAL LIBRARY

EMMITSBURG BRANCH

Limited 2 per person and required to secure your seat.



FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Proudly sponsored by



WAY OFF BROADWAY DINNER THEATRE

Agatha Christie

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

See this classic whodunit live on stage now through March 2nd!





5 Willowdale Drive | Frederick | Box Office: (301) 662-6600 | www.wayoffbroadway.com

MOUNT CREATIVE WRITING

February 29

Sophi Toth
MSMU Class of 2027

Winter stood on the corner of South Havers, waiting for her Uber. She stared at her phone, swinging her body idly as she peered out of her peripheral vision. Nothing suspicious—she should be okay. The snow was coming down hard in blustery gusts, but city traffic trotted on, unbothered by nature’s attempt to interrupt it. She was late to the restaurant; Elise was meeting her.

Winter tied her scarf to cover her head, glancing around for the driver. She thanked the stars that she was at least on speaking terms with her great niece, unlike her niece. Winter hadn’t wanted to do anything for her birthday, but Elise insisted on doing something fun for the oh-so-rare occasion. Winter just hoped nothing would interrupt them.

The Uber came and Winter climbed inside. The driver greeted her amicably. His name was Alex. “That’s a very pretty name, Winter.”

“Thank you.” Winter said, shaking the snowflakes out of her long, black curls.

“Was it a family name or did your parents just like winter?” Alex asked jokingly.

Her first name had been given in gratitude and awe of making it through the winter without dying when others were not as lucky. Her middle name was for the oak tree that had fallen, providing enough wood to last them the rest of the season. “They just liked the name.”

“So Per Se, huh? You must be celebrating something pretty special.”

“Yeah, it’s my birthday.”

“Oh happy birthday! Leap year, huh? How old are you, twenty-eight?”

“Yep, you got it exactly.”

“I guess that would make your

real age about one hundred and twelve, am I right?” He laughed.

Winter noticed that the windows were tinted. She’d half expected this. “Where are we going?”

“Oh, somewhere safe. Somewhere you can’t disappear again.”

Winter sat in silence for a minute before taking off her scarf. It was silk, and strong. “Thank you, but I’ll have to decline.”

Gripping the scarf, she waited until they were near enough to Per Se that she could walk. No use in making herself walk an extra block because she was hasty. She looped the scarf over the driver’s head, blinding him. He shouted and flailed, but she crouched at the base of his seat, so when he skidded into oncoming traffic, she was protected. After the cars had stopped moving, she fought her way out of the backseat door and hurried away to the sidewalk before anyone could associate her with the accident. She was nearly twenty minutes late now.

Winter walked along at a brisk pace. That was the third attempted kidnapping that month. It certainly wasn’t the best thought out one, but it did worry her that they were becoming more frequent. But she wouldn’t have to worry soon. There was no one else she had to say goodbye to, save Elise.

Winter supposed she looked disheveled when she walked into the restaurant, but Elise was delighted to see her.

“Happy birthday Aunt Winter!” Elise cried, causing the whole restaurant to look at her, which was nonetheless much better than the other birthday wish she’d received that day.

“Thank you, sweetheart.” Winter smiled warmly, hugging Elise. “I’m so sorry I’m late.”

“It’s fine, I have a table reserved.” Elise said, leading Winter to a table near the window. If Winter craned her neck, she could almost see the accident. After ordering, Elise held her wine glass up to

Winter.

“To twenty-eight years, eh?” She grinned mischievously. “However long they may be.”

Winter smiled and clinked their glasses together, feeling melancholy. Sometime between her sixteenth and seventeenth birthday she’d realized that there were truly bad people in the world, and they would not allow her to stay near her family. Everyone wanted immortality, or whatever was closest to it. Some would go to extreme lengths to achieve it, even if they didn’t understand how it happened. She just thanked her lucky stars that none of the conspiracy theorists had discovered her yet.

Elise made chit chat all throughout lunch, telling Winter about her fiancé, her promotion to partner of her firm, and asked about Winter’s travels since John’s death.

“I’ve heard wonderful things about Rio,” Elise said. “Are the beaches as beautiful as they look in the pictures?”

“Even more so. John always wanted to visit them, but never got to.” Winter said. That pain was something she was looking forward to leaving behind.

Elise put a hand on Winter’s. “I was so sorry to hear about him, Winter, I always loved Uncle John. He was only 52, right?”

Winter nodded. “Yeah. Heart attack.”

“I’m sorry. It must be so hard.”

Winter squeezed her great niece’s hand. “Thank you for saying that. But there’s something I wanted to



Grace Rodney is celebrating her eight birthday on Feb. 29. Technically it’s only her second official birthday.

discuss with you, actually.”

“Of course, what’s up?”

Winter hesitated, unsure how to say it. It was a difficult subject to broach. “I told you about that guy who tried to kidnap me about two years ago, right?”

Elise’s face turned to distaste and worry. “Yeah, what about him? He didn’t come back, did he?”

“No...not the same man.”

At Elise’s alarmed expression, Winter said quickly, “Don’t worry, I haven’t gotten hurt, but these attempts are getting a little too common for comfort. I suspect there’s some kind of organization behind it, there’s too many different people who come after me with the same information.”

“What are you going to do?”

Winter tried to say confidently. “I’m moving, I’m changing everything, starting a new life, some-

where they can’t find me.”

Elise looked at her for a long moment. “Will you ever come back to visit?”

Winter hesitated. “I hope so. But not for forty or fifty years.”

Elise bit her lip. “So this is it.” “Yeah.” Winter glanced at her watch. Her plane left in an hour.

Outside the restaurant, the two women hugged.

“I love you, Winter.” Elise said, sounding like a frog was caught in her throat. “Good luck.”

“I love you too, Ellie.” Winter said softly. “Do me a favor, please? Tell your mother goodbye?”

Elise nodded. They parted, and Winter disappeared into the crowd.

To read past Mount Creative Writing articles, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

FREDERICK’S #1 ROOFERS!

PJ’s Roofing inc.

PRIDE, INTEGRITY, PEACE OF MIND

301-695-4754 • PJsRoofing.com

Petrella Piano Studio

Erin Petrella, B.A. Music, SPC
Piano Teacher, Accompanist, & Organist
Accepting students / clients for piano lessons,
accompanying, & religious services / events.

Thurmont & Hagerstown
(610) 984-5075

<https://petrellapianostudio.com/contact/>

Kramer’s

PIANO SHOP

Family-owned & operated since 1974

SALES • TUNING • LESSONS • MOVING

12049 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway
301-898-3245 www.kramerspianoshop.com

CATOCTIN SPORTS

Catoctin winter sports are on a roll

Richelle Zheng
Class of 2025

The Catoctin girls basketball team remains unstoppable as they carry on their season with consecutive victories. The indoor track and field teams also continue to excel and make Catoctin proud!

The Lady Cougars basketball team continues to be on a roll! On January 2, at an away game against the Walkersville High Lions, the Lady Cougars increased their season record to 8-1! The Cougars secured a 10 point lead over the Lions in the first quarter, leaving the Lions with only five additional points. During their offense, Catoctin asserted their dominance on the court, making bucket after bucket. Additionally, their stone-wall defense was helpful in providing easy shots for the team, resulting in a 26-12 lead while entering halftime. The second half of the game was similar to the first, with every Cougar playing hard against the Lions. The Cougars defeated the Lions 49-27, with junior Taylor Smith contributing 14 points and five steals. Furthermore, Brooke Williams scored 10 points, made six rebounds and four assists. Kylie Perhach added five steals and Kelsey Troxell aided the team's win with six rebounds.

