

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 6

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

JUNE 2024

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Bittersweet farewell to Mount Class of 2024

Dolores Hans
MSMU class of 2025

On Saturday, May 11th, Mount St. Mary’s University bid farewell to the Class of 2024. In this month’s edition of the News-Journal, we recognize our graduated staff members: Managing Editor, Claire Doll; Sports Editor, Steven Morano, and Arts Editor, Ashley Walczyk. To say they will be missed is an understatement; their artistry and dedication have made this paper remarkable.

Claire Doll has been dedicated to the paper for three years. Upon graduation, she plans to teach English/language arts at a Maryland public school. She hopes to eventually obtain an MFA in Creative Writing or a Masters in Reading Education. Her love for writing and teaching, and subsequently, her skill, are a tremendous influence on the lives of those she meets. “I hope to promote reading and writing to middle/high school students and really emphasize writing as an art.”

Just as Claire has been an asset to the Mount community, her college experiences have shaped her

as well. From finding comfort in the Mount’s beautiful location to editing the collegiate literary magazine, Claire has found an abundance of opportunities in her four years. “My favorite experience at the Mount was student teaching at the Thurmont middle school and meeting a wonderful class of students,” she says. “I was mentored by the best, and I learned how to manage and teach in a classroom before I even graduated.”

Steve Morano plans on attending the Mount’s Richard Bolte School of Business in pursuit of a Masters in Sport Management. He also plans on becoming a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Sports Information for the Athletic Department at the Mount during that time as well. He has made many friends both on the club baseball team at the Mount, and through three years living on campus, as well as one year living in Emmitsburg. “I also loved working in the History Department Office as a student worker for the past four years and getting to know my professors and other faculty, especially my boss, Patricia McDer-



Unlike prior years where June finds us saying goodbye to our senior staff, this year we're lucky. Steve will be staying on to be the graduate advisor to our junior staff, and Claire will be authoring a column sharing her experiences as a new teacher, and we fondly hope Ashley gives us first dibs on stories she writes.

mitt. Steve plans to continue his work with the News-Journal as Graduate Advisor of the paper.

“I am eternally grateful for the Mount and the faculty for making the last four years at the school the best period of my life,” he says.

Ashley Walczyk has completed her degree in three years! She reflects on extracurriculars that she holds close to her heart, such as Mount Theatre and Lighted Corners. Ashley is currently looking at opportunities for technical writ-

ing positions. “With my English degree, writing is something I focused heavily on...I thought it would be best to go with that as my job,” she says. Ashley plans to stay in her hometown of York.

“I plan on continuing writing creatively with aspirations of becoming a published author,” says Ashley.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking these staff members and wishing them luck in the years to come!

Mansion House 1757 owners embrace legacy

One might think that opening a restaurant at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic might not be the wisest of things to do, but luckily for Fairfield, George and Cindy Keeney disagreed when in May of 2020 they purchased Adam’s County’s oldest inn, two months after the COVID shutdown went into effect.

Yet the couple pressed on, using the forced ‘down time’ to refine their goals for the restaurant, which included changing its name back to its original name. Dating back to 1757, the property acquired the name of “Mansion House” because it was the largest house in the area at the time.

The restaurant has a rich history as a local eatery with a long list well-known patrons, including founding father Patrick Henry, abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, and many, many others in between. For much of its history it was known for exceptional food at great prices, a reputation the Keeney’s were eager to recreate.

Growing up in the area, the Keeney’s returned home after numerous career adventures to settle in Adams County and raise their children. Cindy said she always wanted to own a restaurant and the Keeney’s fell in love with the Mansion House.

The Keeney’s love seeing new guests mesmerized by the Mansion House and its offerings, just as they themselves are captivated with the historically enriched setting every day. “It reminds me of inviting people into our home,” he said.

The Mansion House prides itself on being unpretentious and cost-effective farm to table dining and the Keeney’s welcome visitors for more than just a special occasion, but also offer affordable mid-week specials, happy hour and lite fare menu options.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York, George serves as the restaurant’s executive chef for the restaurant’s farm to table, casual fine dining. Daniel Keeney, eldest son of George and Cindy, is the Chef de Cuisine, and creates inspired menus alongside George. “It’s been wonderful to see him take on the leadership role,” she said. With other Keeney children helping out in marketing and bartending the Mansion House has become a true family affair, Cindy said.

Utilizing the bounty of Adams County agriculture, the farm-to-table restaurant has 30 local partners to make use of local suppliers for produce, eggs, honey, butchers, cheese-



The Mansion House 1757 is one of Adams County’s oldest inns.

makers, bread makers and more.

Originally the Mansion House was buying out farmers’ markets left and right, now the Inn’s reputation has spread, and local deliveries are brought right to the door. “It’s nice to get that farm-to-table experience, you can really taste the difference,” Cindy said.

Embracing a community atmosphere, local art can be found on display throughout the property as well as live music every Thursday from rotating lines of local musicians.

In addition to the dining room,

the restaurant has a tavern for a newly implemented happy hour, the Eisenhower Room, the parlor, as well as a shaded garden and front porch dining. “It’s a really nice setting,” George said.

The Mansion House is located at 15 West Main Street in Fairfield and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday brunch is offered from 11 to 3.

For more information about the Mansion House 1757 visit www.mansion-house1757.com or call 717-642-5410.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

'Pushing In' ceremony slated to honor new fire truck



The VHC new Tower 6 will be commissioned June 3

The Vigilant Hose Company announced a dedication ceremony scheduled for June 3 which will welcome the new aerial truck that is replacing the original tower apparatus, according to a press release from the department.

Members of the public are invited to join with personnel and their families for a time-honored fire service tradition of a 'push-in' event, according to the fire department. The tradition will consist of 'pushing' the new vehicle into the station house at 25 W. Main St.

The new apparatus features ground ladders, a rescue basket, and tools which assists firefighters for a variety of tasks for emergency calls, according to documents released by Wayne Powell, the

historian at the firehouse.

Josh Brotherton, chief of the hose company, said the new aerial truck operates better and there is more ladder storage. "Nowadays houses are getting larger—they are going up instead of outward," Brotherton said. "So the additional ladder complement is beneficial."

The new truck will continue to serve surrounding jurisdictions outside of Frederick county also known as mutual aid calls. Brotherton, who assumes operational lead for all emergency response activity at Vigilant, said Emmitsburg covers two states and runs first due in five different counties. The truck will continue to cover about 120-square-miles in Frederick county. Other first due areas for the truck

include Blue Ridge Summit, Taneytown and Gettysburg, according to Brotherton.

According to the fire company, the new truck features a unique graphic of a 'Pull-Tab' with a serial number that represents the purchase price of the apparatus and a bingo card. Members of the company said the 'six of hearts' graphic on the truck symbolizes the fund raisers supported by the community that made it possible for the station to purchase the truck "outright upon delivery."

Frank Davis, the former chief of Vigilant and now Mayor of Emmitsburg, said there was a lot of uncertainty with—not only the members—but the community when the original tower was placed in service in 1995.

Brotherton said one compartment on the new tower is dedicated to rescue equipment when the rescue squad is out of service. "We are also planning for the future," the chief said. "Everybody knows that apparatus costs are rising so we look for the longevity of it."

But with this new aerial truck, Davis said there is a lot of excitement and buzz throughout the town. "It's amazing the support we are getting from the community and the interest when it's going in service and everybody is just so excited," Davis said. "That's the neat thing about Emmitsburg."

The dedication ceremony for the new apparatus is scheduled June 3 at 6 p.m.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

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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.

Council set to vote on FY-25 budget

While the draft of the FY-2025 budget is currently under consideration by the Town Council, two main points of note have been confirmed. There will be no increase of the real estate tax rate and the enactment of the second of five planned 36% increases in water rates will be implemented.

The Town's budget is broken up into several categories, a.k.a. Funds, each having dedicated income sources from which the Town's operating and capital improvement expenses are paid.

The General Fund where day-to-day Town expenses are pulled, such as salaries and operating costs for various departments, including legislative, financial, planning, zoning, parks, streets, buildings, refuse, and public safety.

The proposed FY-25 budget has the General Fund income and expenses balance at an estimated \$2,525,468, an increase of 16% from FY-24. The principal sources of revenue for the General Fund include \$908,500 in real estate taxes (generated from the 34 cents per \$100 of assessed property value) and \$636,653 from State and County

income tax distributions.

Big ticket expenses in the General Fund include salaries for Town staff (\$740,147 for all departments), contractual obligations for mowing, plowing and other similar duties paid to outside companies (\$323,460) and the costs for the Frederick County Sheriff's Office to provide aid to the Town (\$349,806).

Employee benefits in the General Fund recently saw an increase of \$96,702 due to action taken by the Council to reduce the draw on the Water and Sewer Funds by transferring the benefits of office staff that had been charging employee benefits (e.g. health insurance) to the Water and Sewer Funds.

Revenue for the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Fund comes from the General Fund as well as grants for projects related to parks, equipment, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, paving, and streetlights. In FY-25, the General Fund will transfer \$85,995 to the CIP Fund, bringing the available balance to \$832,592. These funds can be carried forward each year. At

the end of each fiscal year, any remaining money in the General Fund is transferred to the CIP Fund.

The town has Business Enterprise Funds that are dedicated funds and used only to fund their intended activities.

The Storm Water Management Enterprise Fund used to fund stormwater management, storm drainage, and water resource programs and services. Beginning July 1, customers will be charged a Stormwater Management Utility fee based on the amount of impervious surface area on each property as part of their quarterly water, sewer and trash bill. This fee was approved in FY-23, but a one-year moratorium was approved on enacting the fee due to the water rate increase. The FY-25 revenue is expected to be \$34,852.

The Water Enterprise Fund is used to pay salaries, operating costs, and interest on loans related to the operation of the town's water system. Water Fund income is expected to be \$1,084,795, thanks to the water rate increase enacted last year. This is an increase of \$419,745 or 63% over last year's estimated revenue.

The water rate increase implemented

in FY-24 increased 36% for users with a ¾ inch meter, up to 10,000 gallons. Customers with a larger meter size or usage over 10,000 gallons per quarter saw a larger increase. Several commissioners have voiced concerns about continuing the 36% water rate increases but didn't have enough support from fellow commissioners to enact an immediate change. Any change would require a favorable vote of at least three commissioners. Mayor Davis has stated that at least a full year of income is needed to evaluate the amount of revenue being generated from the increase. Discussions on changing the five-year planned increases are expected to continue into FY-25.

The Water Fund will see expenses increase from \$680,801 to \$794,183 as a result of the rising cost of salaries, chemicals, repairs and maintenance costs. Big ticket items in the Water Fund include salaries totaling \$235,837 (11.4% increase), \$141,600 in repairs and maintenance (146% increase), and \$152,435 in operating supplies and chemicals, which rose by almost 9%.

The Sewer Enterprise Fund, which

covers operating the Town's sewer system, and is expected to see revenues of \$1,333,230, primarily sourced from sewer fees. This is an increase of \$271,580 or 26% over the revenue estimated in FY-24. Expenses are projected to rise from \$1,018,155 to \$1,117,974. Salaries are increasing to \$293,879 (20.7%). Operating supplies are increasing from \$27,650 to \$60,450 (118.6%). The Sewer Fund is also paying loan interest for the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$108,670.

The Town is also budgeting over \$13 million in cash reserves, grants, loans and bonds for the Water and Sewer CIP Fund. The money in this Fund will be used for water meter upgrades, Rainbow Lake dam repairs, the North Seton and Green Street waterline projects and any repairs to lead service lines, as mandated by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

The Town has \$3,152,022.83 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that must be committed by December of this year and used by December of 2026. The biggest purchase will be \$2,057,477 for the water clarifier. Smaller projects include work on the DePaul Street waterline and on the Rainbow Lake Pumphouse.

At the May meeting, Mayor Davis recommended a 2% Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment for Town staff which the Council approved. Staff are also eligible for a 1-3% annual merit increase based on performance reviews by the Town Manager and Mayor.

The Mayor is also requesting two positions be added to the budget, one for the General Fund to work on special projects and a second position for the Sewer Fund.

The Council will continue discussing the draft budget at the June meeting.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

School District votes to increase property taxes

The Fairfield Area School Board unanimously approved the 2023-24 budget proposal in May, which includes a 3.63% tax increase. The proposed tax increase will cost the average homeowner \$98 annually.

The \$22.8 million spending plan focuses on tackling deferred maintenance, building a three-year capital plan, and saving money for a possible expansion of the Adams County Technical Institute (ACTI).

To meet demand and expand its programming, ACTI hopes to build

a new campus. The school currently occupies a building on the Gettysburg Area High School campus. ACTI Administrative Director Sean Eckenrode said previously that 212 students applied for 147 spots last year.

ACTI currently plans to apply for a \$10 million bond to support its expansion. Gettysburg, Bermudian Springs, Fairfield, Littlestown, and Conewago Valley school districts will be required to fund the payments.

The board has also pledged \$8,000 towards a high school courtyard, a

project proposed by 11th-grade students Delaney Gass, Bella Kozack, and Tristin Barnhart. The students have already raised \$3,000 for the courtyard. The trio continues actively fundraising and applying for grants.

The district will not receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds in 2024 as the \$374,533 allotment was intended to be a temporary award during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government advised schools in 2020 to not use the funds for ongoing costs. Fairfield

administrators at the time ignored the warning and funded three intervention specialists, a curriculum administrator, outsourced nursing services, and a licensed practical nurse.

Since taking office in 2021, Superintendent Thomas Haupt has stressed the importance of not ignoring problems as he believes has been done in the past and instead planning for the future to ensure the district's longterm success.

The proposed tax increase comes on the heels of last year's 4% increase. Except for the 2022-23 school year, Fair-

field Area School District property owners have experienced a tax increase every year since 2017. If it passes as planned, Fairfield will have the second lowest tax rate in Adams County. Gettysburg Area School District property taxes are currently the cheapest in the area while Conewago Valley is the most expensive.

The board also unanimously voted to eliminate student athletic participation fees. Haupt said the fee was originally instituted to pay for random drug testing. The district no longer tests students, Haupt said, and he suspects the fee may hinder some from participating in sports.

Carroll Valley to sell borough-owned lots

Carroll Valley Borough Council will sell parcels of borough-owned property this summer.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council that he has identified nine properties the borough should sell. The properties do not benefit the borough's operations, but the sales would benefit the borough's coffers.

Hazlett said the borough paid a total of \$34,630 for the lots. He suspects the sales could net \$250,000.

The lots expected to go to public auction with public sewer available are: 4 Grouse Trail (0.78 acres), 22 Sunshine Trail (0.87 acres), 19 Sunfish Trail (0.54 acres), 50 Crossland Trail (0.82 acres), 2 Elm Trail (0.57 acres), 39 Main Trail (0.46 acres), 45/47 Crossland Trail (1.36 acres), and 49/51 Crossland Trail (0.94 acres). A lot at 68 Shirley Trail (0.52 acres) cannot connect to public sewer, but it has passed a perc test Hazlett said. A perc test

determines if a lot's soil will absorb water at the necessary rate. If a perc test fails, a septic system cannot be installed on the property.

In November, the council approved a Lot Sale Guidelines document. The guidelines are just a document, Hazlett said. The guidelines remind council and borough staff to consider several factors when selling borough lots, including the economy, interest rate fluctuations, the availability

of land, and whether a current resident requested interest in the lot.

The market lead Hazlett to push forward the sale of nine lots.

"The real estate market right now is probably the best it has ever been in my 20 years here," Hazlett said.

Pennsylvania law mandates public property be sold at a public auction with the sale price determined by an appraisal, Hazlett said. Hazlett has not yet determined how the auction will be conducted and said sealed

bids, public sale, or a combination of the two are possible. Hazlett prefers sealed bids because they make the process available to those who may not be able to attend a scheduled auction. The sale is expected to begin in July and end in August.

Hazlett said the borough council can do whatever it wishes with the sales' proceeds, but the staff hopes it will direct the money towards creating a new borough park. A special committee is exploring options for a 50-acre lot along Route 16 near Frontier BBQ.

Liberty plans major work on Bullfrog Road

A portion of Bullfrog Road in Liberty Township will close this summer while road crews fix stormwater management issues.

Supervisor Chair and Township Roadmaster Walter "Mickey" Barlow announced during the board's May meeting that road crews must replace 13 pipes that are estimated to be more than 30 years old. Many of the pipes

are cracked, Barlow said, preventing them from flowing water away from the road. The pipe replacement is estimated to cost \$8,140.

The pipes currently under the road are made of concrete and have a circumference of 15 inches, Barlow said. The new pipes will be 18 to 24 inches and constructed of polyvinyl chloride to better

control stormwater runoff.

When the project occurs, the township will close Bullfrog Road beginning at Pumping Station Road. Traffic will be detoured onto Tract Road or Water Street.

"We're not going to get it all done in a month, this is probably going to take us all summer and probably some of the winter next

year. We need to get these pipes in before we start tearing up road surfaces," Barlow said.

The township will also improve drainage ditches, Barlow said. The improved ditches and new pipes will lead into a complete resurfacing of Bullfrog Road in 2025 or 2026, Barlow said. That project is estimated to cost \$600,000.

The township is also accepting bids to repair the fascia of Old Waynesboro Bridge, Barlow said. The township road crew attempted to complete the job in-house last summer, but realized they needed more specialized crews for the job.

In other business, supervisors unanimously approved hiring Russell Hartman as a part-time member of the road crew and Donna Powers as a police clerk.

News Briefs...

Residents Warned about Sump Pumps discharges

If Carroll Valley residents want to mitigate future sewer rate increases, they must ensure their sump pumps are not draining into the sewer system.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council he plans to propose an ordinance that will require sump pump inspections before a home is transferred to a new owner. Sump pumps must drain into a yard, he said.

Hazlett said the borough must treat every drop of water that enters its system. Treating rainwater unnecessarily increases the demand on the system.

"These sump pumps being connected to our system is clear as day on our calculation sheets. It is significantly raising sewer bills," he said.

In response to a question from Borough Council President Richard Mathews, Hazlett said the borough's practice of

charging sewer customers a flat rate is not out of the ordinary. Hazlett said that installing meters onto homes so residents are only charged for what they use could be cost-prohibitive. Commercial customers are metered, he said.

"I know it can be frustrating when in instances where, perhaps, you are paying the same fee if two people live there as eight is enough next door," Hazlett said. "That does seem somewhat unfair."

The borough could require

new customers to have meters. He said the borough has discussed mandating Country Club Trail properties connect to its system to eliminate holding

tanks in the area. If they begin to add meters to some properties, the borough could invite all existing customers to add meters at their cost.

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THURMONT NEWS

Monthly residential electric bills set to vary

The Town Council approved a month-to-month contract for electric power supply, a move that will cause fluctuating electric rates but could help to save residents money in the long run. The first one-month contract begins June 1.

At the April 16 meeting, Chris Simms, a principal of Smart Utility Management, a consultant who researches energy management for the Town of Thurmont, briefed the Council on the benefits of a month-to-month contract. With help from his expertise, the Council voted 5-0

to allow Simms to find potential suppliers who charge up to \$45 per megawatt hour each month. The Council will then vote on the supplier each month.

Mayor John Kinnaird stressed the importance of letting residents know that their bills will fluctuate, whether up or down, each month based on the power purchase cost. The Town decided on the month-to-month option because they didn't want to "lock in" the current high electric rates with a long-term contract.

The Town's current contract with Energy Harbor to supply electricity to the Town was last amended in 2021, so, according to Simms, Thurmont was able to "lock in" a lower price at that time for its residents. When the contract ends in May however, indicative pricing shows residents will likely be forced to pay the current, higher price for their electric bills.

"The current power supply contracts give us the benefit of stability in pricing to our customers because we know exactly how much that

power supply cost is going to cost throughout the life of that contract," Simms said. This past stability allowed the town to accurately forecast future power costs.

However, with electric rates expected to decrease eventually, the Town thought a month-to-month contract would be a better option. This way, the Council and Simms can analyze the rates and, when they have lowered enough, "lock in" the more desirable rates with a long-term contract.

Residents are currently pay-

ing 5.484 cents per kilowatt-hour for their electric. According to Simms, the average monthly electric bill now is about \$87 but could increase to \$100 after the Power Cost Adjustment is made, a 15% increase. He went on to say that every other town and municipality across the United States has likely already gone through the price increase, except for Hagerstown and Williamsport, who are on the same contract schedule as Thurmont. Even if the increases were to come to fruition, Thurmont's rates are still substantially lower than all others in the state.

New Planning members approve first development

April's meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission saw new members Grant Johnson and Alternate Vincent Cover make their first approval of a final plat. Chair Meredith Wivell was promoted at the same meeting, along with Greg Goodhart, to Vice Chair. The Planning and Zoning Commission is a board of five members and one alternate who reside in Thurmont and serve a term of five years. The Commission is still looking to fill two vacancies.

The two new members had the opportunity to vote on their first final plat approval for Mechanicstown LLC, a 31-lot residential subdivision north of Town at 122 Emmitsburg Road. The preliminary plans for the development were introduced to the Planning and Zoning Commission in March of 2022.

The applicant's representative, David Lingg of Lingg Property Consulting, explained that they are waiting on approval from Maryland Department of the

Environment for a section of the development that comes close to some wetlands. This portion will also be where the H&F Trolley Trail will be located.

The trail would potentially connect Eyler Road Park as far as the library in Town with the addition of another six-home subdivision to the east of Mechanicstown LLC. It currently runs from East Moser Road to East Main Street. Additionally, Pleasant Acres Park to the east could be connected to the Trolley Trail in the future.

All required fees and applications have otherwise been approved, with just Maryland Historic Trust and State Highways still pending. Minor corrections to the plat maps must be made before final approval. One of said corrections involves a zoning ordinance prohibiting basements, which has been discussed extensively throughout the review process. The applicant will also be dedicating the Village Green to the Town of Thurmont in the future.

The development will be designed in the cluster style, which means that the homes will be grouped together, allowing for a shared open space. It provides flexibility in design without increasing the density, while also preserving land and reducing the overall extent of public infrastructure. There will be a Homeowners Association as well.

The Commission approved the final plat with minor conditions, including updating map information and waiting on the reviews from three administrations.

Council reviews preliminary FY-25 budget

The Town Council approved the FY-25 budget, to go into effect on July 1. Real Property Tax and Personal Property Tax will remain the same as the current fiscal year, but residents will see increases in water, sewer and electricity rates.

The budgets allow for the Thurmont Real Property Tax Rate to remain at \$0.2987 per \$100 of

assessed value for FY-25, which the Council approved 4-0 at the May 7 meeting. The Personal Property Tax Rate will remain at \$0.62 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Of course, the Town cannot determine County property taxes.

At the start of the new fiscal year, residents will find a 15% increase on their water and sewer bills, as

approved by the Council at the April 30 meeting. The changes in electric rates are due to the Town accepting a monthly contract, rather than the usual multi-year contract. Mayor John Kinnaird said the rates could go up or down each month, or even stay the same. The Town will let residents know when the rates change via the Town website, newsletter and Facebook page.

Commissioner Marty Burns assured residents in attendance that this is the best option financially, as they won't be locking in rates while they're so high. Kinnaird assured residents that the Board would consider a multi-year contract again when the electric rates decrease. "That's the beast that we face today with the electric market," Kinnaird said.

Prior to the Town Council's approving the budget, each department head and Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce proposed their own budgets. After all presentations, Burns provided an analysis that helped to trim \$84,900 from the budget. According to Kinnaird, a lot of the trims were "one time savings" that were not essential to the FY-25 budget based on Burns' analysis.

Burns provided the analysis in support of keeping the tax rate the same for residents. He was able to find line items to reduce by looking in areas where the Town did not spend money in previous years or could cut back, such as the Town Christmas decorations.

Town Planner Kelly Duty presented the preliminary Planning and Zoning Department budget,

totaling \$130,500 for FY-25. The budget allocates funds for a wide scanner rental to digitize plans. Once scanned, which Duty believes will likely happen in the winter, Thurmont residents will be able to access plots and plans online. According to Duty, the physical copies will still be available even after the digitization project is complete.

Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder proposed adding a full-time employee to her department, citing increased productivity and the need for support. With the new full-time salary and an additional \$3,000 for promoting the MML Convention, the Economic Development preliminary budget will increase by \$30,000 over the current fiscal year.

Grinder presented the mayor and commissioners with supportive data showing the additional accomplishments, including increased grant monies, she has achieved in the past when she had an additional employee. "Adding another full-time body, when you're getting a \$458,000 return on the investment back to the Town of Thurmont, that is a wise investment," Burns said.

Chief of Police David Armstrong presented the Public Safety preliminary budget, accommodating a full staff of 14 officers. With other additions, such as maintenance for the police station, the total preliminary budget is \$1,920,796, an increase of \$280,101 over the current fiscal year.

With a full staff, Armstrong would like to add two new police vehicles to the fleet, including a new

K9 vehicle. He hopes to use Chevrolet Tahoes this time, as the department had trouble with the new Fords they bought in 2020.

Joyce reviewed the preliminary Administration budget, which totaled \$1,412,790, an increase of \$59,879 over the current fiscal year's budget. They had no capital projects for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Parks and Recreation preliminary budget is \$426,100, lowered \$9,201 from the current fiscal year.

This was partially possible due to lower rates from new vendors, as well as the line item Parks & Rec Capital Expenses being cut to a third of what it was for the current fiscal year for the tree program. According to CAO Jim Humerick, the Town may be able to decrease the budget for the tree program even further.

Salaries were reallocated between Parks and Streets, increasing Parks' budget by \$26,629. The department created a new line item for uniforms, which previously was under "Materials & Supplies," to better track uniform expenses.

The only increase in the Streets budget was for sanitation because the Town will be under a new contract as of May 2025. The remaining line items either stayed the same or decreased, especially the budget for Streets and Alleys which decreased \$26,000. According to Joyce, this is because the department usually records it as a year-end item for the Highway User Account. However, at this time, the account has enough funds to pay for any patches or repairs the Town's streets and alleys may need.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

City to identify lead water pipes

City Manager Jim Wieprecht asked the Council to consider a proposal from Arro Consulting Inc. to aid in the creation of an inventory of homes that may have lead piping. This proposal is in response to a mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called the Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR).

The City must have an inventory of commercial and residential properties that were built before building codes and city codes prohibited the use of lead in water

lines. The inventory list does not pertain to the City's main water lines, but does include the service lines that supply homes and are maintained by homeowners.

The City's Public Works superintendent recently attended a conference where other municipalities, Emmitsburg and Thurmont, have utilized the engineering consultant company to quickly get the inventory list built by the deadline of October 16. The company will also prepare the electronic forms and

submit them to the EPA.

Per the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act, lead water pipes were banned for use in drinking water and distribution. Maryland however, had prohibited the use of lead water pipes in 1972, a prohibition that was subsequently enacted in Frederick County building codes by the prohibition of lead water pipes in homes.

"Fortunately," said Wieprecht, "we don't have a huge number of properties that existed when lead was allowed to be used. The pre-

World War II era of the City is where we expect to see the majority of the inventory: Middle Street, George Street, East and West Baltimore, York and Frederick Street, which are the core of the historic part of the City."

Once the inventory list is established, the City will need to field verify the list. This is where property owners can aid the City by self-reporting what type of pipe comes through the wall of their home before their meter. The City will also need to check the "curb stop": a water service shut-off valve which is located near the

curb between the water main and the home.

Wieprecht pointed out that when the Roberts Mill and Broad Street projects were being done, the City included a request to the contractor to create a record of the service line materials used since they were digging up the curb stops. "We actually have a head start on the LCRR."

"This is quite the undertaking," said Wieprecht, "The proposal by Arro will give us some expertise by someone who has been down this road before and makes sure we are submitting everything we need to."

City's FY-25 budget introduced

City staff briefed the City Council on expected revenue and expenditures in preparation for the City's FY-25 annual budget to ensure spending priorities are in order and all revenues cover expended outlays. As currently proposed, the budget is balanced without the need to raise taxes.

The proposed General Fund budget calls for revenues of \$8,052,296, of which \$4,567,423 comes from local and state taxes. While the current property tax rate will remain unchanged from last year, tax revenue is expected to increase by \$265,955 due to increases in property assessments. Town Manager Jim Wieprecht said that a home appraised at \$300,000 would pay around \$1,100 a year in City taxes at the current rate of 0.37 cents per \$100.

County revenue sharing, estimated to be \$644,518, will be finalized after the County Budget is adopted. Revenue from the State's Highway User program is estimated to be \$510,364.

The General Fund expenditures will be \$8,052,296. Recurring expenses include big ticket amounts for Public Safety at \$2,413,516 to cover the department being fully staffed for FY-25 versus FY24. The Streets Department expects \$1,598,981 in expenditures, including work that Carroll County completes and bills to the Town. This work includes street light repairs, line painting and repairs to the shop building.

General Fund Capital Outlay projects in the City include, but are not limited to, the Street portion of the West View Drive water main project, the Merry Go Round replacement, and the highly anticipated Splash Pad at Memorial Park, totaling \$2,094,143.

Contributions to the non-police employee pension system will increase by \$24,074 over the FY24 budget. Contributions to police pensions are expected to increase by \$132,500 as a result of the City anticipating the

Police Department being fully staffed in FY-25. An anticipated 10.76% increase in health insurance benefits is also implemented in the draft budget.

The Utility Fund budget revenues are projected to be \$6,068,806, of which \$1,000,000 will be from water service fees and \$1,975,000 from sewer service fees. The City does not plan to increase water or sewer fees in FY-25. Other Utility Fund revenues include late fees on water payments at \$50,000 and interest on the City's bank account at \$150,000.

Capital outlays from the Utility Fund include \$1,200,000 for the West View Drive water line replacement and \$1,225,000 for a sewer replacement on West Baltimore Street. The City is also responsible for \$138,000 for the water tower "standpipe," which is also used as a cell phone tower. Wieprecht explained the current lease agreement has the City responsible for the property taxes, which will likely be changed in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem James McCarron asked where the projected seven million dollars for the Public Works building would come from. "Worst case scenario, we have put the entire amount in the Capital budget split between water, sewer and streets," explained Wieprecht. He said the City does qualify for a loan with the State Infrastructure Program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and he is also researching other grant opportunities. "We are committed to the design of the building which will yield a firmer construction price, however the construction phase will be determined by grant and loan possibilities." In April, the Council approved spending \$331,700 to begin the complicated process of designing the site and construction plans.

A three percent salary increase for staff and a three percent Cost of Living pay increase were introduced with the draft budget, requiring re-allocation of the funds between the Gen-

eral Fund and the Utility Fund. Staff Salaries and fringe benefits are typically split in some fashion between the General and the Utility Funds.

"We have made adjustments to what we pay to try and be competitive to attract and retain our police officers, but we have not done the same for the other city employees," said Wieprecht when Councilwoman Judith Fuller asked about the salary increase.

"We're not being fair to the employees that have been around longer," she said. Councilwoman Diane Foster agreed saying, "It would be nice to reward the loyal employees for once." Wieprecht responded, "Because of inflation, we still are not caught up with the rates from the last few years."

McCarron suggested having department heads evaluate their employees and reward the best performing ones accordingly, editing the increase given based on performance. Wieprecht said they can investigate doing that, but not everyone's role is the same, presenting a challenge.

Capital Improvement projects proposed

The initial draft of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was introduced at May's City Council meeting where City Manager Jim Wieprecht laid out the biggest projects the City has planned for the next six years.

The CIP allows the City to prioritize their large-scale projects and plan how the City intends to finance them. The program utilizes money from multiple sources, including grants, loans, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the City's General and Utility Fund balances.

The total sum of the City's projected projects is \$27,161,465, with \$12,682,340 in Utility Fund projects and \$4,479,125 in General Fund projects, including a 10% adjustment for inflation. The Utility Fund projects break down into \$8,938,976 in water and \$3,743,364 in sewer. The General Fund projects include Storm Water projects (\$41,200), Streets (\$7,192,465), Police (\$1,324,385), City Hall (\$260,590) and Parks and Recreation (\$5,660,485).

The biggest project to note is the Public Works building totaling \$7 million. The City hopes to receive funding in the form of grants or will possibly take out a loan, but decided to be proactive by allocating \$2.8

million from the Water Fund, \$1.4 million from the Sewer Fund and \$2.8 million from the Streets.

Another notable project is the Westview Drive water main replacement, where 2,100 feet of ductile iron pipe must be replaced due to incorrect installation. Unfortunately, original installation laid the pipe too shallow and without adequate bedding for the main pipe (it currently lies directly on rock). This project will use \$777,636 of ARPA funds from the Water Fund for the pipe replacement and a total of \$1,079,400 (\$269,614 ARPA and \$809,786 in Highway User Revenue (HUR) funding) from Streets to repair road damage.

Water main projects typically require funds be drawn from the Water, Sewer and the Streets budgets since the roadway must be repaired after it is dug up to replace both water and sewer pipes. Projects planned past FY-25 include Antrim Boulevard extension in FY26 (\$409,925 ARPA Funds), Memorial Drive replacement in FY26 (will be split with \$887,397 in Water Funds), and \$28,500 in FY28 and unknown cost of blacktop in FY29, both from Streets funding. The George Street replacement in FY27 (\$647,500 from Water, \$757,613 in Sewer and \$899,500 in Street)

and Middle Street replacement in FY27 (\$390,350 from Water and \$456,733 from Sewer and \$542,270 from Highway User Revenue [HUR] funding in Street) round out the Water main projects.

Specific to the Water Fund is a third, 500,000-gallon water storage tank to accommodate projected growth slated for FY28 with a cost of \$2,000,000. The demolition of a small abandoned well and well house will require \$212,513 in FY27.

The primary FY-25 Stormwater project is the replacement of 334 feet of storm drain between Riffles Lane and York Street (\$40,000). It will require a partial rebuild of 35 feet of Riffles Lane to aid in drainage, which will come from Streets budget (\$40,000).

One item on the City's CIP wish-list is to improve the downtown parking and congestion issues experienced at the intersection of MD 194 and 140. Wieprecht explained that if they lengthened the left turn lanes on East and West Baltimore Street to aid congestion issues, they would lose parking spaces. He described a couple of underutilized properties in the downtown area with alley access that may be considered for development into small parking lots to recoup the parking losses. Funding is

being reserved for the future of this project in the amount of \$250,000.

Another project on the CIP list is the Antrim Boulevard Right of Way purchase. A total of \$1 million is budgeted through FY30, which is processed in increments of \$500,000 every other year as the City searches for an appropriate property.

Other CIP plans include an addition to the police station (\$1,212,000 in FY27) and reroofing of the City Hall and replacement of the cupola (\$150,000 in FY-25).

