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EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION — EDWARD R. MURROW

AUGUST 2021

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Communities to hold National Night Out Events

National Night Out is celebrated annually in all fifty states, when not impacted by such unforeseen circumstances, such as a pandemic.

Lieutenant Brian Costello, Taneytown Police Department, told the News-Journal that the purpose of the event is to "increase crime and drug prevention awareness, strengthen police-community partnerships, make connections within the community, and to learn and share crime prevention and safety information."

In the News-Journal's area of coverage, two National Night Out events will be held, while two have been canceled.

The Taneytown's National Night Out event will be held on August 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Taneytown Carnival Grounds. Featured will be representatives of the MSP Crime Lab, the State Bomb Squad, State Fire Marshal's Office, Animal Control officers, the Army National Guard, the Taneytown Fire Department, and the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office.

Costello stated that animal control officers and the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office will be offer-

ing informational handouts, while the Taneytown fire company will be displaying fire trucks and other equipment. He also said he believed that the bomb squad would be bringing one of the bomb robots, and that the National Guard would be bringing one of their Humvee armored vehicles.

In addition to the noted attendees, the Masonic Lodge will have information regarding their -Child Identification Program, while a (volunteer?) police officer will be found inside a dunk tank. Local businesses will be at tables giving out information. Event coordinators are also anticipating that free hotdogs and water bottles will also be available.

Emmitsburg will be holding its National Night Out event at Myers Community Park on August 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.. The Vigilant Hose Company will be letting children see their fire trucks and ambulances, and will be giving out fire hats, while county deputies will be displaying their vehicles and handing-out free toys while supplies last.

The Frederick County Health Department will be offering HIV screening and drug abuse and recognition NARCAN training. Moth-



The purpose of National Night Out is to strengthen the relationship between the citizens and those who have taken an oath to protect them." - Sheriff Chuck Jenkins

ers Against Drunk Driving, and the Frederick County Public Library will also be participating. Free hot dogs - donated by the Davis Family and cooked by the fire department - as well as free water and ice cream while supplies last.

Thurmont and Carroll Valley Borough have canceled their National Night Out celebrations.

Thurmont Police Chief Gregory Eyler stated that the event was canceled because there were still concerns over COVID, stating, "Although some COVID-19 restrictions are being relaxed and organizations are holding events with total disregard for the safety of citizens,

I am not going to place the TPD (Thurmont Police Department) in a position where we could be held liable or labeled as an enabler."

Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman said their event was cancelled because they were unsure about the status of the COVID protocols would be, by the time the event would have been scheduled.

"We had to make a decision for planning purposes early and we, at the time, couldn't guarantee that the borough facilities would be open for use, and free of COVID restriction, so we canceled," he stated, adding, "But we will be back next year!"

No signs of a 2021 drought... yet

Bolstered by a record-breaking amount of rain in June, and the lack of a persistent heatwave, the chance of a repeat of the drought of 2020 grows increasingly unlikely, as the region makes its way through the summer months.

In fact, at least one local farmer reports his harvest has tripled this season over last year, and he is still counting.

As of mid-July, NOAA reported that zero percent of Maryland was experiencing even pre-drought (abnormally dry) conditions, while the same status applied in communities across the border

Last year's pre-drought (which occurred from June into July) and drought hammered area farmers and others engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Eric Glass, who operates the 600-acre Oakridge Farm, watched his corn crop depreciate daily since the heat wave had begun to intensify during the summer of 2020. Corn is one of the farm's primary products, along with soybeans. Glass said that "the two inches of rain of July 12 saved the corn crop for 2021. "We will still need three quarters of an inch of rain per week until late August. But we are in a much, much better shape than our 65% loss of 2020."

Jonathan Kubala, who manages a 183-acre farm outside of Emmitsburg off Keysville Road, told the News-Journal that as of mid-July, his hay crop yield is already tripled compared to what he harvested this time in 2020, and that's just from the first cutting.

"Last year," he stated, "I didn't get a second cutting (because of the drought)," adding that as things presently stand, he will get a second cutting and possibly a third. He said he also increased the amount of fertilizer this growing season over the amount that was used last year.

Catoctin Mountain Orchard owner Robert Black said, during the 2020 drought, the diminishing water supply did not pose as much of a threat to the crop output on their 100-acre farm as did the heat. "The extreme heat is the issue," he said, and that was "taxing the (fruit) trees." But now, Black reported, "Our trees are doing well, with a full crop on them this year." In fact, he said their apple trees are generating so many apples that a percentage of the growing apples have to be thinned-out to allow larger apples to develop.

Mary Ann Ryan, Consumer Horticulture Program Coordina-



Brian Glass, co-owner of Oakridge Farms, Emmitsburg, surveys the 2021 corn crop - and no, we didn't photoshop this - that's how tall Brian's corn is!

tor at Penn State Extension, said, "Here in most of Adams County we have had a decent amount of rain, so crops are growing quite nicely, as are any newly-planted shrubs and trees," adding, "I'll take the rains any day to the drought! It's been wonderful not watering nearly as much this year."

Regarding water supplies in the Emmitsburg area, Town Manager Cathy Willets stated that Rainbow Lake, which serves as the town's reservoir, "is holding very well. The wells are holding very well. We are not concerned right now, but we will continue to monitor them."

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town charter to be updated

The Emmitsburg commissioners will be considering adopting a resolution “to repeal the charter of the Town of Emmitsburg in its entirety” at their August 2 meeting, and adopt a new one in its place with “modernized” wording.

Commissioner Joe Ritz told the News-Journal that it was his understanding that the intent is to have the currently existing charter “replaced (by one) with more modern verbiage,” and to update other information contained within the charter that is no longer applicable or out of date.

For example, the town boundaries, as stated in the current charter, have “significantly grown over the years,” and need to be updated, Ritz said. The charter also references specific properties by owner, a

practice which needs to be replaced with one that geographically identifies the sites. In another instance, the existing charter even discusses MD State Route 97, which is now Route 140.

The current charter also establishes and defines the Emmitsburg Police Department, an agency which hasn’t existed in years.

Ritz said that other specifics which need to be removed include such regulations as those that require the commissioners: “to regulate the cleaning of chimneys; to prohibit the running-at-large of animals in the streets or public places; to license and regulate public conveyances or forms of transportation; to regulate the speed and travel in general of all animals, bicycles, and automo-

biles, and to designate over what streets and thoroughfares the same may be driven.”

The existing charter charges the Town Commissioners with establishing quarantine regulations and regulate the burial and disinterment of the dead; and “preserve the peace and order of town, and punish the resistance, hindrance and obstruction of public officers in the discharge of their duties; and to prevent vice, suppress gambling, houses of ill fame, and disorderly houses.”

In addition, Commissioners are responsible for regulating the manufacturing and keeping of explosives in the town, the construction of telegraph lines, and the peddling of merchandise on the streets.

Access to town meetings resumes

The public will once again be able to attend Emmitsburg town meetings after more than a year of being limited to only ‘attending’ or viewing municipal meetings virtually or on cable television.

Mayor Briggs stated at the commissioners’ July 12 meeting that he had written to County Executive Jan Gardner requesting permission to re-open the town offices and public meeting room to the public. The town offices and meeting room are located in the Community Center,

which is county-owned.

“It’s (re-opening the town offices) been approved by the county executive... it will be before the county really opens (all county buildings), so we’re getting a break here” he said.

The mayor stated that business hours for the town office will be 9 to 3, Mondays through Thursdays, and from 9 to 1 on Fridays. The public will be restricted to using the entry hallway and service-desk area, as well as the public meeting room. The public, he said, will not be able

to go to any other part of the town office suite and must wear masks in the building. The public may only meet with specific town staff members by making appointments.

Additionally, the public must also wear masks while attending the town meetings, noting that those wishing so may continue to participate in the town meetings virtually.

The town also manages the gym located in the Community Building for the county, and the county has approved proceeding with mak-



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ing appointments for its use beginning September 1.

The announcement of a re-opening was made in the wake of some disagreement expressed by staff and commissioners at the board’s June 21 meeting, when it was expressed that Gardner, while opening-up the county library of the first floor of the Community Center, had not

permitted the town offices to be opened to the public.

Gardner stated that no one from the town had asked her about opening the town office facilities, and that she had no objections to municipal facilities located in county buildings from opening... and that the health restrictions only applied to county facilities located in county-owned buildings.

Three to contest two open commissioners’ seats

On July 26, former commissioner Liz Buckman officially filed to run for one of the two open seats on the Town Council. The seats, currently held by Commissioners Tim O’Donnell and Cliff Sweeney, will be the focus of the September 28th election.

When asked why she was running, Buckman said: “I truly love Emmitsburg and all its people. What is best about the community is that we all support and help one another. Yes, I am part of the Emmitsburg Lions club, but we have so many civic associations that do so much

for the community. Being a commissioner in the past made me proud despite the challenge I faced. I did it for my children and my neighbors and I would like to face these challenges again so that I can continue to advocate for the residents of Emmitsburg and protect their interests.

“Elected officials should be servants of the people. We should lead with integrity and be ever mindful of spending. Mostly, I believe the residents of Emmitsburg have the right to know how local officials intend on using those funds. The more a local government can provide in the way

of transparency, the more it increases trust, honesty, and integrity in the government leaders. Right now, Emmitsburg really needs this.”

Sweeney is the longest serving commissioner on the current Town Council, as well as the longest serving council member in the town’s history, having been on the Town Council for 23 years now. O’Donnell has served on the Town Council since 2009.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish if re-elected, Sweeney said: “To help Emmitsburg to grow and prosper finish the developments

out we have bring more commercial development into Emmitsburg and try to bring our community together make it stronger because is the best small town America any state can offer.”

When asked about his goals, O’Donnell said: “Our community is seeing significant growth. I intend to continue encouraging the type of growth that enhances our quality of life and fits the scale of our community. Our business community is vibrant and expanding. Whether a business is new to the community or has well-established local roots, it is imperative we support them. Local government has an obligation to encourage economic development that meets the needs of the community. My hope is I have served our community well and that I will

earn the opportunity to again serve as a commissioner for the Town of Emmitsburg.”

In 2018, the last time the Sweeney & O’Donnell ran and won re-election, only 48 ballots were cast, out of a possible 1,700. In 2015, just 38 residents participated in their election.