The JV Lady Cougars also had a great victory on the road against Walkersville, improving their season record to four out of seven victories! Catoctin defeated the Lions 32-20, due to their great defense that left Walkersville with only one point in the first quarter. The girls struggled during the second quarter which resulted in the Lions taking a 12-8 lead. However, they strengthened their defense and recovered

during the third and fourth quarters. Kaydense Cox's intense defense was the spark that the girls needed to push them to their success in the second half of the game. Sophomore Ella Burgee led the team with 10 points along with Cassidy Kreitz with eight points and Josey Shaffer with six points. In addition, both Burgee and Kreitz had a total of 11 rebounds. Autumn Glotfelty also contributed to the win with 8 deflections and 4 steals.

On January 5, the Lady Cougars took a win, 58-36, against the Boonsboro High School Warriors! The girls started the game off with a one point lead against the Warriors. Then, in the second quarter they stepped up their game and overtook the Warriors by eleven points. The Lady Cougars kicked off the third quarter with an 8-0 run to stretch their lead to 19 points. The team also scored 21 points during this time putting the Cougars far ahead of the Warriors with 48-24! Smith led the team during this game scoring 22 points and making 4 steals. Additionally, Brooke Williams made two 3-point shots, a double-double with 11 points, and 10 rebounds. Harley Fitzpatrick contributed two 3-pointers and 8 points in total. The girls shot 18 out of 25 of their shots from the free throw line. The JV Cougars won against Boonsboro as well, 38-22. The girls began with an early lead that they maintained throughout the game, resulting in their victory. Autumn Glotfelty led the team with 12 points and Myers with a triple-double totaling 11 points, 10 steals, and 10 rebounds. Kreitz also chimed in with seven rebounds.

The Lady Cougars proceeded with their next game on January 10 against

Brunswick, where they once again dominated the court with their powerful defense. The immense pressure the Cougars put on Brunswick they had a great start with a 20-6 lead! Grace Williams took charge during this match scoring 12 points. Meanwhile, Perhach chipped in with 11 points and four steals. Brooke Williams topped off six rebounds and Rebekah Zentz contributed 4 steals. This resulted in the Cougars taking a 61-21 victory; with a total of 26 steals for the entire team. All of the players fought hard and kept their defense strong, taking the lead from the beginning. Myers led the team with 14 points and Kreitz with 10.

The JV Lady Cougars improved their record to 7-3 on January 11. They played against Manchester Valley High School 39-11. The team showed off their defense with 18 steals. In addition, there were six players in the offense, with Burgee contributing 12 points. Myers was close to a double-double, only one point short, scoring 9 points and 13 rebounds. Kreitz chimed in with 8 points and Autumn Glotfelty with 6. On January 12, the Varsity Lady Cougars made a comeback against South Carroll 40-32! South Carroll gave the Cougars a rough start, with the former taking on a 15-7 lead. However, the girls remained calm and fought back, resulting in their five point lead at the end of the second half. They continued to take the lead while on lock down defense, limiting South Carroll to score only two points. The team kept their defense sturdy during the fourth quarter which led to their victory of 40-32. Brooke Williams had a great performance during this game with a



Catoctin Lady Cougars cheer on their teammates as they continue to own the court.

double-double of 20 points and 13 rebounds. Orndorff also chipped in with 10 points. Moreover, Smith made 7 assists and 10 rebounds. The Lady Cougar's hard work has been paying off as their seasonal record advances 11-1!

Catoctin's indoor track and field have also been working hard this winter season. The boys indoor track and field team competed at the Warriors Invitational at Hagerstown Community College. In the men's varsity 300-meters category Lucciano Lopez and Shawn Fraley both made new personal records! Lopez advanced his record with a time of 45.14 seconds and Fraley with a time of 45.91 seconds. In addition, Rayden Vickers also ran a new personal best with a time of 51.55! In the men's varsity 500-meters event Konner Dodson and Dean Evangelista both showed improvements with new personal bests. Dodson's new personal record is 1:23.02 and Evangelista's with 1:32.04. In the men's varsity 800-meters Daniel Hoyle placed 14th with a personal record of 2:17.87. He also ran in the 1600-meters event placing

8th with another personal best of 4:55.92! Similarly, Connor DeBoer ran in this event and improved his personal record to 7:07.30.

Girl's track and field team also ran at the Warriors Invitational. In the 300-meters event, El Hossain and Leyna Durrschmidt both ran new personal bests. Hossain improved their time to 49.44 and Durrschmidt to 50.44. In the girl's varsity 500-meters category, Olivia Baker placed 7th with an impressive time of 1:25.60! This also marks her new seasonal record in the 500! Baker further shows her excellence in the 800-meters event with another seasonal record of 2:34.64, placing her in tenth. Camila Cañadas Fraga ran a time of 2:42.44 in this event, marking her new personal best.

The teams continue to show their outstanding performance at the Frederick County Championships on January 20, which was also held at Hagerstown Community College. In the men's varsity 55-meter-dash, Shaymus Stull placed seventh in the preliminary with a time of 6.85 and eighth in the finals with 6.88 seconds. Furious Trammel competed in the men's varsity 500-meters event and placed 1st in the finals with an astonishing time of 1:06.68! On the girls junior varsity team Jocelyn Hernandez placed 12th in the 55-meter-dash. She finished with a new personal best of 8.87! Ajuline West also made a new personal record of 9.01 putting her in 13th. Ultimately, both JV and varsity track teams are continuously putting in their best effort to prepare for new obstacles to come!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



Serving Frederick for over 50 years. Family owned and operated.

ZEBROSKI MOTOR CO.

Specializing in RV & Motor Home Repair & Inspections

10% Off

RV Generator Service

Schedule an appointment and mention this ad!

10518 Woodsboro Pike, Walkersville • 301-845-8460
jzebroski0404@gmail.com

INDOOR YARD SALE

FEBRUARY 17

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MORE THAN 60 SPACES!

Fort Ritchie
COMMUNITY CENTER
14421 LAKE ROYER DRIVE, CASCADE
THEFRCC.ORG



Vigilant Hose Company's

2024

Spring Fling

65K GIVEAWAY

Drawing to be held

Saturday, May 11

Drawings begin at noon

Tickets can be purchased at the Vigilant Hose Co.

NO PAYOUT LESS THAN \$500!

1 - \$5000	17 - \$500	33 - \$500	49 - \$500
2 - \$500	18 - \$500	34 - \$500	50 - \$500
3 - \$500	19 - \$500	35 - \$500	51 - \$2000
4 - \$500	20 - \$1000	36 - \$500	52 - \$500
5 - \$500	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$500
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$500	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$500	31 - \$2000	47 - \$500	63 - \$3000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

—Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$10,000—

Early Bird Drawing

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



\$100 Per Ticket

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

MOUNT SPORTS

Men's Basketball looks to succeed with young talent

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

Fans and family members gathered in the Knott Arena at Mount St. Mary's University on October 28th, 2023, to watch the men's basketball team take on Bucknell in the first ever Behan Strong exhibition game. Even with a cast of veteran talent and new, unproven talent, the Mount had to go to double overtime to beat Bucknell 72-67. But the game itself showcased the resiliency of the team when a game wasn't going their way—a resiliency that Coach Dan Engelstad and his staff must maintain if they want to obtain a good seed for the conference tournament in March.

In an offseason where the team lost key players of the last four years such as Jalen Benjamin, Malik Jefferson, and Deandre Thomas, the team has had to adjust to relying on a current talent pool of veteran players and the first proper MAAC recruiting class. But this is the natural progression of running a Division 1 program: relying on tested veterans while playing younger players who can learn from the coaching staff and older players. But with games coming fast at the team, especially with out of conference play done, the team must adapt to playing conference teams week and week out.