For the City's parks, a total of \$5,450,487 is allotted over the next six years with \$1,100,700 coming

from various grants. These projects include over \$2,630,487 in improvements at Memorial Park (replacement of tot playground, installation of splash pad, addition of two t-ball fields and overall expansion including parking lots, additional multipurpose fields, a new multiuse building and all new electric and lighting). Robert's Mill Park will receive a new playground and retrofitted LED lighting, two fields at the park will have lights installed and Flickinger Park and Roth Avenue Park will both receive new playgrounds, totaling \$2,820,000 to finish the Parks and Recreation CIP projects.

The CIP draft will be reviewed at the June Council meeting.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

From the day I decided to enter public service, I made the commitment that I would never make it about me. I had seen too many politicians make empty promises that didn't make a real difference.

I saw it growing up on the farm when my Dad was struggling with alcoholism and lost everything to bankruptcy. I saw it when my business was beginning to grow, and corrupt elected officials did everything they could to stop me. I saw it when my nephew Ian told me that he was addicted to opioids. I wanted to be different. I wanted to be a public servant, not a politician.

That's why, when the results came in for the primary election last month showing that we hadn't won, I didn't spend the following days doubting the results or wallowing in self-pity. I met with my team and made a plan for

what we could accomplish in the time I have left as your Congressman.

I've been incredibly proud to represent the 6th District for these last three terms. Not just because it's a beautiful district with a diverse group of hard-working people (it is.) I'm especially proud because I see the potential in every community. I recognize the economic engine that needs a little bit of fine-tuning before it races down the road. It's been an honor to play a small role in making that vision a reality. And I'm more confident than ever in what we'll be able to accomplish before my successor takes office in January.

First, we must continue to make progress on the opioid and mental health crises that have a grip on communities across Western Maryland. More than 100,000 Americans will die of an overdose this year. That is far

too many. Through my time in public service, I've harnessed the power of the federal government to deliver funds and resources to tackle this issue, and we've made real strides. In the coming months, I'll continue to build coalitions on Capitol Hill and throughout our communities so that this positive progress continues.

We must make sure that Western Maryland has a strong voice on Capitol Hill, delivering funds to invest in our infrastructure, create jobs, and provide economic justice for our families. I've been proud to serve on the Appropriations Committee, securing tens of millions of dollars to fund roads, bridges, community centers, and more in every county in the 6th District. I will continue to advocate as strongly as I possibly can until my final day in office.

We also must continue to put

mental health at the forefront of our collective conversations. Too many people are suffering in the shadows. Too many fall victim to the stigma and are fearful to admit that they're not okay. Too many lose their battle to this deadly disease. It breaks my heart, and it ignites a fire in me to make a difference — because this is personal to my family. This is a bipartisan issue that will take bipartisan solutions to solve it. And I will continue to be a leader to bring these conversations to light.

I'll do all of this and more because I believe in public service. I'm on a mission. And I'm more motivated than ever to use the time I have left in office to make an impact. That's why I decided to do this in the first place. It was never about fame — it was about progress.

What I found over my years of public service is that this progress is only possible if the pervasive influ-

ence of special interests is stopped. I've delivered these results because I was able to reject the PACs, lobbyists, and corporations who bang on the doors of politicians in Washington day after day. Their efforts to defeat me should be no surprise to any of us — I wear their opposition as a badge of honor.

It has truly been an honor to be your Congressman for the past 6 years. I've met some incredible folks along the way — some of the most resilient, determined, and compassionate people who share our mission to make lives better for families across the district. And I couldn't have done it without your support every step of the way. While I'm disappointed that I won't be your next Senator, I am more optimistic than ever about our future.

We've done so much together over the past 6 years. We'll accomplish even more over the next 7 months. Just wait and see.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

The month of May seems like a blur, but it gave me the opportunity to experience a different side of the mayor's position.

On Saturday May 4th, I was honored to deliver the welcoming address to the families of two hundred and twenty-six firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Having the time to talk with the families and hear their stories was an experience that will stay in my heart. It also brought back the memories of twenty-five years ago when

our town honored one of our own. Terry L. Myers, a 33-year member of the Vigilant Hose Company, died while battling a brush fire. His name is permanently etched in stone at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center.

On May 21st, I attended the graduation ceremony for the Catocin High School Class of 2024. As I watched each student receive their diploma, I could picture how each one will have the opportunity to make a positive

impact on the world in the years to come. I am proud to be a CHS graduate, and amazed by the teachers and staff who continue to mentor our students year after year. Success starts with great leadership, and Catocin High has been blessed with Principal Jennifer Clements. I have personally witnessed her dedication to improving our school, and her daily interaction with the students.

A few months ago, I mentioned a new phone app that we would be launching to better communicate

with you daily, but more importantly in the event of an emergency. "My Emmitsburg" is up and running and we will continue to add new features and information to keep you informed of the happenings of the town. This app can be downloaded from the Apple or Google store, or you can scan one of the many barcodes around town. If you need assistance, please contact the town office.

Some upcoming events for the month of June will include a Youth Baseball Tournament the first two weekends of the month. This will bring hundreds of players and spec-

tators to town, so please graciously welcome them to our community. June 14th is Flag Day, and the Francis Elder American Legion Post 121 will be holding a ceremony at 7 p.m. in the Community Park off Chesapeake Avenue. To finish out the month, June 29th is our "Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day" celebration. Please visit their website for a list of events and activities.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns related to town business, please reach out to me and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

On Saturday, May 11, Karen and I attended the remembrance ceremony for former Commissioner Bill Buehrer. The gathering was well attended. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of people there that I knew. Since Bill and I were not social friends I had the chance to meet many of his and Colleen's relatives, personal friends, and business associates. Bill and I spent a considerable amount of time together

at town meetings and municipal events. He was a true fan and great supporter of Thurmont and he is missed dearly.

There was no formal service but Colleen invited anyone to get up and talk about their experiences with Bill and to share a humorous story about him. Several got up to speak and told us how Bill had befriended them and how nice a guy he was. After some thought, I got up to the microphone to share my

amusing Bill story, but first, I gave a little background on how Bill and I met. We met sitting in the back row at the town office while attending town meetings.

As those who have been here long enough will remember, they were a pretty raucous and discouraging affair. We sat there through some pretty bad meetings and after an especially difficult stretch of meetings, we both told each other that we were going to run

for office. There were several things we disagreed with, one being the effort to silence public comment during town meetings, and another was how residents were treated during the meetings.

One of the biggest issues we saw was that there was a three to two-vote on almost everything that came to a vote. Sadly the majority vote was not always for the good of the community, but rather was a vote to railroad something, or as a spiteful or vindictive measure. Bill and I ran and were both success-

ful in our campaigns. I proudly served with Bill for twelve years, every one of which has been immensely productive for our community.

Now to my funny story about Bill. We never agreed on everything, but we could each easily have a laugh at the other's expense. One time he was upset with me about something and he couldn't think of anything to say other than, "At least some of us know how to shine our shoes." I remember looking at him and asking what the heck that meant! Then I pointed out that I was dressed in my typical work attire of a workshirt, work pants, and work boots. I also pointed out that he was dressed in his work clothes, a suit, tie, and shiny shoes. I asked him what the difference was and he couldn't tell me! We parted good friends that evening as we did every day we saw each other.

Some people thought Bill was tough or that he could be hard-headed. I know Bill was a real softy on the inside. I remember the evening when he announced that Governor Hogan had been diagnosed with cancer, Bill got all choked up just talking about it. Bill suffered from cancer and we spoke about it often. One day I bumped into him at the radiation therapy lab at Johns Hopkins and we both spoke at length about our battles with cancer. Any doubt regarding the size of his heart should have been squashed if you paid any attention to how much of himself he poured into the Gateway to the Cure Cancer Fundraiser every year. We would not have been as successful without Bill's unwavering support and hard work.

I for one, miss Bill immensely.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Summertime is here! Don't let the season pass you by without spending time out in our amazing community. Walk a nature trail at one of our parks. Catch up with old friends at a local brewery. Visit one of our farm-based creameries. We are fortunate to live in a place with so much to offer.

Our traditions help to make Frederick County special. Woodsboro's annual Memorial Day celebration is an excellent example. After watching the parade, we gathered at the American Legion to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms.

Home Stretch Grants

Having access to high-speed internet is essential in today's world. We need broadband to do homework, apply for jobs, and so much more. But connecting can be a challenge, especially for those who live in rural areas. Running fiber from the closest road to a house with a long driveway can be incredibly expensive. Service providers often charge thousands of dollars to install fiber down a long driveway.

That's why I'm excited to announce a new opportunity for residents in the rural parts of the county. Frederick County's Office of Broadband received a \$1.1 million grant through the State's

Home Stretch – Difficult to Serve Properties program. The grant is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Frederick County is using our award to help homeowners with the upfront cost of running fiber to their houses.

Households that may qualify for the Home Stretch program will receive a postcard from the Office of Broadband. Residents who do not receive a postcard may fill out a survey to see if they are eligible for the Home Stretch grant or other broadband funds. The survey can be found online at PublicInput.com/HomeStretch. Funds will be awarded on a first-come basis.

Since the County's Office of Broadband was formed in 2021, the three-person staff has secured an estimated \$20 million in grants. When all the programs are implemented, Frederick County will have high-speed service available to approximately 97% of households.

Sustainability Awards

Do you know someone who works hard to protect our environment? The County's Sustainability Commission is accepting nominations for its 2024 Sustainability Awards. The annual award recognizes people and organizations that are committed to environmental stewardship and furthering progress toward Frederick County's climate and eco-

logical goals. Applications will be accepted through the end of June.

The Commission recognizes significant contributions that help Frederick County go green. Some examples include implementing energy efficiency programs, encouraging the use of renewable energy, improving air or water quality, conserving resources, restoring or protecting natural habitats, and removing litter. Winners will be recognized at a special event.

To learn more about the awards program FrederickCountyMD.gov/Sustainability-Awards. You can also reach out to Sustainability Program Administrator Tiara Lester at 301-600-1416 or TLester@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Legislative Wrap-Up

The Maryland General Assembly meets each year for a 90-day legislative session. This year, they considered over 3,000 bills! Frederick County's Government Relations team was in Annapolis during the session to advocate for our priorities. We submitted testimony on 63 bills, worked with the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) to testify on 312 bills, and analyzed the fiscal impact of more than 90 bills.

After the dust settled from the whirlwind session, Governor Moore has signed many of the new

bills into law. In fact, the Governor signed a bill designed to help Frederick County revamp our historic preservation tax credit. The current tax credit was so limited that it has only been used 17 times. Frederick County takes pride in our rich history, and we know we can do better to support preservation. After the act takes effect June 1, our outdated tax credit will end and I will introduce legislation to establish a new tax credit based on the cost of rehabilitating a qualifying property.

We were disappointed that one of our priority bills did not move out of committee. The bill would have prohibited unsafe tubing for propane and methane gas in homes. Low-rated corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST) is prone to failing, particularly after lightning strikes, causing gas leaks. CSST malfunctions led to the deaths of two firefighters in Maryland, including the 2021 death of Frederick County Battalion Chief Joshua Laird and the 2018 death of Howard County's Lt. Nathan Flynn.

The Laird Flynn Act of 2022 banned the use of non-arc-resistant CSST. But potential safety issues remain. I am proud to work with both Sara Laird and Celese Flynn to continue advocating for safer building materials. We will bring this initiative back for the 2025 legislative session.

Laws of Interest Locally

Lochlin's Law requires hospitals and urgent care centers to follow a uniform set of protocols for patients with sepsis. Frederick County residents Brooke and Bill DeSantis started the Love for Lochlin Foundation to increase awareness of the dangers of sepsis after the tragic loss of their 5-year-old son to flu-sepsis. Governor Moore signed this bipartisan bill into law last month, making Maryland a leader on this issue.

Another new law requires movie theaters to run screens of movies with closed captions. Frederick County Government worked with the local nonprofit Maryland Deaf Community Center and with Maryland School for the Deaf to support this bill. My administration is committed to promoting inclusivity for the 52,000 Deaf and hard-of-hearing people who call Frederick County home.

The Freedom to Read Act establishes standards for school library media programs that help to protect library materials from partisan, ideological, or religious censorship. The General Assembly also repealed a 1950s law that required people who violated the City of Frederick's ordinance to work on a road crew. I am proud to support the removal of this provision, which was rooted in the Jim Crow era, to help rid our laws of the systematic racism and classism woven into them.

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

Last month, after several weeks and a few amendments, the Frederick County Council voted to pass the FY2025 budget that was submitted to us by County Executive Fitzwater. This budget makes important investments in Education, Public Safety, and Economic Development, while preserving Frederick County's AAA bond rating through responsible financial management.

Prior to passing the budget, the County Council passed amendments that resulted in \$442,242 being cut from the original proposed budget. The Charter gives the County Council the ability to assign funds that are cut from the budget to the school system budget that is overseen by the Board of Education. The Council passed an amendment, introduced by Council President Young, to provide Frederick County Public Schools with this additional funding. I voted to approve this transfer.

As part of the FY2025 budget, the Council also voted for a \$0.05 increase to the property tax rate. This action will generate approximately \$21.5 million annually, and these funds will be dedicated exclusively for school construction projects that don't address growing school capacity. Frederick County has 33 school facilities that are over 30 years old. Projects to update, replace, and refurbish our aging educational infrastructure have continually been delayed, accommodating the fast growth in newer

areas of development.

Families with children attending older schools should not have to keep waiting for years for buildings and technology that are comparable to those in other areas in the county. Before this funding was approved, there was no source of dedicated funding for these types of projects, and they would have to compete with projects addressing capacity. At the same time, the State has not increased the pool of school construction and renovation funding in over a decade. As the fastest growing county in Maryland, this hits Frederick County especially hard.

Previously, the property tax rate had been unchanged since 2014 when the property tax rate was combined with the Urban Fire Tax rate to establish one real property tax rate. Before this, the real property tax rate had not been raised since 2001, and although we have experienced significant popula-

tion growth, we are one of only five counties that has not increased our property tax rate during that time.

Moving forward, Frederick County will have to increase its commercial tax base. Otherwise, residential taxpayers will have to keep shouldering most of the bill for our school system, county services, and necessary infrastructure. Many residents who have lived here for decades don't want any new residential and/or commercial development at all. However, in Frederick County, we have a purposefully constrained housing supply in a highly desirable area that is close to a desirable and expanding job market. That has resulted in large increases in home values and assessments resulting in an increasing tax burden on residents that will become unsustainable for many and cause some to have to move elsewhere.

The County Council has

responsibility to look at questions of growth and zoning with a focus on how our choices affect property tax assessments and the commercial to residential tax base ratio. If we stay on the same course, Frederick County will continue backing into the future instead of planning for successful growth, and we risk becoming a place where fewer people can afford to live.

This is a special county to live in

and I don't want to see that happen to anyone. Although it's not always a popular position to take, I will continue to look for ways to support sensible growth for businesses and industries who want to locate in Frederick County, and for ways to close the housing supply gap at the middle to lower points on the affordability spectrum.

Please feel free to share your thoughts on this topic or anything else by emailing me at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Is the rain over? Hope so. In June, we celebrate our national flag and honor our fathers. National Flag Day is June 14th. President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day on May 30th, 1916. In 1949, President Truman designated National Flag Day on June 14th of each year. Be proud! Fly the flag that day. Remember, the flag should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. You are permitted to display the flag at night if illuminated.

Father's Day will be celebrated on June 16th. Father's Day originated in 1909 when a woman named Sonora Dodd came up with the idea to celebrate her father, who was born in June. She encouraged others to honor their fathers in June. It didn't become an official holiday until 1972 when President Nixon issued a proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

September 1974 may seem distant to many, but for long-time residents of the Borough, it marks the end of a tumultuous past and the beginning of renewed hope for the future. Carroll Valley has accumulated fifty years of learning and growth, which is quite an accomplishment. How-

ever, for a Borough in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is considered relatively young, still in its adolescence.

The Borough, in collaboration with a group of remarkable volunteers, is planning a celebration on Sunday, September 22, to reflect on these accomplishments. The event will feature a time capsule and historic display, and the public is encouraged to contribute. The Borough is currently accepting items for the time capsule and historic items and documents for display until June 21.

The Borough will also commemorate this momentous anniversary with a special photographic journey celebrating the Borough's past and present. "Fifty Years of Memories" will highlight Carroll Valley's history and the people who have made our Borough such a remarkable place to live. To make this milestone especially memorable, the Borough invites Carroll Valley residents, businesses, and visitors to share still photographs that capture the essence and uniqueness of our beloved Valley over the past five decades.

Photos of past and present residents, special events, historical happenings, and our beautiful open

spaces will be digitized upon submission and original returned. The digitized photos will be curated and bound in a commemorative book that will be available at the Carroll Valley Library for all to enjoy. A few dozen photos will be selected for display on the walls of the Borough Office. All will be welcome to drop by the Borough Office Building to view these photos and enjoy the commemorative book upon completion of the project. Everyone is welcome to submit photos; please limit the number of photos to 10 per person. For more information, please call or visit the Borough Office at 717-642-8269; 5685 Fairfield Road.

Now that school is out, there will be more people, young and old, bicycling and walking on our trails. This might be a good time to take a look at our Pennsylvania laws regarding both. In Chapter 35, Section 3510 of the Penna. Consolidated Statutes book, a law requires all bicyclists age 12 and under to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet every time they ride their bicycle. As a matter of fact, it is recommended that all bicyclists wear a safety helmet when riding a bicycle. Please note that a bicycle is

considered a vehicle and, therefore, when riding on a roadway must be operated in the same direction as required of other vehicles on the roadway. All bicyclists are required to use hand-arm signals while on the road. Section 3507 mandates that bicyclists who ride after dark install reflective devices or lights on their bicycle. We know that pedestrians have the "right of way".

But what are your responsibilities/duties regarding walking on our trails? Section 3544 states that where a sidewalk is provided, and its use is practicable, it is unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway. Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway and, if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway. Bottom line, please follow these laws. They are for you and your family's safety on the road. For us drivers, slow down when in the Valley. Watch out for the unexpected when

it comes to people walking, jogging, and bicycling on our beautiful trails.

The Blood Drive will be held on Monday, June 3rd, at the Carroll Valley Borough Office conference from 11 to 5. Make an appointment by calling 800771-0059. Thank you. Everyone receives a \$5 Ventura's restaurant and pizzeria gift card.

The Carroll Valley Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting two "School Is Out Celebration" events in June that require registration by June 6th on the online payment page of CarrollValley.org. The first event is a Dance Par-"Tay" will be held on Thursday, June 13th, from 6 to 8. Entry fee is \$10. Make a Friendship Bracelet, Answer some TayTay Trivia, Use the Swiftie Selfie Booth, Sing along to your favorite song, and Dance, Dance, Dance.

Our second event is a Mario-Kart Tournament that will be hosted on Thursday, June 20th, from 6 to 8:30. We will have two large screens and four competitors on each screen competing to see who is the fastest in Carroll Valley. The entry fee is \$10 and is open to all ages and skill levels. The brackets will be determined after sign-up closes, and cash awards will be given to the top 3 racers. Don't let the summer fun start without you!

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy Summer! Bobby Keilholtz, Bruce Pecher, and I took a four-hour flagger training class that recertified us for three years as road flaggers. We welcome our new hire, Russ Hartman, as a seasonal part-time road crew member. Additionally, the township is seeking a part-time police officer and part-time road department member. Contact the township if you are interested.

Donna Powers stepped down from the Zoning Hearing Board

in April to assist the Police Department as an Administrative Secretary. The Township thanks her for her service on the Zoning Hearing Board and we look forward to continuing to work with her. The Township would also like to thank Chris Hill and Charles Murdorf for accepting positions on the Zoning Hearing Board. Chris Hill will be serving as an alternate member on a three-year term and Charles Murdorf will be serving on the Board to finish out Donna Powers' term. We

look forward to working with both as they start their respective terms.

Septic Pumping and Inspections are due at the end of this year. If you haven't done so already, be sure check out the updated registered hauler listed on our website to schedule your service.

Our Pickup PA Event ended on May 31st, but we still have supplies left over. We will continue to distribute them until they run out. If you would still like to participate, please contact the Town-

ship Office to coordinate pick up of FREE trash bags, work gloves, and safety vests. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the event to help keep our Township clean and beautiful.

A few reminders from our Tax Collector. Municipal and County taxes are currently being accepted at Face value. They go into penalty phase effective July 1, 2024. Payment for Municipal and County real estate and per capita taxes can only be accepted until December 31, 2024. School taxes will be released the first week of July and will be accepted at the 2% discount rate until August 30, 2024. The discount amount will only be accepted during the discount period and the check must be for the exact amount owed for the tax bill. Incorrect payments will be returned. Also, double check that the handwritten amount matches the number amount on the check and that the check is dated and signed. If paying in the three-installment option, please note payment must be received by the date due, or penalty fees apply.

The Township had to send the mowing tractor to Stevenson Equip-

ment for repair. We will continue mowing township roadways once it is returned. The Road Department is in the process of cutting the road to replace crossover pipes on Bullfrog Road. We are also working on other areas of Township roads for base repairs. Road repairs may cause minor delays. Please be mindful of the road workers while driving.

Since it is now Summer, people will be out on the roadways more often. Please obey speed limits and be extra cautious of farmers, and pedestrians who may be mowing or just out for a walk. It is important to drive slowly and cautiously to avoid hitting anything or anyone. If you want to assist a turtle across the road, please make sure it is safe to do so, ensure you are moving them in the direction they are going. If you move a turtle outside of their normal area, or even in the opposite direction, it can severely impact them. Be mindful of any fire bans taking place this summer, especially if you are planning to have bonfires during summer gatherings. Contact the Adams County Emergency services on their non-emergency number 717-334-8101 to check for fire bans and report your intent to burn.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun filled Summer!



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<p style="text-align: center;">****ACTIVE****</p> <p>55 Lightning Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Gently sloping perc approved lot on a quiet street in Adams County. Perfect location for getting away from the bustle of the cities. Survey was performed and corners are marked. \$23,500</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">****ACTIVE****</p>  <p>13 Kern Tr. & 13 Pinehurst Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 13 Kern Tr. & 13 Pinehurst Tr. are being sold together giving you a 1 acre parcel for your home. Pinehurst Tr. already has a well drilled with 5 GPM at 260'. The lot is perc approved. The two lots are wooded and at the base of Liberty Mountain Ski Resort that also offers a great Golf Course. Great location here in the very desirable Carroll Valley Borough with easy commuter routes. Very Close to the Historic Gettysburg Battlefield of your choice. No HOA. You can use the builder of your choice. Easy commute to MD, VA and Harrisburg. \$49,000</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">****ACTIVE****</p> <p>524 Country Club Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Here is a great parcel, less than a mile to Liberty Mt. Ski/Golf Resort. A house on this lot offers a view of part of the Golf Course and Lake Mae. Very close to Gettysburg Battlefield and a few State Parks. .66 Acres. \$12,500</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">****PENDING****</p> <p>4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 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. \$25,000</p>



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Jim Martin

This year the Pennsylvania Department of Tourism was tasked with creating a new branding slogan for PA. My favorite was “You Have a Friend in Pennsylvania”. Obviously that one stuck with me and that is the objective of a promotional branding. Will this new branding resonate and plant itself in the minds of potential visitors? Monday, May 20th the Governor visited Scranton to announce the new official branding slogan for PA. All tourist promotional agencies (Destination Gettysburg being one) across PA are to adopt this branding via their promotional resources.

The official slogan that was adopted is “Pennsylvania the Great American Getaway”. The political cartoon in the May 24th edition of the Gettysburg Times was very uncomplimentary towards the new branding. The Governor plans to make fifty stops across PA to promote and endorse the new branding. Will he be stopping in Adams County for this initiative? Per my conversation with Karl Pietrzak, the Director of Destination Gettysburg, the answer is NO! So, there must be 50 more appropriate stops than Adams County, one of the most historically significant landmarks in our nation.

Perhaps this parallels the Governor’s lack of insight towards Adams County being a gem as a quality tourist attraction. Of related concern, the Governor recently increased the subsidies for solar arrays in PA. Will this incentivize more industrial solar projects to capture and mar our rural character which is attractive and enjoyed by tens of thousands of visitors.

Granted, property owners have a right to use their property as they wish within legal guidelines. But what is Adams County’s capacity to increase industrial solar and not negatively impact one of the county’s leading industries- one that brings millions of dollars and thousands of jobs to Adams County. If the National Military Park can be so stringent about their view scape, why cannot we the citizens and businesses have the same privilege to protect the picturesque views that we and visitors enjoy.

This discussion by no means is to minimize the impact that industrial solar has upon agriculture, Adams County’s other leading economic driver. Industrial solar arrays generally require hundreds of acres of productive farm ground. The millions of dollars of commodities that are produced on Adams County farmland supply the raw materials that support agriculturally related businesses and industries. For example, our feed mills exist in Adams County due to our croplands that are read-

ily available to supply soybeans, corn, wheat, and not to mention the millions of tons of hay produced for the equine industry.

Additionally, most of us are familiar with the CXS railroad that regularly carries freight through the county. The major portion of its freight consists of agricultural commodities and products. If there are not enough commodities produced to transport, it will negatively impact CXS’s presence in Adams County. So, are we ready to say goodbye agricultural and come on in solar?

There are even more questions to answer regarding the effect of solar arrays upon neighboring landowners. Glare is an issue reported in many areas. Rain and storm water runoff is accelerated by solar panels that increase flooding in low and flood prone areas. Solar panels are frequently damaged in hailstorms that lead to leaking toxic material into the ground. Additionally, neighboring properties to solar arrays have experienced property devaluation which becomes evident when neighboring properties try to sell.

We are asked to endure all the negatives that are associated with industrial solar so we can be offered unreliable power, inconsistent power, and economically impractical installations that are only possible with subsidies. The real cost of solar is well beyond our conventional forms of power. Governor Wolf’s goal was for solar power to drive con-

ventional generation plants out of operation aided by stringent and rigid emission standards. Industrial Solar does work, but it is not practical, just as Space X travel to Hawaii will work, but it is not practical. If, and when, we must depend upon solar as our primary source of power generation without subsidies, our electric bills will be extremely expensive and will crush many financially. In the real world industrial solar is not practical.

To this point of the article, I have not been complimentary of solar. Specific applications for individual needs do have merit. For instance, remote areas needing electricity for road signage, large and remote livestock ranches can utilize solar to power electric fences, or individual households and industrial uses through roof-top solar panels (20-to-30-year payback without subsidies).

Moving to something less complicated is fund raising for United Way. If you would like to help individuals or families who lack the basic necessities, giving to United Way of Adams County will accomplish that. United Way of Adams County has set the 2024 Campaign Goal of \$171,000 to meet these needs. As of Memorial Day, contributions had reached 99% of that goal. I am confident that that goal will be reached if approximately 100 people decide to donate \$10 to \$15 before June

12th. Donations can simply be mailed to 123 Buford Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325 or hand delivered to the same address. A huge thanks needs to go to all those who generously gave to the 2024 Campaign.

Another agency that is extremely helpful to many United States Veterans in Adams County is our local Veterans Administration Office. To improve services to our veterans we have relocated the VA Office from the second floor of the Courthouse to the first floor. The former Elections Office, following a redesign, is now the new

office for the VA. This new location is accessible without the use of any stairs as one enters from Baltimore Street. The office renovations were completed entirely by our maintenance staff.

With the completion of that office, our Courthouse Maintenance Crew and Staff have completed the remodeling of all the offices located on the first floor of the Courthouse. After 40 years of daily use, all these offices needed upgrading and modernizing. The redesign and upgrades have made better and safer work environments and have enhanced our ability to serve the public.

Enjoy your summer and take time to be safe.



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Thoughts on Israel, Palestine, and Hamas

Shannon Bohrer

Last month's column was Facts and Beliefs. How we form our beliefs that influence our perceptions, how we see and make sense of the world around us. The column concluded that sometimes strongly held beliefs can prevent a person from accepting new information that challenges those beliefs. Meaning that our strongly held beliefs can sometimes act like blinders.

This month's column is about our perceptions of the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, Israel's response to the attack, the plight of the Palestinians, and the protests on college campuses and in other countries. We should take into consideration the history of Israel, Hamas, and Palestine. The issues and problems in Israel, Hamas, and Palestine are long-standing affecting the region and beyond. The latest conflict, in the context of history, is just one of many in the continuum of disputes in the region.

I support the demonstrators and their cause, which is a free Palestine. I also support the two-state solution, supporting both Israel and Palestine. That does not mean condoning the violence and destruction of property at the demonstrations, nor do I support the mass bombing and destruction of Palestine by the Israeli Defense Forces. And I strongly condemn the attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which provoked the conflict.

In our country, we have a long his-

tory of protest, and the freedom to protest should be protected and upheld. Conversely, destroying property and harassing those who have other views or are of other nationalities or religious beliefs should not be tolerated. When demonstrators destroy property and vilify protesters with an opposing view, they diminish their message. While a free Palestine seems to be the center of most of the protesters, the question that needs to be addressed is how that can occur. What conditions need to exist - for a free Palestine to follow?

Israel's history includes the fact that it has been at war with its neighbors and other countries and groups, almost on a continuum since its inception as a state. And yet, there has also been a continuum of peace proposals and negotiations with Israel and its neighbors. An early peace negotiation with Israel was with Egypt. The 1979 Camp David Accords formalized the peace between Egypt and Israel. Egypt's president, Anwar Sadat, was instrumental in the negotiations and was later assassinated in 1981. The assassination was carried out by "Islamic extremists who opposed his policies, particularly his peace treaty with Israel." Opposition to peace with the state of Israel has a long history.

In 1993, interim agreements of peace were made between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. That was the start of the Oslo peace process, which included the recognition of the State of Israel by the Palestine Liberation Organization. In return, Israel would recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the

representative of the Palestine people.

With the agreements, the Palestinian National Authority, a newly formed group, became the interim and limited governing authority for self-governance for the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank. This was a step in the creation of a two-state solution and self-governance for Palestine. There were negotiations on borders, Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem, and even the right of Palestinians to return. Peace and a two-state solution looked promising—but was never realized.

The Oslo peace process seemed to be moving in the right direction. Then, a significant impediment in the process occurred when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by an Israeli extremist group. There were extremists on both sides and strong opposition to peace on both sides. Once again, a leader with the intention of making peace between Israel and their neighbors - cost that leader his life.

However, after the assassination, the peace process continued but eventually failed at the Camp David Summit in 2000. The failure occurred when Yasser Arafat refused the proposed peace deal. President Bill Clinton told Yasser Arafat, "You are leading your people and the region to a catastrophe." A common belief was that Yasser Arafat would probably have been killed if he made a lasting peace with Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination put a cloud over the Oslo Peace process and even future negotiations.

Hamas, the governing party in Palestine, attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and started the current hostilities. Hamas was founded in 1987 after

the first intifada. Hamas's charter promotes Palestinian Nationalism with the goal of "establishing the Palestinian state throughout the entire territory." Their long-term goal is to have one state where both Israel and Palestine currently exist.

In 2006, Hamas campaigned on good government and the right of Palestine to govern itself against the Israeli occupation. In 2007, Hamas replaced most of the Palestinian Legislative Council and took control over the Gaza Strip. Since 2007, Hamas has been the primary governing body of Palestine; they govern by fear and intimidation. As a government, they offer very little services and generally act like a crime family, doing whatever they want. Palestinians who have protested have been threatened and have even disappeared.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organization and affiliated with Hezbollah in Lebanon. Both groups, along with several others, are deemed Iranian proxies. While Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, both Hamas and Hezbollah have been firing rockets into Israel. Since the attack on Israel by Hamas, an estimated 9,500 rockets have been fired into Israel, including the estimated 3000 that were fired on the first day, October 7.

For Palestine to become free, Israel and Hamas would have to negotiate, two avowed enemies that do not trust each other. That does not mean that the demonstrations and other nations should not condemn what often appears as indiscriminate bombing in Palestine. It is estimated that over 30,000 Palestinians have died because of Israel Defense Forces bombings. Adding to the tragedy is the isola-

tion and starvation of Palestinians. It is a common belief that death and starvation are helping Hamas, which may have been their goal when they attacked Israel.

The protests have been successful in bringing attention to the tragedy, but the protesters have also added to the problems. While protesters display signs saying, "Free Palestine," other protesters have displayed signs that support Hamas. Other signs include "From the river to the sea," which is a phrase describing the future state of Palestine, with no state of Israel. Assaulting and shaming Jewish students is not helpful. Conversely, numerous Jewish students have supported the demonstrations, demonstrating that supporting Israel and Palestine does not have to be a binary choice.

There is no easy answer to having a Free Palestine, and the more the Israelis attempt to eliminate Hamas, the more Palestinians will suffer. The United States can try to persuade and argue for peace, but our power to stop the hostilities is not reality. How do you have negotiations with leaders of two groups, Israelis, and Palestinians, that do not trust each other, with a terrorist group in the middle, that controls Palestine, that neither side trusts?

The world is watching, monitoring, and looking for answers that may not currently exist. The leaders are negotiating with a goal of ending the conflict with a lasting peace, that thus far has alluded them. Saying what you want is easy, achieving that goal is more complicated.

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

The Bulwark

November will not be like May

Jonathan V. Last

The political environment of April was defined by two ongoing events:

The campus protests against Biden and Israel.

The beginning of Trump's election fraud criminal trial.

Everything that happened in the relative positioning of the presidential race was tied to these two phenomena. Both of them will be resolved long before November.

So don't look at where we are now. Instead, look at the likely resolutions for these phenomena and try to understand how those developments will impact the race in six months.

And what you see is a *very* different picture.

Let's start with the campus protests, Israel, and the war in Gaza.

The protests are going away. Colleges are finishing the academic year; everyone is returning home. Two weeks from now there will be no campus protests. Maybe there will be some protests elsewhere, but the critical mass of university communities will be dispersed and will not reform until September.

By September, the war in Gaza will be over. The last remaining

pocket of Hamas is hiding in Rafah. Israeli tanks entered Rafah yesterday and took control of the border crossing between Rafah and Egypt.

Unless Israel changes its war aims and decides that the elimination of Hamas is not its goal, then 12 weeks from now the war will be over and Israel will be in the process of figuring out its post-war policy framework for Gaza.

That post-war period will be contentious. There will be small-scale conflicts. But the kinetic phase of operations will be complete.

Meaning that by the time American students return to campus, the entire region will have moved on to a different set of problems. It's even possible that Bibi Netanyahu will no longer be in power by next fall.

Which means, politically, that there will be ample time for the progressives who have abandoned Biden over his support of Israel to come home. The war that cleaved them from Biden will be over and the most-pressing questions of the day will concern Donald Trump.