Individuals who wish to vie for one of the open seats on the Town Council must file a written application for candidacy with the town clerk no later than August 27 in order to appear on the ballots. Potential candidates who fail to file by the deadline can file to run as a write-in candidate no later September 21.

Candidates are required to have resided in Emmitsburg for at least one year and shall be qualified voters. Town commissioners are paid an annual salary of \$4,000.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

'Drug-driving' up amid legalization effort

Carroll Valley Borough officials discussed concerns over the reported rise in drug-related, driving-while-intoxicated (DUI) arrests, as well as concerns over the continued efforts by some to "legalize" illegal drugs.

Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman told the Borough Council at their July meeting that drug use is increasing; and opioid-related DUI arrests are "rising significantly."

"A great many of our alcohol DUIs

involve drugs now," he stated, adding, "We have a fair number of DUIs that are drugs only." During August and September, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has asked law enforcement to place emphasis on cracking-down on "drugged driving," as compared to just alcohol-involved driving, Hileman said.

The chief also discussed the process for determining if a driver is suspected of driving under the influence of a drug,

following a list of indicators, and that some of the officers are trained in drug use detection. "In finality, it comes out in the blood test," he stated.

Council President Richard Mathews asked, regarding the increased use of drugs while driving, what was being done by police associations or departments "with this current push to further legalize the use of marijuana in Pennsylvania?"

Hileman responded that he

did not know if the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association has taken a stand on that issue, but, added, "I will tell you, we would not be at all surprised to see at the federal level in this Congress for them to take it (marijuana) off as a Schedule-One controlled substance."

In Pennsylvania, the possession and use of "recreational marijuana" use is still currently illegal, but the possession and use of medical cannabis is legal, but possession and the sale of marijuana is still

illegal under federal law.

He stated, "I think there's enough people (in Congress) to make that happen. Once that happens, it will probably tumble down to more of the states," adding, "Regardless of what position you take on it, it's going to end-up where it's going to end-up."

Mathews said that, to him, the push to legalize marijuana is "kind of naive." He said the politicians might see it as a source of revenue, but to drivers, "It's higher automobile insurance. It's higher crime. It just seems so ridiculous to me."

Pippinfest returning in 2021

Mark your calendar for the Annual Pippinfest, which is set for the last full weekend in September. The organization and planning for Pippinfest, Fairfield's "Old Fashioned Street Festival," is well underway.

This year Pippinfest will be celebrating its 40th anniversary! Founded in 1980 by then owner of the Fairfield Inn, David Thomas, Pippinfest was initiated to provide opportunities for local clubs and non-profit organizations to raise funds and to provide a community-wide celebration of the annual apple harvest. From David's

efforts along with a supportive citizenry, an all-day street festival was born. Over the years the festival has evolved into a two-day event. Pippinfest, is named after the Pippen apple.

Community and local business' support contributes significantly to the success of the festival every year and Pippinfest allows local non-profits to fund raise for their causes. Local Boy Scout troops, high school groups, churches and many others are able to sell food, drinks and other goods in order to help raise money for their organization. The festival brings peo-

ple into the community, fosters an environment of fun for everyone, and brings community members together.

As in prior years, Pippinfest festivities will be held throughout much of the town. Saturday the 25th traditionally focuses on community-wide yard sales.

Sunday the 26th is considered the main event day of Pippinfest. Along with the craft and food vendors, musical entertainment will be on-going throughout the day. Nearly a dozen band will be performing at various locations in the

Village. An apple dessert competition, a Cruise-in Car Show and Swap Meet, a display of Pippinfest pottery, stilt-walkers and clowns will entertain all ages at the festival on Sunday. Parking is free in the designated lots.

Both days' events include craft and food vendors, a Kids' Corner with a number of popular activities including inflatable rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a dime pitch. Self-guided walking tours of Fairfield and a quilt show and demonstration are also available both days.

If you would like to participate as a craft vendor at Pippinfest, an applica-

tion can be obtained at www.pippinfest.com. The Pippinfest Committee welcomes volunteers to help at the event and anyone wishing to volunteer or to serve on the Pippinfest Committee should contact Sally Thomas at mckessonhouse@comcast.net or complete the information form on the Pippinfest website.

For more information on the event, visit the Pippinfest website at www.pippinfest.com or Face Book page at www.Facebook.com/Pippinfest. New this year, check out Pippinfest on Twitter and Instagram. You can also call the Fairfield Borough Office at 717-642-5640.

News Briefs . . .

CV seeks high speed internet

Carroll Valley Borough staff is seeking to replace Century Link with Comcast as a highspeed internet provider for a part of the borough, but the efforts have been going anything but smoothly.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett stated that, for Comcast to extend their service to the desired section of the municipality, the company is seeking \$29,000 in order to implement the extension to the D-Section.

"I don't know if that is \$29,000 for each municipality involved (because the system starts in Liberty Township and ends in Carroll Valley), or if that is a total, and it needs to be further cut-down to figure out who owes what," he said.

He said Liberty Township officials seemed equally perplexed about the charge, "(because) we walked into this with an assurance from Comcast that they were going to do it as part of re-upping our franchise agreement with them - that was going to be one of their points of compensation - and that has since gone away."

The borough manager stated that there are residents who really need this type of (Comcast highspeed) service, adding, "It is 2021. They should have some (faster) internet. After living there for 17 years I can assure the internet back there is horrendous." He said the "so-called" high-speed broadband offered by Century Link is "dial-up speed."

"I don't see Comcast moving from where they are at," Hazlett stated, adding, "It's about finding additional COVID money. . . all the people back there want is for their I-Pad to work."

The council agreed to have the borough manager contact Liberty Township first, then commit the necessary funding to Comcast, if Comcast could ensure the borough that the

highspeed internet extension could be provided by the end of this calendar year (December 31).

Police coverage offered to Franklin

Liberty Township will be offering police coverage, to be provided by the township Police Department, to Franklin Township, according to township supervisors' Chairman Walter Barlow.

Barlow stated at the township's July meeting that a letter has been drafted to send to Franklin to "let them know that we are offering services to them if they would choose to listen." He said that he had received comments that Franklin Township officials were "interested at least in talking to our police chief and Carroll Valley."

He stated that police services have also been offered to Highland Township as well.

Barlow said that adding on other

coverage areas would help "make our police force a stronger police force," and that extending offers to provide police coverage to other jurisdictions were intended to "let them (other municipalities) know that we are active in looking to service other residents, other than our own."

The township police have been providing police services to Freedom Township and continue to do so.

In other police business, Barlow noted that one of the police department officers had completed his TASER training, but that the department's TASERs should be replaced, which he said are "outdated and obsolete."

Being the township may try to find a funding source with which to pay for the replacements, the board chairman stated, "I know they're expensive."

(News Editor's Note: TASER (sometimes spelled TAZER) is actually an acronym for Tom A. Swift Electric Rifle. The inventor of the TASER, Jack Cover, was a big fan of

Tom A. Swift, a character in science fiction and adventure literature dating back to the early 20th century. Swift invented an electric rifle for elephant hunters to use in a novel published in 1911.)

Utilities holding-up road work

Improvements planned for Moritz Road in Hamiltonban Township are being held-up by the lack of the requested relocations of telephone utility lines.

According to Supervisor Coleen Reamer, the township had planned this year to widen a lower section of

approximately 1500 feet of Moritz Road, "but the telephone utility company has not yet moved their lines so we can begin the work."

Therefore, in lieu of any progress "along those lines," the supervisors decided to repair drainage pipes on the upper 1500-foot portion of Moritz. The stalled line relocations have also served as motivation to implement other repairs and widening now - that had been planned for next year.

The board will have furthering road-widening plans and a new road surface installed in 2022.



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THURMONT NEWS

Thousands donated for skateboard park

Fundraising in July for a proposed skate park to be created in Thurmont produced hundreds of dollars towards the teenage-driven project.

Stacie Zelenka reported that proponents of a proposed skateboard park (also called a skatepark) in Thurmont have raised \$11,450 since the project was proposed before the town commissioners in April, two of the fundraisers having produced more than \$1,400 in July alone.

Zelenka's son, Maceo, a junior at Catoctin High School, was among the more than a dozen other Cato-

ctin High School students who attended the April 13 commissioners' meeting when the proposal to establish a skateboard park was initially presented.

Zelenka stated that during July, two major fundraisers involving local businesses had been held. Josh Bollinger/Bollinger's Restaurant held a week-long fundraiser in which 25 percent of sales – amounting to \$400 – was donated to the skateboard park project. Rob and Sherry Myers and Thurmont Country Kitchen held a

fundraiser on July 16, ultimately donating \$1,000.

The board was in the process of approving the expenditure of Project Open Space money on Phase II improvements at Woodland playground replacement project, when the board recognized a 15-year-old student who approach the podium with an alternate suggestion.

The 15-year-old Catoctin High School student, Patrick Dugan, told the board, "Our town has lots of nice parks ... but the one thing we do not have is a skatepark,"

adding, "I feel it would also help with our economy because people would come from all around to skateboard and they would eat lunch at the businesses, and people would also come here and say "This is a place I might want to live because they have a skateboard park and it's good for teenagers."

East End Park was suggested as a potential location, and that fund-raising, along with POS funds, could ultimately provide financing in order to create the park.

The consensus of the board was to pursue Dugan's wishes. Commissioner Martin Burns said, "For me, it was an easy sell. What I would like to see is a comprehensive look at something like this. If we are going to do it, let's not do it half-way."

The proposal, supported by the teens as well as family members, town Parks & Recreation Commission member Amie McDaniels, Police Department Sergeant Dave Armstrong, as well as the board of commissioners, began to "pick-up steam" and wind its way towards becoming a reality.

Town gets millions in 'Rescue' funds

Thurmont appears likely to get around \$7 million in money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, half of which was recently received.

Mayor Kinnaird stated at the Town Council's sole-July meeting that it appears the town will be entitled to receive a potential total of about \$7 million, split between a 2021 allocation and the remainder in 2022. He said the 2021 half was just received, amounting to \$3,396,000.

As part of the federal Ameri-

can Rescue Plan, the act established a \$65.1 billion fund for state and local infrastructure and other improvements. Municipalities receiving funding through the plan are permitted to use the funds of a number of potential projects, but are held to specific categories, one being projects relating to water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure.