The remaining members of the starters last year consist of senior redshirt sophomore, Dola Adebayo, junior Jedy Cordilla, graduate student George Tinsley, and seniors, Xavier Lipscomb, Josh Reaves, and Dakota Leffew. Many of these players are hardened MAAC veterans, even with the team only being in the conference for a year, and are used to deep runs in the conference tournament, with many of them being on the team in 2021 when the Mountaineers won the NEC and made an appearance in the National Tournament. The veterans will be looked at by many of the freshman including Ronald Jessamy, Dallas Hobbs, and De'Shayne Montgomery as examples of what it means to play for Coach Engelstad.

Dakota Leffew has been the most impactful veteran for Engelstad so far this season, as he has started in every single game for the Mount this season. So far, he leads the team in points with 281, points per game with 17.6, field goal percentage with .417, and 3-point percentage at .345 among other offensive categories. He is the most valuable player offensively for the team so far, and he is the start button to the rest of the team, leading by example when point scoring.

Behind him in offensive output is Josh Reaves, who has been helping the team with his longball, as he has a 3-point percentage .346 with significantly less attempts than Leffew. Reaves has also sup-

ported the offense with his longevity, as he has played 460 minutes for the team so far this season and is one of seven players on the team who has played in all games so far. These outstanding performances by Reaves this season have come in the wake of last year when he was injured only three games into the year.

Good offense is only possible if you have good defense on the other side of the court. And the Mountaineers have no shortage of defensive prowess when guarding their own basket, this comes in the form of Jedy Cordilla, who has been the most valuable player for the team on defense. A native of the Netherlands, Cordilla leads the team in defensive rebounds with 53 and averages 3.3 defensive rebounds per game. He is a force to be reckoned with on the court, as he stands at 6'9" and is one of the tallest players on the court at any one time.

These veteran players are rounded up by George Tinsley, who is in his last year of eligibility after transferring to the Mount from Binghamton at the beginning of last season. While he may not output large numbers in the points scoring department, Tinsley is vital in transition, as he has 4.4 offensive rebounds per game and an assist/turnover rate of 1.06 of qualified players. In his last year, Tinsley will look to make an impact that will be remembered by the younger players for years to come.

But with these veteran players comes fresh, new players who have



The Mount has added new players to the team while relying on veteran members to compete for a good spot in the MAAC Tournament in March.

yet to settle in with the experience of older members of the team. One of those players is Ronald Jessamy. The freshman from Philadelphia has taken part in 13 games for the Mount this year and has notched a field goal percentage of .586. Even though he has yet to start this year for Coach Engelstad, Jessamy is a sure bet for players that will start next year and make an impact with future teams.

Another outstanding freshman on the team this year is Dallas Hobbs. A native of the same city in Texas that he shares a name with, Hobbs has started in 11 of the 16 games for the team this season and has shown an impact on the court. With a field goal percentage of .368 and a 3-point per-

centage of .326, Hobbs has been one of the most consistent players for the team this year. And with his potential only predicted to grow, he will be slated as one of the future leaders of the team.

But by far the most impactful freshman for the team this year is the Fort Lauderdale native, De'Shayne Montgomery. While only starting in three games for the team this year, Montgomery has played in every single game for the team this year. This is enough to earn him a field goal percentage of .532 and average of 12 points per game. Currently, his offensive output is jaw dropping enough to see what his potential in the starting lineup could be in the future, let alone what he will be like

when he is used to the landscape of MAAC basketball.

This team made it through their first year in the MAAC, while putting up a good fight in the conference tournament only to go out in the second round. But with the experience in the conference last year combined with new members of the team who are ready to show what they are made of, it is not out of the realm that this team could make an impact in the MAAC. And if not this year, then the team as it stands right now will only grow into a threat for the rest of the league at-large for years to come.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



**IT'S TIME TO EXPERIENCE
AUTO REPAIR
DONE RIGHT**

SCHEDULE SERVICE TODAY!

BRAKES • OIL CHANGES • FLUID SERVICES
TRANSMISSION • STATE INSPECTIONS • ENGINE REPAIR

WHERE CUSTOMERS BECOME FRIENDS!

DYNAMIC AUTOMOTIVE
20 Creamery Way • Emmitsburg, MD 21727
P: 301-447-2800 • OPEN MON-FRI 7AM-5PM

Visit us at DynamicAutomotive.net

Serving the area for 61 Years!



Specializing in Propane and Heating Oils Delivery and Service

McLaughlin's Products

- Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers
- Oil and Gas Parts and Fittings
- Gas Logs and Fireplaces
- Custom Order Premium Grills
- Gas Emergency Generators
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Outdoor Living Products

No Worries with our easy switch over service.

- Low cost or no cost installs
- No hidden costs or fees
- Automatic or Will Call delivery
- Equal Monthly Payment Plans
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Lowest competitive price possible
- Can service almost ANY application



Over 30 Working Gas Logs, Fireplaces and Heaters on Display.



McLaughlin's offers a wide range of tank applications for all your gas needs, from 5 to 1,900 gallons. Inquire today!

We are a Generac Generator sales and service dealer. Let McLaughlin's take care of all your power needs from home standby to portable!

We also offer free quotes and estimates for any application you may need for your home or business.




www.MclHeat.com

Located Just Over the Mountain in Rouzerville!

A family owned and operated business since 1954!



Dedicated to providing your propane and Heating Oil needs!

**11931 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro,
717-762-5711 | 1-800-463-5711**

COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

2024 – can you ride the dragon?

Jefferson Breland

Call me slow. I now realize some of you glaze over at the mere thought of another article about Chinese astrology. So I have decided to mix it up a bit: not only the order of the information, but also the purpose.

Historically, Americans have usually seen Chinese astrology as only a placemat in Asian restaurants. The use of astrology in general, both Western and Eastern, has been very limited.

Whether or not you truly believe in astrology, like many esoteric pursuits, astrology can be used to see ourselves and our lives a bit differently.

My goal is to make astrology, in this case Chinese astrology, not just more interesting, but practical. You heard me right. Practical. Useful.

When we let go of any rigid idea, such as 'astrology is a bunch of malarkey,' we can begin to find wisdom in many more places. We need not go only to a socially accepted "expert" like Oprah or Judge Judy to find new ways of thinking and doing to expand our possibilities and improve our lives. Wisdom is all around us. We just have to look for it.

So, how, pray tell, will I begin to shift our understanding of Chinese astrology as practical?

The Year of the Dragon begins

on February 10, 2024. Let us begin our understanding, by expanding our idea of "Dragon."

Dragons are ubiquitous in cultures around the world. They present themselves in our collective unconscious in a variety of ways with differing purposes and manifestations.

The origins of the dragon mythologies vary from the discovery of dinosaur bones, seafaring tall tales, misunderstandings, and bad translations of words to describe various reptiles.

The dragon gets a really bad rap in Western culture. The dragon is always the bad guy: greedy, malicious, merciless, unreasonable, evil, and halitosis-y to name but a few of the worst human attributes. Often associated with Satan and sin in Christian traditions, the dragon must always be killed for the good of mankind.

St. George, the patron saint of England and a number other countries, famously slew a dragon threatening a village. Actually, there are a number of legends about St. George slaying a number of dragons in different parts of the world from North Africa to Turkey to Georgia (the country), to Eastern Europe, to England. He really got around. Curiously these stories were added to his saintly legend about 700 years after he died.

As is often the case, Chinese culture sees things a wee bit

differently than their Western counterparts. In Chinese culture, dragons could not be more different than in the West.