The Democratic consolidation which began showing up in polling in late March, but then backslid in April, is likely to reemerge in the fall as the war in Gaza and the campus protests recede in the minds of progressives.

Once upon a time people were concerned because Alvin Bragg's

election fraud case was the first indictment brought against Trump. This case was judged to be the weakest of the four potential criminal cases and the concern was that, as the most marginal of the four, it would distract the public from the more serious charges that would eventually be brought by the special prosecutor and the Fulton County district attorney.

The situation has changed.

None of the other three cases is likely to begin before the election and there is almost no chance that any of them will reach a verdict before the election.

If not for Alvin Bragg's decision to indict Trump, then Trump would be facing zero legal accountability for his (alleged) crimes.

What's more, the view of Bragg's case as marginal has turned out to be wrong. Several weeks into the trial, the Manhattan district attorney's office has presented an impressive array of evidence and testimony. Bragg's case, as it turns out, is quite strong.

I think it is fair to say that when people worried that the election fraud case was "only" about hush money payments to a porn star, they did not understand that the lawyer who brokered the payments to Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal had sent a text on election night 2016 exclaiming, "What have we done?" Or that this lawyer would then testify that what he meant in

this text was "our activities may have in some way assisted the presidential campaign of Donald Trump."

Or that the editor of the National Enquirer had contemporaneously texted, "At least if he wins I'll be pardoned for electoral fraud."

Or that the owner of the National Enquirer would testify that he knew at the time that he was violating campaign finance laws by paying to suppress the story on behalf of Trump's campaign.

It turns out that Alvin Bragg knew what he was doing.

During the trial, the story has been pulled in a dozen different directions.

This is what the witness said. This is what the cross-examination said.

Trump made a statement outside the courtroom.

Can you believe that he fell asleep again?

Was Hope Hicks credible?

What do voters think about the trial?

By November all of that will have melted away and there will be only one fact about this trial: guilty or not guilty.

It's possible that the jury will find Trump not guilty. Or that the jury will hang, and a hung jury is probably close enough to "not guilty" for Trump's purposes.

But based on the evidence we've seen, there's a good chance that Trump is going to be found guilty by a jury of his peers. At which point the story would shift.

Trump will try to muddy the waters with legal appeals and complaints about The Very Unfair Jury Hoax or whatever. But a guilty verdict is a guilty verdict. And if Trump is a convicted felon this fall, that will change the dynamic of the election.

Probably not by a lot. But maybe by enough.

Tell me this: Where does Trump go for good news?

Between now and September the campus protests that have kept him afloat will disappear. He could be convicted of a felony. He still has three other criminal indictments in the ether, promising more chaos from him. More Republicans—and more people who worked for him in his first term—will refuse to endorse him. Some of these people will affirmatively endorse Joe Biden.

For Trump, "good news" might mean having the penalty in his civil losses reduced to "only" \$150 million. Or having the Supreme Court say that he can have immunity for his official acts, but making clear that the acts in his election interference case were private. Or that the Fed doesn't cut interest rates until the Fall.

Maybe gas prices go up? It is in OPEC's interest for Trump to be reelected and the summer driving season always sees increases in oil prices. But that's it. That's the available "good news" for Trump.

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

The Liberal Patriot

Could it be 2016 all over again?

Ruy Teixeira

Two things are clear about the 2024 campaign at this point. One is that Biden is still trailing Trump: he's behind nationally in both the RCP and 538 running averages, as well as in every single swing state. The other is that his two great vulnerabilities are the economy/inflation and immigration, generally the two most important issues to voters. Indeed the latter now sometimes eclipses the former in importance as it has in the Gallup poll for the last three months.

Immigration was very important in the 2016 election as well. One way David Shor frequently illustrated the dynamic in 2016 relative to 2012 was with a simple two by two table illustrating that the big swing toward Trump in 2016 was among voters who both (1) supported universal health insurance and (2) opposed "amnesty" for illegal immigrants. Put simply, Obama did way better than Hillary Clinton among voters who were both populist/progressive on health care and conservative-leaning on immigration.

Could we see the same dynamic this year, with Trump making decisive gains among such voters? The basis for it certainly seems to be there. It has been widely noted that not only has the immigration issue become more salient but also that voters are now open to a wide range of tough approaches to dealing with the illegal immigration problem. Some of the relevant findings were reviewed by the Post's Aaron Blake in an article, "Harsh deportation tools are just fine with many Americans." And a recent Axios poll found a majority of the

public supporting mass deportations of illegal immigrants, including a shocking 42 percent of Democrats.

Findings from a brand new poll of over 4,000 voters from The Liberal Patriot and Blueprint confirm this pattern of support for tough measures against illegal immigration. My analysis of the data also shows an enormous overlap between these conservative leanings on illegal immigration and strong support for populist/progressive measures on health care. These cross-pressured voters could play a decisive role in November's election just as they did in the 2016 election.

Here is what I found:

1. The TLP/Blueprint poll tested 40 different policy ideas associated with the Biden and Trump campaigns. The strongest issues for Biden were generally proposals around health care, most of which were wildly popular. One example was, "Increase the number of prescription drugs that Medicare can negotiate the price of for seniors." The proposal was supported by 81 percent of voters with just 6 percent opposed for a cool 75 points net support. Those who supported the proposal also supported using "existing presidential powers to stop illegal migrant crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border" by 57 points (72-15).

2. Similarly, supporters of more Medicare price negotiation on prescription drugs also supported deputizing "the National Guard and local law enforcement to assist with rapidly removing gang members and criminals living illegally in the United States" by 46 points (67-21).

3. Nor do these Medicare price negotiation supporters blink at the idea that we should "restrict the ability of migrants who illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico bor-

der to seek asylum." They support this proposal by 40 points (63-23).

4. More draconian proposals on dealing with illegal immigration also generate solid support among those favoring a stronger Medicare role on prescription drug prices. For example, these pro-Medicare populists favor the idea that we should simply, "Round up undocumented immigrants, detain, and deport them to their home countries" by 24 points (58-24).

5. The pro-Medicare populists also favor building "a full wall on the US-Mexico border" by 20 points, with 56 percent in favor and 36 percent opposed. They even think it would be a good idea to "change federal law so that drug traffickers can receive the death penalty" (55-33)!

6. A similar dynamic can be observed in some other areas of Democratic vulnerability. Among supporters of an increased Medicare role in prescription drug pricing, we also find overwhelming support for increasing "funding for police and strengthen[ing] criminal penalties for assaulting cops" (72 percent to 17 percent).

7. It is also interesting that some aspects of Democratic approaches to climate/energy issues fit this pattern. For instance, our pro-Medicare populists net oppose requiring "auto companies to sell more electric vehicles after 2030" (45-40). They also are narrowly in favor of repealing "subsidies for clean energy and electric vehicles" (41-40).

8. I also looked at another super-popular Biden health care idea, "Require pharmaceutical companies to charge American consumers the lowest price they charge consumers in foreign countries" and the related super-popular proposal, "Protect Medicare and Social Security from funding cuts or increases in the age of eligibility." You see the exact same pattern: voters who



support these populist ideas overwhelmingly want a much tougher approach to illegal immigration.

These cross-pressures then are very real, just as they were in 2016, and are undoubtedly undermining Democrats' ability to capitalize on their immensely popular health care proposals. Could these pressures produce the kind of shift in 2024 relative to 2020 that so helped Trump in 2016? The basis is certainly there.

I looked at support/opposition to increasing the Medicare role in prescription drug pricing and support/opposition to the most popular proposal for cracking down on illegal immigration, using the president's executive powers to directly stop illegal crossing at the southern border. I found that, comparing reported vote in 2020 to expressed vote preference today, the big shift toward Trump occurs precisely among those who both support an aggressive Medicare role in drug pricing and support using presidential powers to stop illegal border crossing.

There's a lesson there for Democrats should they care to take it. Apparently, the idea of using Biden's executive powers to stop illegal border crossing is under consideration at the White House, but,

predictably, nothing has happened yet in the face of fierce opposition from the usual suspects. The recent decline in illegal border crossings from insanely high to merely very high (due to a crack-down in Mexico not by US authorities) may also be breeding some complacency about the issue in Biden-land despite the scathing message sent by the polls.

This seems unwise. Especially since the ace in the hole the Biden campaign was counting on—voter appreciation of the strong economy finally kicking in—may turn out to be only a deuce. Both the Michigan consumer sentiment index and the Conference Board consumer confidence index went down last month and basically have made no progress since January. Morning in America it's not.

The Democrats would appear to need all the help they can get. The immigration-health care nexus reviewed here suggests they may be leaving votes on the table by failing to take strong action on illegal immigration. The specter of the 2016 election looms over this campaign and, like a hanging, should concentrate the mind.

To read other articles from the Liberal Patriot, visit www.liberalpatriot.com.

Good Day Neighbor

The easy way

Dorothea Mordan

There are different ways of looking at any issue. You can think through a problem and choices of solutions, or take the path of least resistance. The easy way often has unintended consequences.

Spring is the season of rebirth. All creatures increase their activity, including bees and wasps (hornets, yellow jackets). When a honeybee colony's numbers grow too large for their hive, they make a new queen. The old queen leaves, taking half of the colony with her, to look for a new home. Sometimes they find a new home in the walls of a human family's house. Honeybee colonies can get settled in before any humans take notice. Once they do, the choices are to A - call someone to relocate the hive by cutting it out of the wall and repairing the drywall, B - Call an exterminator to poison them, or C - the easy way of grabbing a can of Raid.

First identify the problem. Are the critters flying in and out of a house bees or wasps? For wasps, an exterminator or spray is a good

call—nobody wants a wasp nest nearby. For bees, are they honeybees? Most bees aren't really a problem, or aggressive. Honeybees are not aggressive unless threatened.

The easy way of spraying poison on honeybees presents a couple of problems. Spraying the outside of a building doesn't kill the bees inside. If all bees are killed, the honey left in the hive attracts bees from other hives. Foraging bees take honey back to their hive, killing the bees there. The unintended consequence of spraying insecticide on honeybees, is killing bees within a radius of up to 2 miles.

Humans love the path of least resistance when they can get away with it. Book banning is an easy way for people to claim they stand on a moral high ground of concern about threats to our social order. It's a way that some candidates for the FCPS Board of Education frame their goals. Safety for the children. Safe from what? Ideas?

Are we to believe that the people who shout the loudest about keeping children safe can't have a conversation with their own children? Understanding the lives and perspectives of other people builds a stronger community. Knowing that

there are people around you who have different beliefs and customs doesn't change a thing about how free you are to live your own life. That is the real American Dream.

If we have fellow Americans who have experienced historical, generational trauma from slavery, then had institutionalized rules applied to them that are not applied to others, and they are strong enough to relive it to talk about it, then the children of any group are strong enough to learn about it.

Learning about wrongs done to another person is not the same as being accused of crimes against humanity. Refusing to listen to the experiences of others simply means you don't care.

History happens to each of us. Each of our fellow Americans may have a story that does not fit neatly with yours or mine. Writing and reading about history allows each of us, including our children, to learn about other perspectives. We may or may not agree on what these perspectives and individual opinions mean. We don't have to. What we have to do, to rightfully claim to be a civilized society, is to NOT stop people from telling their own story.

The argument for banning books is often based in a religious reasoning. Book bans are fre-

quently focused on topics of sexual orientation, sexual identity, expression, etc. It could reasonably be argued that to ban a book by any one of God's human creations is blasphemous, and disrespectful of your creator. We are all creatures of the same earth, from the same origin. We do not have the right to say, which of God's creations is good or bad. We do have the right to say we will or won't interact with somebody for some personal reason. But taking the easy way of trying to remove things we don't like about other people, is to teach our children that they can easily throw away people they don't like. In turn, it is a subtle lesson that any of us can be thrown away. This can lead to the unintended (I hope) consequence of erasing our fellow human beings.

On the positive side, other consequences of book banning threats include increased sales of banned books, discussion of banned books, and more attention on discrimination and bullying of students. Recent assessment of dozens of books available in Frederick county public schools produced one book removal due to being age inappropriate. It also produced a really great list of books to read.

We have a system of public

libraries that does not interfere with one's choice of reading material. There are fellow Americans, running for elected office, who would make every effort to change our access to freedom of thought, of sharing thoughts. In some states librarians have become the target. Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee have passed laws that include fines and jail time for librarians who allow access to books deemed inappropriate for minors. Florida passed state laws banning discussions of certain topics. If you do not want your rights to speak and think freely to disappear into a massive pile of "legal" documentation, then vote for people who respect our Constitution.

Policies and laws such as book banning are unintended consequences of not voting. It is the duty of each of us to choose our leaders wisely. We have the whole summer to read books, and learn about the candidates in the upcoming election. Hopefully, we will elect leaders whose goal is to protect everyone's freedom to find their own path.

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

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The personhood of fatherhood

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

Because Father's Day is this month, I figured I'd write a few words on the topic. But as I sat down to do so, I discovered the topic is more difficult to write about than I originally thought.

No one's experiences around fatherhood are identical. No individual is exactly the same as anyone else, which means no fathers are exactly the same. Some of you reading this article are fathers of small children, adult children, or both. There are people who have very close relationships with their children, while others fall somewhere between distant to estranged. Others are fathers through their own biological means with their partners, or adoptive parents. Others are teachers, mentors, etc. who have willfully taken on a father-like role for young people.

Some of you don't have kids, despite all efforts and desire toward that end. Or perhaps it is a medical impossibility. Tragically there are no small number of people who suffered greatly by their father's presence or absence. Then there are those who have tragically lost children. For these the very subject of fatherhood might be a painful one.

Or perhaps you count yourself among those who want absolutely nothing to do with being a father.

All of this to acknowledge "fatherhood" is a diverse and complicated topic. Therefore, any attempt at a simplified, black and white portrayal of fatherhood will likely overly flatter some, betray

or insult others, and marginalize everyone else. Further, I can only speak from my own perspective and I understand my perspective is not everyone's.

So instead of waxing poetic the virtues of fatherhood allow me to simply reflect on my personal experiences and hope that there is something in there that perhaps you can identify with as well.

I must say right from the get-go, if there is another situation in life where feelings of such tremendous joy and fear intersect as at the birth of one's first child, I don't know what that situation would be.

Joy on the one hand, at seeing this new life before you. A human being that shares half your genetic code, a life created in part because of you, stares back at you for the first time. The beauty and wonder of the moment for some is beyond words.

Fear on the other hand, because, well, this tiny human that is half of you and from you is completely dependent upon you for survival. A child needs to be fed regularly and frequently, kept at proper temperature, kept clean, handled carefully, and proper amounts of sleep must be ensured. The child's medical health and developmental milestones need to be closely monitored so any problems can be quickly addressed, and future complications minimized. The child will need mental, emotional, developmental, financial, and educational support. All of this and more needs to be attended to, not just for the afternoon or the weekend, but for the next 18 years or more. It's not like at your job during a busy



time where you just hang in there and push through knowing that at the end of the week or month, the project will be finished so you'll be able to put your feet up and rest. Oh no. That little child will need fed, loved and cared for no matter how tired you get, day and night, every day. You are a parent until the day you die. That wrinkly, swaddled, tiny, human staring up at you is completely helpless and wholly dependent on you.

As if that were not enough, here comes the soul searching. In some ways as a single, childless adult your mistakes are your own. Previously, if I made some stupid decisions and burned my life down, well that'd be on me and I'd suffer the consequences. As a father, choices in many ways have higher stakes because the consequences of one's missteps and dumb decisions will invariably spill over onto one's kids. This innocent child could be harmed by a single misstep.

Next there's the introspection where I wonder what harmful biases and prejudices my heart yet harbors but of which I am yet unaware and therefore at risk of inadvertently passing on to my child? What unhealthy biases am

I still working to overcome and therefore also at risk of passing on to that innocent little one? "Don't screw it up," you think to yourself. "This tiny human is depending on you." Talk about fear.

Now by this point maybe I've said a few things that you have experienced for yourself and can identify with. Maybe you think I've lost my mind and nothing I have said thus far reflects your experience of fatherhood, parenthood or personhood. Whatever the case, it's okay. Our families are made up of people and people come in every size, shape, color, and configuration under the sun. Therefore the structures, systems, and dynamics of our families come in every size, shape, color, and configuration. But one commonality for all families is that there is no perfect family. This is because there are no perfect people. No perfect people means no perfect parent, means no perfect father.

That imperfection can bring about beauty but it can also bring anxiety. Father or not, we will all make mistakes in this life. We will all make mistakes we don't even realize are mistakes. We will all from time to time be on the receiving end of other people's mistakes. This is a certainty. No

one escapes this life unscathed, and every one of us will do some scathing.

What are we to say about this fact? Are we all doomed? Will all of us fathers doom our children with our doomedness? Are we all hopelessly doomed by everyone else's doomedness?

Personally, I don't think so. I think this view of ourselves and the world is too pessimistic even for pessimists. "Where's the hope," you ask?

Well first of all, each of us have a responsibility to ourselves and everyone who has to interact with us, to self-improve. Our education doesn't end at our high school or college graduation. We should always be in the process of learning more. Growing, maturing, expanding our understanding and empathy. We should seek not only to understand the world around us, but the world within us as well. We need to understand and come to terms with ourselves, weeding out the beliefs, habits and tendencies that cause us and others harm. By doing so, we become better people, which in turn improves our relationships with others, our children, marriages and our communities. There is hope in the fact that we can do and be better.

But our greatest hope of course lies with God. As God's children we are not promised a life on earth free from the consequences of our and others sins. Jesus himself wasn't even exempt from this. But through Jesus one day our imperfection will be made perfect. Our fleeting lives will be given eternity. Our flaws and hurts healed.

The only thing for us to do in the meantime is to grow in wisdom, peacefulness, and love. That with the time we have on this earth we can be better fathers, friends, citizens. Better human beings.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Roger Bacon



June 11

English science has a double interest in the name of Bacon, and the older of the two individuals who bore it is certainly not the least illustrious, although we know very little of his personal history. He lived in an age when the world in general cared little about the quiet life of the laborious student.

According to the account usually received, Roger Bacon was born near Lichester, in Somersetshire, in the year 1214. It is said that he displayed great eagerness for learning at a very early age, and that he was sent to study at Oxford when still a boy. After he had made himself master of all that could be learnt at Oxford, Bacon went, as was usual at that time, to the much more important school of scientific labour, the University of Paris, where he is said to have become a doctor in the civil law.

He is said to have returned to England in 1240, when, if the date given as that of his birth be correct, he was still only twenty-six years of age, and he then established himself in Oxford. It seems doubtful if it were before or after his return to England that he entered the order of the Franciscans, who were then great cultivators of science, but all we know of his life at this period seems to shew that in Oxford he took up his abode in the convent of that order.

It is stated that, in the course of twenty years, he spent in his studies and experiments no less than £2,000 sterling, which would be equivalent to a very large sum of money in the reckoning of the present day and it is evident that Bacon's family was rich; yet he remained almost unknown within his convent, and apparently neglected, if not despised by his fellow friars, until he was at length dragged from his obscurity by Pope Clement IV.

It appears that, before his accession to the papacy, Clement's curiosity had been excited by some accidental information he obtained relating to Bacon's wonderful knowledge and discoveries, and that he had written to ask the philosopher for some of his writings.

Clement was an old soldier, and,

however arbitrary he may have been in temper, he appears to have cared little for popular prejudices. In 1266, the year after he became pope, he despatched a brief to Bacon, enjoining, notwithstanding the order of any ecclesiastical superior or any rule of his order to the contrary, that he should communicate to him a copy documenting his important.

Bacon was thus fully brought before the world, and under Pope Clement's protection he continued for some years to diffuse his extraordinary knowledge. It was at this time that he produced his three great philosophical and scientific works, the *Opus Majus*, the *Opus Minus*, and the *Opus Tertium*, all three completed within the space of fifteen months.

In the thirteenth century, a man like Bacon was exposed to two very dangerous accusations. People in general, in their ignorant wonder at the extraordinary things he was said to be able to perform, believed him to be a magician, while the bigoted Churchman, alarmed at everything like an expansion of the human intelligence, sought to set him down as a heretic. Bacon incurred both these imputations; but, though the liberal views he expresses in his works, even on religious questions, could not but be distasteful to the church, yet he was safe during Pope Clement's time.

Several short papacies followed, until, in 1277, Pope Nicolas III ascended the papal throne, a man of a different temper from Clement. At the beginning of his papacy, the general of the Franciscans, who had just been made a cardinal, brought forward an accusation of heresy against Bacon, and, with the pope's approval, caused him to be thrown into prison. When, ten years afterwards, the persecuting general of the Franciscans became pope himself, under the name of Nicolas IV, Bacon still remained a close prisoner, and it was only, we are told, towards the close of Nicolas's life that some of his friends were able to exercise sufficient interest to obtain his freedom.

Nicolas IV died in 1292; and, according to what appear to be the most reliable accounts, Bacon died on the 11th of June 1292,

although the real year of his death is by no means satisfactorily ascertained. He is said to have died in the convent of the Franciscans, at Oxford, and to have been buried in their church.

The real amount of his discoveries is very imperfectly known; but it is certain that they were far in advance of the age in which he lived, and that there was no branch of science which he had not sounded to its depths.

His favourite subjects of study are said to have been mathematics, mechanics, and chemistry. He is said to have invented the camera obscura, the air-pump, and the diving-bell, but, though this statement may admit of some doubt, he was certainly acquainted with the nature and use of optical lenses and with gunpowder, at least with regard to the explosive powers of the latter, for the projectile power of gunpowder appears not to have been known till the following century.

We may now turn from the real to the legendary character of Roger Bacon. When we consider the circumstances of the age, it is a proof of the extraordinary reverence in which the science of the friar Roger Bacon was held, that he not only became the subject of popular legends, but that in the course of years nearly all the English legends on science and magic became concentrated under the name of Friar Bacon.

According to legend, while still in his youth, Bacon attracted the notice of the king (what king we are not told), and his wonderful feats of magic at court gained him great reputation, which leads him into all sorts of queer adventures. On one occasion, with an ingenuity worthy of the bar in its best moments, he saves a man from a

rash contract with the devil.

But one of the most famous exploits connected with the history of the legendary Friar Bacon was the manufacture of the brazen head, famous on account of the misfortune which attended it. It is, in fact, the grand incident in the legend.

'Friar Bacon, reading one day of the many conquests of England, be-thought himself how he might keep it here-after from the like conquests, and so make himself famous hereafter to all posterities.

'After deep study, he found that the only way to effect this was by making a head of brass, and if he could make this head speak, he would be able to encompass England with an impregnable wall of the same material. Bacon took into his confidence Friar Bungye, and, having made their brazen head, they consulted the demon who was under their power, and were informed by him that, if they subjected the head to a certain process during a month, it would speak in the course of that period, but that he could not tell them the exact day or hour, and that, if they heard him not before he had done speaking, their labour would be lost.

'The two friars proceeded as they were directed, and watched incessantly during three weeks, at the end of which time Bacon employed his man Miles, a shrewd fellow, and a bit of a magician himself, as a temporary watch while they snatched a few hours' repose. Accordingly, Bacon and Bungye went to sleep, while Miles watched. Miles had not been long thus employed, when the head, with some preparatory noise, pronounced very deliberately the words, 'Time is.'

'Miles thought that so unimportant an announcement was not a sufficient reason for waking his master, and took no further notice of it. Half an hour later, the head said in the same manner, 'Time was,' and, after a similar interval, 'Time is past;' but Miles treated it all as a matter of no importance, until, shortly after uttering these last words, the brazen head fell to the ground with a terrible noise, and was broken to pieces. The two friars, thus awakened, found that their design had been entirely ruined, and so, the greater work of these learned fryers was overthrown by this simple fellow.'

At length, according to this legendary history, after many strange adventures, Bacon became disgusted with 'his wicked life,' burnt all his magical books, and gave himself up entirely to the study of divinity—a very orthodox and Catholic conclusion.

He retained, however, sufficient cunning to cheat the fiend, for it is implied that he had sold his soul to the devil, whether he died inside the church or outside, so 'then caused he to be made in the church wall a cell, where he locked himself in, and there remained till his death. Thus lived he some two years space in that cell, never coming forth: his meat and drink he received in at a window, and at that window he did discourse with those that came to him. His grave he dug with his own hands, and was laid there when he died. Thus was the life and death of this famous fryer, who lived most part of his life a magician, and dyed a true penitent sinner, and an anchorite.'

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ECOLOGY

The bad and the beautiful: spring invasives

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

During a sunny day recently, I went walking behind Strawberry Hill's pond hoping to spot some turtles. I wasn't disappointed. There were four resting on a long-fallen tree that dipped into the cool, dark water. As I continued up and around the Norway spruces that ring the pond and made my way toward the trailhead, I spotted something else – the beautiful bluish-purple flowers of lesser periwinkle blooming across the hillside.

Lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is a flowering plant native to Europe, western Asia, and northwestern Africa. It was introduced to the US in the 1700's as an ornamental ground cover because of its ability to form dense colonies. It spreads by underground runners and does well in all light but thrives in heavy shade like we have at the start of the Orange Trail.

It's an unfortunately lovely plant. I say unfortunately because it is quite stunning and adds a sprinkle of color against a sea of green. A real gem in a well-contained garden. But at best, at least as far as the forest is concerned, lesser periwinkle has little value to wildlife other than to pollinators, especially wild bees. At worst, it's a quickly spreading invasive that chokes out more valuable natives and disrupts the natural forest succession process by forming thick carpets that prevent new

growth from taking hold.

That's the biggest problem with invasives. They disrupt the natural processes of an ecosystem and push out native species. They accomplish these tasks while giving little back. With few exceptions, they're simultaneously beautiful and bad.

One invasive that leans heavily on the bad side is Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergia*). Its seeds feed some birds though most fall away untouched. There are far more desirable berries and seeds in a healthy forest, after all. It does provide a nice habitat for white-footed mice but also harbors everyone's favorite parasitic arachnid: ticks. Barberry creates a microclimate within its structure that helps insulate and buffer extreme temperatures compared to native vegetation, an ideal living situation for tick populations. Its low stature and broad-reaching branches give ticks ample contact with animals and people. It's prime real estate for ticks looking to reach more potential hosts but a problem for everyone else.

On the other hand, an invasive I watch out for is personally one of my favorite plants – English ivy. I am a sucker for a picturesque stone cottage with ivy-covered walls, or a wooden fence alive with sprawling ivy. And yet, I understand the whimsical notions I have of ivy and its gorgeous stretches of emerald vines belie a multitude of problems. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) can be quite dangerous to trees as its

vines snake up and around trunks and branches. It “chokes” trees but not the way a boa constrictor chokes prey. Ivy forms dense foliage canopies that block sunlight and prevent photosynthesis.

Growing up, I often heard that ivy's aerial roots dig into tree bark and kill trees by growing into the tree itself and robbing it of nutrients. It turns out this isn't exactly true. Ivy does produce aerial roots, but they attach to trees for support, not parasitic absorption. It also damages tree bark by trapping moisture and creating an ideal environment for fungal rot to take over. Not to mention the added weight of those spreading vines which makes a tree more susceptible to falling during bad weather.

English ivy is an evergreen perennial in the ginseng family. It's native to Europe, North Africa, and Western Asia. It, too, was brought here by settlers in the 1700's to be used for cultivation. For years ivy has been heralded as a low-maintenance groundcover, a decidedly appropriate description. Once started, ivy takes no real effort to maintain and often requires radical efforts to get rid of. Ivy invades all sorts of spaces, both urban and rural and can do considerable damage to buildings and natural spaces. Despite this, I'm not sure I'll ever stop loving the image of an ivy-covered cottage.

Another invasive that I secretly have a fondness for (and sizeable disagreement with) is multiflora rose. Multiflora rose (*Rosa multi-*



While pretty to look at, English ivy damages tree bark by trapping moisture and creating an ideal environment for fungal rot to take over.

flora) is a perennial shrub native to East Asia, specifically Japan, China, and Korea, and was introduced over a hundred years ago as a rootstock for rose breeding programs. It was also widely planted in the early 20th century to help combat soil erosion and to create living fences for farm animals as it produces incredibly dense thickets. These thickets provide excellent cover for rabbits, bobwhite quail, and pheasants as well as provide food and nesting sites for birds. The leaves are eaten by deer, skunks, opossums, and more. And the rosehips are food for grouse, turkeys, bears, and chipmunks, especially during the winter when other foods are unavailable. This all sounds overwhelmingly positive, doesn't it?

The problem with multiflora rose is its aggressiveness and ability to thrive anywhere. It's not picky about sunlight, soil, or moisture, and it creates a seed bank that guarantees years of effort to fully eradicate. Unfortunately, the more you cut back multiflora rose bushes the more sunlight and space you give the fallen seeds to grow. The irony is when you fight

it, you give it more opportunity to prove itself.

We're fighting a losing battle in some areas of the state as these invasives and others take over. At Strawberry Hill, we're constantly using mechanical efforts to combat invasives where we can but it's not always effective or is only effective in the short-term. Long-term solutions such as planned eradication by use of herbicides aren't an option as our mission includes maintaining healthy waterways and wildlife habitats. And prescribed burns are off the table. So, we manage as best we can with what we have.

Still, I sometimes walk amongst the multiflora rose, lesser periwinkle, and others and try to find some good in their existence, even in the smallest measurement. It isn't always easy, especially with tick-harboring barberry. But it is nice to stop and smell the roses, so to speak. After all, the multiflora rose smells incredible.

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To learn more about Strawberry Hill Nature Classroom or Strawberry Hill in general visit www.strawberryhill.org

IN THE COUNTRY

Preventing raptor road-kill

Tim Iverson

Believe it or not it had been a rather pleasant afternoon commute up 270-N. I had been following the same sedan for some miles now. As any good driver does my eyes made the circuit from looking ahead through the windshield, up to the rearview mirror, over to the side view mirrors, and every now and again to check the time and speed I was going. After one of these rounds I make it back to staring forward, and I catch a glimpse of a hand fling something out of the driver's side window. The yellow and slender skin with arms flailing in the wind made it abundantly clear what they had tossed aside. It couldn't have been anything other than a banana peel. Big deal you might be asking yourself. Well, I am here to tell you that it IS a big deal.

At seven state parks across Maryland there are aviaries housing injured wildlife that will never be able to return to the wild because they can no longer care for themselves as the result of human caused injuries. The closest to our area is located at Cunningham Falls State Park. Within this aviary are animals, most of who have been hit by cars. These accidents could largely be avoidable. Most think of roadside litter as trash bags, empty fast food bags, cups and containers, and other kinds of junk. When presented with the idea of banana peels or apple cores or other natural and biodegradable things they think it's perfectly natural and fine to toss them aside as they please. However, this is not the case. The raptors living in Maryland Park Service aviaries can provide ample evidence as to why.

Let's meet a Red Tailed Hawk for just a minute. This beautiful bird of prey is the largest hawk that lives in Maryland. This bird prefers wide open spaces, primarily fields. In fact, if we're being honest this is probably one species that has benefited from deforestation and development. They feast on small mammals like mice, rabbits, squirrels, and smaller birds in their territory. You can often see them sitting on the sides of roadways. They're usually perched upon telephone

poles, over head lights, or signs. They are naturally drawn to these areas because of high perch places, and the abundance of prey.

You see rodents are naturally attracted to any type of food trash. It doesn't matter if that fast food bag is empty or not, because it still smells like French fries and burgers. Empty wrappers still retain the scent of whatever food they packaged as well. Banana peels, apple cores, or other food waste will still attract prey like mice to the sides of roadways in search of a quick meal. Red-tailed Hawks, and other birds of prey, know this and will wait for prey to arrive. Then when the moment is right they'll strike. They swoop down from on high to claim their catch. Often times though it's not that simple. They are competing with the tumult of traffic which can be chaos to process for wildlife. Raptors frequently are struck by cars in the process of hunting. In most cases these birds are killed on impact. A lucky few who do survive and make it to medical assistance in time may be able to fully recover and be rereleased to the wild. However, the majority of those who are hit and survive will not be able to go back. These reasons can vary: wing amputations, which makes flight impossible; brain damage, which makes hunting and survival impossible; or loss of vision in one or both eyes, which makes hunting, flying, and surviving difficult to impossible.

For those birds that are fortunate enough to survive, but cannot survive on their own will be placed in zoos and aviaries throughout the county. The Maryland Park Service has a program called Scales & Tales which cares for and houses wildlife like this. Scales & Tales is an environmental education program that provides people the opportunity to see these wild animals up close. By relating the "tale" or story of the animals the Maryland Park Service can reach out to the public and educate them on environmental issues of concern. These issues range from environmental pollution, climate change, habitat and resource loss, invasive species, and more. There are a few



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ways people can help these animals as well as wildlife.

The first way is by visiting these aviaries, parks, and wild spaces in general. By raising your awareness you are likely to make lasting lifestyle changes and be able to spread the message to others. Scales & Tales also has an adoption program that allows you to symbolically "adopt" these animals, and the money goes towards their care and well being. The best way to help them is to help prevent unnecessary injuries from happening in the first place. Practicing Leave No Trace is a great way to start.

Leave No Trace is a non-profit organization and a set of principles or ethics regarding how we use and treat the great outdoors. These seven ideas are easy to follow and very reasonable. They are:

Plan Ahead & Prepare – Make sure you pack all necessary food, gear, etc. Know your way so you don't get lost. Most importantly, plan for how to pack your waste and bring it back with you

Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces – When you hike or camp off of specific or regulated areas you destroy vegetation that prevents rain runoff and destroy habitat by expanding human impact

Dispose of Waste Properly – If you brought it there, then make sure you bring it back.

Leave What You Find – This way another passerby can experience what you did

Minimize Campfire Impacts – If there are existing fire rings then use them! Otherwise the woods will be pockmarked with blackened scorched earth

Respect Wildlife – Respect all wildlife, but remember some wildlife can be venomous or dangerous so if you don't respect them they will not respect you.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors – You'd hate it if you were soaking up the beauty of the outdoors and someone was being loud, rude, and disruptive. Don't do it to someone else.

Leave No Trace can usually be summed up by the adage, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." By practicing these principles in all of our outdoor affairs we can assure that every one of us can always enjoy what the wild

lands have to offer. Just like you try to take care of your personal stuff, we need to take care of our collective stuff. Throwing the banana peel out instead of waiting to find a trash can is reckless. It endangers wildlife by setting them up for disaster. When this happens often enough the scavengers eating it become accustomed to the food source, and may starve when or if it is no longer available. The simple act of just waiting a few more minutes is well worth the investment to preserve the independent and natural order of things. I once saw a road sign while working for the National Park Service in Big Bend Texas that I think I'd like to leave you with – Litterin' is unLAWFUL! Make sure the impact you leave behind is a positive one.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Creating “life” in the laboratory

Boyce Rensberger

On November 26, 1899 The Boston Herald published this headline: “Creation of Life. Startling Discovery of Prof. Loeb. Lower Animals Produced by Chemical Means.”