Relating to water infrastructure, the commissioners approved a \$12,800 contract to Arro Consulting to produce a study to try

and generate options dealing with the habitual flooding that occurs on properties along Emmitsburg Road. The topic was brought before the board by Commissioner Burns, as the result of ongoing concerns expressed by residents.

The contracted study is expected to produce recommendation regarding options to remediate the flooding which frequents the affected areas during heavy rainfalls, including determining exactly where the massive amount

of stormwater inundating the properties are originating during heavy rainfalls, and to determine the potential cost of the options,

Once the options, and costs of each, are known, the commissioners can then tackle how the funds needed can be secured.

Noting that work that had been done by the state in the past may have exasperated an already flood-plagued situation, it was suggested that the state could be approached to provide funding for part of the solution, and/or prospec-

tive developers on lands in the impacted areas could be tapped for contributions, or even a tax-rate could be applied to affected properties to generate revenue for relieving a problem involving their properties.

Regarding the potential to have developers contribute toward 'the fix,' and the concerns about allowing developments in the afflicted areas, Burns stated, "If you allow developers to come in (and propose projects in the affected areas), something can get fixed," adding, "If no developers are allowed, nothing will get fixed."

News Briefs . . .

Facade improvements grants available

Commissioner Wes Hamrick informed the Thurmont business community at the commissioners July meeting that money will be available through the Main Street Façade Grant Program for commercial building improvement purposes within the town's designated Main Street areas.

Previously, the grants were made available for use only for exterior improvement, primarily for work on facades. However for this grant cycle businesses will be permitted to use the money for interior improvements as well, which can include flooring, painting, and for some qualifying equipment needs.

The deadline for grant applications to be submitted will be August 13. If a Main Street busi-

ness has not received notification of the grants by mail or email, the commissioner said the business should contact Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder to apply.

Town election to be held

The Thurmont election will be held on October 26. Three seats will need to be filled in the election, including that of the mayor, and two seats on the Board of Commissioners.

The mayor's seat is presently held by John Kinnaird, while the commissioners' seats to be filled are those presently occupied by Wayner Hooper and Marty Burns. The positions are all four-year terms.

The annual mayoral salary is \$15,000, and that of a commissioner is \$10,000. Potential can-

didates are not considered as such until approved by the Nominating Convention on September 28.

There is no deadline for write-in campaigns. A write-in candidate must only be a registered voter and reside in town to run as such. Voters must be registered by September 28 to be eligible to vote.

The Nominating Convention takes place on Tuesday September 28, at which time the convention rules on candidate acceptability.

Town donates money

Several Thurmont area emergency responses and community service organizations were presented with donations from the town by Mayor Kinnaird at the commissioners' July meeting.

The Thurmont Food Bank received a check from the town for \$6,000. The food bank is managed by Pastor Sally Joyner-Giffin under the auspices

of the Thurmont Ministerium.

Mayor Kinnaird thanked the Ministerium and Pastor Sally for all the great work. "I just want to say 'thank you' on behalf of the Town of Thurmont and the Thurmont residents for all you do for our community," the mayor said.

The pastor noted that during the past ten years, the food pantry served an average of 11,000 individuals per year. "Our volunteers are incredible," she stated, adding, "I think they deserve the thanks."

The mayor then presented Guardian Hose Company with a check for \$30,000. Commissioner Marty Burns stated that, over the decades, the volunteers serving with the fire company have effectively saved the county government "millions of dollars" over time because of their volunteered services.

Also presented by the mayor with a \$30,000 check was Thur-

mont Community Ambulance. The mayor thanked the company for their services, and noted, "The community would not be the community we have without the ambulance company."

Senior Center re-opens

Commissioner Wayner Hooper noted at the commissioners' July meeting that the Thurmont Senior Center will be opening in August.

Hooper said the area seniors, have been "chomping at the bit" to regain access to the center, adding, "A lot of them really use that for all kinds of activities and to get together and just talk." He noted the center has "quite a few" activities planned for their first week of re-opening, including special dinners and special events, and having guests coming in. For additional information, visit www.thurmontseniorcenter.org.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Plans for Bollinger Park move forward

Taneytown's Bollinger Park, to be located off Francis Scott Key Highway, could receive a federal grant, which, if approved, could be applied to the development of the future park.

Lorena Vaccare, director of Parks & Recreation, stated at the July meeting of the city Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that the

Maryland Department of National Resources (DNR) suggested that Taneytown apply for a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for possible funding for the park.

The Taneytown application would be submitted to the National Park Service via the DNR. Vaccare stated the amount to be sought would be around

\$230,000. However, she noted that the city would be competing with other grant applications from around the country, adding, "So keep your fingers crossed."

Vaccare said staff is still waiting to hear from the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding the state's Recreational Trails Program awards, the

announcement of which could be forthcoming within a few weeks.

The director noted that the city was denied Maryland's Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area funding because there were "too many applications and not enough funding," additionally stating that "They did not like that our trail was going to be only six-

feet wide and not ten, as the state apparently prefers." She said the city park was put on the reserve list for future consideration.

Bollinger Park will be a nature park, and will include a walking, jogging, and biking trail, a pollinator garden with apiary, and a meditation garden, along with the possibility for an observatory, constructed and operated by the Westminster Astronomical Society.

Council to address stagnant pond

The Taneytown City Council agreed at their regular July meeting work session to approve expending the funds necessary to address algae blooms at a pond located within Roberts Mill Park in the amount of \$15,867.

Roberts Mill Park is located on 19.3 acres of open space, with a large pond that is fed by natural springs. The pond is home to a variety of different animals and wildlife, including ducks, geese, fish... and algae.

Mayor Bradley Wantz told the council, "As you probably see on social media from time to time, we do get a fair amount of complaints about the pond at Roberts Mill."

He said the complaints tend to focus on the heavy presence of algae that form in the lake, and the odors that come from it. He said that even an existing aerator is not helping to significantly reduce the stagnation.

During the board's July 7 work ses-

sion, Wantz recommended that a fountain be installed in the pond at the cost of which would be - he stated then - \$9,300 for a 25-foot fountain. The cost was subsequently amended at the regular June meeting to \$15,867.

The mayor said during the work session that the possibility of acquiring a fountain to address the stagnation was brought to his attention by Lorena Vaccare, director of Parks & Recreation, who had contacted the state

Department of Natural Resources, seeking a solution.

Since the city continues to work on improvements at the park, Wantz suggested that the staff might as well work on the pond issue at the same time.

The fountain, he stated, would solve the problem with the stagnation in the pond, and "chase the fish towards the outskirts of time, making it a little better fishing for people," and also eliminate the odor that is sometimes present, the mayor stated.

It was also noted at the work session

that the fountain would also have an option to be lighted by LED lights, by which colors could be changed at will.

City Manager James Wieprecht told the News-Journal that the difference between the initially expressed cost of \$9,300 and the final cost of \$15,867 was caused by a re-assessment of options, and by the time of the regular meeting, with the final price tag including the LEDS, as well as covering the costs for the necessary electrical requirements, including upgrading, to support and operate the fountain.

Catoctin Mount Growers processing hemp

The owners of Catoctin Mount Growers, located in Detour, are now also processing byproducts of hemp, under the name of Catoctin Hemp, to extract the non-psychoactive cannabinoid (CBD) for a number of health-related products.

Hemp and marijuana are often confused with one another. According to the National Institute of Health, the word "marijuana" refers to parts of, or products from, the plant Cannabis sativa that contain substantial amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

THC is the substance that's primarily responsible for the effects of marijuana on a person's mental state. Some Cannabis plants contain very little THC. Under federal law, these low-THC plants are classified as "industrial hemp" rather than marijuana.

The hemp variety of Cannabis also has higher levels of CBD than the marijuana version. CBDs are thought to have positive therapeutic value, although, according to Catoctin Hemp, "but many clinical studies

still need to be done to confirm the therapeutic value."

In 2019, industrial hemp was dropped from the federal controlled-substance list due to the fact that the hemp variety of Cannabis has very low levels of THC. Maryland regulates the medical marijuana industries, but it does not regulate the growing of, or processing of, hemp.

Catoctin Hemp was established in 2018 by the Van Wingerden family and is located on the same property as their Catoctin Mountain Growers

business. The hemp used by Catoctin Hemp is grown at their 25-acre farm, as well as acquired from other growers.

According to Catoctin Hemp's website, the hemp is grown in a 700,000 square-foot greenhouse "under carefully monitored and controlled environmental conditions, without pesticides or toxic chemicals," the company states on their website. A processing operation at the facility extracts the CBD from the hemp. Catoctin Hemp also offer the processing of hemp

from other growers who do not have their own processing facilities.

"Hemp is not psychoactive," Tyler Van Wingerden explained, adding "and will not get someone 'high.'" Naturally occurring THC in any of Catoctin Hemp's products is held to below federal standards.

The company provides for retail and wholesale purchases, and processing services, as well as packaging products for other retail establishments and brands, which can include applying another business' label in place of Catoctin Hemp's own, which they call "white labeling."

News Briefs . . .

Wine fest ends with city in the red
June's Taneytown Wine, Music & Art Festival resulted in the city losing money, but the event was still considered "a success."

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Director Lorena Vaccare stated at the July meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (P&RAB) that "Even if it (the festival) wasn't a profitable event for the city - we did have a loss from it - I still consider it as a success. Everybody had a good time. It was received as better than previous years."

The director did not state the amount of the loss to the city.

Vaccare said the event posed "a long day for some of us," noting that threatening weather ultimately had put a damper on the event. However, she said, "Overall, I think it went well."

The director noted that three wineries, four breweries, three distilleries and 23 artisans and other vendors attended. "Food trucks did exceptionally well," she said, "They were very happy."

The beverage vendors did "okay," she said, but some suggested that next year the town should probably not sell tickets for unlimited wine-tasting. "They're not selling their product if people are just getting tastings after tastings," she said, adding, "Why buy the cow if you're getting your milk for free?"

Other than that, she told the advisory board, "We will be cutting cer-

tain expenses for next year's event, and changing some other aspects, just to reduce those losses and maximize the profits for the vendors."

'Building improvement' money sought

Taneytown staff are seeking thousands of grant dollars to put towards

improving building facades and other improvements.