Dragons in Chinese culture symbolize good luck, protection, intelligence, masculine traits, and yang energy. The Dragon has symbolized the position of Emperor throughout Chinese history. Their horns of destiny represent power and duty. Dragons are the guardians of wealth and prosperity.

People born in the year of the Dragon can be proud, aristocratic, and very direct. They can demand high standards. Dragons are capable of achieving great things on a grand scale.

Dragon people can be healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered, and stubborn. They can be egotistical, eccentric, dogmatic, whimsical, or demanding, and unreasonable.

Possessing little self-doubt, the truth-telling Dragon person rarely wavers, cowers, or shifts responsibility. With the Dragon's magnetic personality and innovative spirit, their endeavors will either be amazing successes or astounding follies. To them, life is a wild ride, constantly on the go.

Dragon people are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. The Dragon is an open person. They are not good at hiding emotions. What you see is what you get.

While they might be abrasive, their feelings are genuine and always true to their heart. They are loyal to loved ones, direct in speaking without regard to others' feelings, not sentimental or overly sensitive.

Now that we have a different idea of what the Dragon represents, how do we use this information to help ourselves improve our lives.

I find it useful to think of the animals of Chinese astrology as archetypes for all potential human qualities. When you explore the qualities of the animals, do you identify with the one associated with your birth year? Are you drawn to the qualities of other animals? Do you want to be more like a tiger or a rat?

When we look past our usual stories about animals like the Rat or the Snake, we can begin to see their positive qualities. If we stick with the standard stories of sewers, trash, plague, venomous, evil, and just plain gross, we will never see their virtues.

In the Oneness, we are all the animals and they are all of us. We are all beings of the universe made of the same stardust. We are all born of the great mystery of this life. Why not learn from each other?

The Dragon at its core represents power, flexibility, and mystery. The Dragon can go under the water, fly in the air, move in many directions simultaneously, and breathe fire. As far as I know, no one has ever seen a mystical Chinese Dragon. It is the only astrological animal that we cannot see.

That doesn't mean that those qualities are not available to us. Don't you want to be more powerful, more flexible, and more mysterious or at the very least begin to understand the mysteries of life?

We can use the attributes of all twelve animals of Chinese astrology to begin to take inventory of what capabilities we want to grow in ourselves. We can use them as guides to explore untapped potentials in ourselves.

I encourage each of you to explore your full potential through the lens of Chinese astrology. The animals simply represent a different angle of how to be in this world. Who knows, you may be the Dragon

we've been waiting for.

You are a Dragon Person if you were born in one of the following years:

January 23, 1928 – February 09, 1929; February 8, 1940 – January 26, 1941; January 27, 1952 – February 13, 1953; February 13, 1964 – February 1, 1965; January 31, 1976 – February 17, 1977; February 17, 1988 – February 5, 1989; February 5, 2000 – January 23, 2001; January 23, 2012 – February 9, 2013; February 10, 2023 – January 28, 2025.

The best Chinese zodiac animals for the Dragon to befriend are the Rat and Monkey. These three are part of the "First Triangle of Affinity, a group comprised of people who are "positive doers." Obviously focused on "doing," they take the initiative and are intuitively progress-oriented. The Dragon, Rat, and Monkey are a kind of "dream team." They work extraordinarily well together due to similar ways of doing things and thinking strategies.

All of the other nine signs will work well together with the exception of the Dog. The personalities of Dog and Dragon are diametrically opposed in a number of ways. They are as different as night and day. The ambitious and eccentric Dragon needs like-minded people while the Dog will question seemingly unrealistic pursuits.

Notable people born in the Year of the Dragon: Sandra Bullock, actor; Frank Sinatra, singer/actor; Shirley Temple Black, entertainer; Neil Diamond, musician; St. Joan d'Arc, soldier/saint; Jimmy Connors, tennis player; Bruce Lee, martial artist/actor; Al Pacino, actor; John Lennon, musician; Walter Mondale, politician; Vladimir Putin, politician; Che Guevara, revolutionary; Martin Luther King, Jr., reverend/activist; Rihanna, musician; Pele, athlete; Ryan Reynolds, actor/businessman; Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel), author, Stephan Curry, athlete.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Baltimore. He can be reached at 410-336-5876 and jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com.



SENIOR BENEFIT
Services, Inc.

SERVING YOUR MEDICARE AND RETIREMENT NEEDS

- Specializing in insurance and financial needs for retirees
- We practice "Safe Money" principles for retirement plans
- Offering most major insurance carriers
- Our services are FREE

Providing our clients with hands on personalized service

Ask for Karen or Shawn

112A Main Street, Thurmont • 301-271-4040



Serving patients & the community 50+ years!

Catoctin Dental
Neil H Feldman, DDS • Richard B Love, DDS

Providing convenient, comfortable, and exceptional patient care!

Family Preventive Care • Implants • Root Canals • Fillings • Crowns • Bridges
Routine Oral Surgery • Cleaning and Periodontal Care • Invisalign® • Dentures



Neil H. Feldman, DDS

New Patients Welcome!

10 Water St., Thurmont
(301) 271-2811

catocctindental.com



Richard B. Love, DDS

HAPPY Valentine's Day!
Look great for your special date!



Shampoo ~ Cut ~ Style ~ Perm ~ Color

121 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg

301-447-6600 • Appointments preferred

• Veteran owned & operated!
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Will come to your home!

HEALTH

FITNESS & HEALTH

National Heart Health Month

Joshua Foust

The heart is perhaps the most vital organ in the body. By pumping blood, it supplies nutrients to our cells, organs, tissues, and bones and helps remove things like carbon dioxide. Every cell, minus those in the cornea, gets life-sustaining blood from the heart. The average heart beats around 100,000 times daily and pumps about 1.5 gallons of blood per minute; the heart is the body's workhorse. But given the amount of work it must do to keep the body running, hearts are susceptible to disease.

Diseases associated with the heart and the blood vessels are commonly referred to as cardiovascular diseases. The risk factors for cardiovascular disease include high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, and high cholesterol levels. Most cardiovascular diseases can be impacted by lifestyle, especially as a person ages. Genetics also plays a significant factor in heart disease. As there are so many ways in which cardiovascular disease can develop, including displaying differently in certain people, it can make the symptoms difficult to notice or monitor.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death, globally killing nearly 17 million people each year. The Frederick County Department of Health reports that heart disease is the number one killer in the county, meaning this issue also hits close to home.

To help raise awareness and celebrate ways to stay healthy or treat heart conditions, National Heart Health Month is celebrated in February each year. Not everyone knows how complex the heart is and how much work it does. Heart Health Month helps realize and share in this knowledge, while promising to take better care of such an important organ.

At Frederick Health, the community can take comfort in knowing an expert team of healthcare professionals is on hand to help prevent and treat heart disease. From routine screenings and prevention, to advanced procedures, Frederick Health's cardiovascular team is committed to keeping your heart healthy.

"We are dedicated to providing the best care in Frederick County and the surrounding area," said Kristin Deely, Director of Cardiac & Vascular Services with Frederick Health.

Frederick Health recently invested \$47 million in expanding its critical care infrastructure as part of that dedicated care. This includes a new Emergency Department with 70 treatment beds and expansions to its cardiac catheterization lab or simply "cath lab."

But what is a cath lab?

A cath lab is a specialized area in the hospital where Frederick Health providers perform minimally invasive tests and advanced cardiac procedures to screen for, diagnose, and treat cardiovascular disease. The Frederick Health cardiac

cath lab is equipped with state-of-the-art imaging technology to view the arteries and determine whether blood flows to and from the heart. This provides the care team with information to help diagnose and treat blockages and other problems in the arteries, often without patients needing surgery.