The story that followed talked about experiments done at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

The headline was a bit overblown. The Chicago Tribune followed with a somewhat more accurate account: “Science Nears the Secret of Life.” The sub-heading said “a Long Step Towards Realizing the Dream of Biologists, ‘to Create Life in a Test Tube.’”

So, what actually happened? Why is this episode, largely forgotten today, worth reading about? I believe it tells us a lot about how the attitudes of Americans have changed since then.

When this story broke in 1899, the general public welcomed it as another of the astonishing advances of an era that was still getting used to such inventions as automobiles and electric lights, movies and the phonograph, X-rays and aspirin. It didn't seem so surprising that the wizards of science and engineering could create living animals.

In the following years, the scientist who did the experiments, Jacques Loeb, carried out more experiments that garnered wide

publicity, often landing him on the covers of national magazines. In his day, Loeb, a German immigrant, was probably the most famous scientist in America. (His only rival for similar attention was Thomas Edison, an inventor and not a scientist.) One of the great literary figures of the period, Sinclair Lewis, modeled the hero of his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1925 novel, *Arrowsmith*, on Jacques Loeb. The book was even made into a movie.

Within one generation of the scientist's death in 1924, biology would be revolutionized. Before Loeb, biologists were mostly describing the world's natural history. After Loeb, biology became an experimental science on a par with chemistry and physics.

Loeb's belief that living things could be taken apart and tinkered with laid the foundation of a science in which America would become a world leader. Following what Loeb called “the mechanistic conception of life,” American biological science would attain a preeminence that it holds to this day.

And yet, for all the hoopla, Loeb came nowhere close to creating life.

In that summer of 1899 Loeb was working in a simple, wooden laboratory just yards from the sea, measuring out chemicals that he stirred into bowls of seawater. In the bowls were one-celled eggs from female sea

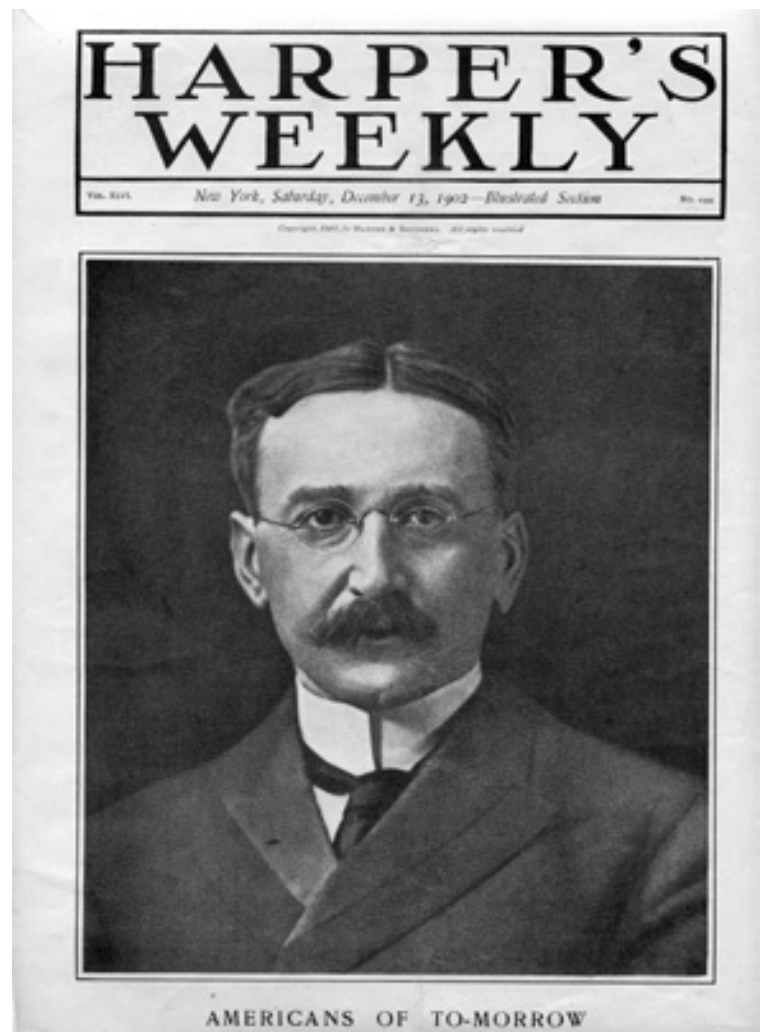
urchins. Loeb imagined that he could find a recipe to substitute for sperm from a male sea urchin.

He hit on the right formula—a simple pinch of magnesium chloride. Each one-celled ovum began dividing, again and again, the ball of cells becoming a fully functioning organism, complete with a skeleton, nerves, and a digestive system. It could even swim. In the wild, this larval sea urchin would eventually settle down and metamorphose into the bottom-dwelling pin-cushion shape.

Loeb reported his achievement in the *American Journal of Physiology*. He called his feat artificial parthenogenesis (from the Greek for virgin birth). He did not shy from speculating that it might be possible to achieve the same result in mammals.

“The idea is now hovering before me,” Loeb had written nine years earlier to his friend Ernst Mach, the great Austrian physicist (the speed of sound was named for him), “that man himself can act as a creator, even in living Nature, forming it eventually according to his will.”

Loeb told Mach that he believed scientists could one day create life through “a technology of living substance.” To Loeb the experiment addressed a deeper issue, the fundamental nature of life itself. He believed that life was not the product of a supernatural “vital force.” He argued that atoms and molecules behaving naturally could explain all of life's processes. Many of Loeb's colleagues agreed and nominated him for the Nobel Prize. Others disagreed, believing that life was too complex to be explained by anything less than the workings of a divine creator or, at the very least, a mystical, supernatural phenomenon, a “vital force” that inhabited living things. Loeb



Jacques Loeb

became a Nobel finalist, but he did not get the prize.

If the egg contains the plan for development of the embryo, Loeb wrote, “we can imagine the Mendelian factors [as genes were then called] giving rise to specific substances which go into circulation and start or accelerate different chemical reactions in different parts of the embryo, and thereby call forth the finer details characteristic of the variety [species] and the individual.” Over an ensuing half century of research, geneticists would confirm that Loeb's speculation was exactly right.

Today the frontiers of biology are almost entirely devoted to understanding the physical and chemical machinery that is life itself. The old concept of a supernatural vital force is dead in science, though, of course,

versions of it survive in some religions.

Soon Loeb was being profiled in national magazines. In the popular McClure's Magazine, for example, he was quoted in 1902 as saying: “I wanted to take life in my hands and play with it. I wanted to handle it in my laboratory as I would any other chemical reaction—to start it, stop it, vary it, study it under every condition, to direct it at my will!”

In the years that followed, Loeb produced a succession of remarkable discoveries, many of which were covered by newspapers and magazines, creating in Jacques Loeb America's first celebrity scientist.

Wilhelm Ostwald (1909 Nobel Prize in chemistry) wrote: “There is practically no limit to what man can do in this direction. Of course, at first, he will be able to produce only a piece of protoplasm, something like the water hydra or the resemblance of the sea urchin that Professor Loeb has evolved, but it will be instilled with real life.”

Of course, nothing like that has happened. Still the optimism generated by Loeb's work, though the man himself is largely forgotten, has developed into a huge scientific enterprise aimed predominantly at the conquest of disease and human suffering.

Next month: How the public reacted to Loeb's experiments.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Growin' old(er)

Jack Deatherage

I was five, maybe six years old when Grandfather Cool come storming 'round the farm's Quonset hut where the Oliver tractor slept. Shaking the hoe he always had in hand when outside the house he barked, "You boys stealing my watermelons!" Lessons were learned that day- one being the hoe could be used to punish young watermelon thieves as well as for chopping weeds and hilling corn. Fortunately I managed to outrun Grandfather and only heard of the hoe administering a whoopin' from my older cousin Ron who had felt the wooden wallop more than once.

The foundation of another lesson was laid that day, but it took me sixty-some years to get it. The hoe also served as a cane. Grandfather was sixty-nine years old when I was five. Now that I'm close to reaching my seventieth birthday I understand why he wasn't able to run me down so long ago. The man was in pain and needed the hoe to get around the farm on foot- a thing I'm starting to consider myself as I stagger about the community garden's uneven sod. Various joints occasionally send bolts of pain shooting through me causing unexpected listing leeward or windward, whichever ways they be. Yep. The lesson is learned. Old age ain't for sissies.

Another lesson the old man taught me, indirectly, was to cut back on the amount of over-the-counter (OTC) pain meds I take daily. Because I was working on drinking myself to death when Grandfather was working his own way to the grave, via old age, I was unaware that he'd swallowed enough of

those pills to put himself in the hospital with the damage the drugs had done to him.

Alcohol was my favorite pain relieving drug until recently, especially after I learned how easy and inexpensive it is to create it, and how marvelously flavored it can be! However, as with any drug I'm aware of, it has its drawbacks. As far as I know the alcoholic neuropathy that makes me think my toes are being cooked over a slow fire is permanent- the brain damage likely is as well.

I probably could ask Doc Thomas for gabapentin, but the list of possible side-effects reminds me that using another drug to alleviate the effects of the first drug is the path to greater damage than I'm currently dealing with. Besides, doctor visits are expensive and prescribed drugs usually more so. I save doctor visits for those ailments I can't treat myself. Which has led me to a lesson Mom tried to teach me- herbal supplements, diet and exercise.

Bein's I'm lazy, exercise only happens in the community garden. As for diet- I eat what I like even though I know favored foods hurt me. That leaves supplements, which I used to scoff at until it finally sunk through the thick bone that protects my tiny brain- a lot of pharmaceuticals were originally derived from plants! I think the kicker was a doctor telling Uncle Don that herbs couldn't hurt him and might help as he was struggling to survive a cancer that eventually sent him on to the next turn of The Wheel. I hope that doctor has since read "From Chocolate To Morphine: Everything You Need to Know About Mind-Altering Drugs" by Winifred Rosen and Andrew T. Weil M.D., "Handbook Of Poisonous And Injuri-

ous Plants" by Lewis Nelson and/or "Medical Toxicology Of Natural Substances- foods, fungi, medicinal herbs, plants, and venomous animals" by Donald G. Barceloux. The latter book is proving difficult to acquire, not that I'm likely to understand it anyhow.

Currently I'm treating two ailments that typically accompany aging with herbal supplements- saw palmetto and ginkgo biloba. However, since surviving the Wuhan flu I've noticed the ginkgo seems unable to keep all the brain fog at bay, so I've added Ashwagandha Root (*Withania somnifera*), Korean Ginseng (*Panax Ginseng*) and Astragalus Root Liquid Extract to my daily regime. I'll trial those herbs for a month and add various "grasses" to the mix as they are also supposed to aid in brain function. (I'm not sure I'll like having a functioning brain. The DW isn't sure that would be a good thing either.)

Moving on to pain. OTC pain meds come with their own risks if used daily. Risks much worse than the pain I'm experiencing. I haven't found an effective herbal that eases my discomforts so I'm pondering the causes of the pain- mostly stiff joint issues and arthritis (gout). While there appear to be supplements that might aid in reducing some of the pain from those issues it appears that diet and exercise will do most of the work.

Diet is going to have to change before exercise can begin. The joints simply ache too much for more than fiddling around in the community garden. While there are supplements for joint issues, most of them cost more than I'm currently willing to spend. Besides, collagen can be derived from some of my favored meat sources- chicken, beef, fish. Simmering bones and connective tissue provides a tasty



additive to meals that no capsule can compete with. Still, adding the supplement in reduced doses wouldn't hurt unless I started relying on the supplement exclusively- which, being lazy, I'd probably end up doing.

Losing fifty pounds wouldn't hurt the joints, but that isn't going to happen short of me being unable to cook and feed myself. When I look into supplements that might aid weight loss the information is conflicting, as it usually is with most herbal treatments. Of the several offerings on the Piping Rock website apple cider and brown seaweed capsules are the most attractive, being pronounceable and less expensive than some of the other suggestions for weight loss. Cost and the DW loathing the odor of vinegar have to be included in all my calculations.

I can't get the DW to even taste switchel (haymakers punch) a vinegar concoction that has become the go-to "pick-me-up" among my clans older working members. The sisters easily peel and chop ginger root before steeping it in hot water for an hour or so.

After draining the liquor they combine it with honey and raw vinegar. Diluted with water to taste, it can either be used during a day of physical labor or sipped as a replacement for soda pop and the like. The best part of the drink is the ease with which it can be altered to suit ones tastes as well as ones physical needs.

I suppose making a ginger beer for the DW (she loves the stuff) and getting her to swallow an apple cider vinegar capsule might gain her the benefits the rest of us are getting from switchel. I'll run that by her as I build my next Piping Rock order of new supplements to trial as I seek that elixir for a pain free, active old age.

Sheesh. I've become my mother. Or an aspect of her.

She once complained, "You kids got the worst attributes of both families! Bullheaded Englishmen and stubborn Germans."

Ah yep.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Watching the bugs...

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

We hear so much about pollinators. But exactly is a pollinator?

Pollinators are a reference to the insects, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that move pollen from one plant to another. This movement of pollen allows a plant to produce seeds. Without pollen, reproduction within a plant species would not be possible. To make pollination even more complicated, pollen can be moved from any plant and deposited, but the pollen needs to be within the same genus or sometimes plant family in order for the seed to develop within the flower.

Pollination doesn't just happen because of pollinators. Wind and water can also be effective in moving pollen from one flower to another, depending on the shape and location of the flower on a specific plant. And just to make it even more interesting, some pollinators can only collect pollen from certain plants. These pollinators are called specialists.

The best pollinator is the bee, which is why there has been so much concern about the decline of the native bees, as well as the problems of the honeybees. Our native bees as well as the honeybees are in decline, with different issues. Honeybees are affected by mites, stress from traveling hives, and insecticides; native bees' decline is mostly from habitat reduction, as well as pesticides.

But when considering the problems bees are having, the food source and how that food source is managed becomes a piece of the puzzle we all can contribute. Growing and managing plants that are available for these insects to gather their nectar and pollen to continue their species is an easy enough task that all of us can accomplish. The lack of the right plants, the less food for the insects. In addition, sometimes the plants that are available to the insects have pesticides on them, which is a killer for insects — many beneficials as well as the insects you don't want.

The term pollinators is sometimes used referring to the plants that attract the insects, which can

make things confusing when chatting with someone. However, the plants are actually termed as pollinator plants, not just pollinators. These are the plants that attract the beneficial insects. Research has been done on which plants attract the insects the best. The Xerces Society has a great library of lists for pollinator plants: www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/ and they aren't the only ones. All it takes is a quick google search and lots of information is available. That said, there is nothing like your own observations to realize what plants work best in your yard.

Today gardening preferences are moving toward environmental choices. This would include water quality, reduction in waste, and providing food sources and habitat for pollinators, along with other environmental goals. We are now gardening for our enjoyment while providing this habitat necessary to reach those goals. So what does all this mean?

If a person lives somewhere that has an outdoor space, then they can be a part of this movement. Start by learning more about the pollinators and what they are attracted to. If trees are too big for the space available, look at shrubs and perennials. There's lots that happen in the tree canopy, from caterpillars feeding on leaves to flying insects feeding on the nectar of the flowers. When looking at plants that attract our beneficial insects, perennials, trees and shrubs will



This carpenter bee is covered with pollen as she looks for nectar.

be listed.

Perennials are probably the easiest group to start with when considering plants. These can be put into containers, raised beds, mixed with vegetables, or in ornamental gardens. They are also the plant group that can be observed and viewed easily. Learning more about how these pollinators work and what plants they like the most will help as gardens are developed.

Questions like "what insects are attracted to tubular flowers?", or "what is eating the centers of the daisy-type flowers?", "what colors of flowers are attracting the most diverse group of insects?". When doing a google search on these questions, there's tons of information. It gives a perfect start to selecting the plants. Observing the activity on the plants will direct where to go next.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention native plants. When considering gardening for environmental purposes, native plant choices are almost synonymous. As consumers move closer and closer to this concept, native plants are becoming more available in the nursery industry. When reviewing lists for plants, native plants are typically what will be found on those lists. This is basically due to the fact that our native insects and plants have evolved with each other. Introducing plants from other parts of the world will not necessarily provide the food source needed for a particular insect that has evolved here. For instance, maybe the flower shape is wrong for the insect to reach.

Start making choices for the pollinators by following those lists that have already been developed. Observe what and when it is happening. As insects visit flowers, take notes. Identify the insect. Is it a good one? How is it feeding? Do you see any caterpillars? What kind? These observations will help to make better choices as movement is made towards environmental choices.

In addition to the pollinators, plants provide other support for environmental gardening purposes. Such support includes water quality, as mentioned above. Plants help filter surface water. By absorbing excess nutrients and slowing the flow of water as it runs off surfaces,

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THE MASTER GARDENER

the streams stay cleaner. Water picks up pollutants as it runs off roofs, driveways, roads and even fields. Plants are the front line of defense when cleaning the water. The deep roots provide soil structures that allow water to infiltrate through the soil as opposed to skimming along the top of the soil. Plants will also protect water by reducing erosion that the force of water creates.

Keeping water clean doesn't just happen if living by a stream or water source. When water falls, it ends up someplace. By using plants, specifically native plants, that water can percolate where it falls instead of running into drains that may dump into streams, collecting many pollutants along the way.

It's interesting to watch how water moves across the landscape. In our yard, as we develop planting areas to support the pollinators and slow down the movement of water, we have seen changes over the years. Wet areas may not be as wet anymore due to the increase in plant mate-

rial. Water flow changed as plant communities have developed. And the insects – what a show! Watching the activity of bees of different species buzzing around a Clethra shrub is like a live-action film! – Almost...Native plants not only provide that food source for our insects, but also provide a filter for water.

The hope is that as we become more informed about how our plant choices affect so many things in our environment, we realize our choices impact our earth for future generations. If we all watch, adjust, correct and continue what works on our bit of paradise we call our home then the future is bright for those coming behind us. The bees and insects will increase, the water will be cleaner, mammals, reptiles birds and amphibians will have places to live and eat. And we will continue to have diversity in our world.

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

Small Town Gardener

The rough & smooth of Mid-Atlantic gardening

Marianne Willburn

I can't remember which of the many gardening books I was reading the day I jubilantly came across the sentence, "If you can garden in the Mid-Atlantic you can garden anywhere." I have since seen the same statement applied to the Upper Midwest, The Plains, The Southwest...well, you get the picture. What gardener doesn't insist that they have it worst of all?

In many ways of course, we are blessed. We have a long growing season, and when friends in Denver are brushing the snow off the greenhouse door, we are well into the joys of spring's bounty. When our cousins in North Dakota have stocked and shut the root cellar for the season, we are still doing magical things with tomatoes. For your average gardener, the season lasts from April to October, and for triple A personalities with greenhouses and creativity, it can last longer than that.

Our blessings continue with average annual precipitation levels hovering around the 40-inch mark, and decent soil composition making up much of the region – a region which technically runs from as far north as New York state to just south of Norfolk, VA.

Yes, on the face of it, life should be made in the shade for a Mid-Atlantic gardener with a pocketful of seeds, a trowel, and a dream. But of course, that's not the whole, deceptive, story.

I admit I fell for the bait and switch. As a West Coast transplant with much time spent in the UK, I

was lured in by summer thunderstorms, Kew Garden-esque springs, green hedgerows, firefly summers, stone houses, and of course, a burgeoning wine industry.

From the outset, it looked like we had settled into the best of both my worlds. We could enjoy a sunny summer's day, experience a brief summer downpour, then finish enjoying the rest of the day knowing our rain barrels were filled and our BBQ wasn't ruined.

We could revel in the glory of deciduous spring in a way that those from our childhood homes in the Sierra Nevada mountains could not – experiencing full winter devastation to glorious spring awakening in two weeks flat.

And it was that last bit – as a gardener – that would fool me. The winter would erase any memory of the previous season's punishing heat, flying insects and dreaded humidity; and the frosted hedgerows and fields would make it clear that, wherever I was, it wasn't California. I started each season feeling I was back in a sweetly unfolding English spring.

Nope.

It took me a long time to realize that the USDA Zone map only concerned itself with just how bad winter was going to get in a neighborhood near me; NOT how winter hardy plants were going to survive Dante's Inferno in what passed for August in the Mid-Atlantic.

Year after year, I would begin the season with Delphinium and end it bitterly with crispy pots of lobelia, always certain that this particular season had been unusual...that this particular season had suffered from some sort of neglect on my part...that this particular season would be greatly improved next year.

A turning point for me came

several years ago, when I became friends with the [now late] garden author Pamela Harper – a British ex-pat gardener who lived and gardened on the coastal plains of Virginia for more than fifty years. One of her books, *Time-Tested Plants* (Timber Press, 2000), was a revelation to me, and helped me to start gardening for the climate I was experiencing, not the one that was being promised in the first two weeks of May.

Harper's vision matched my own. She wanted to grow the same plants I wanted to grow – but either had to substitute other, better suited species, or adapt via different cultivars. And she had fifty years of experience doing just that.

When it came to old English favorites like delphiniums, she contented herself with spire-like perennials such as *Erythrina herbacea* (Coral Bean) or enjoyed annual larkspur. Instead of watching traditional campanulas falter under intense heat, she grew *C. gargarica* instead and enjoyed a carpet of bloom in May and June.

Through her numerous examples, I slowly came to garden for a Mid-Atlantic climate. Which, while not without intense challenges and fluctuating seasons, is exceptionally satisfying when you're trying to grow your skills as a gardener.

Certainly I could do without the gnats, and if global weather patterns suddenly erased the humidity, I would not shed a single tear; but I have come to appreciate the wealth of water...the sunny skies...the hot summers that make roadside mullein come to life. I adore the many shades of green, and conversely enjoy the many shades of brown come winter. And autumn? Well autumn is a book unto itself around here, and is quite rightly envied in other parts of the world.

When you move, it takes time to establish what your new normal is. 23 years later, I think that the most interesting thing about the Mid-Atlantic is, there isn't one. That's the challenge. That's the fun.

Marianne is the author of Tropical Plants and How To Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She gardens from her home in Lovettsville, VA.

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PETS

My baby Loki has cancer

Jennifer Vanderau

You have no idea how difficult it was for me to type those five words.

Loki is my 7-year-old black cat who came to me when he was a kitten and he was so scared he hid in the basement for the longest time. I'll never forget the afternoon that I laid on the kitchen floor and waited for him to come to me while the Empire Strikes Back played in the other room. It took me two hours, but eventually, he poked his little head above the top step and hesitantly walked to me. Once he rubbed my chin, he just started purring.

He's my boy.
Well, a few weeks ago I noticed he was limping. I figured he must have done something stupid because of the way he runs around the house like a doofus. However, when I took a look at the leg he wasn't putting much of his weight on, I found a golf ball sized lump on his knee.

That's when the worry truly took root in my heart.

I got him to the vet and they x-rayed his leg and aspirated the lump and it was cancer.

I can't tell you how much I have cried in the last few weeks. I've been sick to my stomach and haven't been

sleeping much and it's been so rough.

The vet said amputation would be what she recommended, but he was apparently a holy terror in the x-ray room and because of that, they were unable to get an x-ray of his chest to see if the cancer had spread anywhere else.

The vet scheduled him to come back two days later for the amputation, when they said they would do the chest x-ray. If the x-ray showed cancer, the vet said euthanasia was really the better option.

You guys, I can't tell you what that did to me. I was in the shower the day after that and I just ugly cried. I mean really, really ugly.

He had just been running around and climbing chairs and acting like his idiotic self just days before they told me this. How in the world would I be able to euthanize him?

Again, ugly crying. I mean from deep in my gut ugly crying.

It turns out, thank all the deities from every religion, that the x-rays were clear. His bloodwork was good and his heart and lungs also sounded good, so his back, left leg was amputated.

He came home the same day and I've been trying to help him through the recovery.

I second guess myself almost every minute of the day. I just don't want

him to be in pain, but I don't want to overdose him either. He's a very proud cat – not one to be picked up and cuddled. He's very loving, but it's got to be on his terms.

I still haven't slept very well and my appetite is hit or miss.

Loki stays in my bedroom with me at night – I shut out the other cats because I don't want anything to happen to him – and every move he makes wakes me up and I have to check on him.

It's been such a roller coaster.

It dawned on me over the last few days that it's probably a good thing – for a number of reasons – that I never had a human child. I know after this experience I probably would have been in a locked ward before the child was out of diapers.

To the parents out there: I seriously don't know how you do it.

Overall, when I'm not locked in a constant swirl of worry and fear and grief and I can allow logic out for a second or two, I'm able to admit Loki has done remarkably well. His stitches came out last week and he's trying to jump on things he shouldn't, but he's always been a bit of a jerk, so that's not terribly surprising.

I've kind of renamed him Hop-Along because I can hear him coming when he walks around the house.

I still worry, though, because that's apparently my lifetime default, but I'm starting to feel a little better.

I'm also trying to work through the purpose of all this. Sometimes the bigger picture is a whole lot easier to see when you're not right in the middle of the tough times, but I'm going to put this in writing now because I think I need to own it. I don't have a significant other. I'm not married. I don't have children. There are days in my life when I speak to very few people.

My cats are the creatures who I see and speak to and touch every day in some fashion. Every, single day. They are a literal part of my daily existence and I have always known how much I love them, but I think this experience may have shown me how much I actually need them.

Because the thought of not having Loki in my life nearly stopped me in my tracks.

I'm not a total idiot – despite a whole lot of evidence in my life to the contrary – I know that the cancer could come back. I know that I may not be as lucky the next time around. I know that my cats won't be with me forever, but for now, Loki's still here and I plan on appreciating every, single second I have with him.

I do believe life is about gratitude and living in the moment and being happy with what you have.

And each second that I have with my new Hop-Along I will treasure with every beat of his and my heart.

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



Poncho is a happy guy who is true to his breed and has a great nose! Knowledge of the Coonhound breed is a plus for potential adopters. Poncho is about 2 years old and came into the shelter as a stray. He enjoys going on walks and heading out to the play yard for his "sniff time." Poncho does get over excited at times and will jump up on people. He is working on this habit, but he may be too much for small children due to this. An age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Poncho is also pretty vocal so close neighbors or apartment living would not be ideal. Do you have the right spot for Poncho? CVAS, 5051 Letterkenny Road West, Chambersburg.



Copper was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 3-year-old, Redbone coonhound who is incredibly handsome, but very energetic. Copper has never lived inside a house; with his previous family he lived in the barn with a kennel run. He will need someone that understands that he will need to learn what living in a home is all about. Copper does jump up when he's excited. He's also never been around children and may be too much for small ones, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. A knowledge of hounds would be best for his future family. Are you the right fit for Copper?



Rustic came into the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 4-year-old fellow who is super sweet, but can be shy. Rustic does eventually warm up to people, but it might take a little time. He would love to have his second chance soon. Could that be with you?

For more information about Poncho, Copper, and Rustic call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvas-pets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.



Loki

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PETS

Meet Angel

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

Right now at Frederick County Animal Control we have eight dogs who have been with us for approximately 100 days making them all longtime residents. While some need very specific types of homes and families which can make finding a forever home take a little bit longer, one dog many staff and volunteers are surprised to see on this list is Angel.

Angel is our friendly and fun-loving senior lab mix. It's not easy being the dog in the first kennel especially if you're not particularly fond of other dogs, but Angel does a great job as our greeter. She's calm and quiet and is a wonderful example of what a shelter dog can be. While Angel may seem like a couch potato in her kennel, this senior still loves to tear it up. Yes, cuddles are fun, but she's playful and loves to get her zoomie on too.

Angel is our go to dog for introducing new volunteers and day trip fosters to our program. Not only is she comfortable with most strangers, but she is also fairly well mannered. She walks nicely on leash, knows sit and down, and takes treats pretty gently. Angel does have one area of good man-



Angel

ners where she struggles though. It's those pesky polite greetings. She just gets so excited to see people that she can't keep those paws on the ground. We have been working with Angel on this and

will go over how to help her stay grounded with her new family.

Now you may be asking yourself how did a dog this awesome end up at FCAC. Well, Angel's family needed to move and their new home didn't allow pets so after having her for nearly her entire life they made the painful decision to let us find her a new family. Her former family reports that she rides well in the car and is used to vet care. She did well living in a home with children as young as four years old and while she isn't always a huge fan of other dogs, she didn't have a problem with their resident cat.

Angel does get regular ear cleanings to prevent ear infections and is allergic to poultry, but otherwise appears to be in good health.

Whether you're first-time dog owner or a seasoned dog mom or dad, Angel will certainly be a great addition to most any family. If you'd like to find out more about Angel and set up a time to meet her, please go to www.visitfcac.as.me to book an appointment.



Adopted from the shelter in 2015, Tank was returned due to his owner's health. He was nervous when he first arrived, but who could blame him after living with the same person for nine years? Once comfortable, Tank becomes more confident and is a sweet, laid-back guy. He shared his previous home with a dog, and shelter staff recommend him for families with kids of any age.



Quince is a confident, easy-going guy. In fact, he is in our greeter cage on the cat adoption floor. He curiously watches everyone that enters the room and hopes someone will stop by to pet him. Quince was found as a stray in Points of Rocks, but no one stopped by the shelter to reclaim him. Since arriving at the shelter he has been neutered, microchipped and brought up to date on routine vaccinations.



Zuel is a handsome, friendly fellow. At one and half years old, he is fully grown but small (46lbs) for a Siberian Husky. He enjoys playing fetch and is very athletic. In fact, he can scale fences, so his new owner will need to be able to keep him safely at home. Unfortunately, his owner left him with a friend and never returned. After six months, the friend could no longer care for Zuel, so he was turned into the shelter.



True to his breed, Odin exhibits many of the characteristics of a Coon Hound. He is energetic, vocal and enjoys tracking a scent. In fact, he was likely following his nose when he was found as a stray on Longmeadow Dr. in Frederick. Odin does know a few basic commands but could use some help on manners. His ideal family will have past dog experience and time to provide him daily exercise.

For more information about Tank, Quince, Zuel, or Odin call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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COUNTY NOTES

County Secures \$1.1 Million Grant to Expand Broadband along Home Stretch

Frederick County's Office of Broadband will receive \$1.1 million to help bring broadband service to rural homes. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development awarded a Fiscal Year 2024 grant to Frederick County as part of the State's Home Stretch – Difficult to Serve Properties program. The goal is to reduce the cost property owners must pay to bring wired broadband service to their houses. In rural areas, service providers often charge thousands of dollars to run fiber from the closest road to a house with a long driveway.

"Broadband service is essential in today's world," County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. "People need the Internet for school, to apply for jobs, and to telework. I'm incredibly proud of the work our Office of Broadband is doing to expand access to high-speed Internet to nearly all parts of Frederick County."

Since the Office of Broadband was formed in 2021, the three-person staff has secured an estimated \$20 million in grants. When all the programs are implemented, Frederick County will have service available to approximately 97% of households.

Households that may qualify for the Home Stretch program will receive a mailing from the Office of Broadband. Residents who do not receive a postcard may submit a survey to determine their eligibility. The survey can be found online at PublicInput.com/HomeStretch. Funding is limited. Money will

be distributed on a first-come basis.

Funding for Maryland's Home Stretch grants come from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Capital Projects Fund. Counties could apply for up to \$1.1 million, making Frederick County's grant amount the maximum possible.

To learn more about Frederick County's Office of Broadband, a part of the Division of Interagency Information Technologies, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Broadband.

Green Homes Program Launches to Help Create Energy-Efficient Households

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater announced the launch of a new initiative to assist residents who want to lower home energy costs and live more sustainably. The new Green Homes Program, managed by the Division of Energy and Environment, is open to all county residents. The project is funded by a nearly \$1 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program.

"These initiatives will contribute to making Frederick County a more energy-efficient, more resilient, and more inclusive community, by assuring that our work to reduce energy use and address climate change includes everyone," County Executive Fitzwater said. "By helping our ALICE households reduce their energy use, we not only help reduce green house gases, but we help families stretch their hard-earned dollars."

"I am thrilled that our work has garnered the support of the EPA and that

we are able to work with amazing community partners to give voice to and affect positive change for our community," said Tiara Lester, Sustainability Program Administrator in the Division of Energy and Environment. "Sustainability is for everyone, and together we can make that happen."

The Green Homes Program has three main components:

The Green Compass program provides Community Navigators to assist residents in finding, understanding, and benefiting from local, state, and federal programs and incentives that can help improve their home environment, lower energy costs, and live sustainably.

The Green Homes Challenge is a guide to sustainable living that provides participants with incentives and defined actions to support saving energy, making environmentally friendly choices, and using renewable energy.

The goal of our Green Partnerships is to ensure that all Frederick County residents can benefit from sustainable living. By working with local organizations and community stakeholders, we make "going green" more possible for underserved and overburdened communities.

Community partners include Mobilize Frederick, Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County, and the Asian American Center of Frederick. These organizations will help to build resilience, educate about air quality and climate, and engage community members. To learn more, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes.

Frederick County was one of 88 Environmental Justice grants awarded

nationally, and one of only four awarded in the D.C./Maryland/Virginia region.

County Office Of Economic Development Partners To Empower Local Businesses Through Mentorship Program

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development is delighted to announce its collaboration with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Maryland Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) for the 2024 Spring EmPOWER mentorship program. This joint effort is aimed at empowering traditionally underrepresented and small business owners in Frederick County by providing them with support and resources.

"We are incredibly excited about this partnership with the SBDC and MBOC for the EmPOWER mentorship program," said Lara Fritts, Director of the Frederick County Division of Economic Opportunity. "By leveraging our collective resources and expertise, we aim to provide Frederick County's small and underrepresented businesses with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive in today's competitive business landscape."

Through this partnership, the EmPOWER Mentorship Program will integrate renowned Pathways to Entrepreneurship Curriculum. Tailored to validate foundational concepts in entrepreneurship and small business management, this curriculum equips participants with the essential skills and knowledge necessary for entrepreneurial success. Mentees will be guided through

the business planning process, granted access to various resources, and given the opportunity to earn an Entrepreneurship and Small Business Certification.

"We are thrilled to join forces with the Frederick County Office of Economic Development for the EmPOWER mentorship program," stated Amy Yingling Regional Director of the SBDC. This collaboration represents our shared commitment to fostering inclusive economic development and supporting the growth of small businesses in Frederick County."