City Manager James Wieprecht informed the City Council at their July workshop that recently hired Economic Development Director Jay Meashey was seeking a resolution from the council to proceed with filing a grant application with the state Department of Housing & Community Develop-

ment (DHCD) for \$65,000 for building improvement purposes within the city's Community Legacy area.

Previously, such grants were awarded for facade work, but Wieprecht stated that DHCD had suggested to Meashey "rebranding it (the grant application) as more building improvements and making some funds available for things

beyond facades, particularly for commercial buildings.

Due to time constraints to file, the council approved by consensus to permit Mayor Bradley Wantz to sign the application, and have it sent off to the DHCD as soon as the final document could be prepared by the City Attorney Jack Gullo.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

Over the past month, the County Council has been engaged in historic preservation, debating the merits of an Office of Equity and Inclusion, and more routine budget matters. I hope everyone is enjoying a more 'normal' summer this year as opposed to last year. Frederick County's vaccination rate is approaching three quarters of eligible residents getting the vaccine. The vaccine is our best defense against the virus and its mutations and will help us get back to the normalcy we all crave.

Moving on, one of the budget highlights that the Council approved was for Frederick Community Col-

lege (FCC). As the only public institution of higher learning in Frederick County, FCC serves a critical function in preparing our workforce and for today's economy. The pandemic dramatically altered what had been a relatively steady increase in students and classes over decades. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of enrolled students fell dramatically and the college made about \$3.5 million in cuts.

It is interesting to note that for the upcoming academic year, there has been a 24% increase in registration. That represents quite a surge. I am hopeful that classes will be able to

resume as normal this autumn.

The Council voted to preserve three properties and place them on the County Register of Historic Places: Rocky Springs Chapel and School House, Beatty Cramer House, and Samuel Fleming House.

The Rocky Springs Chapel and School House off Rocky Springs Road north of Frederick is especially interesting and noteworthy. The School House was built in 1839 and the chapel was built in 1882 and utilized until 1982. The buildings are associated with the United Brethren in Christ, the first Protestant denomination found in the United States.

Additionally, the School House is significant for a cavalry skirmish on July 8, 1964 just before the Battle of Monocacy. The Union cavalry and artillery of 100 men stationed on the north side of Rocky Springs had a spirited fight with 400 rebels stationed on Hagan's Hill, a mile west of the city of Frederick. A bullet apparently struck Captain James Clark's jacket button and 'made it concave but inflicted no injury.' I understand there is an effort to repair these sites and make them into a museum.

It is important to preserve this kind of history for future Frederick County residents.

Finally, the County Council began debate and discussion over whether

to create a new County Division that reports to the County Executive called the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. I have several concerns with the approach that has been presented. We already have several Commissions including the Human Relations Commission, Commission on Immigration, Commission on Disabilities, and Commission on Women that are established for Frederick County. I worry about the creation of a permanent office and the necessity of continuing increasing the county budget to establish an office to advocate for social justice. If you share my concerns, please feel free to contact the County Council to let them know how you feel.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With the fourth of July celebration comes another assertive independence celebration. The state of Maryland COVID-19 State of Emergency has been lifted and most COVID-19 related mandates have ended.

After the Governor's announcement the town requested that the County, our landlord, allow the town to reopen the office to the public. County buildings are not open. The request was

granted with certain restrictions. We must all wear masks in public areas of building. Ordinary transactions, paying bills, licensing, etc., will be handled at receptionist service window. If you need specific attention with a staff member it will be by appointment only. We are hoping for the restrictions to be lifted by Labor Day to return to pre COVID office hours.

Gym use will commence September 1st. Groups interested in using the

gym should contact the town. Like in pre-pandemic times, there will be a meeting in September to work out sharing the gym. Please contact the town for date and time of meeting.

Quietly a major investment in the downtown is taking place. On the building facing the square in the northwest corner. Total rehabilitation of interior, electrical, plumbing, windows. Renovation is planned to be completed in mid-August.

Four wayside historic exhibits were dedicated the last day of June. This brings us to a total of eleven. Another set is in the works that will include tributes to St. Euphemia grade school on DePaul Street and the Free school on West Lincoln Avenue.

Emmitsburg is one of the top ten most beautiful, charming small towns in Maryland and also known as "Green Town" over the last decade. The goal has always been to reduce expenses, cost, and waste through use of renewable energy. By implementing we contribute to the sustainability of the fragile balances in

our ecological systems. So, who is the person who got all this "green" started? Marcus Aurelius Antoninus who said: "That which is not good for the beehive cannot be good for the bees." He was the Roman emperor from 161 to 180 and a Stoic philosopher. He was the last of the rulers known as the Five Good Emperors... and the last emperor of the Pax Romana (27 BC to 180 AD), an age of relative peace and stability for the Roman Empire...

We have gotten some rain but, "droughts are out there", so please water yard and plants at night or early mornings.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

Here we are almost in the month of August, time flies when you are having fun! I hope everyone had a great time at the Guardian Hose Company Carnival. Be sure to watch for upcoming events at both Guardian Hose Company and the Thurmont Community Ambulance Company. I know that they are planning car shows and other events for the upcoming months. Both of these great organizations need our continued support!

The Thurmont Skate Park is getting closer to reality with the public request for bids on the project. The town has secured \$40,000.00 in

funds to help with the construction, and I know the Skate Park Committee has been hard at work collecting donations. Once the design has been approved and the contract awarded, we will be planning a groundbreaking ceremony at the Skate Park grounds at the East End Park. Be sure to watch for upcoming details and join us as we kick off this wonderful project.

Frederick County recently received \$6 Million dollars in parks improvement funding from Federal Recovery Funding and the Municipalities in Frederick County will be sharing half of that funding. We have submitted

several projects that are shovel-ready and expect to be able to move forward on several of them ASAP. We will keep you updated on the projects we have requested funding for.

As many are aware the Federal American Rescue Plan has allocated funds to the State, County, and Municipal levels. These funds are to be used for a very narrow set of circumstances, with most of the funds targeted at infrastructure repair and improvements. The Town of Thurmont has received \$3.578 Million Dollars to be invested in the first phase of this program. Is it our inten-

tion to focus on several important water and wastewater projects. These will include the replacement of water and sewer lines on North Church Street from the railroad bridge to Rte 15, much-needed repairs to the water service line on West Prior Road, improvement to several Storm Water Management facilities to bring them up to current MS4 requirements, and several water service items to help improve water flow and availability. The Thurmont Board of Commissioners will be discussing these projects during upcoming meetings.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the Frederick County Health Department is offering FREE Covid-19 Vaccinations every Fri-

day afternoon from 5 until 7 p.m. The vaccinations are available at the Thurmont Municipal Offices located at 615 East Main Street. I want to thank the Frederick County Health Department for making the vaccinations available to the resident of Thurmont and Northern Frederick County. I also want to thank everyone that has received a vaccination and to encourage those of you that have not received a vaccination to think about doing so. The vaccine is one of the best ways to slow the spread of Covid-19!

As always, I am available for comments or suggestions at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnard@thurmont.com.

County Notes...

Frederick County Among "Healthiest Communities" in United States

Frederick County was named among the Healthiest Communities in the nation, according to a recent U.S. News & World Report ranking. The County ranked among the top 10 percent of counties nationwide. Communities were ranked based on several criteria, including access to housing, food, and care. Metrics focused on the economy, equity, health, environment, and community vitality.

Frederick County scored a full 10 points higher than the average for Maryland counties in the 2021 listings, with a score of 70 out of 100. The U.S. average score was 48. Top performance measures for Frederick County included economy, public safety, and education. Eleven of the State's 24 counties or county equivalents appeared in the top 500 Healthiest Communities.

"It's an honor to be named one of the nation's healthiest communities. This acknowledgement is a testament to our committed efforts in Frederick County to ensure that all of our residents have access to top-notch health care and a high quality of life," County Executive Jan Gardner said.

The Healthiest Communities

rankings are a collaboration between the Aetna Foundation and U.S. News & World Report.

Community Grant Program Recreation Facility Grants

Frederick County, through its Parks and Recreation Commission (FCPRC) is accepting applications from eligible non-profit community organizations that provide rec-

reation opportunities for county residents, for funding from its Community Grant Program for fiscal year 2022 (beginning July 2021). The fol-

lowing organizations are eligible and may apply for grants: Homeowners Associations, Civic/Community/

continued on next page

Election Judges Needed For 2021 Emmitsburg Election

The Emmitsburg Mayor and Board of Commissioners are seeking persons to serve as election judges for the September 28 town election.

In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered and qualified voters in Emmitsburg and cannot hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public officer.

To apply, or for more information, call 301-600-6300 or e-mail mshaw@emmitsburgmd.gov.



THURMONT BUSINESS NETWORK
connecting and empowering local business

The TBN is back in person!
Thursday, September 2, 8 a.m.



Ole Mink Farm, 12806 Mink Farm Rd., Thurmont
To celebrate the back in person monthly TBN meeting, a catered breakfast from Mountain Gate Family Restaurant will be served!

Clients buy from businesses they know, like and trust. When business owners know, like & trust each other, it's easier to refer clients to the additional services they need or require.

The Thurmont Business Network is open to any business owner/manager in the 21788 zip code.
Contact ygrinder@thurmontstaff.com for more info.

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Summer has flown by this year! In less than three weeks, children will be heading back to school. Make the most of these last few days of summer by exploring Frederick County's great parks and trails. Stop by the newly renovated Fountain Rock Nature Center in Walkersville to check out the snakes, turtles, and of course the massive bee hive! If you are feeling adventurous, try completing the "Hit the Trail" passport that takes you to parks all across Frederick County, including several in the North County area, such as Emmitsburg Community Park, Utica District Park and Loys Station Park. Visit 20 sites and you might win prizes. Visit recreater.com or call the Division of Parks and Recreation at 301-600-1646 to learn more.

For those who want to do some back-to-school shopping, the week of August 8-14 is Tax-Free Week in Maryland. It is a great time to support local businesses. Our business community has been incredibly resilient throughout the past 16 months. Frederick County Government has distrib-

uted more than \$17 million in grants to our small businesses, restaurants, farmers, childcare providers, and hospitality industries. We will have another round of payments deposited in businesses' bank accounts by the end of this month. To date, the County's Office of Economic Development has awarded approximately 2,500 grants to local businesses. In addition, the Division of Citizens Services issued grants to our nonprofit organizations, who have done such an amazing job supporting our communities during difficult times. It takes all of us working together to ensure everyone can enjoy the high quality of life Frederick County offers.