"We have an amazing and expert team on hand to help treat you when it matters the most," added Deely.

For the past several years, Frederick Health has received nationally recognized awards from the American Heart Association for implementing specific quality care improvement measures regarding the treatment of heart attacks. Every year, hundreds of Frederick County residents experience heart attacks, but the team at Frederick Health has proven metrics showing the quality of their care.

"Every day, we put proven knowledge and the industry's best-practice guidelines to work to improve the outcomes of heart attack patients in our community," said Deely.

But National Heart Health Month is about more than treating those who have already suffered a heart attack or cardiovascular disease. It's also about prevention and screening to educate people on the risks and symptoms associated with these diseases. To accomplish this goal, Frederick Health is providing educational resources, free heart-healthy events, and raising awareness about the availability of screenings and preventions.

One of the best things people can do, Deely says, is speak to their primary care providers and/or cardiologist about the proper screenings and tests.

"Talking to your doctors about getting routine bloodwork, at least

once a year, to check for elevated cholesterol levels and other markers, is really critical. Often, this is the best way to catch cardiovascular disease and its symptoms early," she says.

The healthcare system is also holding free education classes about eating a heart-healthy diet or the various types of heart attacks and how they are treated differently. Deely and her team will offer a free heart health seminar at the Emmitsburg Senior Center, 300 South Seton Avenue, on February 12 at noon.

Beyond diet and education screenings, raising heart health awareness is also essential to National Heart Health Month. To help accomplish this goal Frederick Health is participating in a PSA organized by the Frederick County Government.

"As part of our mission to keep Frederick County healthy, we are pleased to be working with the Frederick County Government on their heart health programs and

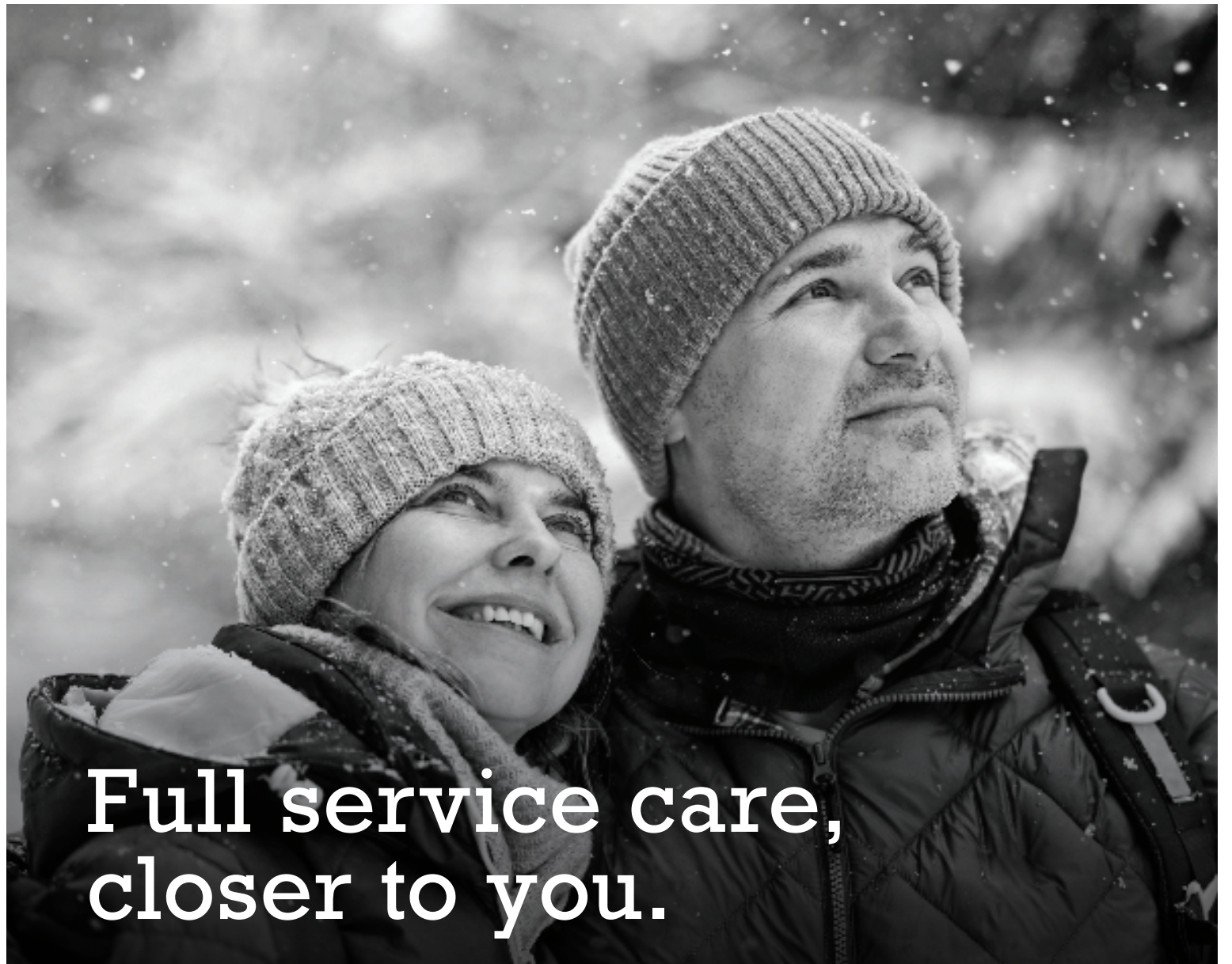
messaging," Deely continued.

It also includes taking part in the annual Wear Red Day festivities. On February 2, Frederick Health team members will join people around the country wearing red to raise awareness about heart disease in women during Heart Health Month. Team members are encouraged to wear red to show their support.

Deely says that although February is National Heart Health Month, the Frederick Health team is ready, regardless of what month it may be.

"National Heart Health Month is important, but so is staying healthy and trusting your body. Listen to what it tells you and get help if needed," Deely concluded.

Understanding heart health risks can be complex, but a dedicated month is necessary to promote heart health. With the proper focus and attention, we all can learn how to support one of our most vital organs.



Full service care, closer to you.

Frederick Health's full-service health centers offer Primary Care, Urgent Care, Laboratory, and Imaging services. Additionally, some locations offer Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab, bringing convenient access to expert care right in your community.

Visit one of our centers:

Frederick Health Urbana
3430 Worthington Blvd
240-566-7120

Frederick Health Emmitsburg
16403 Old Emmitsburg Rd
240-566-7100

Frederick Health Toll House
501 W 7th St
240-566-7130

Frederick Health Brunswick
1194 Dutchmans Creek Dr
240-566-7110

Learn more | frederickhealth.org/GetCare

**Frederick
Health**

YOUR COMMUNITY OF CARE

ASTRONOMY

The night sky of February

Professor Wayne Wooten

For February 2024, the last quarter moon is on February 2nd. In the morning sky, the waning crescent passes 5 degrees south of Venus on February 7th, then 4 degrees south of Mars on February 8th. The new moon is on February 9th, only two months until the big total solar eclipse of April 8, 2024 runs through Middle America.

Back in the evening sky, the waxing crescent moon passes 2 degrees below Saturn in the SW twilight on February 10th. On the 15th, the almost first quarter moon passes 10 degrees north of Jupiter overhead. The full moon, the Hunger Moon, rises at sunset on February 24th.