Administered by FCOED, the EmPOWER Mentorship Program is designed to cater to underrepresented business owners across different stages of business development. By addressing blind spots, offering fundamental business education, facilitating mentorship with local business leaders, and fostering camaraderie among participants, the program aims to provide a comprehensive support system. There are a total of 15 Frederick County small business owners participating in the six-week mentorship program, representing different industries in Frederick County.

The City of Frederick Department of Economic Development joined forces with FCOED as a Signature Sponsor of the EmPOWER Program, further enhancing services for underrepresented businesses. In addition, the Maryland Business Opportunity Center is the 2024 Spring mentorship sponsor.

For more information contact: Jodie Bollinger, Department Director, Frederick County Office of Economic Development 240-315-8678



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2023 Thurmont Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Thurmont Water System, PWSID #010-0023. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town's drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing, that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

PWSID #010-0023

Definitions of Abbreviations and

Terms used in this report:

- MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.
- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.
- TT Treatment Technique.
- NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.
- PPM Parts per Million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- PPB Parts per Billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- PPT Parts per Trillion or nanogram per liter or one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.
- pCi/L Picocuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.
- NA Not Applicable.
- ND Not Detected.
- MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.
- MRDLG Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.
- AL Action Level, The Concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	4	2.2-3.5	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Volatiles Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Trichloroethylene	2023	1	0-0.61	0	5	ppb	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	6/14/2021	0.3	0.3 - 0.3	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	6/14/2021	2.3	0-2.3	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination				
Highest single measurement	5 NTU	4 NTU	N	Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.				
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	1.0 NTU	100%	N					
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	1	0.9-1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Halocetic Acids (HAAS)	2023	2	0-4.71	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	15	2.57-27.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
NOTE: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2021	1.3	1.3	.24	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2021	0	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Unregulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	2023	40.2	3.72-40.2	N/A	N/A	ppt		Non-stick cookware, water resistant clothing, personal care items, firefighting foams.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2023	13.9	4.60-13.9	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2023	7.05	3.95-7.05	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	2023	3.51	2.05-3.51	N/A	N/A	ppt		

Information about lead in Drinking Water: Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Thurmont is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Town of Thurmont Water Superintendent Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313 for a list of laboratories in your area that provide water testing services. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information about PFAS: PFAS- or per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain-and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2023 ranged from 4.60-13.9 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentration from samples taken from our water system in 2023 ranged from 3.72-40.2 ppt. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx.

We at the Town of Thurmont Water Department work around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious resource, we ask you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water sources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Town Office, 615 E. Main Street.

HEALTH

Investing in compassionate surgical care

How Frederick Health combines expert, innovative surgical care with personal support and attention.

With a team of nearly 300 dedicated experts and 20 surgical care sites, Frederick Health is here to help this community thrive. These investments in surgical care make it possible for patients and their families to get back to enjoying Sunday drives, the great outdoors, or time with loved ones.

The decision to have surgery can produce strong emotions; nervous-

ness before surgery is common, and studies indicate that approximately 70% of patients experience anxiety associated with their procedures. However, it's not just the patient who experiences these emotions; their family members often feel the weight of it as well. That's why ensuring the patient and the family feel supported and heard throughout the process is important to a successful surgery.

Frederick Health sets the surgical standard with skilled providers, innovative procedures, and seamless care.

Here, surgical care is backed by a support team that provides unwavering dedication to guiding patients and their families during their healthcare journey. Last year alone, Frederick Health performed over 8,500 surgical procedures. At the core of these procedures - and a crucial part of recovery - is the personal attention, support, and communication each patient receives from the surgical team.

"No matter how many patients we may have, we are going to take

care of each of them with dignity and respect," said Patti Buckmaster, Director of Medical Surgical and Behavioral Health Services at Frederick Health.

The community can find comfort in knowing that Frederick Health helps patients get back to doing what they love. Buckmaster and the surgical team, who trust Frederick Health with their own healthcare, bring that positive mindset to their work. The surgical team at Frederick Health

comprises hundreds of experts dedicated to health and recovery. Regardless of whether the surgery is routine or complex, the team provides consistent and quality patient care.

"Our team has tens of thousands of hours of training in a wide range of care approaches," stated Buckmaster. "The experts at Frederick Health are always learning the newest and most innovative approaches to surgical care. On top of that, in the last few years, we've added several new specialty surgeries, hired world-class surgeons, expert surgical care professionals like Registered Nurses and Medical Assistants, and expanded our facilities to ensure that you are getting the best care possible."

Buckmaster says her team takes pride in their work.

"We live here in this community; we are your friends and neighbors. That connection is important to us; we bring our best clinical care to support our patients and their needs. We genuinely care about getting you better, and we have your back," Buckmaster stated.

"When we see our patients in the community thriving, that's satisfying and motivates us to bring the best care possible every day," she added.

One of Frederick Health's unique strengths is its deep, local ties; the healthcare system has been a pillar of the Frederick community for over 120 years. With over a century of experience, Frederick Health understands the importance of family involvement and communication during the process, recognizing that their support is integral to recovery.

"Family-patient coordination is so important. We know the patient is being taken care of, but we also want to care for the family. We adapt to each family's needs to keep them updated, informed, and reassured," said Buckmaster.

From the initial consultation to the procedure and post-operative recovery, each patient receives personalized care tailored to their needs. This includes clear communication channels, pre- and post-operative education, and seamlessly coordinated care. Patients and families can also access emotional support resources to feel more confident and supported throughout the process.

Buckmaster adds that the emphasis on keeping families involved in recovery has grown as the healthcare system expands.

"Families know each other way better than we do. Including the family in the process is so important. Our patients won't be okay if their families aren't okay," she said.

The community can trust Frederick Health to provide expert care to residents throughout their surgical care journey. As Frederick County grows, Frederick Health continues to invest in the future of healthcare delivery, ensuring access to expert providers, family-centered communication, and a seamless delivery of care.

Learn more about how surgical care can get you back by visiting www.wegetyouback.org.



Patti Buckmaster, Director of Medical Surgical and Behavioral Health Services at Frederick Health



Angela Daly, a Registered Nurse, comforting a patient



Emily Staley, a Registered Nurse, speaking to a patient and family member

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Judicial Soup

Claire Doll & Dolores Hans
MSMU Classes of 2024 & 2025

Shannon Bohrer, long-time contributor to the Emmitsburg News-Journal, recently wrote and published a debut novel, *Judicial Soup*. This novel is inspired by a career in law enforcement and an interest in criminal justice reform. The book examines several stories in which the innocent have been incarcerated.

The novel follows protagonist Heath Patrick Thomas, police officer in Georgetown, Washington D.C., in August 2010 and how he was wrongly accused of drunkenly and forcefully drawing his weapon. What follows is the judicial system failing to consider proper evidence in the case, resulting in a wrongful conviction of a crime that remains on his record to this day. Heath's reputation and credentials in law enforcement were greatly affected, and his career and the trajectory of his life was changed.

"Due to a series of mistakes, conflicts, and false information that melded together like ingredients in a soup, he was found guilty and lost his career," Shannon writes about the book. "What I saw unfold... was unlike anything I had experienced before."

Shannon Bohrer has over four decades of experience in law enforcement and has written countless articles in his field. Upon his retirement from the Maryland State Police, Shannon worked as an instructor for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and an administrator for the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions. Shannon has published dozens of articles, featured in publications such as F.B.I. Law Enforcement Bulletin and Police Marksman, and he writes for the monthly column, "Words From Winterbilt" in the Emmitsburg News-Journal.

"I knew there was bad police officers, I knew there were corrupt things. I never expected the court to be this bad," says Shannon

when reflecting on Heath's story. When he got permission to write the book, Shannon gathered the files from the attorney and began the process of synthesizing facts and sources to defend Heath's dignity. As the novel's draft progressed, similar cases in the news began to surface, including the wrongful killing of George Floyd in police custody; these instances only urged Shannon to publish *Judicial Soup* even more.

"I've learned so much while writing this book," says Shannon, "not just about the cop, but about the publishing process." A member of the Maryland Writer's Club, Shannon pitched his proposal for *Judicial Soup* and worked with an agent to publish the book. "I'm extremely lucky," he reflects. He explains that for most people, even those with amazing proposals, do not make it past the pitching stage for quite some time, maybe years upon years. This goes to show the vitality of this novel at this moment in our society.

Along with following protagonist Heath Patrick Thomas's journey, *Judicial Soup* also features chapters that summarize cases in which an innocent person has been found guilty of a crime and later exonerated. These true cases bring to light the life- and career-damaging instances where witness misidentification and prosecutorial misconduct occur too often. "Researching these cases of wrongful conviction was a learning experience in and of itself," Shannon writes regarding his book. "It was not hard; in fact, it was easy—too easy—to find cases of individuals who had been guilty of crimes they did not commit and then spent years incarcerated."

Shannon says that he anticipates possible reforms related to the book's message. "There's a lot of pressure to not report things," he says, recounting a story in *Judicial Soup* about a man who was wrongfully accused of murdering his wife and served 25 years in prison. Nearly three decades later, new evidence that was withheld was brought to light, reveal-



Shannon Bohrer, a retired State Police Officer and Words from Winterbilt commentary columnist, is now a published author!

ing that the husband was not the killer, and instead reporting that similar murders had happened relating to this case. Shannon's decision to put a case following every chapter is rather prudent towards his readers' understanding of how urgent a cause this is. "When you read the book, my intent is that at first, you're a little confused. After a while, you're annoyed. And when you're about two-thirds through the book, you're mad," he explains. "This could happen to anyone."

Judicial Soup has received preliminary reviews prior to its publication. One reader from Houston, Texas says, "I found myself constantly reading, anticipating the next revelation in the history of the case. I read the entire book in three days. It draws you into the story and

makes it impossible to put down." Another reviewer, more local to the area from Frederick, Maryland, says the novel is "a truly insightful look at a serious miscarriage in justice, backed up with relevant anecdotes and terrific historical quotes providing food for thought." Another reader says, "I never learned so much about the judicial system from one source. If you believe in the system, or even if you don't, you should read this book."

"I don't know if I would have done this if you told me it took ten years," says Shannon, reflecting on the process. Shannon ultimately embraced the difficulty of writing and publishing a novel, describing it as "challenging, but doable." By addressing the crack in foundation and how the judicial system is fail-

ing, Shannon defends the lives of the innocent affected by this crisis.

Shannon has been married to his wife Susanne for 51 years and resides in Frederick, Maryland. In addition to writing, he enjoys spending time with his wife and horses, as well as pursuing hobbies such as reading, traveling, and continuing education.

Judicial Soup was released on May 7th and is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other fine bookstores. It is Shannon Bohrer's debut novel following an entire career in law enforcement and investigation. This novel comes highly recommended, as both an intriguing story you can't put down, and a collection of vital and discomforting information that will make you think.



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HISTORY

The Contralto

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

Chapter 2
Continued from last month

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

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

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

"Did he throw you?"

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

"Did he drag you?" dismounting.

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

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

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

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

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

"Nonsense!" laughing and bringing the horse nearer, "come, up you go."

She attempted to rise but, the effort causing her pain, would have fallen had not his arm caught her round the waist.

"Just a moment," he pleaded; then lifted her bodily into the saddle. As he adjusted the stirrups he looked up and there was a defiant gaze in her eyes. When all was ready he told her to proceed, instructing her as to the methods of handling the horse, and stepped aside.

"I would prefer you to walk near him," she said, "my nerves are a little shaken."

"Just as you wish," taking his place at her right stirrup, telling the horse to be good, and the girl that this was the first time the "Admiral" ever had the honor of carrying a woman. The ride was a very quiet one, she sitting the horse and looking straight ahead, he, at first having endeavored to make conversation, joking about the mishap, inquiring every few steps about her ankle, found this one-sided, and relapsed into silence. Before entering Main Street, however, the girl pulled the horse up saying:

"This will be the talk of the town."

"What, my picking you up when you had sprained your ankle? If they be so sorely in need of matter for gossip, I consider myself a benefactor in supplying it."

"Oh! you don't understand," she returned with anxiety.

"Perhaps I don't; could you enlighten me? I don't see the least impropriety in not leaving you to bleach your bones on the mountain road, " smiling at his mock heroics.

"Well, I don't care what they say," starting the horse defiantly.

"Thank you; I am glad you are not going to rob the Good Samaritan of his halo."

Turning into the village they could hear windows being raised, suppressed calls of warning from house to house. Emmitsburg, awakened to a new sensation, was enjoying it to the full. The Professor bowed from side to side as he recognized acquaintances, but the girl

sat the horse with the posture of Jeanne D'Arc facing her God-inspired mission. Near the Square stood a group of people, a man holding a restive horse. A tall, light-haired, young woman stepped from the sidewalk inquiring:

"Are you hurt, dear?"

"Just a twisted ankle."

"I caught him before he got to the house," said the man with the horse, "I didn't want him to frighten your mother to death."

"Thank you, Tom; now I shall change and ride him home."

"Oh, Marion, dear! please don't get on that beast again, he will kill you," pleaded the light-haired girl.

"Better not Miss Marion," advised Tom, "he's pretty nervous."

"Let the Professor ride him," suggested one of the group, "you stay where you are."

Without comment the Professor took the bridle from Tom Greavy and vaulted into the saddle. The horse cavorted about the Square for a while, but realizing there was more than a woman's hand in control, submitted gracefully, allowing himself to be guided alongside the other, and the two moved down the street at a decorous pace.

At a large house near the lower end of the girl announced simply: "This is where I live, " turned in the gate, followed by her companion.

A tall woman in middle life, showing marked evidences of refinement, opened the door as the young woman slid from the Admiral's back: "What is the matter, Marion, are you hurt, child?"

"No, mumma dear, the Professor and I have been swapping horses," but noticing the look of reproof on her mother's face, quickly added, "I twisted my ankle and this gentleman rescued me."

"I am exceedingly grateful to you sir," bowing, "won't you come in?"

Looking at the girl who had sunk into a chair, and thinking he saw an appeal in her eyes, he swung from the saddle just as an old man came from the stable to lead



It's hard to imagine, but, at one time, a person in a horse and buggy could take a leisurely ride down Main Street. Oh, the good old days...

her horse away. Tying his own to a post, he mounted the steps:

"Had I not better get a doctor?" he asked. "Yes," said the mother hastily, "what am I thinking of?"

"No, mumma dear, the sprain is nothing serious, I shall be well in a day or two, " but the expression of pain on her face negated her optimism.

"I shall telephone for Doctor Brawner at once," declared the mother, hurrying into the house.

"I dislike that old fellow, he is a mollycoddle."

"You require his orthopedic skill just now, so you must tolerate his shortcomings. Will you take my arm and allow me to help you into the house?"

The girl tried to rise, but sank back with a tearful laugh. Without a word he picked her up, carried her into the house, placing her in a chair and putting another as a rest for her injured limb, then without a by-your-leave began to unstrap the riding-boot. The shoe removed, he felt the ankle professionally, remarking that it was swollen greatly. Looking at the young lady on whose face there was a shade of embarrassment, he reddened in turn.

"Pardon my impulsiveness," he

begged, "I have had some experience with injured members, and my anxiety got the better of my respect for the proprieties."

"I wasn't thinking of that," she said, again blushing as her mother entered the room.

The doctor would be here in a minute, so the Professor took his leave after asking permission to call again. Riding up the street he was the object of black looks from Mrs. Neck, who trundled her perambulator along the sidewalk.

Chapter 3

Seated that evening on the piazza of the rectory which overlooks the valley to the west, the Professor narrated such of the day's events as he thought would interest the Rector. When asked the young lady's name he realized he had not learned it, and proceeded to give a description of her physical appearance, which caused the Parson to lift his eyebrows in astonishment at its eloquent minuteness. His picturing powers were loosened as under a stimulant.

"It must be Marion Tyson," declared the Rector, "and a very fine girl she is."

"She lives in that large Queen Ann cot-



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HISTORY



The old Bennet Tyson house on East Main Street

tage at the lower end of Main Street.”

“Yes, that is the Tyson’s; Marion and her mother Anna reside there; the father, John is a Government contractor in Washington.”

“They struck me as above the level of Emmitsburg.”

“They are, and consequently the object of much envious gossip.”

“That explains her diffidence in accepting my aid, she said the people would talk.”

“It’s strange she admitted the idea for Marion is very independent and seldom consults the whims of her neighbors. She ought to be more careful, though, about horses, she has met with several accidents.”

“The horse is gentle enough, but unaccustomed to motors, especially freighted with a crowd of yelling hoodlums who imagine they rule the county.”

“I have spoken to Father Flynn about that, but young George, Judge Motter’s son owns it, hence his immunity from criticism.”

“Some irate farmer will fill him full of buckshot yet,” airily; then, “I say Governor, who was the tall, light-haired, willowy girl who spoke to Miss Tyson at the Square?”

“I should say from your description that it was Miss Seabold, a great friend of Marion. But do you know, Harry, you impress me as unusually interested in the ladies?”

“Homo sum, nihil humanum alienum me ease pub.”

“And once that human begins to appeal in its female form science and philosophy become as ashes in the mouth,” a remark which showed the Parson was wise in his generation.

After a few puffs of his cigar the Rector said, “Mr. Isaac Annan called here this afternoon.”

“Mr. Isaac Annan? Oh, that cad I threatened to lick,” the old anger blazing up. “Was he desirous of a personal encounter?”

“I hardly think so, in fact I should say he was decidedly meek.”

“I made a fool of myself this morning, Governor,” quickly contrite. “I want to apologize for it, I am getting you into difficulties by my hot-headedness.”

“Don’t worry about me, my boy, and the more occasions you find to make a fool of yourself as you did this morning the better. I have been aware of that poker game for some time, and

have endeavored by talking to make Elder stop it; your threat regarding Annan’s carcass has been more effective than all my preaching.”

Emmitsburg received its latest sensation in various ways, expressing judgments according to the bias of the juries. At Peter’s the general verdict was that the Professor was a brick, though Dr. Brawner opined Marion Tyson was wiser than most people gave her credit for, admitting, however, she had a rather severe sprain.

At the Dentist’s house, Miss Lansinger declared it was all a put up job on Marion’s part to become acquainted with the Stranger, while dainty Mrs. Forman avowed that she was somewhat unconventional. Dr. Forman, himself, wanted to know if the Professor was to leave the girl on the road to die.

But the clash of opinions threw off most vivid sparks at a meeting in Mrs. Martha Hopp’s kitchen. Mrs. Neck could hardly take time to do her dishes, leave her youngest in care of her husband, and get over to discover what defense the Holy Terror had for the Tyson girl now. She had always extenuated Marion’s supposed scandals, even when she was dismissed from the Academy, but the custodian of morals felt her arraignment would in the pres-

ent instance be too strong for any other verdict than guilty. Walking into the kitchen she exclaimed shrilly:

“I suppose you have heard it!”
“God Almighty! heard what?” snapped Mrs. Hopp, and anyone not deafened by the emotions of an outraged moral sense, would have known from her tone that she was fully cognizant of the startling affair.

Mrs. Neck, heeding on: “Marion Tyson rode the Professor’s horse down Main Street this afternoon and they say pretended to have a sprained ankle just to make his acquaintance.”

“God Almighty! Marion made that skittish beast of her’s run away I suppose, and the Professor ought to have left her on the road to die and the crows of this pick her bones and all because the tongues in town are hung in the middle and clack at both ends and some people can’t mind their own business and, bah!”—the peroration of Mrs. Hopp’s speech was lost in a generous infusion of snuff.

“Well, I don’t care, she is a brawn thing and it’s just like her to take up a flirtation with that fellow and bring a bad name on this town.”

“God Almighty! Mary, if any woman could break her neck after a man the way you did after that poor galoot Joe Neck, I’d like to know.”

This argumentum ad hominem served to check Mrs. Neck in her flow of moral indignation and caused her to take another tack. She came back at her adversary with: “Don’t swear so, Mrs. Hopp, and you such a church member.”

“God Almighty! woman, I ain’t swearing, and as for my being a church member, I don’t go half as much as you do, and when I go, I do it to worship God and not to find something to tell about my neighbors.”

Mrs. Neck felt her grievance against Marion and the Professor intensified by this encounter with the Holy Terror and declared that she would never darken her door again, to which the latter retorted something about good riddance. Wending her weary way home, she poured out her grief to her husband, who held the position of cowman at the Academy. He felt bound to say something to assuage the sorrow of his much moved wife.

“Don’t take it to heart so, Mary. Mrs. Hopp’s getting on in years and she does think a heap of Marion.”

“Well, that don’t give her the right to insult me, one of her oldest and best friends, and you mark my words that Professor don’t mean good to the young girls of this town.”

“Oh! I don’t know, Mary, the men think he’s a all-right feller.”

“Joe Neck! even you turn against me,” she screamed and snatching the baby from him rushed into the best room, slammed the door and gave way to a paroxysm of grief. Joe, taking his hat, went down to meet the evening train.

In the large house at the end of Main Street sat Marion, her ankle, pHoppd on a chair, stinging from Dr. Brawner’s lini-

ment applications, reciting to her mother the details of the afternoon’s adventure. She was almost ecstatic in her admiration of the Professor’s horsemanship, telling how with a few deft movements he had made the fiery Prince do just as he wished. Every item of his appearance was discussed, his manner of wearing his cap commented upon as a possible index of his disposition. His age was guessed at, inquiry instituted as to why his hair should be turning grey. Had her mother noticed what beautiful blue eyes were hidden behind the thick lenses of his glasses, and how did he manage to wear pince-nez when riding?

“Don’t you think him handsome, mumma?” “Yes, dear, and good, too.”

“Of course, he is good,” defiantly as though there were question in her mother’s declaration. “We must invite him to dinner as soon as we become better acquainted.”

On their tete-a-tete broke Mrs. Hopp. No lines of social demarcation existed for the Holy Terror. Others might draw and respect them but not she. Mrs. Hopp passed at her own sweet will from upper to lower crusts of Emmitsburg society without let or hindrance, never giving much information to one set about the business of the other. With a bottle of her five-year-old wine under her arm she bounced into the room, kissing mother and daughter in turn, risking the upsetting of the count in stitches of the one’s knitting, and the other’s balance in her chair.

“God Almighty! child are you hurt?”

“Only a sprain,” answered the girl, recovering her equipoise.

continued next month



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

June 6

Decoration Day Services

Harney's Decoration Day services were held last Saturday evening. Quite a large crowd of people were present, and being unable to secure a band for the evening the parade was not as large as in previous year; but the young people and children are to be congratulated on the interest they showed in taking part in the parade and placing flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes. While we will admit that the march was not quite up to our standards, this slight defect was more than made up at the service in the church. Good music was provided by the choir, but most notably of all was the address, delivered by Reverend Ritter, of the United Brethren Church.

The Decoration Day exercises in Taneytown were well attended by large numbers of people, but the parade feature is growing smaller each year. Those who should show their interest in keeping alive the significance of the Day seem to prefer doing so without much exertion on their part, as though "parading" is beneath their dignity. Sometimes it is worthwhile to do things that seem common, in order to emphasize greater things.

War College Camps In Full Action

The presence of the War College camp was enlivened this week by the presence in the air, of many airplanes, humming busily in almost all directions, said to number from 15 to 18, and operating largely between Walkersville and Gettysburg.

There are 12 camps between Gettysburg and Washington, and the work is being done by perhaps 300 officers, ranking from lieutenant to colonel. The whole scheme represents a make-believe battlefield, selected because its similarity in typography too an actual scene of war in the future.

The work includes Signal Corps communication, and theoretical maneuvering into positions determine upon by staff officers from headquarters in Gettysburg, immediately opposite the entrance to the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The Signal Corps has stretched miles of field, telephone wire, and First Army headquarters, Walkersville, has been kept

in touch with the movements of the troops. Couriers make use of airplanes, motorcycles, and automobiles. About 25 airplanes are scattered over eight bases. The main aviation field is near Walkersville, where 20 Plains are in use.

The camps have been quite attractive for visitors, who, however, do not gain a great deal of information, except in a very general way as the whole plan represents a school for students, and not a spectacular display for the benefit of the public. It is not a drill proposition, but one of actual inside schoolwork, largely of a private character.

The maneuvering is to educate officers in men in the management and movement of troops in time of war. Orders are sent by telephone, radio and courier to the different bodies of men, and reports are received and tabulated daily by umpires, who decide whether the army has advanced or been driven back.

For the past 10 days local persons were given an opportunity to witness all sorts of aerial stunts by the army flyers and mimic battles were fought in the clouds.

The maneuvers will last through tomorrow and will conclude with a critique in which all the officers will participate.

Wife Asks To Whip Husband

That she be permitted to perform for the Sheriff the duty of applying the lash to the back of her husband, Louis Longbeam, upon whom Justice Bower Monday, imposed a sentence of 15 lashes, was the request made by Mary Longbeam.

"Please let me whip him; I'll stand on my toes and cut the blood out of his back," Mrs. Longbeam told Justice Bower, as she begged to be allowed to wield the cat-o-nine tails Monday afternoon.

Unless Longbeam appeals the decision of Justice Bower or some unforeseen incident arises, the Sheriff will inflict the punishment sometime today. Person sentence to undergo this form of punishment are first examined by the jail physician. They are then cuffed to bars at the jail and strip to the waist. The lash is then applied.

Longbeam was arrested Sunday evening after his wife said that he had beaten her. Yesterday morning, Mrs. Longbeam testified that her husband struck

her in the eye, inflicting a painful cut and breaking her eyeglasses.

Father Sees Son Killed In Mishap

Robert Holt, aged 25, was killed Wednesday evening at Creagerstown when a freight train on the Western Maryland Railroad backed into the car in which he was working unloading stones. The impact sent the car Holt was working in back a short distance. Young Holt immediately caught hold of the break wire of the car, but lost his grip and he fell into the pocket of the car and was buried under a load of stones.

He was pulled from under the load and rushed to the Frederick hospital, but died in route from the internal injuries. The accident was witnessed by his father, and one of his brothers, who were also unloading stone from the same car into a truck. Another employee on the car at the time escaped unhurt.

June 13

A Great Radio Demonstration

The greatest of radio performances was given its first big demonstration this week, in carrying the proceedings of the Republican National Convention, at Cleveland. The proceedings were sent out by 14 broadcasting stations, covering every section of the United States so that listeners in almost every part of the country could hear, word-by-word, the detailed proceedings of the convention, and the noise of the applause and many of the individual voices participating in remarks and expressions.

It was a wonderful boost for radio. In hundreds of newspaper offices, stenographic notes were taken from radios, instead of from telegraph reports. Thereby placing the small papers on equal footing with larger ones who could maintain special correspondents at the convention who could report on private wires at great cost.

In addition, hundreds owning strong radio sets were connected by the use of open telephone lines to thousands of homes not owning radios. The loud-speaking horns making the sounds as audible almost as though spoken directly into the transmitter of the phones.

Firemen's Carnival!

THE TANEYTOWN FIRE CO. will hold a Carnival on the lot of H. T. Spangler, at the East End of Taneytown,

Monday to Saturday, June 16 to 21, 1924

Refreshments of various kinds will be served. The attractions include a Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wheel, Punch and Judy Show, and many other attractions.

The Taneytown Band

will furnish Music.

MONDAY—Children's Night—all rides half price to children.
TUESDAY—Community Night.
WEDNESDAY—Ladies' Night—prizes given to the most popular lady.
THURSDAY—Home-coming Night.
FRIDAY—Baby Night—three prizes will be given.
SATURDAY—Everybody's Night.

The Company has started a fund for the purchase of a

NEW FIRE TRUCK

Let Everyone Come Out and Help, as the Benefit will be for Everybody.

Talk Up the Big Carnival!
June 16th to 21st.

School House Condemned

William Eline, hired by the Board of Education to inspect the Taneytown Public School building, revealed the following conditions:

"I found the southeast corner in a very dangerous condition, in that the foundation was sinking and corner going down. The only remedy for this is to tear this corner completely out and rebuild it on a solid bottom. The east end of the building is bulging out of line more than 5 inches, and other parts of the walls have cracks that run from top to bottom. These faults are due, primarily to the building not being properly bound, and to a weak foundation in spots.

"The floor was found to be in a very shaky condition. The remedy would be to reinforce with steel bolted to the joist. This would require the relaying of all floors. The building is neither properly lighted, nor ventilated.

"The walls of the first story in the rear are not safe to carry the load of the upper story, which accounts for the fact that there is a leakage in the roof that cannot be permanently repaired. I found upon examination of the basement that it seems to be

constructed of a very temporary bottom that may give away suddenly.

"The cost of the above repairs, and reconstruction, which will make this building entirely safe and sound in all particulars, will not in my judgment cost less than in the neighborhood of \$9,000. It is my judgment that it would be poor business for the Board of Education to recommend the above repairs to this building as a permanent structure, and that it would be better to discard it entirely and build a new building. I hesitate to recommend this building, in its present condition, as safe in which to house children any longer.

Following the issuance of the report, the Board of Education visited the school to examine it for itself. While they seemed to think it looks pretty good, they appeared to have decided to have another inspector examine it and report on its safety before they render a final decision as to what they will do in the matter.

Fruit Shortage May Be A Godsend

The apple crop in Adams County will be from 60 to 70% of last year. The decrease in the production may be a blessing rather than a curse, and the prospects for



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

a profit on the crops are perhaps better than any previous year.

These opinions were advanced by Chester Tyson, of Flora Dale, one of the leading apple growers of the County. "The apple situation today in Adams County is none too good," Mr. Tyson said. The crop is decidedly below expectations," he said.

"There have been other seasons, when there has been more rainy and colder weather, than this year, which have still come through with better crops than the present year indicates. The odd part of the local situation is that one man, with an orchard, not in especially good condition, will have a good crop of fruit, while the man, with the orchard next to him, which has been exceptionally well kept, will have a poor yield. That is what is puzzling many of the growers."

Mr. Tyson said the probable cause of the unusual condition could be that some orchards in the County are blighted by black scab and cedar rust.

Mr. Tyson said "the outlook for other fruits is not any brighter than for apples and the economic laws of supply and demand, will work to the advantage of the growers this year, and the additional price fruit will bring in will more than make up for reduced size of the crop."

Mr. Tyson emphasized the importance of the work being carried on by the Extension Research Laboratory in Arendtsville. There, one expert is studying insects, and another plant diseases. Farmers and fruit growers benefit from their findings and advice. "The County is indeed fortunate in obtaining the information available there." Mr. Tyson said.

June 20

Is Advertising Killing Newspapers?

We read a lengthy article the other day about advertising killing local newspapers – by padding them to overflowing with the most overshadowing form of advertising and taking readers eyes off the written words in articles.

The subject is pertinent to several lines of argument relative to the influence of advertising on the honesty and dependency of the press relative to its influence on public sentiment. The average reader, perhaps, resents bulky newspapers, made so by advertising. The average reader wants to get at the news, in readable shape, without being forced to hunt it out of the many sectioned 'poster pages', and is ready with

the opinion that there is "nothing in" the papers anymore, but advertising.

But, this objection – aggravating as it may appear – is the least, so far as advertising is concerned. The thing that really counts, is, that newspapers may be influenced, in what we call their editorial policy, by advertising patronage – the revenue from it – not only as relates to the daily opinion, formulated in the editorials, but in the selection and prominence, given to news articles, and how the current news of the day is presented.

It is as much an editorial policy to feature – for instance – the failure of prohibition, and minimize the benefits of it, as though openly wet editorials are written. Readers are influenced, perhaps more by "the news", then by carefully stated editorial opinions. What happens impresses itself more on the average mind, then on some writer's opinion. So, we must look into the make-up of a paper, more than to its editorial page, to find out the influence the paper is emphasizing.

Perhaps, after all, notwithstanding the cost of advertising, it is still too cheap. It might result in more readers, and more popular newspapers – if the cost of advertising space was doubled or tripled in order to cut it down, on account of the high cost. Smaller and better newspapers are demanded by readers, pretty generally, and perhaps advertisers would be fully well off by using less space.

Truck Falls Into Creek

Restler Smith, 32, of Pen Mar, was killed instantly Sunday morning when the truck in which he was riding, struck the bridge over Miney Branch Creek near Zora, and toppled into the Creek, pinning him under 2 feet of water. Oliver Stottlemeyer, 36, of Cascade, driver of the machine, was also caught in the wreckage, but managed to keep his head out of the water until he was rescued.

After hitting the bridge, the truck left the road and went over the embankment and dropped 15 feet to the bed of the stream, upsetting in its fall. A box in the rear of the truck struck Mr. Smith in the head killing him instantly.

According to Stottlemeyer's testimony, he was driving about 20 miles an hour. Just before crossing the bridge, which is situated at the foot of a slight grade, the road makes a sharp turn. Stottlemeyer declared that Smith grab the steering wheel as the machine went around the curve, and the next thing he knew he was in the water calling for help.

While Stottlemeyer was exonerated from all blame in connection with Smith's death by the coroner jury, the State Police who made an investigation of the accident, said that Stottlemeyer would be arrested for manslaughter and operating a motor vehicle, under the influence of intoxicating liquors.

At the coroner's inquest, however, Stottlemeyer declared he had not been drinking, and that he had never drank liquor. He testified that he didn't know if Smith drank, or if he had been drinking before starting the trip.

Clarence McLean, who lives near the scene of the accident, was the first person to reach the truck after it catapulted over the side of the bridge. In testimony given before the coroner's jury, he said he heard a car go past his home at a pretty good gate, which he fixed at about 30 miles an hour.

"I was getting out of bed when my wife called to me that a car had gone over the bridge," McLean declared. "I ran down to the bridge and found Smith under the car, with blood coming out of his mouth. Stottlemeyer was fast under the truck, but his head was sticking out of the water, and he could talk.

"Ralph Stately came along, and we got Stottlemeyer out. Smith's head was underwater, and he looked as though he was dead."

Taneytown Carnival Well Attended

The Taneytown Fireman's Carnival has attracted reasonably large crowds all week and will close on Saturday night. The Emmitsburg and Westminster fire trucks, with visitors from both places, attended the carnival on Thursday night.

Fairfield Bank To Open June 25

The new and enlarged home of the Fairfield National Bank will open for business next Wednesday morning, with a reception to be held for the general public and officers and Directors of all other banks in Adams County on Tuesday evening, June 24.

The new bank is located on Main Street, about one block from its present structure, where the institution has been located since inception 15 years ago. Although small, the new bank is complete in every detail and embodies many of the features of banks, much larger. The building, of brick construction, is 32 feet wide, with a depth of 48 feet.

The main banking room, vault and

customer rooms occupy the front part of the building, which is two stories high. On the second floor, in the rear of the building, is the director's room, properly appointed with mahogany furniture. Mahogany is used throughout the woodwork on the main banking floor.