One factor in our high quality of life is our health. I'm pleased to share that earlier this summer, Frederick County was named one of the nation's Healthiest Communities, according to a ranking by U.S. News & World Report. Our county ranked among the top 10 percent in the United States. Communities were ranked based on several criteria, includ-

ing access to housing, food, and care. They looked at our economy, equity, health, environment, and community vitality. Frederick County scored a full 10 points higher than the average Maryland County in the 2021 listing, with a score of 70 out of 100. The U.S. average score was 48. Top performance measures for Frederick County included economy, public safety, and education. This honor is a testament to our commitment to ensure that all of our residents have access to top-notch health care and a high quality of life.

We know that not everyone enjoys good health. To find out what is leading to poor health outcomes, the Frederick County Health Department is partnering with Frederick Health Hospital and the Frederick County Health Care Coalition to conduct a short survey about community health issues. All residents are encouraged to take the Community Health Needs Assessment survey, which can be found at www.FrederickHealth.org/CHNASurvey. Responses are anonymous. Results will help our public

health team to identify priorities and focus their efforts on the most pressing needs in the coming years. The survey will remain open until August 11th.

Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services

Congratulations to Guardian Hose and Walkersville for their successful carnivals last month. Our carnivals are an important way to support the 2,000 men and women who volunteer their time to serve us, and are great fun community-building events. These volunteers care about our community, they put themselves in harm's way, and they provide top-notch service. At the same time, they are saving taxpayers millions of dollars. If you are a member of a volunteer fire-rescue company, you have my heartfelt thanks!

Our volunteer companies recently received great news. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency distributed \$4 million to volunteer companies across the state, and Frederick County's companies received \$629,566 - far more than any other county! Twenty local companies received a share of our total, which tied

with Allegany and Baltimore Counties for the most individual grants in the state. The amounts ranged from \$5,900 to \$107,500, based on the applications submitted. North County companies receiving funds included Guardian Hose, New Midway, Rocky Ridge, Vigilant Hose, Thurmont Ambulance, Walkersville Rescue, Walkersville Fire, and Woodsboro.

COVID-19

As you head out to work, shop, or enjoy the beautiful weather, keep in mind that COVID is still with us. In fact, the number of new cases in Frederick County has been gradually rising over the last few weeks. New variants are proving to be more contagious. Over 70% of adults in our community are fully vaccinated, which has substantially reduced the number of people who need to be hospitalized. The best defense against the virus is to get vaccinated. Vaccines work! If you need to schedule a vaccine, contact your physician or come to the County's vaccination clinic. Visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidVaccine for details.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!

continued from previous page

Service Organizations, Athletic Associations and Recreation Councils.

Grants are for the purpose of improving existing recreation facilities or constructing new ones on land owned or utilized by the organization. Funding is not allowed on land owned by federal, state, municipalities or Frederick County. Funds will be provided prior to project construction and can be applied towards the cost of materials, equipment and contracted labor. Construction labor may be provided by any combination of volunteer service by the organization and/or paid contractors. Grants will not be awarded to meet the annual maintenance needs for existing facilities. Projects must be completed within two years of July 1st of the funding year (For FY2022, this will be June 30, 2023).

A single application summary page and project priorities/funding sheet with the appropriate attachments is completed and serves as the organization's presentation of their project. A FCPRC sub-committee objectively evaluates the application and project. Scores are assigned according to the following criteria: 1) Recreational and Community Value, 2) Project and Planning, 3) Site Plan/ Master Plan and 4) Local Contribution. The sub-committee's recommendation is forwarded to the FCPRC who makes the final decision. Applicants are provided a copy of the Project Evaluation Form, which indicates scores and comments, by the evaluators.

Additional information and applications are available by contacting the Division of Parks and Recreation at 301-600-1646. Applications must be received by 4:30pm., Friday, August 6. It is expected that organizations will be notified by November regarding grant awards. A budget

of \$50,000 has been approved for FY2022. General Information on the Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation may be found on its web site: www.recreater.com.

Darwick Appointed Director of Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services

Assistant Chief M. Shane Darwick has been appointed to the position of Director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services. Darwick succeeds retired Director Kevin Fox. The director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services supports the work of, and coordinates with, Frederick County's volunteer fire and rescue companies. The County Council approved the appointment today.

"Shane's knowledge, work experience, strong communication skills, and work ethic makes him ideal for the director position," Executive

Gardner said. "He is well respected by staff and volunteer companies, and has done an exemplary job serving as the assistant chief of the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services."

Mr. Darwick joined Frederick County in 2019 as Assistant Chief of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, bringing 47 years of experience in career and volunteer fire and rescue services. He retired from Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service after 35 years, reaching the rank of Battalion Chief. Prior to joining Frederick County Government, Mr. Darwick served as the Training Center Manager for Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association. During his career in fire and rescue, he held several management roles, including serving on the National Capital Region Incident Management Team and Maryland Task Force 1 Urban Search and Res-

cue Team. He is nationally certified as an Emergency Service Instructor III and is a University of Maryland Fire Rescue Institute instructor. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree

in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University and an Occupational Certificate in emergency management from Frederick Community College.

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Tues., August 3
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
E. Eugene Myers Community Park, Emmitsburg

To apply for a 10x10 space, go to www.emmitsburgmd.gov for a printable application or contact Maddy Shaw at Mshaw@emmitsburgmd.gov or at 301-600-6300
Registration Deadline: July 27 by 3 p.m.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Wow! The Carroll Valley July 4th Celebration was such a success, with over 5,000 in attendance. The Reagan Years band entertainment was outstanding. This band recreated the sounds of the 1980s. The band's talented musicians with remarkably diverse vocal abilities enabled this band to replicate uncanny versions of the pop, rock, and new wave hits of the MTV era. Also, what was great – everyone respected each other's space. The celebration ended with Cassie Hock giving an emotional rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner, followed by a spectacular fireworks display on top of Ski Liberty Mountain. Many people were involved, namely the Borough Staff, Dave Hazlett, Gayle Marthers, Amanda Bell, the Borough's Municipal Services crew, the Council and Recreation Committee. Thank you all. To see the pictures, go to ronspictures.net.

The July E-Waste Recycling was held in Carroll Valley Borough. Sixty-seven cars participated. The breakdown stats are Carroll Valley Borough – 32; Fairfield Borough – 12 Hamiltonban; Township -7; Highland Township - 5; Liberty Township –

11. Thanks to Brad Sanders and Zack Miller from the Carroll Valley Municipal Services crew, who helped residents transfer their electronic gear to the collection vans. This program is working. We see fewer electronics being deposited on empty lots and roadside trails. Thank you all involved.

Speaking about a successful program, Adults and children have been attending and enjoying the Carroll Valley Summer Movies in the Park in large numbers. The next Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, August 20th at 7:30 pm. The name of the film is "Scoob." The movie follows the friendship of a group of teenagers and a talking dog who solve mysteries—fun for the entire family. Don't forget those lawn chairs. Hope to see you there.

The Carroll Valley Library August virtual programs are Kindergarten Here I Come! Fairfield Elementary Edition, Wednesday, August 11th, 6:30 pm – Fairfield Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Hazlett, reads a story on Carroll Valley Library's Facebook page; Yoga, Monday, August 16th, 11 am – Join Alison from Vata Yoga Studio for some online yoga on the Car-

roll Valley Library's Facebook page; Hanging Rainbow Heart Sign Craft Monday, August 23, 2 pm – Make a colorful hanging rainbow heart sign craft! Pick up supplies at the Library and How to Draw Fun Characters, Monday, August 30th 2:30 pm – Learn how to draw fun cartoon characters! Pick up a booklet at the library. Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors are planning an August 14th Community Day starting 8:00 am for residents that live in the Fairfield Area School District. If you need minor exterior repairs such as light carpentry, limited painting, yard work, or other jobs you need help with, please contact Robin @ 717-642-6578 or email dickenrobin@gmail.com. You must supply the necessary material to make the repair for the project. Requests will be reviewed to make sure manpower is available to do the project. First come, first serve basis.

Congratulations to three young men, Anton Mackey, Ross Clements, and Ethan Collins for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout by completing their Eagle Scout projects. Anton completed his Eagle Scout project by removing a very large BBQ pit and

building a structure in its place to store fire equipment for Greenmount Fire Company. Ross Clements' project was to design and build a large pavilion for Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association in Fairfield. Ethan Collins' project involved painting the entire Greenmount Fire Company truck bay and the turn-out meeting room. These projects were large in their scale and involved a significant number of hours and hard work. Again, Congratulations Eagles – Job Well Done!

Please be careful when out and doing yard work. Remember that heat stroke can be fatal and requires immediate medical attention. The symptoms for heat stroke are (1) hot dry skin or profuse sweating, (2) confusion or disorientation (3) slurred speech (4) seizures or convulsions, (5) throbbing headache and (6) a very high body temperature over 104.0. If experiencing one or more then these symptoms, call 911, move the person to a cool, shaded place, apply cool compresses and wet the person's clothing with water and fan with a towel. Do not give them anything to drink – it could pose a choking hazard in their altered mental state and wait for medical assistance.

August is usually the month that many of us go on vacation. But

please do not overlook making sure your home is safe when you are away. There are several things you should consider doing to protect your home. According to the FBI, more than half of home burglaries happen during the day. Here are a few tips: (1) Lock your doors and windows if you leave your house; (2) Do not share the details of your vacation with everyone and especially on social media, like Facebook when you are on vacation – remember, if you are there, I know where you are not; (3) Make the house look as if someone is home by using light timers throughout the house; (4) Go to the Post Office and delay mail delivery; (5) Contract with a security company and when selecting one, checkout their references by going to www.bbb.org; and (6) Contact the Carroll Valley Police Department to be placed on their house checklist. And, by the way, have a great, safe, and relaxing vacation.

In person Borough meetings for August are Planning Commission (Aug 3rd), Borough Council (Aug 10th) and the Parks and Recreation Committee (Aug 25th). If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

I hope everyone is taking advantage of the Covid restrictions being lifted and you are enjoying this Summer and spending time with family and friends.

We voted last month to move forward with replacing the original flooring in the township municipal building. The township had originally proposed stripping and buffing the floor, but the price for replacing the decades old flooring with one that requires less maintenance proved to be a more cost-effective

choice. Prior to the new floor being laid, we will be painting the walls inside the municipal building and plan to have the project completed in September.