Mercury is below Venus and Mars in the dawn on February 1st, but quickly disappears behind the Sun for the rest of the month. Venus too is heading behind the Sun, and passes Mars in the dawn on February 22nd. Mars moves farther away from the Sun in the dawn sky through out the month, but remain on the other side of the Sun. In interesting advantage of this current position is that the rover cameras on Mars' surface can image sunspots on the far side of the Sun, pointed away from us, and give us a week's advance notice that a good one is coming soon over the Sun's eastern limb as seen from earth.

Jupiter rides high overhead in Aries in the sunset sky, and its moons are easy to spot with small telescopes. But Saturn is soon gone, low in the SW as the month begins, and lost in the sun's glare by the end of the month.

The constellation Cassiopeia



The Rosette Nebula lies 5,000 light-years from Earth and measures roughly 130 light years in diameter. The radiation from the young stars excites the atoms in the nebula, causing them to emit radiation themselves, producing the emission nebula we see. The mass of the nebula is estimated to be around 10,000 solar masses.

makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now.

Cassiopeia's daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, about 2.5 million light years away.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It

fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye; use it (mag. +0.9) as a comparison star to measure the fading of Betelgeuse. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. 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; they were the first two recruits for the Argonauts of University of West Florida.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation,

dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Betelgeuse is also known as alpha Orionis, for it has been the brightest star in Orion most of the time. But for much for 2019 it faded due to an expulsion of condensing carbon dust (soot) blown off in our direction, and was only 1/3rd its greatest brightness. Now this cloud has dissipated.

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. Just east of Betelgeuse is the fine binocular cluster NGC 2244.

But the much fainter is the Rosette Nebula that lies around the cluster. The red of the petals is colored by ionized hydrogen, or an H II region. H I is just optically invisible neutral hydrogen, which can be mapped with radio telescope at 21 cm wavelength. II indicates the hydrogen atom is hot enough to ionize, with its single electron kicked up to higher energy orbitals. The particular red color is the emission line created by the electron falling from the third to the second excited state, and is the same red color I hope you witness on April 8th as the bright red prominences extending over the limb of the totally eclipsed sun! The energy to ionize this gas comes from the hot young B class stars, just born in the center. So these clusters are forming from the inside out, with the expanding gases also rolling up the dark tendrils of carbon dust you see well at the top of my shot. This is as Carl Sagan said so well, "us" stuff, the heavier carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, calcium, iron, sulfur, and phosphorus created in supernovae and making our planet and bodies.

In the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. For a sense of stellar distances, consider sunlight is eight minutes old by the time it warms your face. So the light from Sirius has taken the number of minutes in a year (eight minutes versus eight years), or $60 \times 24 \times 365.25 = 525,960$ times; Sirius is more than a half million times distant than our Sun. While it is 21x more luminous than our Sun in reality, no wonder the Sun rules the day! And Sirius is the closest star you can easily see from here. Almost every thing you see in the night sky must be millions of times more distant from us than our home star.

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, a reminder that spring is coming; look for the bowl of the Big Dipper to rise, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. But if you take the pointers south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Fitting for our cosmic king of beasts, whose rising at the end of this month means March indeed will be coming in "like a lion".

applied your dormant spray to your fruit trees, Do it now! Stored summer flowering bulbs may try to start into growth if they are subjected to heat. They should be kept very dry, and stored at 45° F. If they are shriveling, put them into slightly damp peat moss, but keep them cool!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 7, 8); Best for weeding and stirring the soil (17, 18); Best for planting above-ground crops (11, 12) Best for harvesting all crops (4, 5, 6); Best days to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); slaughter and butcher meat (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); transplant (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); harvest and store grains (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); wean animals (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"You only reap what you sow, so be sure to spread more kindness and consideration for your fellow man than envy or ill will"

Farmers' Almanac

"You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time"
—Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Seasonable at first with a light wintry mix, then turning mild (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) becoming very warm with rain, then windy, cooler, and more seasonable (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonable and dry at first, then milder (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); a wintry mix, followed by rain and then turning cooler and dry (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); rain at first, colder with light snow or flurries, then dry (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); turning wet with rain, followed by mild and dry weather (26, 27, 28, 29).

Full Moon: February's Full Moon will occur on February 24th, in 2024. It was called snow Moon, where the snow was deepest, while many other

tribes called it Wolf Moon because of all of the howling heard during the month, which just happens to be the middle of their breeding season! And because there is such an extreme scarcity of game to hunt everywhere during this month, it was also aptly referred to as Hunger Moon.

Holidays: Valentine's Day, February 14th, falls on Tuesday in 2024. Show that special someone just how special they are and how much you appreciate them. The birthdays of Presidents Abraham Lincoln (Monday, February 12th) and George Washington (Thursday, the 22nd) are collectively celebrated on President's Day, which falls on Monday, February 19th, providing us with an extended holiday weekend. Enjoy!

The Garden: It's a good time to stroll around and trim back any branches that were damaged by the ravages of Winter. If you haven't yet



Catoctin Mountain Motorsports

REPAIR & SERVICE
"30 years in the automotive field!"

WINTER IS HERE!

Make sure you're ready!

We work on all ATVs, UTVs, Motorcycles, Cars, Trucks & Trailers

We do it all!

MD Inspections, Alignments, Oil Changes, Factory Maintenance, Tires, Tune-Ups, Check Overs, Even those lights on the dash!



Give us a call and schedule your appointment today!

**609 E. Main St., Thurmont
301-678-9023**

**M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
CatoctinMountainMotorsports@comcast.net**

COMPUTER Q&A

Identify Internet scammers

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

Back in the day the only scammers that existed were those traveling from town to town promoting so-called "medical miracles", medicines that would cure even the most rare and worrisome diseases. Now, especially with technology so widely used, its not a matter of if you will encounter a scam but when. Read on to learn the tell-tale signs of a scammer and what you can do to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Fake Virus Warnings – You may be visiting a website you have been to a thousand times before without a hitch, until one day up pops a virus alert. It might be blaring warning sounds or you might hear a computerized virus saying something like "Warning your computer is infected". Some warnings may even provide more details to try to scare you such as that the FBI was monitoring your device or that illegal content was found on your device. Most of the time these warnings will have a number which they indicate to call right away. Upon calling these numbers many times you will find yourself speaking to someone with an accent who will say almost anything to keep you on the phone and convince you that your computer has a virus and that they need to take control of your computer.

If you give that person access to your computer by following their instructions and letting them connect to you remotely, they will use that opportunity to show you many "error messages" in your computer. These "error messages" can be found on any computer that has been running for any length of time. Once you see the "errors" they will try persuading you into purchasing a support package either with or without antivirus. If you go through with providing them with your billing information, you have not only given them access to billing you for improper charges, you have also given them access to your computer and any information or passwords saved on your device.

Phone Scams – The scammers are getting smarter, not only will they call you pretending to be someone they aren't, they can now "spoof" real phone numbers making it appear that they are calling from a legitimate phone number (even displaying the proper caller id) when they are infact a scammer using a completely different phone number. Some calls include law enforcement claiming a family member is in jail and needs you to help bail them out. Many times, grandparents are targeted. The scammers will claim their grandchild is embarrassed and doesn't want to reach out to their parents. Other cases reported include calls from "Dell" or other spoofed tech support companies and utility companies. You will never be asked by any government official or utility company to make a payment with any kind of gift cards or green dot card.

Advertisement Scams – Sometimes these come in the form of job oppor-

tunities or products for sale that aren't local. These scams are especially common on websites like Craigslist where anonymity is easily maintained but, can still occur on other platforms like Facebook marketplace as well. Be wary when dealing with anyone who is not local. Never provide money for any products (including deposits on animals that are to be shipped) many times these are plots to take your money and disappear. If you receive some sort of job offer and it sounds too good to be true or if you receive a check up front. Many times, they will have you deposit the check and pay back some sort of fees only for the check to bounce leaving you with fees and charges and the criminals with a payday.