The vault has 18 inch concrete walls, reinforced with steel, and it said to be fire and burglarproof. There is a burglarproof door on the vault, being of steel, 8 inches thick. The bank is equipped with a state of the art burglar alarm system. The system is so arranged that persons endeavoring to drill through any portion of the vault, enter the doors or any of the windows will immediately set off an alarm bell located on the outside of the bank.

Fireman's Picnic Planning Underway

Plans are underway for the annual Emmitsburg Fireman's picnic on the Fourth of July. A committee has been appointed by the Vigilant Hose Company and has been busy in arranging details that will be in keeping with a real old time of years ago when the Fourth of July annual picnic was a attended by people for miles around. The committee this year realizing the sentiment desiring an old time celebration, will try to have features and attractions that will meet with the approval of all.

June 27

46 Shots Removed From Back

Shot in the back as he was trying to enter the store of George Miller, in Fountain Dale, Sunday night, John Parish, 45, was brought to the Adams County Jail after 46 buck shots pellets, had been removed by Dr. Henderson in Fairfield.

Powers, according to the authorities, will be charged with attempted burglary. Miller was released on his own recognizance, pending investigation of the shooting.

According to Miller, Miller had become suspicious of Parish's action in and around his store at Fountain Dale, and decided to watch him Sun-

day night after closing his place of business for the day.

Between 9:30 and 10 o'clock that night, as he watched the store from a darkened window of his home about 50 feet away, he saw a man's figure moving around the store trying to doors and windows, as though endeavoring to affect his entrance.

Miller leveled his shotgun on the would-be intruder and fired, most of the shot taken effect on Parish's back. Parish fell over and started moaning, while Miller ran out to investigate.

By the time the State Police arrived at Fountain Dale, Miller had taken the wounded man to the office of Dr. Henderson in Fairfield, who removed 46 buckshots from Parish's back, but seven or eight were so deeply embedded in the flesh that he was unable to extract them.

After having been given necessary medical attention, Parish was brought by the State police to the County jail.

Telephone Rates To Increase

The C&P Telephone Co. has issued a detailed statement in which is covered the reasons for the increase in rates to subscribers, the first part of which relates to the total investment of the company in equipment, with gross revenues and expenses covered the past five years, showing a rate of return of 5% on an investment of \$27,587,000.

The average investment in each telephone in Maryland is given as \$202, an increase in five years from \$151; and the increase in cost of construction and materials as almost 100% more than in 1918.

In general, the rates will be increased as follows:

For Business – the monthly cost of an individual line will increase from \$3.50 to \$3.75. The cost of a four-party line will increase from \$2.50 to \$3.

For residences - the monthly cost of an individual line will increase from \$2.75 to \$3. The cost of a four-party line will increase from \$1.75 to \$2.

The cost for rural party lines will increase from \$1.50 to \$1.75/month.

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

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CARROLL VALLEY HISTORY

Gary Sanders' memories of early Carroll Valley

Kathy Megyeri

No other name is as closely associated with Carroll Valley's roads and infrastructure development than Gary Sanders. Gary, 71, has lived on Tract Road for 45 years, and he describes his home as being "in the woods." He started his career as an excavating contractor at the age of 24 and sold his business five years ago. Despite this, he continues to haul

firewood and gravel to this day. As a result, he is familiar with most of us through our driveways.

Gary was born and raised on Sanders Road, which was named after his grandfather. His dad's farm was the first one purchased by Charlie Rist to develop a recreational area, attract home buyers, and sell lots in the area. Most of the ski slopes and part of the current golf course came from the Sanders



Gary Sanders removing snow from Mile Trail on February 20, 1977.



The Fairfield Lions Club recognized students of the Class of 2024 that have demonstrated qualities that align with Lions Club values. Senior students are nominated by the faculty of the High School. This year's recipients were: Taylor Devilbiss, Matthew Fawley, Audrey Chesko, Carson Murdorf, Kylie Mirable, Jayden Baker & Christina Hamilton, (missing Avry Petrakos).

farm, which reached the top of the mountain.

After being drafted, Gary served in the Army's First Cavalry at Ft. Hood, Texas. His unit was fortunate not to be deployed to Vietnam, as his Captain needed truck drivers for field exercises. This stroke of luck allowed Gary to return to his beloved Fairfield, which he has since made his home and the foundation for his life's work.

Ski Liberty acquired the back side of the mountain in the early 1980s, 20 years after the front side was developed. Charlie Rist of Charnita, Inc. envisioned the golf course and ski area as the main attractions for selling lots in Carroll Valley. He developed Carroll Commons Lake, offering paddle boat rides, and the 20 acres where the municipal building now stands. Additionally, he constructed a mile-long horse racetrack, a building for seven jockeys, a viewing grandstand, and a stable for 50 horses that raced at Charles Town and Pimlico. Gary also served as a guide for people who rented horses to tour the area. However, the facility was eventually seized by the State of Pennsylvania for unpaid taxes and then sold to the Borough.

Gary has experienced all of Carroll Valley's changes first-hand. As a high school junior, he worked as a snowmaker at Charnita when it first

opened in 1964. He would work the evening shift from 3-12 and sometimes even the graveyard shift from 11-7 before going to school. In the summer, he bailed hay on the family farm. As an avid golfer, he was Charlie Rist's caddy and would dive into the lake after hours to retrieve golf balls to sell. He also worked at Charlie's house, which faced the lake. Gary recalls Charlie as a huge man, six feet eight inches tall, but very polite, friendly, and a natural promoter. To this day, Gary still has the original Charnita hat worn by his friend Dick Walters.

Gary has vivid memories of life in the valley, especially of family and class reunions in the park. He recalls participating in Policeman Gene Stahl's classes in the 1980s with his father to train local police officers in DUI cases. From 1977 to 1991, Gary worked as a Roadmaster and built all the gravel roads in the valley, which were later paved. His father worked for the Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA), where he was responsible for snow removal, filling potholes, mowing ditches, and graveling before eventually paving the roads.

In the 1970s, most homes in the valley were summer cottages, but in the 1980s and 90s, more homes were built by local contractors. Gary began his excavating career with only a shovel and rake and later converted a riding stable into the Carroll Valley Municipal Services Building. During the conversion, he found the badge

of Charnita's first ski instructor, Louis Sanchez. Gary's brother Dan has a photo of every farm in the valley. Gary intensely appreciates the area's topography and beauty, having excavated and hauled dirt in Carroll Valley for his entire life.

Gary hopes for the area's growth to slow down and stay safe, friendly, rural, and surrounded by beautiful mountains. When CVCA was active, there were fewer than 100 homes, and during his plowing in the K section, there were only five houses. Gary wishes to add his work boots and hat, labeled "Gary Sanders' Backhoe," to the time capsule planned for the upcoming 50th-year celebration.

Gary believes the anniversary is important for people to see all the changes that have taken place, especially the improvements in the municipal building. It's evident that Gary Sanders is responsible for much of the high quality of life Carroll Valley residents enjoy. Many residents, including myself, silently thank him for his work in excavating, back-hoeing, hauling gravel, and paving the roads. It's no wonder he knows people not by their names or faces but by the location of their driveways.

To read other articles on Carroll Valley history, visit the history section of Emmitsburg.net.



Ron & Pat Harris
of Carroll Valley
are celebrating their
60th Wedding Anniversary
June 9, 2024 at the
Carriage House Inn
Emmitsburg

They were united in marriage on June 6, 1964. Ron is the son of the late Nathan and Julie Harris of New York. Pat is the daughter of the late Charles Vasseur of Florida and the daughter of the late Lillie Lang of South Carolina.

Pat is retired; Ron is also retired (Air Force veteran); however, he keeps busy serving as Carroll Valley's mayor.

The couple has two children: Lisa Hatch, married to Blaine Hatch from Carroll Valley, PA and Scott Harris, married to the former Emily Gajdosik from Woodbridge, VA.

They have six grandchildren: Cassie (deceased), Angel, Cat, Avery, Ryan and Sydney.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The Taneytown Railroad disaster

David Buie

The railroad's arrival in Taneytown came later than expected, with operations starting in 1872 under the Frederick & Pennsylvania Railroad. This connection opened Taneytown to destinations like Littlestown, Hanover, and York and facilitated access to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad through Frederick, linking it to Baltimore. The railroad played a significant role in boosting Taneytown's economy and urban development. It enabled farmers and merchants to transport livestock, crops, and goods efficiently to markets in all directions while ensuring prompt delivery of supplies to the town.

However, alongside its benefits, the railroad also brought tragedies, such as the devastating incident on June 17, 1905, which claimed the lives of twenty-six railroad employees aboard the express train's baggage and smoking cars.

While the calamity unfolded beyond the borders of Taneytown, its repercussions scarred the town, as at least two of Taneytown's own were among the passengers and crew of the ill-fated train, highlighting the tragic proximity of loss.

Among them, John Crouse, a stalwart of 36 years, bore the weight of responsibility as the engineer of locomotive #41, a linchpin in the freight train's journey. His unwavering commitment and steadfast dedication to duty, even in the face of impending tragedy, speak volumes of his character and make his actions even more admirable.

Yet, amidst the wreckage and despair, a beacon of heroism emerged from the heart of Taneytown as Dr. Birne. Braving the flames and devastation, he gallantly fought to save lives, his brave deeds serving as a bulwark against the relentless tide of fate. In his selflessness, he epitomized the essence of heroism, his actions a testament to the undying spirit of humanity in the darkest of hours.

Their stories, woven into the fabric of this tragedy, poignantly remind us of the fragility of life and the boundless depths of courage. In their loss and heroism, we find a solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit of those who dare to defy the odds, inspiring us to strive for nobility in the face of adversity.

Known as a 'cornfield meet,' the collision occurred at a remote spot about seven miles east of Westminster, known as Ransom. This location was merely a brief siding featuring a water tank. The site remains deserted today, and diesel engines have made online water tanks obsolete.

Though photographic evidence sheds light on the events of that fateful day, the exact cause remains unclear, compounded by the demise of all parties responsible for operating the train. Without firsthand accounts, we must rely on

newspaper reports and the Western Maryland Railroad's internal investigation to reconstruct the events leading to the tragedy.

Some details of the following reconstruction are speculative, drawn from these sources and established railroad protocols, to shed light on the events of that ominous day.

Typically, this stretch of railway accommodated at least nine passenger trains daily. However, the schedule was recently adjusted to include an additional westbound passenger train, the Blue Mountain Express. This train was particularly significant, as it catered to Baltimore residents seeking relief from the city's oppressive heat in the cool Blue Ridge hills. Its inclusion in the schedule was a testament to the growing popularity of Taneytown and the surrounding area as a summer retreat.

During the summer months, a Saturday morning Tourist Special, complete with a band entertaining passengers at each stop en route to Baltimore, added a festive touch to the journey. Despite the absence of musical accompaniment on the ill-fated trains, the memory of those onboard remains poignant.

Contrary to common belief, the conductor, not the engineer, controls train movements and decisions affecting passenger and freight services. Like a diligent chauffeur, the engineer takes pride in safely and punctually delivering passengers to their destinations.

As dusk approached, the station had three westbound passenger trains scheduled for departure. No.11, the Union Bridge Accommodation, and the recently added Blue Mountain Express had departed. Now, it was No.5's turn. It was scheduled to leave Hillen Station promptly at 5 p.m., stopping at Fulton Station to pick up additional passengers before heading westward.

Consisting of a mail car, baggage car, and three coaches, No.5 was pulled by #94, a sturdy 4-4-0 American-type locomotive under the command of experienced engineer George Covell, assisted by fireman John St. Leger. Covell, respected for his competence, commanded admiration among his colleagues.

In addition to the crew in the cab, the standard complement of personnel for a passenger train, including conductor George C. Buckingham, brakeman John Hovermill, baggageman Joseph Shock, expressman Frank Tierney, and postal clerk Clagett Miller, were onboard.

As No.5 waited to depart from Fulton Station, Covell, likely consulting his reliable railroad-style pocket watch, ensured all preparations were in order. He meticulously checked the locomotive, ensuring it was in perfect working condition. Punctuality was essential in a railroad man's life, with adherence to schedules paramount. The atmosphere was tense,

with everyone on board aware of the importance of their roles in maintaining the train's schedule and safety.

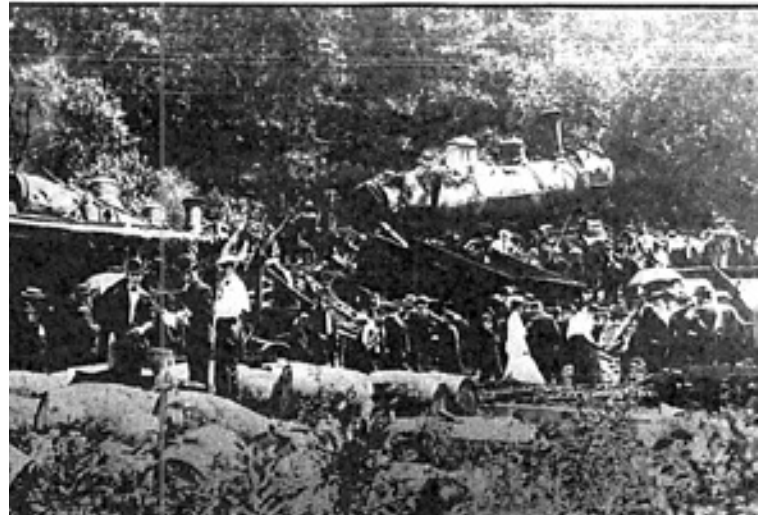
Conductor Buckingham's call of "All Aboard" signaled the start of boarding amid the oppressive heat. Among the 80 passengers onboard were several from New Windsor, including Mrs. Anna Dielman, New Windsor druggist Edwin Kolb, and Dr. Birnie, whose presence would prove crucial in the aftermath of the collision.

Thirty-five railroad employees, known as 'Floaters,' returning home from track maintenance duties, occupied the baggage car and were segregated from paying passengers according to company policy.

At 5:15 p.m., as Covell received the signal to proceed, No.5 began its journey westward. Little did those onboard know that this routine voyage would soon be etched into the annals of history.

On that tragic Saturday, an additional eastbound freight was on the schedule, described as a coal train carrying primarily fat, as seen in photographs. To navigate steep grades train required two locomotives, both heavier Class H3a 2-8-0 Consolidation types. Leading the double-headed freight was locomotive #41, manned by Crouse as an engineer and William McNamie as a fireman. Locomotive #43, operated by Lewis Rice and J.N. Ripple, followed behind.

While it's uncertain which locomotive they were on, it's likely #41. Two extra men were aboard: Conductor Vernon Derr and Substitute fireman Trainee Charles Knipple. The conductor in the caboose supervised the trainee from the cab that day.



Locomotives #43, #41, and #94, respectively.

Westbound passenger trains had priority on the single track. Since three westbound passenger trains, including the newly added Blue Mountain Express, were scheduled that afternoon, the eastbound freight crews waited at Tannery siding, now Gorsuch Road, 3 1/2 miles east of Westminster, to ensure unimpeded passage.

According to later reports, the freight train crews observed that the first two passenger trains passed by. Despite the absence of the third passenger train, No.5, they inexplicably left the siding and proceeded toward Baltimore, possibly mistaking the Blue Mountain Express for No.5. This moment of confusion and uncertainty, a crucial turning point in the narrative, highlights the unpredictability and intensity of the situation.

Survivor George Lynch recounted the events leading up to the accident, mentioning discussions about their schedule and observing passing trains while waiting at Gorsuch. Lynch emphasized their departure from the siding and subsequent confusion.

Lynch's account raises questions about his positioning during the incident and subsequent survival,

especially his contradictory statements regarding his location on the train. Additionally, Lynch's version contrasts with official records and other survivors' testimonies.

The collision occurred near Ransom's siding, worsened by obstructed vision and a slight curve. Leger likely first spotted the oncoming extra, leading to a fatal collision between the two trains. Despite efforts to prevent disaster, the collision claimed many lives and caused extensive damage.

To the injured, while relief trains rushed to the scene, the aftermath witnessed a heartwarming outpouring of support from the community. Stories emerged of heroism and selflessness amidst the tragedy, fostering a sense of unity and shared humanity.

Reverend Wheeler of Trinity Evangelical Church conducted a service at Crouse's residence in Taneytown, whose family had transported his body there. A large gathering surrounded his burial in the cemetery, including many railroad colleagues paying their respects.

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

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COOKING

June is time for berries

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

It's June, which means Juneberries, or serviceberries, or saskatoon berries, are in season. My middle son is amazed with growing food that a small seed could turn into a carrot or a whole pumpkin - like magic. And there is something magical about it, he also finds the idea of foraging very exciting. But I am not brave enough to chance it, so we planted a Juneberry tree of our own. Juneberry trees are native to North America and ubiquitous. They are actually in the rose family and not related to blueberries, although they look like them and can be substituted where you use blueberries (think muffins or pancakes). They are juicy and delicious on their own, but in this recipe we will make a summer Juneberry ice cream.

Juneberry Ice Cream

Ingredients

- 4 cups Juneberries, fresh
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tbs water
- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tbs lemon juice
- 1 cup half and half

Preparation directions: In a medium saucepan over medium heat, Cook the berries, 1/4 cup sugar, and water until berries start breaking up and are soft. You can squish the berries around as you stir. Once cooked, transfer the

puree to a blender and process until smooth. Strain the mixture through a fine, mesh strainer. This should yield you about 1 and 1/2 to 2 cups of puree. Set it aside.

In the saucepan, heat the whipping cream and sugar until steaming, stirring the whole time. In a small bowl, whisk the egg yolks and salt. When the cream is steaming, slowly whisk it into the egg yolk - whisking the entire time. Be sure to do this slowly so as not to scramble the eggs. Pour the egg/cream mixture back into the pan and place back over medium-low heat. Cook and stir, until mixture thickens to coat the back of a spoon. Place the lemon juice and half and half in a bowl. Stir 1 and 1/2 cups of the Juneberry puree.

Place the strainer over this and pour the hot egg/cream mixture through the strainer to get out any cooked egg bits. Stir well to combine. Chill ice cream base for at least 3 hours. When thoroughly chilled, place in ice cream maker and process according to manufacturer's directions. I don't have an ice cream maker, so I usually mix it up again to make it "fluffy" in a mixer or our ninjacreami and then place it back in the freezer to fully set.

I took few pasta making classes because I wanted to really be able to make a good carbonara, but then I ended up with a decent amount of semolina flour left over. This Italian butter cake uses semolina and AP or cake flour, and is a lighter version of a pound cake. It goes great with all of the fresh berries that are available now around the local farms.

Italian Warm Butter Cake

Ingredients for the cake

- 1 cup (136g) flour, spooned then leveled
- 1/2 cup (88g) fine semolina flour
- 1/2 tps (2g) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (2g) sea salt
- 1/2 cup (112g) light oil (avocado, grape seed, canola, etc.)
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 tbs (7g) pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (120g) whole milk, room temperature
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar

Ingredients for the warm butter soak

- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (113g) salted butter
- 1/3 cup (80g) water
- 1/4 tsp (2g) almond extract (optional)
- 1 tsp (4g) pure vanilla extract

Preparation directions: Pre-heat oven to 350F. Lightly butter and flour (or spray with baking spray) the wells of a regular cupcake pan. You may need to use a few wells of a second pan, depending on the size. In a medium-mixing bowl, use a large fine mesh sieve to sift then whisk together flour, semolina flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside. In another medium to large bowl, whisk together the oil, eggs, vanilla, milk, and sugar. Whisk well for about one minute, until well blended and the sugar is mostly dissolved.

Gently whisk in the flour mixture until combined and no streaks of flour remain. Pour into your prepared cupcake pan, filling about 2/3 full. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle cupcake comes out clean. Let cakes cool in the pan 5-10 minutes while you make the warm butter sauce. If not serving right away, let cakes cool in the



Italian Warm Butter Cake

pan then reheat for 5-10 minutes while you make the sauce immediately before serving.

For the sauce, combine the sugar, butter, and water in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat until the sugar is fully dissolved, stirring frequently. Add the almond and vanilla extracts.

Using a fork, toothpick, kebab stick, or something similar, poke holes all over the cakes (still in the warm pan). Brush about 2/3 of the sauce over the cakes and let soak in. Carefully remove each cake to its serving plate, turning it upside down. Brush with remaining sauce. Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream and fresh berries.

The sauce should only be poured/brushed on a warm cake right before serving. If needed, you can make the cake up to one

day ahead and store in an airtight container. Reheat for 5-10 minutes while you make the sauce, immediately before serving.

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

Ingredients

- 1 pastry crust for a 10 in. double pie crust
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp grated orange peel
- 1/4 cup quick-cooking tapioca
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 4 cups rhubarb, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, quartered
- 2 Tbs butter, but into small chunks
- 1 Tbs milk
- 1 Tbs sugar

Preparation Directions: Pre-heat oven to 400° F. Divide the pastry in half; roll out half to a round pie crust about 12 inches in diameter. Place the piecrust in a pie plate. Refrigerate the other half of the pastry until needed. Stir the sugar, salt, orange peel, tapioca, and nutmeg together in a bowl until well blended. Gently stir in the rhubarb, strawberries, and orange juice; pour into the prepared piecrust. Dot the filling with butter pieces. Roll the remaining piecrust out to about 12 inches in diameter and place over the pie filling. Fold the edges of the top and bottom to seal the two crusts together, and then crimp. Brush milk over the top crust of the pie, and then sprinkle with sugar. Cut several vent holes in the top crust. Bake in the preheated oven until the filling is thickened and bubbling and the crust has browned, about 40-50 minutes. Check after 30 minutes baking time; if the crust edges are browning too quickly, cover them with strips of aluminum foil. Cool before serving.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Spending the summer outside the box

Mary Angel

Summer break is almost here, and the kids are chomping at the bit to be done with school for the year. Now what? Will this be the same old summer that they spend in the house watching television or will it be a summer to remember. Buckle up because this month we are going to talk about a fun, fun summer!

Speaking as a mom who has firsthand knowledge, our kids grow up way too fast. One day they are in diapers, then you are removing the training wheels from their bike, next it is time to shop for prom dresses. So, let's think outside the box and make this a summer to remember. This can cost as little or as much money as you have or want to spend. I am a little creative, a little quirky, and a lot crazy so, thinking outside the box is my norm. Besides when you are married to a spur of the moment extrovert you have to be ready for anything.

For those of you who have kids that love the outdoors, we live in an area with a plethora of National Parks, not to mention local parks. You and your family could walk the Gettysburg Battlefields for days and still keep going. There is also Cunningham Falls/Catoctin Mountain, Strawberry Hill, and Woodsboro Park. Want to go on an adventure, jump in the car and search for covered bridges. Roddy Road Covered Bridge is a family favorite, as Loys Station. No matter where you are you can go into maps and search "covered bridges", and you will be surprised how many there are. Want something a little more competitive there is always go-carts or mini golf.

Is your family one that loves competitions, but maybe you don't want to have to worry about the weather ruining your plans...how about taking a page from our family staycation and have your own family Olympics. Our Olympics consist of a combination of indoor and outdoor events and are the following, go-carts, mini golf, laser tag, axe throwing (note the age requirements), corn hole, darts, bowling, cup-pong, cookie decorating (with impartial judges), thrift store fashion show, horse-shoes, Jackbox, and anything else we can come up with. You could add badminton, tennis, races, billiards, table tennis, or anything else your family enjoys. Make it fun, age appropriate and make sure everyone has a chance to take home the gold!

Maybe, you want something that will knock their socks off. Penn's Cave has a cavern tour by boat ride. The ride is amazing and super informative, and in the middle of the ride you end up on a lake that is full of wild-life in a peaceful nature setting,

The Museum of the Shenandoah has a museum, gardens, and hiking trails. The times we have been there they have had something for everyone, from a Norman Rockwell exhibit that was extensive to a endangered species fundraiser complete with life-sized animals made entirely of Legos.

If you have never been to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, then you are missing out on an amazing theater experience that brings the Bible stories your kids grew up with to life. Lake Tobias is an animal park that you hop on an open-air bus to drive through. Be sure and buy some food before you get on the bus, as the animals love it. They also have a petting zoo section that I had to drag my little ones out of. Want something relaxing, yet exceptional, then try a ride. I am not talking about an amusement park ride, or a ride in the car, but rather a train ride on the Strasburg Railroad (and then cross the street to the train museum - unbelievable)! Already done the train ride? How about a trip upriver on the Pride of the Susquehanna. You can head to the top deck to feel the sun on your face and the breeze in your hair or go below and grab a soda at the counter. No matter how you choose to ride, it will be an amazing experience for the whole family.

This summer I am trying to plan something new and exciting for my family as I know they are all growing up way too fast and will sooner than I like be moving out as adults. I am frantically trying to make those memories that last a lifetime. I know there are so many things around us that can help me make those memories, it is simply finding them in time to schedule something

before summer comes to an end. Maybe we will go to the Wolf Sanctuary of PA and stop by Stoudburg Village (a village of German architecture) the same day. Might as well drive a little farther to Reading and head up the tallest hill in the city to see the view and the Pagoda.

If we are up for a long drive, we might go see Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water house and, on the way, home take a tour of the Johnstown Flood Museum (The Johnstown Inclined Plane will not reopen in 2024, so that is off the agenda...for now) and have lunch at Asiago's and take in the breathtaking view of the city. Another long day trip might be to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, with a side trip to Benazette to see some elk. The sky is the limit for amazing sights to see.

Some of you may be wondering why I am focused on places outside of Maryland. I feel like activities in Maryland are the obvious choice for many of us, but I am looking for the out of the box ideas. Making memories that last a lifetime can be as simple as finding a new adventure. From simple to extravagant, free to expensive, or anything in between, making memories is a simple recipe. You, your family, and time is all that it takes. So, pack lunch and make it your mission to visit a new and different park every other weekend. Come up with a bunch of silly Olympic sports that your family would love. It doesn't matter if they are all at home, or a combination of at home and away from home activities. Just make sure there is something for everyone. These can be all day excursions, or a couple of hours spent at an escape room.

Have everyone sit down with



their calendars (or phones) and schedule some family time. Once it is on the calendar you will find it is more likely to happen. As long as you are all together and having fun, nothing else will matter. I hope you

all have a great summer full of wonderful memories and lots of family time!

To read past editions of Moms' Time Out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our staff to reflect on their school year and write letters to incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, respectively.

Sophomore

Dear freshmen

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

No one prepares you for the emotions you will feel as you move into your first college dorm. No one prepares you for the feeling you get walking to your first class as a college student. No one prepares you for the responsibility that rests on your fragile, naive shoulders. Nevertheless, the things you will experience during your freshmen year of college will be some of the most important life lessons you will ever have to face.

One thing my mother told me on my move-in day was that everyone was in the same boat as me. None of us knew each other, we were all leaving our families, and we were all in this together. Truer words have never been spoken. That being said, the fear of the unknown slowly began to dissipate.

Going into college, it felt like I only had my mom to lean on. There are so many things I wish I knew to help me get through it more smoothly. This brings me to share

some things I wish I knew going into my freshmen year of college.

First, and perhaps most importantly, never be afraid to ask for help; the only one you end up hurting is yourself. If there is one thing I've noticed about the Mount community, it is that everyone wants you to succeed. The Mount has so many ways to aid you in your success during this difficult transition from high school to college. From peer tutors, office hours, the Writing Center, CSES, and even your classmates, the only thing stopping you from achieving your goals is you.

Second, call your loved ones. You aren't the only one going through this transition, and it's important to surround yourself with people who'll love and support you through it all. You'll have your good days, and you'll have your share of bad days, but make sure to communicate how you feel to people you can trust. Keeping it all inside will only hurt you.

Third, go to events held on campus. I know sometimes you won't feel like it, and sometimes your bed just sounds really, really comfortable after a long day, but getting out and having fun is essential for you to be successful. Being able

to balance your school life and social life is the most crucial part of college. Besides, going to events on campus is a great way to meet new people and destress from your assignments for a bit.

Fourth, create a routine for yourself. Set an alarm every morning so that you are making the most of your day. Don't fall victim to a bad sleep schedule; it will only create more stress and anxiety. Making sure to incorporate three meals a day into your schedule is important. Luckily for you, your meal plan is for three meals a day during your first semester. Don't be like me and eat one meal and maybe a cosmic brownie a day. Fueling your body and mind is going to help you make wise decisions and learn better.

Fifth, explore the areas around you. Emmitsburg is a small, small town, but there are so many neat things around you to do on the weekend with your friends. One of my favorite things to do freshman year was visit Gettysburg. Walking the battlefield, visiting museums, eating at unique restaurants, it was such a nice breath of fresh air only ten minutes away from campus. Another common thing people do on weekends is visit Frederick. While I hate driving in Frederick,

there are still so many things to do. Plus, it's only 25 minutes from campus. Of course, the Mount also has several sports games on campus that you could attend, sometimes being on campus is easier and more comfortable.

Sixth, don't be afraid to try new things. This one sounds cliché, I know. However, the Mount has so many extracurricular things to be a part of I can guarantee that you'll find something. Don't be afraid to get involved in as many things as you'd like. You might even surprise yourself.

At this point in my letter to you, I'm going to entertain a series of much less "serious" tokens of advice. Some of them might not apply to you, but I will still share them anyway.

Seventh, always get your food to go. You want your food to stay hot for as long as possible, and you never know how much you'll eat. At least this way, you can take your leftovers back to your room to eat later.

Eighth, doing your laundry on weekdays is easier than doing it on the weekends for obvious reasons. The washing machines and dryers are very particular, so make sure you take care while washing your clothes, and be courteous to others. Don't leave your clothes in the

machines for more than 10 minutes after they are done.

Ninth, schedule a time once a week to clean your room. Living in a dirty dorm room hurts your productivity and makes you overall less comfortable. Wash your dishes, vacuum your rugs, clean your desk, etc. You will feel so much better afterward.

Tenth, find a place to study that works for you. The Mount has countless places for you to study aside from your dorm room. I grew quite fond of studying in the Mount Cafe since I tend to be a loud typer and was more comfortable. The library has several tables, quiet areas, classrooms, and couches for you to study. The Knott Academic Center has empty classrooms for you to use, the Honors lounge, and tables and chairs throughout the building. I am positive you will find something that works for you.

All of this being said, I want to leave you with one last tip. Be confident in yourself, you can do this. At the Mount, we are one big community that helps and supports one another. You got this.

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior

Letter to incoming sophomores

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

Dear class of 2027, Congratulations! You made it through your first year of college—phew! I have learned that there's three typical feelings towards the end of your first year of college: 1. "Oh my God, that was the best year ever! I love college and being free," 2. "Thank God that nonsense is finally over for three months," and 3. indifference. Personally, at the end of my freshman year I fell more into the second category. As you have now ended your first year of college and are entering into your second year here at the Mount, I encourage you to keep an open mind and be ready for a year both easier and harder simultaneously. As I have just recently finished my sophomore year at the Mount, I'm looking back at it with much more fondness and love than I had for my first year. Sophomore year is the year where you begin to really feel your place at Mount; you're more comfortable with the environment, you have your people, you know where you're going, you've found the places that you enjoy visiting, you've navigated how to drive on Fifteen, and you have made the Mount a 'home away from home.'

This past year has been an absolute whirlwind of emotions. This was the first year that I actually felt at home at the Mount: I managed to find a job waitressing and, of course, writing for the News-Journal; I found a great group of friends—some of whom feel more like siblings than friends—and a dynamic was created in my suite, with

my roommates that made me feel a sense of comfort and joy. It became a place where I felt free. One of my favorite parts about this year was living in a suite compared to a two-person dorm. Instead of there being two of us, there was actually a total of four of us. The first week of classes we spent the entirety of our nights bingeing the 'Twilight Saga' film collection—one of our roommates had never seen it, so we deemed it a 'rite of passage.' This is what we refer to as our "honeymoon phase," which ended as soon as we got situated with our new routine, and then the arguments commenced. It's only normal though; all people tend to have disagreements and the four of us were no exception. Having roommates is much easier after your freshman year because you've become accustomed to living with another person after your first year at college—my roommates and I found it significantly easier because we all grew up with siblings.

I spent a very large portion of my sophomore year drowning myself in work, both schoolwork and my job off campus. I left very little time for myself to enjoy what college has to offer. That would probably be my one regret about this past year, I could have experienced a lot more if I gave myself the time. I even had to work on my anniversary with my boyfriend, so we didn't get to celebrate together that day! That is not to say though that I regret working hard and making money entirely; I just wish I had given myself some time to have fun as well. There were a few times I got to go enjoy the things that typical college students at the Mount could enjoy though, usually because my boyfriend would drag me out of bed on a Saturday night and tell me that we're going to socialize with our friends. My work schedule allowed me one night on the whole weekend to go

hangout with friends and colleagues; however, I was always either completely exhausted from work the night prior or wanting to be well rested for work the next day. That being said, it took A LOT of convincing to get me out of the comfortable confinements of my suite on a Saturday night. I can recall though a few times that I felt absolutely thrilled that he managed to get me up though—one of which was when we went to an Artic Monkeys concert with some friends in early September. It was an experience so wonderful that I cannot even put it into words. We found out a few days afterwards that this tour was their last as the band was retiring, so it became something I am thrilled to be able to say that I experienced.

One of my favorite things about sophomore year was making such a close circle of friends. My roommate Abby and I didn't do any sports, but both of our significant others were on a sports team at Mount, which meant that their friends ended up becoming our friends because we were always around. These were the people who were always there to pick me up when I was down, from picking me up from the doctors during my (numerous) concussion check-ups, to lying on the floor with me during finals week while I cried because I was just so over it. These people became the main reasons I loved this year so much, and by the end of it we were all sad to have to say, "see you later." Abby and I were almost entirely glued to each other's hips this year, and both of us being English majors led us to having a lot in common, including the classes we took each semester. It feels so good to have someone who you can get along with so well and look to for help when it's needed; I hope everyone gets to find their own Abby here at the Mount.

With all of this in mind, I hope that all of you upcoming sophomores get to have a year filled with ups and downs, moments of joy, sadness, challenges, lots of laughter, and a year full of experiences to look back on for the rest of your lives. The world is only what you make it; and while you don't know everything, nor will you ever, don't let

that deter you from experiencing the world with all it has to offer.

Good luck on your sophomore year! You got this!
-Devin Owen.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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ADVICE TO THE CLASS STEPPING INTO OUR SHOES

Senior

Dear junior

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

Dear Junior,
This year has been one of the hardest and simultaneously most joyful of my life. The low parts of this year hit like a ton of bricks, but the joy I found, my surrounding friends, and the person I've become made it worth it. The beginning of junior year feels like you are losing something good and gaining something challenging at the same time. It's a heavy burden to carry, to be losing the comfort of your past and be handed more responsibility and big questions. But I have faith in you.