The Liberty Township Police Department is participating in aggressive-driving enforcement activities as part of a statewide wave which began July 5 and will run through August 22, 2021. Over 200 municipal police agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police will focus on motorists exhibiting aggressive driv-

ing behaviors, particularly speeding, tailgating, red light running, pedestrian safety, and heavy truck violations.

The road projects that were scheduled for 2021 on Irishtown Road, Brent Road, Old Waynesboro Road, and Bullfrog Road are complete. We plan to do base repair on McGlaughlin Road before the end of the year and put a fabric membrane and pave McGlaughlin Road in 2022. Future road projects include work on Sanders Road and a major multi-year project on Pecher Road that will allow us to black top and super pave the entire length of Pecher Road. We have applied for a permit

from DEP to complete bridge repair and restoration work on Old Waynesboro Road over Branch Creek.

Pennington Tree Services has been contacted for a price quote to do more canopy openings, particularly for the Bullfrog Road area. This project was budgeted for 2021. Nearly every storm we have results in trees coming down on that road. During the most recent storm, we had three trees down within fifteen minutes of the storm coming through. We hope to start opening the canopy sometime in September early October. Additionally, we will be doing ditching work along our roadways in

conjunction with Hamiltonban Township during the month of September.

Liberty Township has contacted PennDOT for permission to put up school stop signs along PA Route 16. We seem to have a lot of problems with motorists not obeying the flashing red lights of the buses during the school season, especially on PA Route 16. Please be mindful and yield to all school bus traffic. Safety crossing for our students is of utmost importance.

It is school tax season, and our tax collector will be holding office hours during the month of August. Those hours and dates are listed on your 2021 school tax bills. If you have any questions or concerns, we always encourage our residents to contact the township with those matters and we will try to address them. Township meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. We encourage in person attendance. For 2022 we are considering changing the monthly meeting time to start earlier with an hour running time. Please come out and join us at our meetings. If there is anything I can do personally for you, my contact information is on the township website.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Jim Martin

County Commissioners have multiple ways to serve their constituents. One, which is not written in stone but is very practical, is called being the “glue”. County Commissioners are in a sense the glue that keeps constituents connected to their county. In addition to our normal course of business, we are often informed of issues that may be relevant to Adams County. For that very reason I take full advantage of contributing to the Emmitsburg News Journal when the opportunity is presented.

At this time it is very important time to be connected to our residents because of the many issues at hand: the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be awarded in the near future, Critical Race Theory, the sale of Gettysburg Station (formerly the REDDI property), and the approaching November General Election.

On Wednesday July 14, 2021 the sale of Gettysburg Station to a private developer occurred. The commissioners were determined to change the course for this property and create an asset for the community that would offer a mix of residential and commercial uses.

The first strategic step was to purchase the property from ACNB Bank and put it into the ownership of the

Adams County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). A bridge loan by Adams County to the IDA provided them with the finances to make the purchase. Following the purchase, the IDA, with guidance from our Planning and Development department, marketed the property to potential buyers. Finally, after years of failed offers, a sale was completed and the bridge loan was repaid. That is the short version of the path to a successful goal.

It should be mentioned that this sale was aided by a capital gains tax deferral regulation called a 1031 Exchange. This provision allows a buyer to purchase a replacement property for one that he is selling at a monetary gain. If that gain is used to purchase a replacement property, the capital gains tax is deferred. President Biden is trying to end this IRS regulation. The 1031 Exchange is a vehicle that has been responsible for incentivizing real estate investments that have aided our economy. Personally, I feel that ending the 1031 Exchange provision would be damaging to both the beginning investor and the experienced developer and ultimately to our economy.

Speaking of the economy, the ARPA is to bring approximately \$20 million in

federal funds to Adams County to mitigate the impact of corona virus and the related business shutdowns.

We are presently completing a thorough review of the guidance to ensure that the distributions of funds are compliant. The eligible uses range from dealing with economic harm to responding to mental health and addiction issues. There is also an infrastructure category that includes broadband internet. So, there will be serious choices that will have to be made.

Right now, there is another battle spreading across the nation and into communities which are trying to protect their students from a theoretical ideology known as Critical Race Theory (CTR). Where CTR has been adopted, nonconforming parents have been harassed and nonconforming employees have been penalized or even terminated. It is an agenda that has entered our school systems, to the horror of many parents, having been promoted by the national teachers’ unions. Many people across our nation, including locally, do not even know this is taking place. Multiple states have already banned/outlawed this ideology. Simply put, under CTR ideology everyone is identified by ethnicity/race as either

an oppressor or the oppressed. Oppressors under CRT ideology are designated “racist”. This type of teaching is divisive and serves to separate rather than unify.

Controversy does not end with the subject of CRT. Over the past few weeks there has been much discussion about election integrity measures being labeled voter suppression. It is my position that one of the most effective and simplest means to elevate and sustain the integrity of the voting process is to require a photo I.D. It quickly identifies an individual as the same registered elector and offers a secondary verification of signatures. Photo I.D. is available to everyone and assistance to obtain one is readily available. Banks, auto dealers, food banks, to name a few require I.D.’s. I have never heard that banks or auto dealers were accused of suppressing deposits or purchasing of a vehicle by requiring a photo I.D.

In a similar vein, returned mail-in and absentee ballots should have verified signatures. This is the requirement for walk-in voters at the polls. A signature is strong testament of voter integrity. Why do banks not accept checks that do not include the preparer’s signature? Because without a signature there is no contract (trust) that the check was from the originator. In like manner, a ballot envelope must be signed and

validated to ensure it can be trusted as coming from the elector who was issued that ballot.

In the 50 years that I have voted, I never felt that a request for voter I.D. and a signature was suppressing me from voting. Rather it gave me assurance that integrity was a fundamental principle of the election process. So, why do people want to compromise election security by eliminating identification and a signature when both are so simple to do? Weakening the security of voting only invites fraud. There are actually people in prison today who have intentionally violated election security measures.

If election fraud continues to happen, why eliminate the guard rails of election integrity and security? For the record, former Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar was totally outside her authority waiving the signature requirement. The authority to waive signatures rests with the County Commissioners, not the Secretary of State, and not the Governor. The present Board of Adams County Commissioners have never waived the signature requirement, nor do I intend to do so in future elections. Count on me to support secure elections and I will count on you to vote in November.

County Notes...

New Law Will Aid in Protecting Children from Abuse

A new law will help stop child abuse by simply improving communication among agencies charged with investigating the crime. Act 42 of 2021 allows law enforcement agencies to share information relevant to an allegation or instance of abuse with entities required by the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) to investigate such abuse. Previously, law enforcement agencies had been blocked by the Criminal History Record Information Act from sharing investigative or criminal record history information with county children and youth agencies that are responsible for investigating child abuse. This has put some children at risk for greater harm, as well as forcing other abuse victims to be repeatedly interviewed by various authorities about their traumatic experiences. Improved communication will substantially improve the Commonwealth’s ability to live up to its responsibility to protect children.

Deadline Approaching for Students to Repeat Grade Level Due to Pandemic Learning Loss

Recognizing the educational challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent mitigation efforts, the General Assembly has adopted a new law that would allow students to repeat their 2020-21 grade level to make up for lost educational opportunities.

Under Act 66, parents and guardians, as well as students at or over the age of 18, have until July 15 to elect to repeat their grade level. The student may do so even if he or she met the requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. The law also permits students with disabilities who were enrolled during the 2020-21 school year and turned age 21 during the 2020-21 school year, or between the end of the 2020-21 school year and the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, to attend a school entity during the 2021-22 school year and receive services as outlined on their most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) with all the protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Supporting Our Farmers

Agriculture remains the state’s top industry, but our farmers continue to face challenges in keeping their operations financially viable. A new law aims to help farmers who choose to diversify through agritourism. Act 27 of 2021 will provide limited civil liability protections to farmers who open their operations to the public for a fee. Agritourism activities may include farm markets, pick-your-own produce, corn mazes, petting zoos, hayrides and farm tours. It is a great way to educate people about where their food comes from and enables our farmers to continue to put food on our tables. The law is intended

to protect agritourism businesses from frivolous lawsuits where no party is at fault for injuries or damages. The protections would not apply if the farmer or provider acts in a grossly negligent manner, purposefully causes the participant injury, commits an action or inaction that constitutes criminal conduct and causes the participant injury, or recklessly fails to warn or guard against a dangerous condition that causes injury or damages to a participant.

Do You Have Unclaimed Property?

The Pennsylvania Treasury is working to reunite Pennsylvanians with

more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property. Property such as uncashed checks and abandoned bank accounts, stocks or safe deposit boxes are turned over to Treasury after three years of dormancy or inactivity, or two years for payroll checks. Treasury recently completed the first major upgrade to the unclaimed property system in more than 15 years, making it easier than ever for Pennsylvanians to claim what is theirs – you do not have to pay anyone for this service! Click here to see if you, your family or your friends are owed unclaimed property. The average claim is worth about \$2,000.

In the meantime, here are a few simple steps you can take to make sure your property does not end up at Treasury:

- Keep financial institutions informed of any address changes.
- Communicate with your financial institutions at least once every three years.
- Create and keep up-to-date records of bank accounts, stocks, life insurance policies, safe deposit boxes and all other financial information.
- Let a family member or trusted advisor know where you keep financial records.
- Cash or deposit all checks as you receive them.

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

The two faces of Janus

Shannon Bohrer

The year 2020 will be remembered for many reasons. A few include the COVID-19 virus, the death of George Floyd, the advent and use of zoom meetings, the election of Joe Biden to the presidency, and the significant numbers of people who still believe that Trump won. I do not think anyone will forget 2020. While it was a year to remember, for many, the memories are not all pleasant.

Then, early in 2021, on January 6, we had an attempted insurrection of the United States Capitol. The insurrectionists believed they could force Congress not to accept the Electoral College result because of the “big lie” of election fraud. So, while 2020 was a year to remember, 2021 began with an event that has not been repeated since 1812, when the British sacked Washington. Most of us thought that having one strange year was unique and not in a good way, and now we have two.