Email Phishing – If you ever receive an email from a company you do business with that asks you to login you should avoid doing so from the email especially if they are "requesting that you login to update your information". If you do choose to click the link verify that you are on the correct website by checking the website address. For example if your email was for PayPal and you clicked the link the first part of the website should read www.paypal.com it shouldn't read something like www.poypal.com they look very similar and websites can easily be replicated. You can use bookmarks in your web browser to save links to frequently vis-

ited websites so that you can make sure you are always on the correct website.

What should you do if you are the victim of a scam? If you are using a computer you should stop using your device immediately and consider having someone you trust clean your computer or at least to check for any remote or malicious software that might have been left behind by the scammer. Without following this step, if you provided access to your computer, the scammer may have access back onto your device. You can prevent them from gaining access by simply disconnecting from the internet until your computer is properly cleaned.

Most importantly if you provided any bank or credit card information you should at the very least monitor the account closely to check for any unauthorized charges over the next 6-12 months. Yes, some scammers will wait months to charge your card or bank account as a measure to try to stay under the radar. If you want to be absolutely sure you won't be charged improperly you should close out any accounts, you provided information for so that they won't be able to make any new charges.

How can I protect myself from scammers? Sometimes we can get caught up in the moment especially when scammers are skilled in



convincing us that the issue is an urgent matter that needs resolved. You should never have to respond to such a thing right away. Ask for the caller or correspondents' information, let them know you will contact them back. If a payment is being requested, they should have no problem providing a website address or billing address to make other payment arrangements. Lastly consider this, how does a warning popping up know there is an issue on your computer, how does a stranger calling you know your computer is infected

or needs a license number. Technology can be an easy target because we tend to only learn what we need to know in order to use our devices. If you're not sure you can always contact a technology professional for more support before you decide how to react to a situation.

If you believe you have been scammed or would like technology support, contact Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611 we are located at 5135 Fairfield Road. You can visit us online at www.jesterscomputers.com.

Battlefield Hearth & Solar
Visit us!
1745 York Road, Gettysburg
717-334-1232

Be Warm and Toasty This Winter
SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

WE HAVE WOOD PELLETS & BAGGED COAL IN STOCK!
WE CARRY:
Alaska Coal Stoves • Vermont Castings Woodstoves
Blaze King Stoves & Fireplace Inserts
Kozy Heat Gas Stoves & Fireplaces
Sunair Retractable Awnings
Enviro Pellet Stoves
www.battlefieldhearthsolarpa.webs.com

MADE HERE IN THE USA
PAID OFF FINANCING

AFFORDABLE SELF STORAGE
NOW WITH PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS!

Need Room? Let Us Store It For You!
Storage Units For The Public & For Business!
12917 Catocfin Furnace Rd., Thurmont
Conveniently Located On Maple Drive, Across From Thurmont Feed Store
Mike Jensen, Owner
VISA VISA & MC ACCEPTED!

MOTORCYCLES, CARS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, OLD FILES, NEW FILES, APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & TOOLS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, LANDSCAPING TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS, POOL SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, MEMORIES...
WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!
301-271-7455

The HANDYMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE
I Make To Do Lists Disappear!

Handyman Services
Home Improvements
240-315-2935
dfrock68@gmail.com

Gettysburg Transmissions LLC
Automatic or Manual
Most Makes, Models & Years
Automotive Repair & Services
Certified State Inspection Facility
Custom Exhaust Systems
Over 15 Years Experience ~ All Work Guaranteed
22 Weikert Road, Gettysburg
717-642-9700
Bill Eiker

JESTER'S COMPUTER SERVICES
5135 FAIRFIELD ROAD, FAIRFIELD

Call or Text us
717-642-6611

Frustrated with Technology? We can help!

- ✓ Desktop, Laptop & All-in-One Repairs
- ✓ OS Installations
- ✓ Hardware Upgrades
- ✓ Software Installation and Configuration
- ✓ Email Support & Setup
- ✓ Cell phone & Tablet Software Support
- ✓ Internet Account Support
- ✓ Custom Desktop PC's
- ✓ Printer Setup
- ✓ Remote Support
- ✓ On-Site Services

... and more
Visit our website for free PC Tutorials & Tips
WWW.JESTERSCOMPUTERS.COM

COUNTY NOTES

Frederick County Business Sentiment Survey Results

Frederick County businesses shared their optimism, concerns, and needs on their economic outlook in a recent survey conducted for the Frederick County Office of Economic Development by Salisbury University's Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON). The November 2023 results showed an overall positive sentiment that Frederick County is a good place to operate a business. Respondents rated proximity to customers and a strong local economy as the most significant advantages of locating in the County.

"These positive results attest to the thriving culture we've created here in Frederick County," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "I am proud that businesses not only feel a sense of belonging, but also see a future in our community as they set goals and consider expansion of operations. Thank you to the over 380 respondents—we are committed to using their feedback as we continue to innovate in economic and workforce development."

The survey asked business leaders, including chief executive officers, owners and senior executives, to weigh in on a range of topics, from the advantages the county has for businesses to chal-

lenges they have, additional assistance needed, and the outlook on their economic future.

Results include:

Almost 60% of respondents agreed that it was easy to find resources and support for their business and agreed that the County is an inclusive place to start or run a business.

The county scored a 10 on a Net promoter score, indicating a favorable likelihood of recommending the location as a business destination.

When asked about their feelings about the economic climate in the next year, 47% of respondents were somewhat or strongly optimistic regarding the County, however 46% were strongly or somewhat pessimistic about the national economic climate in the next year. Some of that sentiment may be connected with the fact that businesses have generally performed well in the past two years, with 84% seeing level or improving sales, with just 16% seeing a sales decline in the past two years.

Almost 80% of the businesses believe they will still be operating in the county in five years, with just under 8% believing they will not; the balance was unsure. The outlook for expansion showed 45% saying they were considering expanding operations in the next two years.

The largest drivers of positive impacts on growth in the short term were demand for their product or service, mentioned by 67%, and technological advancements mentioned by 59%. The factors having the largest negative impact were inflation mentioned by 76% and economic conditions cited by 53%.

The highest request for assistance was financial incentives for expansion (53%) and marketing and promotional support (35%). Mirroring national trends, 68% mentioned encountering challenges related to workforce availability, retention, or recruitment.

Other areas that businesses expressed challenges with included permitting and regulatory issues. This is reflected in the top two types of support they would request which were workforce training and development, and assistance with permitting and regulations.

"Success in economic development is not just about financial gains, but also about fostering a positive and supportive environment," said Lara Fritts, Director of the Division of Economic Opportunity. "The positive results of our business sentiment survey reflect a thriving culture in Frederick County where businesses feel valued, motivated, and empowered to contribute to the region. The survey results are a testament to the

collective belief in growth, collaboration, and the pursuit of excellence. I embrace the positivity shared by our businesses and will use respondents' suggestions to continue to fuel our County's economic success."

To contact the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, visit their website at www.discoverfrederickmd.com.

FCPS Superintendent Shares Recommended Operating Budget

FCPS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl L. Dyson shared her recommended Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget Monday with a focus on meeting the demands of students and staff in a growing school system.

"One of the ways in which we achieve our goals is through strategic resource allocation," Dr. Dyson said in her video budget announcement. "This means, we must design a budget that is fiscally sound, meets our expanding needs and provides the resources that are required to sustain our success."