I had no expectations for my junior year of college, other than what I had seen in one of my favorite shows, "Gilmore Girls," which retrospectively, was a lot like mine. Main character Rory Gilmore is given an opportunity for a summer internship in a newspaper company. As the summer ends, she is told by someone above her that she doesn't have what it takes to make it in this career. Because of this, she becomes

discouraged and even though she has known her entire life that she wanted to be a journalist, after one person puts her down, she begins to question everything. She decides to take some time off from school and her first semester of her junior year is spent losing sight of who she is and what she wants. It's not until a friend of hers really asks her what she is doing and why she is doing it, and reminds her that she is capable, that she decides it's time to get back to school and continue to pursue the career she loves.

The summer before my junior year, I was stressed about finances, roommates, feeling lonely, not knowing if I was on the right path, and dreading the semester to come. Through my tears one night, my dad told me I didn't have to go back, and I heavily considered taking time off. Although I ended up going to school anyway, it was not easy. I started off with a lot of hope, then lost some. I felt lonely, with my good friend and my boyfriend both studying abroad, 3,000 miles away with a five-hour time difference. But I made lots of friends too. We were preparing for an internship in my education classes, and it was very hard to see the fruit

of what I was learning. I felt unsure.

Spring semester I began my teaching internship, and I had someone tell me that I didn't have what it takes. I was so discouraged I began to question again if I was on the right path. Like Rory Gilmore, I have always known I wanted to be a teacher. I have been in teaching roles since middle school. I have been caring for kids since I was a kid myself. This is my path. But it didn't take much for it to all come crumbling into a disorganized and very sad mess of a plan. I had to find my courage.

This year, you will discover what it means to take courage. When you are facing defeat, you are beaten down and discouraged, hold your ground. Remember why you are doing what you are doing. Remind yourself that you are capable.

In the end, you will learn what is most important. I may have struggled with my future, but I knew who my friends were. In the present moment, everything was just as it should be. I went on adventures, developed healthy habits, made friendships stronger, practiced patience and graciousness, and fell in love with the present moment. Enjoy today. Be courageous.

In your junior year, you'll feel the pressure. You'll be looking back on what your life once was, grieving for the life you used to know, and you'll be looking ahead at what's to come, frightened of the uncertainty. But through your grief of your past, you'll find a secure foundation. And through your fear of the future, you'll find passion.

My hope for you is that you will bounce back. When you take hits and go through hard times, you'll learn lessons and emerge stronger than ever. In your life, hold onto goodness and the purist moments, and let go of that feeling of dread. There is nothing coming your way that you can't survive. There is nothing you'll go through that will be solved by quitting or losing yourself. You can do this. You can persevere.

As this year comes to its end and I contemplate what my senior year may be like, I plan to keep the strength I developed from junior year and carry it over into my last year at the Mount. I know now more than ever that my friends and family are my rock. They are the ones who know me best and will help me stay on my path. I also plan to devote more time to prayer. A lot of the

hopelessness and loss I felt this past year was because my faith wavered as I tried to take control of my future rather than hand it to God. If I stay close to Him, I am in good hands. Remember, God won't give you any challenge or any cross that you can't bear. When you come to face something difficult, ask for the grace to overcome it and God will be there by your side.

My last bit of advice to you: make this time count. Don't waste your energy and time on meaningless things like overdrinking and drama. When you look back at your junior year, as I am now looking back on mine, I won't remember the things that caused me pain or the things I thought brought me joy but truly didn't; I'll remember all the good that occurred instead, but I will never get that time back. Don't spend what little time you have to be taking opportunities for your future or to be developing relationships or to be improving yourself on the meaningless and fruitless. Take advantage of the chances given to you and aim to be great. You can do it!

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Graduate

A letter to incoming seniors

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Dear Mount Class of 2025,
I write this to you a week after my graduation. It feels surreal to say that I am officially a Mount St. Mary's University Alumna, that I am no longer a college student; that the past four years have come to an end, an end I never imagined, but simultaneously one that I have been awaiting. The irony is illuminating.

The week immediately following my graduation, I travelled to one of my favorite places: Shenandoah National Park. I planned a graduation trip that doubled as a getaway, and I spent the next five days with little to no cell service. In fact, I deleted Instagram and Facebook simply to disconnect. I filled my days with gorgeous waterfall hikes, wineries in the middle of nowhere, and plenty of mountains. It was a wonderful way to celebrate graduation, and because I had no social media to check, it allowed me to truly reflect on the last four years.

Sylvia Plath says it best in her novel, *The Bell Jar*. As protagonist Esther Greenwood spends a college summer in New York City, she says: "All the little successes I'd totted up so happily at college fizzled to nothing outside the slick marble and plate-glass fronts along Madison Avenue."

It's true. It's so overwhelmingly true, how everything you once obsessed over simply fizzles away in the shadows of the real world.

I spent years maintaining a 4.0 in college (only to lose it to an A-). I stressed over publishing my creative writing, I cried over essays, and I celebrated academic awards for a moment before marking them on my resume and never thinking of them again.

College in general creates a rigorous, competitive culture that rarely prepares you for the real world. In fact, you must go out of your way to prepare yourself for these experiences.

It wasn't until I flew to London, wrote for the News-Journal, or began student teaching that I truly understood how the real world worked—how to travel, how to communicate with others, how to have a job. When I reflect on my favorite semester of college, I think about the four months I spent with my middle school students: waking up before the sun, teaching lessons, and building a life beyond college. I cherished my student teaching semester more than any other.

This is not to say that the academic experience in college doesn't matter. In fact, the Mount's curriculum allowed me to grow as a critical and creative thinker. I have loved my professors, my courses, and my learning.

I just want any incoming senior to know that this time you have at the Mount, or at any college, is precious. You'll graduate, and you'll get the job, so long as you work hard. Living with your best friends, going to Ott's on a Saturday night, driving to Gettysburg in the middle of the week for a coffee—it goes away. Remember these moments, and keep them close to your heart, for these are the memories that last longer than any exam or essay will.

But I also want incoming seniors to know that the year before you graduate is a fragile time. It's filled with choices and questions, late nights of job-searching and conversations you frankly don't want to have. It doesn't matter if you decide to start working, or go to graduate school, or take a gap year: you will be judged.

My decision to begin teaching this fall was one that raised eyebrows. I heard the following from several people: "I taught for five years, and it was terrible. I couldn't do it." Or "You're too nice to be a teacher." Or "My husband teaches, and he hates it." I also

heard from professors that they imagined me flourishing elsewhere. It was rare that I received an honest congratulations for my decision to teach, and it was often that I cried over my ability to follow an ages-old dream.

And when you are judged, you tend to compare. I admit to spending countless nights on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, scrolling through accounts of people I hardly know, thinking to myself, "If I had just done this..."

College is a breeding ground for comparison. I promise that when you step out into the world, you'll find yourself so far from your fellow graduates. Your peers, your professors—they all become people, normal people. You have the choice to constantly worry about what they're thinking and doing, or you can grow excited about your own unique, fruitful journey.

Spending a week in the mountains was the perfect post-graduation trip. My mind is clearer, my thoughts collected. While I am eternally thankful for the Mount, I am also relieved that my college chapter is complete. Senior year is difficult. You spend years building a life here, only to leave. You think your first job will be your only job, or you panic over having no job, and the eyes of every peer and professor are on you, watching.

As one of the newest graduates of Mount St. Mary's University, I urge you to discern what matters most to you, and then follow this with all your heart. Do not let anyone irrelevant weigh his or her opinion. Apply to all the jobs, then pray. Delete social media; learn that you're peering through rose-painted glass. Stay up all night with your roommates. Drive down Annandale Road with open windows on a starry night. Pop champagne in front of Bradley Hall. Frame your degree, because you deserve it, and it was worth everything you endured. Go on that post-grad trip.

But most importantly: Thank everyone who led you to this moment.

And congratulations, from me, for getting to this point. I know how tough it feels, but I also know how rewarding it is. I want to especially recognize Assistant Managing Editor Dolores Hans for embarking on her senior year. By the end of summer, she will begin leading the News-Jour-

nal, and I can't think of anyone more worthy for the role. Like all incoming seniors, Dori is blazing her own path, and I am so excited for her journey; I know she'll live significantly in her unique, amazing way, just like all Mount graduates do.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Mondays – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays - Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on June 18. 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 June 17th at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240

Frederick County Library

Deb Spurrier joins the team at the Emmitsburg Library as the new Branch Administrator. Stop in and say hello this summer. She is looking forward to meeting the needs of this community over the coming years.

The exciting Summer Reading Program starts June 1st – sign up, read 20 days and win a prize! The Emmitsburg Library will host a Summer Reading Kickoff event on Saturday, June 8th starting at 11:30 a.m. with a Poppy from Trolls Dance Party, then moving outside for fun and games, including BrainDrain Mobile Escape Room for Teens and Adults from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the Town Office Parking Lot.

June 8th is also the Friends of the Emmitsburg Library’s Annual Book Sale beginning at 9 a.m. in the Gymnasium, closing at 3 p.m. Late arrivals will score big deals - \$5 bag sale from 1pm to 3pm (bags provided).

Mark your calendars for big-time entertainment in June – Magician Anthony Ware performs on Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m., Science Guys bring STEM Adventures on Tuesday, June 25th at 6 p.m. and Jenn’s Uncommon Critters Awesome Animal Ambassadors Live Animal Experience is set to kick off the Heritage

Days on Saturday, June 29th at 11 a.m. in the library community room.

The library will continue working in partnership with the Emmitsburg Community Garden this summer with Little Gardeners on Wednesdays, June 12 & 26 at 10:30 a.m. to connect kids to growing their own food.

Just for Tweens and Teens – Teen Studio on Monday, June 17th at 1 p.m. brings Reptile Smiles Art Zoo – a live animal show followed by air-dry sculpture instruction for a fun make-and-take experience. Regular Tween/Teen programming continues with RPG Night on Tuesdays, June 4 & 11 at 4:30 p.m.; Writing Club on Thursday, June 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; and Fiber Arts Workshop Thursdays, June 13 & 27 at 5:30 p.m.

The Thurmont Regional Library kicks off summer with a Touch-A-Truck event on Saturday, June 1st from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This is a community favorite with a variety of big machines to explore. A Summer Challenge Kickoff Party is set for Tuesday, June 11th at 5 p.m., and the Magic of Anthony Ware on Tuesday, June 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Tweens Trivia Night (Harry Potter) happens on Thursday, June 6th at 6 p.m., and Teens join in the fun with Intro to Graphic Novel with Artist Ari Messeca on Monday, June 10th at 6 p.m.; Happenstance Theater on Thursday, June 20th at 3 p.m. and BrainDrain Mobile Escape Room on Saturday, June 22 from 1-3p.m.

“A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly” is set for Wednesday, June 12 from 7 to 8.

Visit the library website at www.librarycalendar.com to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

Emmitsburg Branch Library:

Mondays, Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 4, 11: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4: Adult Drop In Tech Café, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Friends of the Emmitsburg Library BOOK SALE, Gymnasium, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Poppy from Trolls Dance Party 11:30 a.m.; **Summer Challenge Kickoff Party** 12-2 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: BrainDrain Escapes (mobile escape room) 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 12 & 26, Little Gardeners, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 13, 27: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Grades 4-7), 5:30 to 6:30.

Thursday, June 13: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 15: Magic and Wonder with Anthony Ware, 11 a.m.

Monday, June 17: TEEN Studio: Reptile Smiles Art Zoo, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 20: Maryland Writ-

er’s Association Teen Writer’s Club (Teens), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25: STEM Adventure with the Science Guys!, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 29: Awesome Animal Ambassadors – A show, tell and touch experience, 11 a.m.

Thurmont Regional Library

Mondays, Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays, Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, Musical Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Family Storytime, 11 a.m.

Saturday, June 1, Touch-A-Truck, 10 a.m.

Thursday, June 6, Tween Trivia: Harry Potter, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 10, Intro to Creating a Graphic Novel with Artist Ari Messeca, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, Summer Challenge Kickoff!, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12, A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 13, Teen/Tween Turn Up the Heat: Solar Ovens, 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 15, R.E.A.D.* with Wags for Hope, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, June 17, Teen Sharpie Tie- Dye, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18, Tween: Ready, Set. Explode!, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 20, Meet Happenstance Theater!, 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, BrainDrain Mobile Escape Room, 1 p.m.

Monday, June 24, Teen De-Stress with the GO Team Therapy Dogs, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25, Magic Wonder with Anthony Ware, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 27, Teen Open Craft Hour, 1 p.m.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Fairfield School Board debates leave policy

An uncompensated leave policy has been the focal point of Fairfield Area School District Board meetings, and the conversation is not over.

Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board in May that he hopes to establish clear guidelines dictating when staff members can take uncompensated leave.

“We have very inconsistent practices

for leave use,” he said.

Haupt believes staff should not be taking uncompensated leave when they have paid leave days to use. Teachers earn 10 sick days and four personal days, Haupt said.

“We want to approve leave of people when it is needed, and we are,” he said. “This just gives a really clear process of how we are doing it.”

Haupt clarified that he has no plans to deny people leave for “life events” such as family weddings. He is concerned, however, about staff members who consistently take vacations during the school year that could be scheduled during breaks. Haupt added uncompensated leave could affect teachers’ retirement benefits because such periods are not calculated when determining years of service.

Several board members questioned why the policy was being proposed now and not during teacher contract negotiations. Haupt said he could not discuss specific incidents in a public forum, so the board went into executive session to learn more. The Pennsylvania Open Meetings Law allows boards to discuss personnel matters in private.

Matthew DeGennaro, James Fisher,

and Jack Liller voted in favor of Haupt’s proposal. Candace Ferguson-Miller, Erica Bollinger, Jennifer Holz, Melissa Kearchner, Theodore Sayres Jr., and Lisa Sturgis opposed it.

The board, in a separate 5-4 vote, directed Haupt to share the policy proposal with all staff and invite them to comment. The board will review the proposal and comments again on June 10 and vote on it again June 24.

Frederick County Public Schools

Jason Johnson
Frederick County Board of Education

We are excited to celebrate the amazing contributions of all of our staff who dedicate themselves to the success of our students each and every day. Please join us congratulating the following staff members whose efforts were recognized as above and beyond among their amazing peers for the 2023-24 school year.

Ivette Taboas, a Multilingual Education Program Teacher at Urbana Elementary, who has been named the 2024 FCPS Teacher of the Year and will represent FCPS in the 2024 Maryland State Teacher of the Year Award Program!

Taboas, who is also a National Board Certified teacher, has been part of Urbana Elementary since 2020, working closely with classroom teachers, specialists, and interventionists to support student learning and acting as a liaison for multilingual families. Her career includes roles as an itinerant multilingual education teacher. Before joining FCPS, she worked in Miami and Dade County Public Schools in Florida. Taboas holds a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

Alongside Taboas, other support employees were recognized including Transportation Support Employee of the Year - Shelly Fraley, bus driver, serves the Walkersville High, Middle, and Elementary neighborhoods.

Our great thanks to our employees who help us fulfill the mission of “Every Child, Every Day”!

Congratulations to Catocin High and Sabillasville Environmental School who were newly certified in the Maryland Green Schools Program for 2023-24 by the Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE). Additionally, Urbana High successfully renewed for certification. Renewals for the program take place every four years. FCPS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Dyson expressed excitement for the FCPS communities involved, emphasizing the system’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

With the addition of these schools, the total Maryland Green Schools in FCPS became seven, joining Frederick High, Myersville Elementary, Oakdale High, and Wolfsville Elementary. MAEOE executive director Laura Johnson Collard highlighted the benefits of Green School practices in promoting student engagement and interdisciplinary curriculum standards. At this time, 654 schools in Maryland are part of the Green School program, representing 34 percent of all schools in the state.

In closing, I would like to share my commencement remarks to the class of 2024:

“Greetings Graduates!

It is my distinct pleasure to share in this triumphant moment with you.

Yet for as diligently as you have all worked to make it to this moment, I am sure you know that you did not accomplish this great feat on your own.

Graduates, please rise and give a well deserved round of applause to thank your family, loved ones, teachers, school staff and supporters!

I came here today to issue a challenge: Make your life count.

Now, I know this is a tall order, so I will provide you with a few tips.

First Tip: Share.

Whether it be insight, a smile, money, time or talent. Be willing to release what you have. It was wisely said that when you give it will be given back to you: good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over. Giving qualifies you to receive, so that you can give again. It is a cycle that works.

Next Tip: Speak Victory and Expect it.

No team ever breaks their huddle with the phrase: “One, two, three: Maybe!” So often we are told not to “Jinx it” and to evade even the very notion of whispering a desired result. Graduates, in order to make your life count you must abandon this dangerous mindset because it will limit you. Nurture your dreams and be bold enough to speak them aloud to those who are destined to support you.

Last Tip: Persevere and Endure.


Not every road will be straight and not every sea will be calm but press on. Mark the life of every hero, every

champion and you will find one universal thread in each of their stories, adversity.

And so, if you are to join the greats, which indeed is what I am challenging you to do today, battles must be fought and victories won. Whether it be in your mind, in your wallet or on an exam I am calling on you to fight that fight and win.

Graduates, it is my hope that you accept this challenge and make your lives count, because this entire world is counting on you.

Congratulations! Class of 2024 I know you will rise to the challenge!”




Frederick Community College

Congratulations!


CLASS OF 2024!

Frederick Community College (FCC) Graduate Profile




889

Graduates in the FCC Class of 2024
As reported by April 15, 2024



987

Credentials Awarded to the FCC Class of 2024
As reported by April 15, 2024



38% Full-time Students
62% Part-time Students

252 ★ High Honors
160 ★ Honors
37 ★ Distinction

39% Students of Color
58% White Students
3% Foreign Students

Ethnic Diversity

18 ————— **66**






←—————●—————→
Graduates Age Range
Average age is 27

44% Male
55% Female
1% Non-binary

52
Graduates Who Are Veterans

253
First-generation College Graduates

Top 5 Program Areas of Graduates:


-  Business Administration
-  Health Sciences
-  Social Sciences
-  Science
-  General Studies

Congratulations graduates!

*Whether you are headed next into the workforce, a four-year college or university or another post-FCC opportunity, I know your future accomplishments will be many. The impact you make on your community and all those around you will be significant. Congratulations again and remember—you are forever a special member of the FCC community.**

— Dr. Annesa Payne Cheek, FCC President

View a list of graduates and their credentials: frederick.edu/graduates



Frederick Community College (FCC) prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, creed, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status in its activities, admissions, educational programs, and employment. * Under the ADA and Section 5045, FCC makes every effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities for college sponsored events and programs. For FCC employees needing accommodations, including interpreting, please email humanresources@frederick.edu. For students and others with accommodation needs or questions please call 301-846-2408, or to request sign language interpreter services, please email interpreting@frederick.edu. Sign language interpreters will not be automatically provided for College-sponsored events without a request for services. Requests must be made at least five workdays before a scheduled event to guarantee accommodations. *If your request pertains to accessible transportation for a College-sponsored trip, please submit your request at least 21 calendar days in advance. Requests made less than 21 calendar days in advance may not be able to be guaranteed.

ARTS

Summer classic movies return to the Majestic

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater celebrates beloved cinema classics from the late 20th century with the 2024 Summer Classic Movie series kicking off June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the historic 1925 auditorium. Enjoy classic movies in the beautifully restored historic theater every Wednesday night through August 21.

"The 2024 Summer Classic Movie schedule represents a team effort by Majestic Theater staff, and includes titles requested over the years by our classic film patrons," says Majestic Theater Marketing Director Jessica Rudy. "We are so excited to share these cinema classics with fellow film fans on Wednesday evenings this summer."

New this year, movie-goers are invited to enjoy mocktails or coffee with fellow film fans every Wednesday evening before the show at Waldo's and Company, Gettysburg's non-profit community arts and culture space located nearby in the basement of 17 Lincoln Square. For more information on Waldo's, visit www.waldosandco.com.

The series kicks off Wednesday, June 5 with *The Great Escape* (1963), starring Steve McQueen,

James Garner, and Richard Attenborough in the World War II tale of Allied prisoners who team up to flee an "escape proof" German camp. This showing marks a Majestic debut as the first public event hosted by the Majestic Theater's new Executive Director, Brett W. Messenger.

On June 12, the Emerson brothers (Jason Patric and Corey Haim) encounter Kiefer Sutherland and a band of party-loving night owls in *The Lost Boys* (1987). Then, enjoy Alfred Hitchcock's thrilling *Dial M For Murder* (1954) starring Grace Kelly on June 19. Wrapping up June, witness the inconceivable adventures of Buttercup and a motley band of swashbucklers in *The Princess Bride* (1987) on June 26.

The rise and inevitable downfall of an assortment of mobsters is the subject of Martin Scorsese's 1990 masterpiece *Goodfellas*, on screen July 3. Next, on July 10 Kurt Russell is a trash-talking trucker who gets sucked into a supernatural battle in *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986). On July 17, an inept car salesman's crime falls apart thanks in part to persistent policework by Marge Gunderson in the Coen



The majority of military and film buffs have seen the 1963 classic, *The Great Escape*. Starring Steve McQueen, James Garner, Charles Bronson, and Richard Attenborough, it features a host of Vintage Hollywood legends. However, few know the true story that inspired the film's events.

brothers' *Fargo* (1996).

It's Christmas in July on July 24 with *Die Hard* (1988), the first installment of the popular action series featuring John McClane (Bruce Willis) as he fights to rid Nakatomi Plaza of terrorists. Wear a Christmas hat to this showing to enjoy a free small popcorn. Cher falls into a complicated love affair with her future brother-in-law on July 31 in *Moonstruck* (1987). Then, find out who killed Mr.

Boddy in the comic criminal caper, *Clue* (1985) on August 7.

The series wraps up with two action-packed classics, including *True Grit* (1969) on August 14. John Wayne stars as one-eyed, drunken U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn in a rough and tumble tale of revenge. Quentin Tarantino's directorial debut *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) closes the summer on August 21 with a jewelry heist gone terribly wrong.

Tickets for all Summer Classics showings are \$8 each and are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a gathering place for its campus and community to celebrate the arts together.

Tootsie continues Way Off Broadway's 30th anniversary

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre continues its blockbuster 30th Anniversary Season this summer with the new comedy musical *Tootsie*, opening June 21st.

Tootsie is the hilarious award-winning musical based on one of the funniest comedic films of all time, in which Michael Dorsey is a skilled actor with a talent for not keeping a job. Desperate and out-of-work, he makes

a last-ditch effort at making his dreams come true...by disguising himself as actress Dorothy Michaels. In a meteoric rise to Broadway stardom, Dorothy soon has audiences falling at her feet while Michael (disguised as Dorothy) is falling for his co-star.

The musical is a stage adaptation of the 1982 Columbia Pictures film starring Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Teri Garr, and Dab-

ney Coleman. It was an instant box office success, becoming the second highest grossing film of the year (behind *E.T. the Extra Terrestrial*), as well as garnering countless awards and nominations.

Even with the popularity of the film, and the growing penchant to turn hit movies into musicals, *Tootsie* did not arrive on the stage until it premiered in Chicago in the fall of 2018, almost forty years after the movie's release. The production then headed to Broadway

where it began previews on March 29, 2019 at the Marquis Theatre, officially opening April 23rd. Both the Chicago try-out and Broadway production starred Santino Fontana as Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels.

As did the movie, the stage show went on to receive numerous award nominations including 11 Tony nominations (2 wins), 10 Outer Critics Circle nominations (2 wins), and 11 Drama Desk nominations (4 wins). Fontana took home all

three awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical.

When *Tootsie* finally closed on Broadway in 2020, it had played 25 previews and nearly 300 regular performances. Following its New York run, a national tour was launched, as well as announcements of a number of international productions.

"Our goal for Way Off Broadway's 30th Anniversary Season," says Justin M. Kiska, the theatre's Managing Director, "was to put together a line-up of shows that included some of the newest and biggest name shows to hit Broadway in recent seasons, and that's exactly what we were able to do. *Diana*, *Tootsie*, and *Anastasia* are three of the newest shows to be licensed to regional theatres. And we're thrilled they are a part of our anniversary season."

The show will run throughout the summer from June 21st until August 24th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening, and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Ticket prices for dinner and the show are \$56 on Fridays, \$60 on Saturdays, and \$59 on Sundays. For the evening performances, doors open for dinner at 6:00 p.m. with the show beginning at 8:00 p.m. On Sundays, lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. with the show starting at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about *Tootsie*, or any of Way off Broadway's upcoming shows visit the theatre's website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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MOUNT ARTS

Moving across the Atlantic for college

Emelie Beckman
MSMU Class of 2026

Mount St Mary's University's campus has, within the last few weeks, been slowly abandoned by all students, leaving the collection of classrooms and dormitories resembling a ghost town. Since the school year has come to an end, there is little for me to write about concerning the school's Fine Arts department, other than remarking on the successful performances in all areas. Hence, for this month, I wanted to depict my background being born and raised in Sweden, and what my experience coming to Maryland was like.

First, during my two years in the United States, many people have initially thought that I was raised here. I was born in Sweden and until August of 2022, it is the only place I have lived. My English, although still flawed, can be accredited to the fact that my parents put me in an all-English-speaking school when I was ten. I am very thankful for it now, but ten-year-old me would passionately disagree. Little Emelie was just dropped into a classroom, where the teacher only spoke a language she didn't understand and the only two options for her were to learn the language quickly or fail. I am not certain how I learned. Thinking back to it now, it just seems like one day I didn't know English, and the next I did.

What brought me to the Mount was my pole-vaulting skills. I started practicing track and field at the age of seven. There was a track a mere five-minute walk from my house, and my parents signed me up for every free time activity known to man. But little did they know how much track and field would impact my life.

As I grew, my abilities on the track got me scouted by Mount St Mary's, and now I am here. I find myself nowadays, due to the normality adopted from two years of living here, commonly side sweeping how big a deal it all is. When people get impressed by me moving to another country by myself, I brush it off as if it is nothing. But it certainly was no nothing back in the fall of 2022. Coming here felt just like being dropped into that classroom at ten; however, I was now 19 and far more distant from familiarity. In the beginning, I was calling home every day and half of the time I was crying. I struggled to make sense of this new place, and it took me a while to feel like I fit in.

I always find it difficult to explain this experience to people. The closest I get to efficiently illustrate what it was like is by saying that simply everything, big or small, was different. It's like getting transported into a world you have ever only heard about in concept. The world you saw in YouTube clips as a child, but never really considered real. It was a world that belonged to a screen, but then all

of a sudden it was right there in front of you. I recall commonly and telling myself during the days in fall of 2022, whether I was looking at a residential street, the cereal section at Walmart, or the package of tampons with applicators in my hands (we don't have applicators in Sweden), that it was all just like in the movies.

I still struggle at times to feel like I fit into this alien culture. But at least, now I feel like I understand more. Initially, what was most shocking to me were the surface-level cultural differences between the U.S. and Sweden. The food was weird and unfamiliar at first, and people were dressed differently. I struggled to make sense of people around campus wearing pyjamas, when I had gone to a high school where the proportions of your outfit mattered more than the classes you were walking to. Additionally, the physical environment was different. In Sweden, it was much colder all year round, and we didn't have the same humidity as here. I was also so fascinated by how many leafy trees there were here. In Sweden, we do have leafy trees of course, but the majority of our forests are made up of pines. Hence, seeing an entire wooden area filled with only leafy trees was a silly yet big difference for me.

It didn't take me long to notice how the general population was very different from us Swedish people. In fact, it only took an initial greeting for me to notice. People in America are very friendly and talkative. I do not mean to accuse Swedes of being the opposite, but your general Swede would more likely be less open at



Pole vaulting initially brought Emelie from Stockholm, Sweden, to the Mount.

a first than an American. However, I felt and keep feeling at times, that in general Americans are very friendly on the surface, but it takes many a long time to build friendship and trust; in Sweden, first meetings are always a bit formal and awkward, but if you regularly see that person, you are soon friends. When I first came to the U.S. I struggled connecting with people since I felt as if I was spending time with them and still not getting past their initial facade. I have, on the other hand, during my two years concluded, and the conclusion could change with more time, that this is more common amongst younger people in America. Elderly people and adults were very quickly my friends, and even though they might not be the strongest connections I have ever had, I greatly appreciate how inviting many have been to me. Americans are much more likely to invite you

into their home, and their enthusiastic hosting skills felt so much more genuine than anything I had felt in my hometown.

Finally, I must mention some differences I have observed in the art scenes. Before arriving, I had this idea that Sweden had a better art scene than the U.S. This wasn't meant to be rude or condescending; it was simply because Sweden as a country had a longer common history and culture than the U.S. However, I have since been convinced otherwise. From my short two years, I can confidently say that people in the U.S. who pursue art are fully and utterly devoted to it. To me, art and self-expression are also something everyone is capable of here. I know so many people who do it with no inten-

tions or dreams of being professionals. In Sweden, I had many artistic friends too, but there always seemed to be this idea that one's art wasn't real art unless you earned recognition for it. It felt as if you were not allowed into the art world if you yourself weren't a great artist or have sufficient knowledge to be opinionated enough in conversation. The art world at home felt like a secluded sphere, where only the gifted, or rich belonged. In the U.S. art feels more communal and open, both to create and enjoy, and I do believe that it contributes to a more diverse environment for creativity.

To read past articles by Emelie Beckman or Ashley Walczyk, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

2024 Spring sports season comes to a close

Richelle Zheng
Class of 2025

As spring sports and school approaches its end for the year, the 2024 seniors prepare for departure into the next chapters of their lives. This year, Catoctin's spring sports programs have had an amazing season; especially the softball and outdoor track and field teams.

Catoctin's varsity softball team continued to gain wins in their books, by defeating Brunswick High School 9-1 on May 1. During this game, Kassidy Kreitz hit a home run, allowing a grand slam. Bralyn West scored two doubles, as well as Kenzie Lewis, who made one. In addition, Madison Ohler, Raegan Miller, and Madison Ott contributed to the victory by making two hits each.

The next day, May 2, the girls played against Brunswick again. Senior Meghan Gray carried the team with three home-runs and five run-batted-in hits. Thanks to the third home-run Gray made, the team was able to gain a lead of ten points. Ohler also made a home-run while Miller and Lewis both scored three run-batted-in hits. In addition, Abigail Shives made two hits and West hit a double. On the defense, Kreitz made eight strikes and scattered four hits. These contributions made by the girls led to the Cougars taking the win against Brunswick, 13-3. While the varsity team was busy competing against the Brunswick Railroaders, the junior varsity team faced the Middletown Knights for their last match of the season. On the offense, leading the team, Sammie Simmers made a triple and double pair of doubles. Furthermore, Kaydense Cox made an overthrow at third base, scoring a triple. Katelyn Vernoie and Trish Enamarado also contributed to the team by scoring doubles. While the girls were on the defense, Simmers led the girls to their 15-7 victory by carrying out ten strikeouts. This wraps up the junior

varsity softball team's last game of the season. The girls had a great season with an overall record of 10-2!

Meanwhile, the varsity team moves on to play South Carroll High School on May 3. The girls had made great offensive plays as usual, with Ohler and Lewis each executing three hits along with a double. Ott had two hits, and Gray and Kreitz made doubles as well. On defense, Aubrie Courtney leads the team to their victory as she scatters eight hits and makes four strikeouts. The girls once again took the win 14-6.

On May 13, the girls headed off to regional semi-finals against Liberty High School. The girls went head to head against liberty, with Ohler leading the team by making three hits and a homerun. Kreitz aided the team by making two additional hits and a double. Shives also contributed a double. On defense, Courtney contributed one strikeout and Kreitz, three. However, the girls fell to the Liberty Lions in the end, 15-4. Nonetheless, the girls showcased their skills and athletic ability throughout the season as they ended their season with 13 wins out of a total of 17 games!

The boys varsity baseball team has also made many achievements this season. On May 9, the Cougars played against Boonsboro High School. The boys were able to defeat the Boonsboro Warriors 12-2 in six innings which allowed them to proceed onto Regional Semifinals on May 11. The Cougars endured a tough game against Brunswick High School in Regional Semifinals, losing 4-3 on a walk-off single. Although the boys lost the Regional Semifinals, they still exhibited great performances this season with nine wins in the book.

The girls varsity lacrosse team was able to participate in round two of the MPSSAA Class 1A Regional Tournament on May 10. The Lady Cougars played against the Boonsboro Warriors. Due to the girls' great offensive

and defensive plays, they took the win 10-8 which advanced them off to round three on May 13 against Middletown High School. The girls pulled off a few points during the game, but in the end they were not able to push past the Middletown Knights and lost 5-23, concluding their season.

Senior Recognition

Senior Alex Hauk who plays for the boys varsity lacrosse team was chosen to receive the Catoctin Sports Booster scholarship! Hauk has also committed to continue his lacrosse journey at Florida Southern College in Lakeland Florida, where he plans to study physical therapy.

Furious Trammel, a well-known trackstar on the boys varsity track and field team, is one of the few top middle-distance runners in Frederick County. He was nominated for Catoctin's King Award and was named a Frederick County Public Schools All-Stars athlete. Although Trammel is now known for his incredible performance as a runner, track was not his first sport in high school. Trammel joined football his freshman year at Catoctin High School, but coach Lois Strickland, who was the cross-country coach at the time, watched him play football and saw potential in his speed as he ran across the football field. He was then recruited by Strickland for track and field, which began Trammel's journey into becoming the amazing runner he is now. Ever since Trammel started running track, he has been dedicating his time into improving his skills as a runner. He never went back to football, as he fell in love with the sport immediately. Trammel has since won states, went to nationals, and gained the Frederick News Post's the All-County Boys Indoor Track Co-Runner of the Year! Even with all of these accomplishments, Trammel still yearns for more, as he dreams of becoming



Senior Furious Trammel graduates with his abundance of medals from his high school running career.

an Olympic runner. Hauk and Trammel are both outstanding athletes that Catoctin is proud to have represented the school.

Outdoor Track and Field

The Catoctin outdoor track and field team wraps up their season with counties and then states. At the Frederick County Championships, held at Middletown High School on May 9, Trammels ran in the 200-meters dash and placed first with an outstanding time of 21.59 seconds, which marked his new personal record! In the 110 meter hurdles category, Junior Gavin Sheetz placed in the top ten, with a time of 16.20 seconds. In the 300 meter hurdles, he placed sixth with a time of 42.49 seconds. Meanwhile, on the field, Deacon McIlvaine competed in the 12 pound shot put event, and scored 48-09.25, putting him in fourth.