How did we get to a place where our differences, or perceived differences, caused an attempted insurrection? In the United States, our current differences are so divergent that they appear as if they represent two different countries. It is like the country is in a bad movie, or maybe the old television

series, ‘The Twilight Zone.’ Our differences remind me of the ancient Roman religion (or myth) of Janus. Janus is frequently portrayed with two faces, each facing away from the other. The two faces of Janus represent the god of beginnings, transitions, time, and endings. He is also the god of duality and doorways, and many believe that the two faces represent the two sides that we all have. Are we two countries, or are we at the beginning of something new or the end of something old?

Politicians and talking pundits have brought up the idea that because of our differences, as demonstrated on January 6, we could lose our democracy. The idea that has been fostered – is that losing our democracy is possible. Hopefully, just because it is possible, that does not mean it is probable. So, do our differences portend the end of our democracy? Maybe the beginning of a new form of government? Maybe our democracy is just going through a transition.

According to those that stormed the capital and attempted to change the election outcome, many believed that we needed a revolution to reset or restart our democracy. They see themselves as Patriots. While that idea may seem strange to many, it is an extraordinarily strong belief with many of the insurrectionists. A large reason for their beliefs is that they have been told by Trump that he won. Many of our con-

gressional leaders, and the word ‘leader’ is used loosely, have either parroted Trump’s words or remained silent. The idea that Trump won has been deemed the ‘big lie,’ well, because it is. He lost.

Attorney Bill Barr said the election was fair, and he looked for evidence of fraud. He said, “. . .the U.S. Justice Department has uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud.” Chris Krebs, a Trump appointee and the director for election security, said: “the election was the country’s most secure ever.” The Texas Attorney General, Ken Paxton, spend over two million dollars looking for voter fraud in the 2020 election. They found 17 cases out of the 10 million voters. One case was individual voting while he was on probation; the others, all 16, involved the wrong address on their voter registration forms.

At least eighty-six lawsuits were filed after the election, challenging the results. The courts have ruled the lawsuits had no merit. Every case was eventually dismissed because of a lack of evidence. No matter what the evidence tells us, there continue to be talking heads and pundits that believe the election was stolen. Since proving a negative, something that does not exist, is not possible, how will this issue be resolved? Maybe we should be asking, will it ever be decided? Are we doomed to having two faces, perhaps two countries?

During the attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, five people died, and over one hundred and forty police officers were injured. Video of the incident shows a group dragging a police officer and beating him with their fist and an American flagpole. One insurrectionist beat the officer with a thin blue line flag while yelling, “Kill him with his own gun.” The insurrectionist said they were patriots. How does a person carrying a flag that supports police assault a police officer? How can anyone explain strong beliefs – that appear illogical?

In at least one case, a former police officer assaulted an officer protecting the capital. It seems contradictory to most of us that the two sides of this behavior represent the same person. Being patriotic and yet assaulting police are asserted as valid by the same person. It is illogical to most of us. Typically, we do not expect someone to say, “I like and support you,” and then try to kill you.

How does anyone understand people who call themselves patriots yet assault police and believe they should take the government by force? Can anyone explain people that complain about others not respecting the flag and then use the flag to assault a police officer? What appeared totally unexpected is that members of Congress do not see the value in an investigation when it was their house that was attacked and desecrated. How does a congressperson ignore the chants “Hang Mike Pence?”

We have members of the law-and-order party who said the demonstrators were not insurrectionists but were peaceful tourists. Were the 140 officers injured by tourists? The term cognitive dissidence has been elevated with more significant meaning – with the spoken words by some congresspersons. Of course, the term two-faced (like Janus) has often been associated with some politicians.

What would have happened if Congress refused to certify the election? If Trump declared Marshall law, would the same members of Congress agree with him? Would our supreme court intervene? In 1832, when the Supreme Court ruled that the American Indians had a degree of sovereignty with the U. S. Government, President Andrew Jackson ignored the decision and said, “John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.” Could ignoring the court be repeated today?

If, during the next presidential election, Congress fails to certify the Electoral College, would that allow the loser – to claim victory? How close were we, or are we, to losing our democracy? Trying to describe what has occurred appears impossible because so much seems illogical. Maybe it would make more sense if Janus were not an ancient Roman god but a god from the ‘Twilight Zone.’

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

American Mind

Nation of systemic opportunity

Mark Greathouse

The U.S. is a nation of opportunity. In fact, we are a nation of systemic opportunity. Freedom of opportunity has been in our DNA since the founding. We can never get enough of “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Declaration of Independence wasn’t put together by a bunch of old men, but by young visionaries – many in their teens and early twenties – who saw a bright, promising future for America.

Perhaps, I’m especially sensitized to the precious freedom of opportunity because I write books of fiction and history of the old American west. I write about “second chancers” braving a harsh environment to put their often-failed pasts behind them while seeking new opportunities. Those who succeeded were distinguished by their endurance, moral character, and hard work; not by gender or race or tribal allegiance. It wasn’t easy, but most stayed the course. I recall the words attributed to a cousin back around the 1930s when he sold his ranch in Texas, “I lost a sense of freedom never to be found anywhere else on earth.” Such value placed on freedom. Those settlers took a lickin’ and kept on tickin’, because they fully grasped the opportunities America afforded them. America offered them the freedom

to succeed. Gender, race, or religion mattered not. It’s truly no different today. Opportunities abound.

Somebody is likely thinking, “What about the slaves?” Well, historian and philosopher Alexis De Tocqueville noted, “The greatness of America lies not in being enlightened more than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.” Eventually, former slaves had opportunity.

It’s high time we stopped giving credence to the extreme elements of the socio-political scale that would claim otherwise. Let’s also keep in mind that extremists are a minority...a loud, vociferous, minority. They are too easily swayed by powerful people who use them to their own perverse advantage. The extremists shout bumper-sticker slogans of no substance. As an example, we are not a racist nation. Nor is our nation sexist, homophobic, or a litany of other pejorative, victim-targeted “ists,” “isms,” and so on; none of which represent the fabric of America. Let’s consider black education and entrepreneurship.

In Robert Woodward book *Red, White, and Black: Rescuing American History from Revisionists and Race Hustlers*, John Sibley Butler, a professor at University of Texas, describes the “black bourgeoisie” defined as third generation college matriculators who never inhabited ghettos but rather helped create businesses and even towns through their own entrepreneurial initiatives. There are far more success stories of black Americans than of the failures brought on by the agenda-driven do-gooders, the hustlers,

and the villains that sucked them into a welfare system that destroyed their self-esteem, their hopes for the future. Many found opportunity, climbed out of the urban plantations, and found success in life, career, and business.

Hustlers? The vocal minorities that would divide us into oppressors versus oppressed are fully dependent for their very livelihoods on maintaining as much divisiveness as possible. They maintain cults of victimhood. Yes, they actually earn their livings from hustling it. Villains? The real villains in America aren’t black people. They aren’t white people. They aren’t Asian people. They aren’t Latinos. They aren’t women. They aren’t gays. They are the radical so-called “journalists,” “teachers,” and “professors” who do nothing but sow division among the American people. To our discredit we allow these useful idiots to indoctrinate us with their dangerous and destructive ideologies at every turn. We dare not lower ourselves to their level and let them win on experience. After all, they are not nearly so intelligent as they would have us believe, especially as evidenced by their utter disregard for the opportunities for success in our nation.

Over the past half dozen decades, America seems to have been headed down an ever-slipperier moral decline. Some might say it began with banning prayer in public schools and removing the Ten Commandments from public places under guise of protecting the First Amendment to our Constitution. The state dares not establish a national religion. Some might say it began with various sectarians seeking societal perfection; utopias, if you will. That begged the question: your utopia or my utopia? Seems that even a mor-

alism couched in non-religious logic begs for some moral basis, a moral bedrock. The result of such absence of moral foundation is chaos, demagoguery, existential threats to our very rights to freedom of opportunity.

Oh, and it’s critically important to note here that our Declaration of Independence referred to natural unalienable rights granted by our Creator, not some mechanistic temporal rights granted by the government. The Preamble to our Constitution states, “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The Declaration and Constitution were not drawn up out of thin air but draw upon the history and experience, success and failure, and wise counsel of governments gone before. And notably, our founding documents describe us as free individuals, as Americans with equal and exceptional opportunity, not as the mediocre tribes the globalists would have us be. And they protect us from governmental over-reach.

There’s hope. A key tenet of Christianity is to forgive. That doesn’t abridge punishment, but it opens the door to healing the body and soul of the nation. We needn’t be a “Judeo-Christian” nation to adopt the very tenets of morality and ethics as couched in that faith. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Love thy neighbor as thy self. These imply that you would seek to do good unto other folks and that you love and respect

yourself. Seem worthy enough to me.

It is said that at the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Ben Franklin was asked by a lady, “Well Doctor what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” Franklin replied, “A republic . . . if you can keep it.” Our Constitution created a limited representative republic. A republic is different from a democracy. In a democracy, the majority can directly make laws, while in a republic, elected representatives make laws. Pray we can keep our republic.

Enough with negative, unexceptional, apologetic images of the United States. The only true “systemic” element in our culture is “systemic opportunity.” Opportunities for an abundantly successful life abound for anyone who chooses to grasp them. Enough with victimhood mongering, racist ranting, homophobic posturing, oppressor versus oppressed, misogynistic sexism, and the like.

Folks who truly wish America to endure as a free nation of great opportunity must get involved in government at all levels, must speak out frequently and forcefully in public venues, must hold to high moral and ethical standards, and must seize opportunities to place themselves in positions to act for the common good. Let’s join in fostering a positive America, an exceptional nation abounding in opportunities thanks to the freedoms announced in our Declaration, guaranteed in our Constitution, and built solidly upon the bedrock of an enduringly moral way of life. We are indeed exceptional among the nations.

To read past editions of American Mind, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Bulwark

America's imperfect founding

George Thomas
The Bulwark

To insist that the founding was perfect is at odds with what the founders themselves thought and wrote in the Federalist Papers.

The American founding was imperfect. America's founders weren't just aware of the point, they insisted on it: "I never expect to see a perfect work from imperfect man." This bit of wisdom was central to the founding. In contrast, today, Republicans, continuing their departure from any serious understanding of American ideas and history, have taken to insisting that teaching about a flawed founding threatens the very foundations of the republic.