Her recommended budget totals \$991,580,587 and is focused on the following priorities:

- Recruiting and Retaining Talented Employees
- Responding to Significant Growth
- Providing Additional Supports for Students for Special Education students and English Learners
- Addressing Inflationary Pressures
- Advancing Blueprint for Maryland's Future Initiatives

Rogers Appointed as First Housing Division Director
Frederick County Executive Jessica

Fitzwater announces the appointment of Vincent Rogers as the County's first Director for the Division of Housing. Mr. Rogers brings both professional experience and community connections to this new role. The appointment will take effect February 10.

"Mr. Rogers is a strategic thinker, which is essential as we stand up our newest division," County Executive Fitzwater said. "His experience managing housing programs and supporting housing policy initiatives will allow him to hit the ground running. I'm particularly excited to see how Vincent's work with the HUD's Moving to Work designation can help Frederick County adapt federal programs into more localized solutions."

Mr. Rogers brings an extensive background in housing policy, having previously served as Director of Policy and Compliance at the Fairfax County, Va., Department of Housing and Community Development and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority. In these roles, Mr. Rogers directed all affordable housing strategic planning for the department. He also oversaw resident services and federal compliance through the PROGRESS Center, the Moving to Work initiative, and the implementation of other federal programs.

Mr. Rogers earned his master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and his bachelor's degree in public policy from Syracuse. He lives in Frederick County with his wife and three sons.

Local Little Leagues are in great need of volunteer umpires.

- MD District 2 & local leagues are recruiting umpires & are eager to train.
- Local leagues have Chief Umpires who can answer questions and ensure a welcoming experience.
- Some leagues offer incentive programs.
- For additional details & league info go to: www.thurmontlittleleague.com/umpires and www.mddistrict2.org




MARYLAND STATE UMPIRE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL TRAINING CLINIC
February 17th
Hosted by MD District 4 - Lansdowne High School
3800 Hollins Ferry Rd, Lansdowne
(Exit 9 Baltimore Beltway, I695)




The Clinic will be led by Umpires from the Maryland State Umpire Association who bring a multitude of experience from Regional & Williamsport Umpire Academies. Many of our Instructors have Regional & World Series experience. Instructors are dedicated staff who make ALL Umpires prepared to handle the upcoming season.



- Check-in begins at 8 a.m.
- Coffee & Donuts
- Clinic begins at 9 a.m.
- Mechanics – Indoor (2 gymnasiums)
- Bring a Mask & Glove
- Free Lunch
- Raffle/Door Prizes throughout the day!
- Ends @ 4 p.m.

We welcome all NEW, Junior, and Seasoned Umpires
Cost for the Clinic is included in your annual membership dues
Annual membership dues are \$35
All "Lifetime Members" are Free
Register at: MSUAonline.org
For more information: Jon Wagner 240-543-7180, jwagner100567@gmail.com

Proud to be Sponsored By





Battlefield Transport & Recovery
We tow everything: Light, Medium, Heavy Duty
Transport Vehicles, Buses, Cars, Machinery, Equipment



Licensed, Professional Friendly Drivers
Available 24/7
MD, PA, VA, WV

1221 Bruceville Rd., Keymar **410-984-2082**
Charles Mehring - Owner charlie.battlefield@comcast.net

amber hill THERAPY CENTERS
Comprehensive Adult & Pediatric Therapies

- Adult Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Aquatic Therapy
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Amputee Rehabilitation
- Running Gait Analysis

Open Early Mornings, Evenings and Saturdays
Private Treatment Rooms
New Patients Seen Within 24 Hours
In-Network with Most Insurance Companies

THURMONT 301-271-9230 • 120 Frederick Rd., Suite D
FREDERICK 301-663-1157 • 187 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 6
PROUDLY SERVING FREDERICK FOR 36 YEARS

THURMONT 301-271-9230
FREDERICK 301-663-1157
JEFFERSON 301-473-5900

DAMASCUS 301-253-0896
URBANA 240-529-0175
NEW MARKET 301-732-4771

Certified Medicare and Medicaid Outpatient Clinics

amberhillpt.com



*Valentine's Day
February 14th!*



Flowers ♥ Cards
Candy ♥ Cookies
Cakes ♥ Cupcakes

We have everything you need!

www.ShopJubileeFoods.com

301-447-6688



WANT CHECK OUT OUR FULL SERVICE STATE OF THE ART
Body Shop & Collision Center



We Now Offer Rhino Bedliners! **Rhino Linings**

NOBODY SPRAYS A FINER LINER!

Call Nick Strong at 410-751-1200 for pricing

High Quality Workmanship ~ All Makes & Models Including Commercial Trucks
Limited Lifetime Guarantee ~ We Honor All Insurance Estimates



WANTZ CHEVROLET
1 Chevro Drive, Taneytown
410-751-1200
Visit us at www.WantzChevrolet.com

"Don't take a chance, buy from Wantz"



FIND NEW ROADS™



Division of Continuing Studies

Learn Voraciously. Live Significantly.

At Mount St. Mary's University, success is our mission and creating lives of significance is what we do.

Bring your real-world experience into the classroom to enhance your learning. We offer graduate and adult accelerated undergraduate programs designed for working adults.

What you learn in the classroom today can be implemented in the workplace tomorrow. Courses are typically offered in 8-week sessions, online, in-person, and in a flexible format.



DISCOVER IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A
20% TUITION REDUCTION

« msmary.edu/partnerships »

5350 SPECTRUM DRIVE, FREDERICK, MARYLAND | 301-682-8315

ACCELERATED UNDERGRADUATE

- » Accounting (B.S.)
- » Business (B.S.)
- » Communication (B.S.)
- » Elementary Education (B.S.)
- » Elementary/Special Education (B.S.)
- » Entrepreneurship (B.S.)
- » History (B.A.)
- » Human Services (B.S.)
- » Interdisciplinary Studies *SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR*

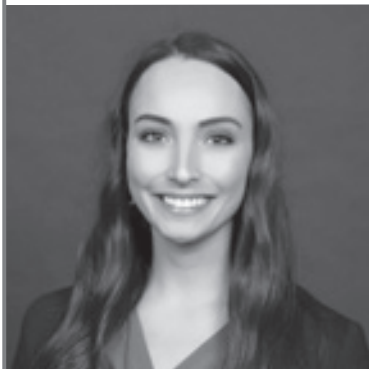
GRADUATE DEGREES

- » Applied Behavior Analysis (M.S.)
- » Biotechnology and Management (M.S.)
- » Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- » Health Administration (M.S.)
- » Instructional Design and Technology (M.Ed.)
- » Instructional Leadership (M.Ed.)
- » Philosophical Studies (M.A.)
- » Reading (M.Ed.)
- » Sport Management (M.S.)
- » Teaching (M.A.)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- » Advanced Study in Reading
- » Data Science
- » Instructional Design and Technology
- » Instructional Leadership
- » Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- » Organizational Development
- » Post-Master's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis
- » Project Management
- » Quality Assurance and Regulatory Science
- » Risk Management and Cybersecurity

Classes offered online and in-person. Support services are available for students' individual needs.



Amanda Corbel, MS PMP

Partnership Alliance Manager
Partnership Development Office Center for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships
Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

"At the Mount, there is this great intersection between business and science. You learn alongside a diverse group of peers that bring unique ideas and backgrounds to the projects—much like the typical work environment."

Center for Lifelong Learning

Looking for non-degree options? Lifelong learning programs offer a variety of educational opportunities for learners of all ages!

We offer programs that meet the needs of your busy life including:

Technology Certifications (Including Appian, AWS, CompTIA, PEGA, Salesforce)
Professional Development • College Prep Programs • Catholic Education

Classes are forming now » msmary.edu/LifelongLearning



LEARN MORE
msmary.edu/ContinuingStudies