The boys then advanced into MPSSAA 1A State Track & Field

Championships on May 13, which was held at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex. Catoctin placed first overall with 34 points! Trammel competed in the long jump event and placed first jumping a distance of 7.26 meters marking his new personal best! This allotted ten points for Catoctin. Gabriel Riling ran in the 3200-meter dash and finished with a time of 9:51.32 minutes placing him second. Moreover, his efforts gained eight points for Catoctin. McIlvaine also obtained eight points for Catoctin with his remarkable throw in shot put of 14.63 meters!

This has been an incredible spring sports season for Catoctin and Catoctin is extremely proud to have such outstanding athletes with their incredible skills.

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

3rd Annual Thurmont American Legion Golf Tournament

What! It's that time again already? Oh well there's not many things better than a Friday off work to play golf, drink beer, eat good food and win prizes! Mark your calendar for Friday, June 21st and put in for a day off work.

The Thurmont American Legion post 168 will be sponsoring their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament! The tournament will be played at Maple Run Golf Course in Thurmont and is a four-person scramble. Registration and Putting Contest will be from 7 to 8:30 with a Shot Gun start at 9.

This year the cost will be \$340 per team, and we are only accepting 24 teams. Paid teams will have priority so register early. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, Closest to the Pin and for all you hammers, Longest Drive for Men,

Seniors (over 65) and of course the ladies. Raffle prizes will be plentiful, but we do know there will be a bushel of crabs among the prizes.

The American Legion is always trying to help our fellow Veterans. Again, this year we will be donating the proceeds to Platoon 22 of Frederick. Platoon 22 is best known for being Veteran Focused Transitional Services. Their mission is to end Veteran suicide through the successful reintegration of service members and their families by assembling critical resources, providing peer support, and developing transitional programs. To learn more visit platoon22.org.

If you are not a golfer but are still interested in participating to raise money for Platoon 22 there are several ways to sponsor.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount Baseball reaches playoff

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

With their 12-7 away victory over Sain Peter's on May 16th, the Mount St. Mary's baseball team officially punched their ticket to the postseason and their spot in the 2024 MAAC championship. A hard schedule of top teams plus a rigorous month of March sharpened the team's talent as they went 13-11 in the MAAC this year, improving from their 10-14 conference record in 2023. This first appearance in the MAAC playoffs is the first time the Mount has participated in the postseason since 2018 and the first time head coach, Frank Leoni, has reached the playoffs in his three year tenure as head coach at the Mount.

With their 7th place finish in the 2023 season, the Mount barely missed out on a trip to the conference championship in Pomona, New York as they finished 3.5 games behind Manhattan, who sat in the coveted 6th and final playoff spot for the conference. With the top six teams in the conference standings making the playoffs, the Mount barely made the postseason. However, this comes in their first season as a MAAC school, an arguably tougher conference than the previous Northeast Conference's baseball division. On the eve of the team's first playoff appearance in seven years, who will be the leading men for coach Frank Leoni's team as they travel to New York for the conference playoffs?

The team as a whole has 11 total qualified batters batting above the Mendoza Line, which is a batting average above .200. Leading the team in batting average was Scott Seeker (C'24), who had a batting average of .349 and an OPS of 1.084. Seeker also hit nine homeruns, co-leading in that category with Shane Wockley (C'24) who had a slugging percentage of .470. Seeker also leads the team with 119 total bases and a slugging percentage of .610, the most among qualified batters.

Stand outs on the team with respect to dominance on the plate and on the base path include Tyler Long (C'24) and Aiden Tierney (C'24) who were both threats to pitchers and fielders. Long batted in a standout .310 batting average, only second to Seeker, and 15 stolen bases in a attempted 18. Long contributed as well with 12 stolen bases in an attempted 13 and added to his base stealing prowess with a batting average of .293. This made him both a threat at the plate while on his way to steal a bag.

The story of the 2024 season would be incomplete without the telling of the talent of Deven Sheerin (C'27). The first-year student in his first campaign with the Mountaineers broke the single season strikeout record with one shy of a century at 99. This beat the 88 strikeouts in a season



The Mount will advance to their first MAAC playoffs and their first postseason appearance since 2018.

thrown by Dustin Pease, who set the latest record in 2004. Sheerin also posted a ERA of 4.82 and a WHIP of 1.09 while having a record of 5-4 in 61.2 innings of work for the Mount.

Another pitcher, that along with Sheerin, helped guarantee a strong starting corps of pitchers was Brendan Yagesh (C'26). Posting a team leading 3.25 ERA, Yagesh was a great secondary to the staff behind Sheerin as he struck out 66 while having a WHIP of 1.35 through 63.2 innings. His record reflected a 2-3 record although this is not as serious of a separation in the ways the bullpen held together the games. Yagesh also only let up three homeruns to the opposition all year long, signifying his soft contact style of pitching on the mound.

The quality of opposition faced this year in the MAAC may be a signal to how the conference competition was in respect to teams as a whole. Finishing at the top were regular season co-champions in Fairfield and Niagara who both topped out at 20-4. The two co-leaders

were followed by Rider who posted a record of 18-6 to get them into 3rd place. The Mount came in 4th with a record of 13-11, finishing three places ahead of where they finished in last years rendition of the MAAC regular season. They were followed by Canisius who finished 5th with a conference record of 11-13 who beat out Marist by one game to settle in 5th place. The aforementioned Marist finished in the final playoff spot of 6th. While their record of 10-14 was equal to that of Manhattan, the Red Foxes advanced on head-to-head record with the Jaspers.

A sweep of Iona away and series wins against Manhattan, Rider, Canisius, and Saint Peter's guaranteed the Mount a successful conference season as they rounded out the year. Visits to Maryland, Mississippi State, and Portland outlined tough out of conference play, both in quality of play and in travel time. But the jewel of the Mount's season this year came in a six-game win streak that was sustained from April 23rd to 28th. Wins in this period included the

sweep of Iona in conference as well as out of conference wins against the Naval Academy and University of Maryland, Eastern Shore who went 0-48, not winning a single game all season long.

The success of this year's conference play for the Mount has earned them their first appearance in a conference playoff since 2018 and their first ever appearance in the MAAC playoffs since the school joined the conference in 2022. This comes at the right time, as their junior year in the MAAC was one of opportunity. While teams that had dominated in the past such as Manhattan

had faltered this season, head coach Frank Leoni and his staff saw a gap that they could fit into with regards to playoff seeding. They won the games necessary to qualify and have made the mark worthy to be in the playoffs, make no mistake about it. Their first ever MAAC playoff game will be on May 22nd against Canisius in Pomona, New York as they look to compete for their first ever MAAC title and a spot in the National Tournament.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

The body delivers the mail

Jefferson Breland

What you do with it is up to you. About four years ago, I wrote a column entitled, "Symptoms as Teachers." In it, I introduced this concept in relationship to one of my most powerful, foundational beliefs: 1) there are no accidents; 2) everything happens for a reason; 3) everything happens for the good; and, 4) can you see the good?

Since I was first introduced to these concepts about 12 years ago, I have applied them to my own life as well as shared them with all of my patients.

Recently, I had a bit of a revelation about symptoms as teachers which I want to share with you; but, first review.

You may ask, "How can symptoms be a teacher or good when they can be uncomfortable, inconvenient, and sometimes terrifying?"

Symptoms are the body's natural way of calling attention to something in our life that is out of balance and needs tending. This is their purpose.

Symptoms offer us the opportunity to take action to help ourselves. They are like the "check engine" light in our car. Symptoms point to sometimes subtle and sometimes profound ways that something in our bodies or in our lives is out of balance and needs attention.

We can ignore the "check engine" light in our car, put tape over it so we can't see it. We can turn up the music in the car when the engine makes a funny noise so we can't hear it. As many of us know, if we ignore our car's warning signs, rather than needing a simple oil change, we might need a new transmission or a new engine.

Which would you rather pay for?

I grew up in a house where in the cabinet above the stove, there was a bottle of aspirin or ibuprofen and a bottle of anti-acid tablets. This was the way I learned to ignore my body's "check engine" light of smaller symptoms like a headache or indigestion. It was my family's way of addressing these regular "check engine lights."

For years, I masked the symptoms of headaches and a sour stomach with these medicines. It never occurred to me that I had any choice, much less any power to make them go away without medicines; in other words, to heal myself.

It never occurred to me to look at these symptoms like a cut or sprained ankle. I knew how to tend these injuries and let my body heal itself. I knew that if I disinfected the cut and kept it clean and covered with a bandage, it would take care of itself. I knew that if I reduced the swelling of my ankle and kept my weight off it, it would feel better over time; but, I forgot something important. The it, my skin, my ankle is me. So in fact, I was healing myself. This basic healing ability is available to us for even more complicated issues if we use the opportunity to create the conditions to heal ourselves.

As for the headaches and indigestion symptoms, I was lucky. The worst my indigestion got was advancing to acid reflux with the stomach acid irritating my vocal cords. I was prescribed a strong stomach-acid reducer and at the same time I learned relaxation techniques which helped me address the root cause of my symptoms, stress. When I learned how to release the

stress in my life and be more peaceful, my symptoms stopped returning.

My mother was not as lucky. She masked the symptoms of headaches and stomach issues and progressed to more complicated and painful concerns requiring hospitalization and surgery.

In general, if we knew these "less severe" symptoms were here to help us and took the opportunity to listen to what they are saying, we can become our own primary care physician, so to speak.

We can observe our symptoms and look for simple solutions. We have a choice. We can make small, sustainable lifestyle modifications and see what helps reduce symptoms.

If we suppress symptoms we take the chance the root cause of those symptoms will surface somewhere else in our body in a more severe form. You could think of it as a mortal game of "Whack-a-Mole."

My epiphany about the wisdom of our bodies and our symptoms came while I was listening to a patient.

Her chief complaints were anxiety, insomnia, and depression. It appeared these symptoms were entwined and put my patient in a downward health spiral. She needed sleep to feel better. Her racing thoughts kept her awake most of the night. In the presence of her exhaustion she could not see any way out.

She was seeing a therapist who prescribed anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medications, and sleep aids. None of these drugs seemed to help.

The one constant in my patient's life was her job. She hated it. She liked the field well enough, but she hated the environment and culture of the workplace.



When Floki arrived, he was emaciated, and in very poor shape because he came into the shelter as a stray. We've been able to get weight on him as well as a healthy shine to his fur. Floki is a big boy that doesn't quite know how big he really is! He is a 2-year-old Rottweiler who really is a good looking boy. Floki would love to go to a loving forever home that has Rottweiler experience. He knows sit and does so quite handsomely we must say! He can be aloof with strangers at first but does warm up to new people well. Floki can be dog selective here at the shelter but seems to do better with females. He would do best in a home with older children. Can you give Floki a second chance at a forever home?

For more information about Floki, 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.

She felt trapped. She had devoted time and money to get an advanced degree in her field. She felt if they left this job or the field, it would mean she was a failure and had wasted her life.

In the last few months, she began to realize she could no longer stay in the job. It was an unbearable situation. She felt miserable driving to work and walking into the building. She felt she needed some time off to clear her head. She hoped she would begin to feel better even in with the challenges of being unemployed.

This is when I had my epiphany.

Our symptoms are so much smarter than we are.

Her symptoms did not just deliver a message about an imbalance. Her symptoms created the conditions where she could only hear the message. The symptoms were no longer the labels of anxiety, insomnia, and depression. She felt them on a deeper level where she recognized they could not be ignored or suppressed.

She was so exhausted, her emotions were like a "raw nerve." Her symptoms created the conditions for her to be able to make a very tough decision.

Her symptoms left her no real choice. She had nothing left in her tank. Her symptoms had depleted her usual defenses which would have allowed her to push through and ignore her suffering.

What if the medications had helped her sleep better? What if she felt better about her situation? What if she worried less? What if she felt well enough to

continue working where she was? That would have been a good thing, right?

Maybe.

If the medications worked as they were intended, she may have been able to stay in that environment and work culture. The medications would not change that environment and culture. The relationship to the work would not have changed. The root cause of her symptoms would still exist and continue to affect her health. I'll bet you dollars to donuts, her outcome would have resembled my mother's situation.

We blame our symptoms as if they are the cause of our suffering. Symptoms are not the cause. Symptoms are messengers to tell us something is out of balance. It is like getting a letter in the mail telling us about an important opportunity. We can read it and take action or not take action.

This letter however can be a matter of life or death. The choice is ours.

Please note I am not saying to ignore your symptoms. I hope that you understand that I am asking you to think of symptoms as an opportunity to help yourself.

If certain symptoms persist, I recommend scheduling an appointment with your primary care physician or your local acupuncturist to gain some insight about how you can help yourself.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Sun protection and skin health

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

We are all concerned with improving and maintaining good health. We have all heard this information before and I have written about it a few times before but I feel it is so important it is worth writing and reading it again. Hearing it again could just save a lot of problems for and your loved ones in the future. When we think of our health we usually think about our heart, cholesterol, blood pressure and physical health. All of these things are inside one of the biggest organs we have. Our skin is very important in providing overall good health to our body.

Sunscreen is a great way to protect our skin from sunburns and skin problems. We need to start from day one to protect our skin from too much sun exposure when we are outside. Babies should always be protected from the harmful sun's rays by keeping them covered up when out in the sun or keeping them under a protective roof or screen when they are outside. Sunscreen is important for every

age everyday. Whether you are outside in the direct sun or inside, it is important to use an SPF sunscreen everyday. Even when you are inside the sun's rays come through the window and can affect your skin. It's never too late to start using protective sun screens. I am from the generation of using baby oil on the beach to get a tan. Oh my, if we only knew then what we know now we would have been much more careful in protecting our skin.

With summer coming with it's hot days and strong sun rays it is very important to do your research to protect yourself and your family. Starting children out using protective sunscreen is a way to help them avoid some of the skin problems they may have in the future. As I said earlier, I would have done some things very different when I was younger had I known the consequences that could come years later. Educate your children on the importance of taking care of their skin health and overall health now. We have so much more information and knowledge that we can use to maintain our health for the future.

Our skin can benefit from good

nutrition, sun protection, sufficient water intake and good cleansing. A good daily routine of hygiene and care is the most important way we can insure the best health we can have inside and out for our future.

Warm weather is upon us and getting outside is a great way to get exer-

cise, improve your mood and just feel better. It is also necessary now that the grass and weeds are growing. The lawn and garden needs attention everyday and must be taken care of even if the sun is beating down and the heat is making us sweat. That's the time we especially need to protect our skin. Sometimes we are working and forget to put sunscreen on when we first

go out but it is really easy to forget to re-apply it. We should put sunscreen on about every half hour or so to keep the protection we need. It's fun to be out in the sun but protecting ourselves from the harmful rays is very important for good skin health. Have fun, enjoy the sun but take care of yourself too. Remember to keep moving, you'll be glad you did.

Frederick Health recognizes excellence

Joshua Faust

Nurses of the year

Each year Frederick Health honors two nurses with this award – one in direct patient care and one in indirect care/administrative.

Jeb Gibson, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, was named the Indirect Care Nurse of the Year. "This is such an incredible honor. I have the benefit of being surrounded by an amazing team. I am truly humbled," said Gibson.

Wearing many hats, Jeb is a strong nurse, educator, paramedic, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Working in the emergency department can sometimes be challenging, but Jeb has accomplished a great deal in helping to keep this community healthy. His years of experience, certifications, and education make him a strong leader and patient advocate. Throughout the pandemic, Jeb rose to the challenge and supported the hospital.

"He routinely shows his dedication, compassion, leadership, and expertise; he is a proven, trusted asset to Frederick Health," said Peggy McNeill, Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice.

Ellen Nicodemus, a Registered Nurse with Pediatrics, was named the Direct Care Nurse of the Year

"I've always felt privileged to be part of this team of healthcare providers. It means a lot to be recognized by my peers, whom I really admire," Nicodemus stated.

According to her colleagues and supervisors, Ellen is a fantastic asset to the Pediatrics team. With over 22 years of experience, she is a leader and someone all staff look up to, always there to aid others with a smile. The Pediatrics Department praised Ellen for her way of teaching both clinical expertise and the art of compassion.

"Ellen is the epitome of the art of nursing. She has the delicate balance of skill, compassion, integrity, and experience that all nurses should strive for," said

Charli Crawford, Manager, Pediatrics Department.

Team Members of the Year

Brenda Zell, Accounting Manager, was named Team Leader of the Year. Zell has worked at Frederick Health for over 49 years. Her responsibilities include monthly and annual financial reporting for the organization. She is also responsible for maintaining accurate accounting records and takes the lead on all banking transactions with vendors. There are many 'other duties as assigned' including providing support for numerous grants, COVID-19 and FEMA-related funding, and annual Community Benefits reporting.

"Brenda is the epitome of dedication and loyalty," said Hannah Jacobs, Senior Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer with Frederick Health. "She meets the daily stress of her role with optimism. Her entire team value her positive spirit and compassionate leadership style and have demonstrated their commitment with long tenured careers here at Frederick Health."

Clayton Holdcroft, Learning Technology Specialist, was named Team Member of the Year. Holdcroft has worked at Frederick Health for six years. He is responsible for streamlining internal processes, designing and updating Human Resources communication tools, organizing the internal NetLearning employee modules, and is a strong advocate for employee engagement and education.

"Clayton is like our Swiss Army Knife," said Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human Resources with Frederick Health. "He can do it all. Clayton has a great talent for technology, analytics, and data integration. He makes life better for a lot of people at Frederick Health and is one of the nicest people that I know. I can't say enough nice things; he is a star."

Congratulations to Jeb, Ellen, Brenda and Clayton. Frederick Health is honored to have you on the team!

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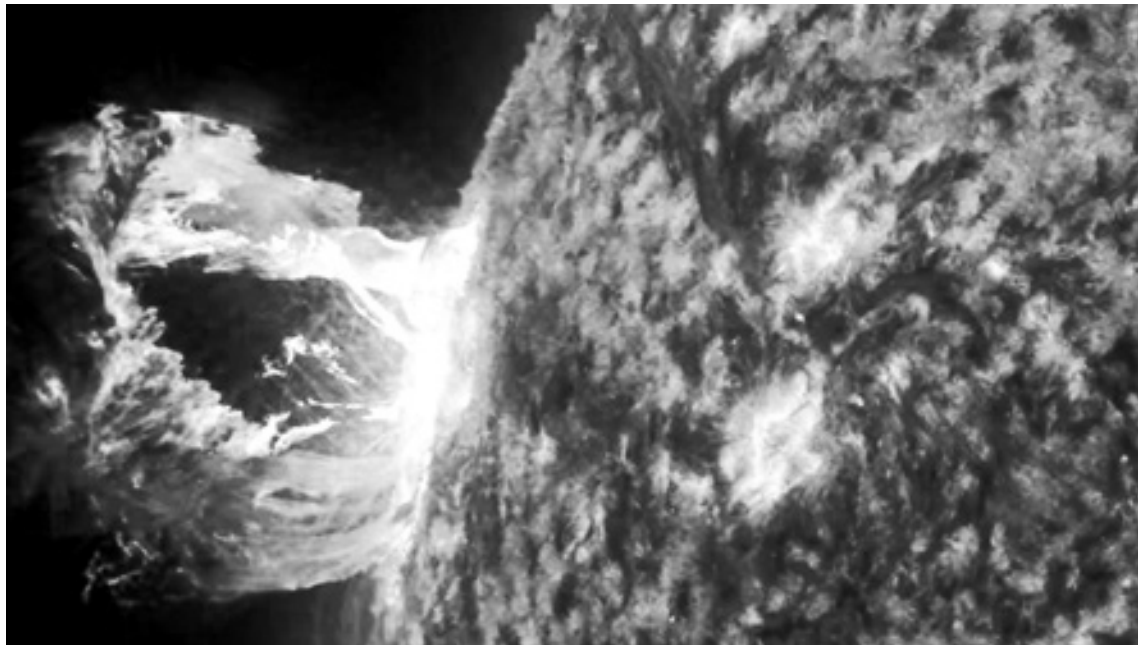
The night sky of June

Professor Wayne Wooten

For June 2024, the waning crescent moon passes Mars in the dawn on June 3rd. It is new moon on June 6th. The first quarter moon is on June 14th. Summer begins with the Summer Solstice at 4:51 p.m. on June 20, 2024, the longest day of the year. We get about 14 hours of daylight now. The Full Moon, the Honey Moon, is the following evening. The last quarter moon is June 28th, and lies just east of Saturn in the morning sky. A striking planetary alignment of the waning crescent with Mars and Jupiter to the lower left of it occurs an hour before sunset on June 30th; a great photo op for early risers.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about May 30th visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for the northern hemisphere skies in June; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. There is also a video exploring the June sky from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky. Sky & Telescope has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/ for observing the sky each week of the month.

This June Mercury lies behind the Sun, emerging in the evening sky low in the SW at the very end of the month. Venus also is on the far side, and will not return to dusk until in



A series of powerful solar storms with intense to extreme solar flare erupted on the sun on May 10th. The storm was the most powerful to affect Earth since October 2003, and produced aurorae at far lower latitudes than usual in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

July. As mentioned above, Mars is in the dawn now, and will not get close enough to us to be a good scope target for several more months. Jupiter returns to the dawn skies by month's end, to the lower left of Mars on June 30th. Even Saturn in Aquarius waits until almost midnight to rise in the south east. No bright planets in evening skies now.

Of course, the huge news last month as the return of the Northern Lights to Dixie Skies on May 10th, my 76th birthday...what a fireworks display! The cause was several X class flares from huge sunspot group AR 3664, imaged here with my See Star on May 8th, when it faced us and sent out the biggest Coronal Mass Ejections (CME)!

Many smartphones in night mode returned thousands of fine shots of the colors, rays, and minute by minute changes dancing above our heads. We observed this "picket fence pat-

tern from Pensacola airport minutes later, and it marched south to arrive over Key West an hour later! The red glow was seen in all 50 states (yes, even Hawaii and Puerto Rico!) Alas, it was just for Friday night. By Saturday, the spots were rotating over the western limb of the sun, and activity died down. Fun while it lasted. Check out the beautiful gallery on our Facebook group, or on www.spaceweather.com galleries.

The Big Dipper is almost overhead as twilight falls, and its pointers take you north to the Pole Star. If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the

Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. They are bright because they are hot, even though on the main

sequence, fusing hydrogen like our Sun, they are only a little larger than our home star.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. Under dark skies, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years.

To the east, Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Use your binocs to pick up many clusters in this rich region of our own Cygnus spiral arm rising now in the east. The nearest spiral arms of our Milky Way are now on the eastern horizon, and may be mistaken for a cloud rising if you are not used to the transparency of rural skies! They arc overhead in the morning hours for restless campers.

To the south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout.

Farmers' Almanac

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could not stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in 7 years"

—Mark Twain (1836-1875)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry, then turning very warm (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); afternoon showers and thunderstorms, followed by cooler and seasonable conditions followed very quickly by very warm and humid weather (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); more rain, then much cooler and less humid (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry, then turning hot and humid with near record temperatures and isolated late day thunderstorms (17, 18, 19, 20); hot and humid with late day thunderstorms (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); warm and rather humid with late day showers and thunderstorms east (26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanac sees heavy rain with the possibility of flooding in the Mid-Atlantic Region (10-13, & 29-30).

Full Moon: The Full Moon in June will occur on Friday, June 21st. It has often been referred to as Rose Moon because roses start to show their gorgeous blooms at the beginning of the month. It has also been known as Strawberry Moon because the first strawberries of the season become ripe for the picking in June!

Special Notes: The Summer Solstice will occur on Thursday, June 20th, signaling the official start of summer (Thank God, it's finally here!). It's also graduation time so honor your high school or college grad. This major milestone should be recognized as such with a party or a very special gift.

Holidays: Proudly display 'Old Glory' on Friday, June 14th. Be sure to display it properly and reference www.ushistory.org to be sure you are doing it correctly. Father's Day is Sunday, June 18th. Do something nice for "The Old Man", who took the time to raise you right!

The Garden: It's not too late to start warm-season crops such as corn,

beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, and eggplant. Plant or sow summer annuals such as nasturtiums, vinca, verbena, geraniums, phlox, marigolds, lobelia, impatiens, cosmos, sunflowers, zinnias, and alyssum. Feed annuals and remove spent flowers to promote another round of flowers.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (3, 4); weeding and stirring the soil (5, 6, 7); planting above-ground crops (8, 9); harvesting all crops (21, 24, 25); Best days for setting hens and incubators (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13); transplanting (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); the harvesting and storing grains (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

"Send your son into the world with good principles, a good temper, a good business education, and habits of industry, then he will work his way."



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COMPUTER Q&A

Printers: buying & troubleshooting tips

They just don't make printers like they use to. 10-15 years ago you could buy a printer that could last a decade, today you might consider yourself lucky if yours lasts you more than 5 years. Why? Well like anything we have found ways to manufacturer printers less expensively, the price has dropped but so has the quality. If you haven't purchased a printer yet or are looking to replace yours there are a few things you can consider while attempting to make a decision. First you should determine what your needs are, do you need a fax capabilities? Will you be scanning? Do you need to print in color? Will you be printing photos? Are you going to be printing wirelessly, or with a USB cable? Once you answer these questions you can begin to narrow down your choices.

You may notice while browsing for your new device, that some printers are inkjet and utilize either inkjet cartridges, an EcoTank or toner cartridges. Choosing the right option for you can result in a lot of savings on ink. We've gathered some information to help explain the differences between the different options and some of the pros and cons of each type. Keep in mind that the estimated page yield is based 5% coverage of the page, if you are printing full color pages or heavy graphics, your results will vary. If you are really curious to know what your exact usage is most newer printers have utilities that tracked detailed device and ink usage.

Inkjet Printers – These printers can be the least costly to purchase and utilize two or more cartridges to deliver ink to your paper. Ink cartridges for these printers can run upwards of \$20 each with some printers utilizing one cartridge for black and one for color and other printers (especially photo printers) requiring individual color cartridges (and on some photo printers a special grey cartridge). Some manufacturers (HP were looking at you!) have gone so far as to create a "security" setting that doesn't allow you to use your unused cartridges in another printer. I don't know about you but I've never known anyone to steal ink cartridges out of someone's printer. For these reasons, the need to replace cartridges more often and with the potential for unused (or expired) cartridges to dry out, we find that inkjet printers can be more frustrating and can be the least cost effective long-term with an average of less than a 500 page yield per cartridge.

EcoTank Printers – While these printers are technically inkjet printers, they have a unique ink delivery system. Instead of utilizing cartridges, ink is stored in a tank and bottles of ink are easily replaced with virtually no mess at all. Since each color has its own tank you can replace colors individually and they yield a lot more ink so you will find they last a lot longer and you get more prints (roughly 20,000 pages per color). Only Epson offers the Eco-Tank printers and these printers are recommended for those who print at least a few times a week, as use or maintenance (via a built-in utility) is required to keep the ink tank lines from clogging up over time.

Laser Printers – Most laser printers are used in a business environment but those who are high volume printers of heavy text or photo documents (excluding high quality photo printing) can find benefit from using a laser printer. Unlike inkjet printers, laser printers use toner cartridges that are full of powder. The most notable quality of laser printers aside from also averaging a high page yield per cartridge is

the increased speed at which pages print. Unlike inkjet ink, toner does not smear when coming in contact with water.

Troubleshooting Tips

Not being able to print is a bummer! The first thing you should investigate is whether or not your printer is printing independently. If you have scanner you can attempt to copy a document to see if it prints. If you're unable to print a scanned document, then the issue is likely with the printer itself and is not related to the connection to your computer. If you've tested and it works or, you are unable to try scanning a document, try restarting the power on your printer next.

If at that point you are still unable to print from your computer, the next step is to investigate the connection to the computer. If you are using a USB cable to connect your printer to your computer, unplug the USB cable from the computer, restart the computer and plug your printer into a different USB port after the computer has loaded up. If you're using a wireless connection to connect your printer to your computer, you should verify that the printer is still connected to

your network. Typically, printers with a touch screen have a wireless icon that indicates if you are connected or not. If you aren't sure how to check your wireless connection check your printers manual for detailed instructions.

If you've verified your wireless connection and still can't print, your printer may be setup to automatically get an ip address and your computer may not have the updated address. Most of the time when you install your printer to be used wirelessly, a utility is installed on the computer which will let you update your printers ip address. We highly recommend setting your printer to have a manual ip address so that your computer doesn't need to search for a new address if it changes. At Jester's Computers we offer on-site services which include configuring your wireless network and printer.

If your printer is printing out blank or incomplete pages, you may need to perform maintenance on your printer. Usually you can use the touch screen to find utilities or tools from your printer however, most printers have the utilities built into the printer software as well. On ink-

jet printers you may need to occasionally clean printheads and perform page alignments. EcoTank printers as mentioned above require you to perform maintenance on the lines that feed the ink to your printer if you haven't used it for a while or aren't getting any ink on the paper. Toner printers don't usually require any maintenance per say, but after a certain amount of use some parts like the printer drum may need replaced. Most inkjet printers aren't worth repairing and finding someone to repair them is challenging.

If you need additional information or

assistance with your printer or computer contact Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611, visit us at www.jesterscomputers.com We are located at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield and our regular business hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours until 7p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you have been the victim of a scam, Jester's Computers can help; whether you require a cleanup of your device, advice or one-on-one support, contact Jester's Computers, located in Fairfield, by calling 717-642-6611, emailing customerservice@jesterscomputers.com, or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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Taneytown Volunteer Fire Co. 100th Anniversary

CARNIVAL

June 10th - June 15th

Carnival grounds open at 5 p.m.

Rides open at 7 p.m. • Shows start at 7 p.m.

RIDE ALL NIGHT - ONE PRICE!



Dinners served nightly in our
air conditioned activities building 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Monday, June 10 Hot Chicken Sandwich and Ham	Tuesday, June 11 Meatloaf and Baked Ziti	Wednesday, June 12 Hot Chicken Sandwich Hot Roast Beef Sandwich
Thursday, June 13 Hot Roast Beef Sandwich and Lasagna	Friday, June 14 Baked Fish and Salisbury Steak	Saturday, June 15 Baked Ziti and Ham

Lunch Sandwiches & Platters daily 11 - 1 in the Greasy Spoon
Call in orders: 443-401-5046

Entertainment

Monday, June 10 Tall in the Saddle	Tuesday, June 11 Dixie Wind Band
Wednesday, June 12 Brush Fire	Thursday, June 13 Half Serious Band
Friday, June 14 Different Sisters Band	Saturday, June 15 Bootleg



For more info contact Jim:
443-375-2421



Harney Volunteer Fire Co.

CARNIVAL

4 Big Nights!

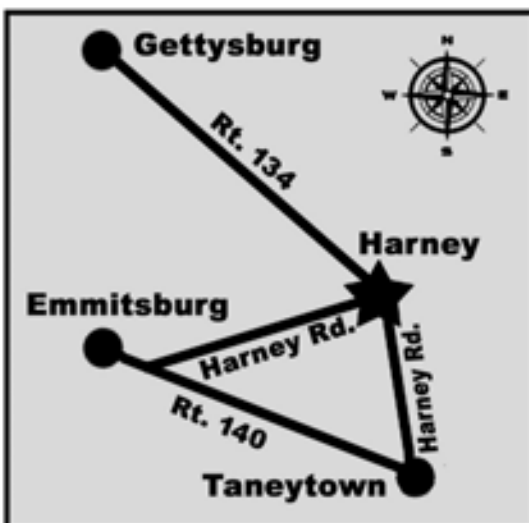
**Free
Parking!**

Wed., June 26th - Sat., June 29th!

Grounds open a 6 p.m.

Entertainment: Bands play from 7 - Till

- Wednesday, June 26 - Taylor Brown (Elvis tribute)
- Thursday, June 27 - Dixie Wind Band (Classic country)
- Friday, June 28 - Big Wheely & the Whitewalls (50s & 60s)
- Saturday, June 29 - Borderline (Country)



**Great food outside and in the A/C Dining Hall
Nightly 50/50 Drawing after the entertainment**

Several Money Games ~ Cash Bingo

**Inflatable rides by Renta Fiesta, Hanover
Ride for \$10 each night 6:30 till closing**

Harney Volunteer Fire Company

5130 Harney Rd., Taneytown ~ www.Harneyfire11.org

Located 5 miles from Taneytown on Harney Rd.

Located 6.8 miles from Emmitsburg on Harney Rd.

Located 7 miles south of Gettysburg on Rt. 134 (Taneytown Rd.)



41st Annual Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day Saturday, June 29th

Beer Garden



Hayride &
Barrel Ride



Lions Chicken BBQ

AND more...



Join our Facebook Group "Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day" and keep up-to-date on all the planned activities.

For information
and schedule

Emmitsburgevents.com

Family field games



Children's Play Area



Free pool all day

Parade

Food Trucks

History Hayride

Music with Sticktime!

Fireworks

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FIND NEW ROADS™



“From the day I entered public service, I made the commitment that I would never make it about me. Public service is about delivering for you and making Maryland better.”

CONGRESSMAN
DAVID TRONE

My Background

I saw it growing up on the farm when my Dad was struggling with alcoholism and lost everything to bankruptcy. I saw it when my business was beginning to grow, and corrupt elected officials did everything they could to stop me. I saw it when my nephew Ian told me that he was addicted to opioids. I wanted to be a different public servant and not the typical politician we are all tired of.

We All Have Some Disappointments in Life and Then Move On

That's why, when the results came in from the primary election last month, I didn't spend the following days doubting the results or wallowing in self-pity. I met with my team and made a plan for what we could accomplish in the time I have left as your Congressman.

My Priorities in Congress Remain the Same

- 1. Opioids** - 100,000 Americans will die of a drug overdose this year. It's a tragedy that has hit so many families, including mine. I've harnessed the power of the federal government to deliver funds and resources to tackle this issue, and we've made real strides. In the coming months, I'll continue to build coalitions on Capitol Hill and throughout our communities so that this positive progress continues.
- 2. Our Economy** - We must make sure Western Maryland has a strong voice on Capitol Hill so we can deliver funds to invest in our infrastructure, create jobs, and provide economic justice for our families. I've been proud to serve on the Appropriations Committee, securing tens of millions of dollars to fund roads, bridges, community centers, and more in every county in the 6th District.
- 3. Mental Health Care** - We must also continue to work to expand access to mental health care. Too many people are suffering in the shadows. Too many fall victim to the stigma and are fearful to admit that they're not okay. It breaks my heart, and it ignites a fire in me to make a difference — because this is personal to my family.

I'm Always Proud to Serve You

I've been incredibly proud to represent you in Congress for the last six years. Not just because it's a beautiful district with a diverse group of hardworking people (it is). I'm especially proud because I see the potential in every community. I recognize the economic engine that needs a little bit of fine-tuning before it races down the road. It's been an honor to play a small role in making that vision a reality.