That would be news to the founders, who were often the Constitution's most perceptive critics. In his closing speech at the Constitutional Convention, the only speech from the Convention to be published at the time, Benjamin Franklin confessed that he "did not entirely approve of this Constitution at the present." Yet he acknowledged his own fallibility, noting that in time he might come to change his mind, and, given the circumstances, it wasn't clear the Convention could "do better" than it had. This is no small thing, but inherent in the political philosophy of leading founders. To insist on a perfect founding

is to misapprehend the thought of the founders themselves. The founders rejected the notion of a perfect political order. They built from low but solid ground by insisting on imperfection as an inescapable feature of political institutions crafted by human beings. And they built from experience, learning from the past, but knowing full well that the future was likely to require adjustments and improvements to our political institutions.

Championing the Constitution to the citizenry in The Federalist Papers, James Madison insisted we must make a choice for "the GREATER, not the PERFECT good." In the closing paper, Alexander Hamilton reiterated the point, noting the Constitution was "the best which our political situation, habits, and opinions will admit." It is not simply, in Madison's famous words, that men are not angels. Nor is it, again in Madison's words, that we cannot always trust that enlightened statesmen will be at the helm. Both points are true. The deeper point echoes Franklin's insight that perfection is an impossibility in crafting political institutions, which inevitably require compromises that bow to reality. And there will always be gaps between political practices and political aspirations, as well as contingencies that the Constitution's framers simply did not anticipate.

Adjustments to the Constitution were needed almost immediately. The Twelfth Amendment stipulated separate electoral votes for the president and vice-president after the problematic election of 1800 where Aaron Burr, Thomas Jefferson's running mate, got the same number of electoral votes as Jefferson throwing the presidential election into the House of Representatives. As the founding generation learned how elections actually operated under the new Constitution, innovations like political parties came to be defended as a necessary constitutional development even if the Constitution had tried to rise above them. Such adjustments were expected to be—and have been—a fairly routine feature of American politics.

Yet far and away the most evident constitutional shortcoming was the reality of American slavery. An emerging republic that insisted that all men were created equal, creating a self-governing polity based on that principle, also allowed for the enslaving of fellow human beings. To call slavery an imperfection or flaw is a colossal understatement.

The struggle over slavery has been at the root of American constitutionalism from the beginning. Slavery presented a constitutional disharmony between the idea of equality and the reality of slavery. As the Princeton historian Sean Wilentz frames it in *No Property in Man*, "the paradox—of a Constitution that strengthened and protected slavery yet refused to val-

idate it—created what have been perceived as the Constitution's confounding ambiguities over slavery." If American ideas pointed to equality and anti-slavery—at the Constitutional Convention Madison called American slavery "the most oppressive dominion ever exercised by man over man"—American political institutions empowered slavery and thereby perpetuated a brutal and violent inequality.

Many of the leading founders were in principle opposed to slavery—and particularly slavery rooted in race—but this was often an abstract position, with little actual political effort to undo slavery. They seem to have given even less thought to what equality and citizenship would entail for Black Americans (Franklin being a possible exception here). The difficult work of anti-slavery constitutionalism had to be taken up by others, and often against our deeply imperfect political institutions that empowered the proslavery position, giving its voice more weight in constitutional terms than it would have had absent the three-fifths compromise and the Electoral College.

The new birth of freedom that Abraham Lincoln extolled in the Gettysburg Address required the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, which amounted to a second founding. It was this second founding that made the first founding worthy of being saved. Much like the founders before them, those who ushered in a second founding learned from

experience, working to improve an imperfect Constitution. At Gettysburg, Lincoln cast the nation as "conceived in liberty" and "dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal." Lincoln's effort was to complete the "unfinished work" of the founding generation. If Lincoln cast this "unfinished work" as an effort to restore America to its foundations, to a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, this was an effort to return to something real, but that never actually existed—only the promise of it did.

Making this promise real has been the work of generations.

Our pluralistic constitutional democracy is an outgrowth of the constitutional republic launched by the founders. Madisonian constitutionalism, in particular, paved the way for a vibrant and pluralistic constitutional democracy that was not defined by religious, racial, or ethnic identity. But that project was imperfect and incomplete at the founding. It has been carried forward by Americans who sought to make a deeply imperfect union more perfect. This work continues in our day, and we are better prepared for this work as we make our way in the present if we have a genuine sense of our (imperfect) past.

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Down Under

A deathless war

Submitted by Lindsay
Melbourne, Australia

"...my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free."

—Lincoln, August 1862

Have you noticed how different the past few decades have been in one particular thing? (No, not the weather). Want to guess?

Over the past fifty years armed conflicts have declined. Skirmishes, disputes yes, but apart from the Crimea, no one has gone to war. The cause of death has shifted from armaments to climate and pandemics. These two scourges will continue for the foreseeable future, and will lead to revolution, mass death and hardship – but not by armies doing the bidding of their national masters.

On the contrary, mother nature has taken things into her own hands. You can hear her groan, 'Too many, too many,' and she is doing her best to undo some of the ravages we have made to her beloved planet. Viruses and weather, two of her big guns, are full on.

No one knows how many of us will survive, but there will certainly be enough to continue in the most

ancient of workforces, the slave. That was how the pyramids were built, and this kind of production still has lots going for it: It's cheap, there's always more labour available, and it has been embedded in the system of government. You say it's been outlawed? Discredited and wrong?

Think again. It has never really gone away, just called by different names. So, here's this month's question: which country has the greatest number of adult slaves per head of population?

Sorry folks, it's you.

To make that claim, we must look at the definition: A slave is anyone who cannot leave their work or their home. Two point three million, slightly less than one percent of the American population, are in that category – those in prison. This is far greater than anywhere else, and way above the per capita incarceration of anywhere else.

So, why are they slaves? Because they work for virtually nothing and cannot leave. The other part of the definition is that they must enrich their owners. The contribution made to American wealth by this group is staggering: According to the Economist, some \$1 billion in 2019.

China, by comparison, has half the number, and with about three times the population.

One of the great scourges of civilisation is the number of children in slavery, and their plight is far worse than anything we can imagine, but there are newer forms of slavery that are more pernicious: free to go home, free to walk around, to buy their own goods, but are unable to leave their employment because there is nothing better.

That is the Amazon model, one that mines desperation for profit, and is replicated across the country.

There is also another form of slavery, that of addiction. In the past, this was available only to a select rich few, but now, where willingly or unwillingly, it is available to everyone – so we can get hooked on getting that tiny dose of dopamine. Its growth has come from both technology and social conditions, as family, friend and community closeness has declined, leaving a void in the hearts of many people, and the availability of social media and entertainment has proliferated.

TikTok is the addiction of millions, Twitter other platforms are still growing, and governments can not only do nothing about it, they don't want to, as they have enormous power in what they post. The real horror of it all is that it is used by kids as young as two. Hooked for life, which will become less meaningful, less useful except as escape from the bleakness.

Not so strangely, governments have also become hooked on its

use, often in the use of algorithms which take the role of the person, and give it to a program that can only do what it is programmed to do. Governments are not clever. They are often made up of lawyers and professional politicians who have little awareness of the real world, and need such programs to do the work. Why not? They do work – provided the programming is based on reality by unprejudiced and non-partisan people.

Then there is the ultimate ruler: The super-computer, soon to be the Q bit version. This is so powerful that whole populations can be monitored, the economy tracked, intelligence gathered, all in real time.

There are two protagonists in this game, China and America. America has been, for decades, preeminent in this field. Silicon Valley has been the powerhouse with contracts in every area of government, commerce and entertainment. Billions have gone into its success, trillions have come out of it, whole industries have formed around it, and American power has rested on its pre-eminence. Is developments have not slackened, but China has caught up.

Talk about the law of unintended consequences, this is a zinger. Trump, when he was president, slapped restrictions on the export of hardware, notably chips to China, in retaliation for China increasing its tariffs on American imports – which they did because he put huge

increases on tariffs on a range of imports from there.

Far from bringing them to heel, they did the obvious: They said, 'OK, we'll make this stuff ourselves,' and that is what they have done. They had an enormous base of technology and thousands of highly skilled and clever people, put them to work, and now appear to be overtaking you.

Enter the new 5G (6G is on the way) networks and the picture becomes that of two enormous arcs of data gathering and processing glaring at each other.

What is at stake is the control of data, their populations, and any others they can infiltrate. An ultimate power that is far more frightening than climate change or pandemics. It will put to an end, once and for all, the need of war to achieve an end. This is big Brother, the Demolished Man, Brave New World rolled into one.

And we will be slaves to this monster; it will be benign except when it senses something against the latest dictum. America, where freedom has been the basis of the nation, will have become the same as China. You think I'm crazy? How much actual freedom do the majority of you have today? And, more importantly, what can anyone do about it?

Shifting to New Zealand might be a good bet.

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THE PASTOR'S DESK

A divided world ...

Pastor Ken Fizer
Thurmont United
Methodist Church

... can never be healed by a divided church.

A divided world can never be healed by a divided church. It is sad that there are many people who think they cannot speak a good word for their church or denomination unless in the same breath they speak badly of another. The person who thinks that one can only defend one's own ideals by damaging the conviction of others shows intolerance. The true Christian should be a builder of bridges; not barricades. We will never lead people to Christ by discrediting the faith of those who differ with us. There is enough fault-finding, intolerance, and bigotry in the world without the church joining the chorus.

For two thousand years, we have prayed together the Lord's Prayer. For over seventeen hundred years we have recited in unison the common confession of our Christian faith called the Apostle's Creed. Together we believe in the atonement, the incarnation, the resurrection, and the second coming. We read the same Bible and we sing many of the same hymns. We all agree that "God is Spirit, and they that worship God must worship in spirit and in truth." Yet our ways of worshipping God vary.

My only concerns are those of John Wesley. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ do you know Jesus Christ and him crucified? Do you love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Do you love your neighbor as yourself?

We are called to practice what John Wesley called "The Catholic Spirit", catholic meaning universal. This is not an indifference to all opinions in which one is tossed back and forward with every new wind of doctrine. Instead, a person of a quote "Catholic Spirit" will get their hand to all those whose hearts are right with their heart.

St. Paul saw division happening in the early church. Each new convert brought into the Christian family had their own traditions, their own values, their own preferences. Sometimes the Apostle Paul had to play referee. Some other new believers were still attached to the Jewish laws.

Some were meat eaters, and some were vegetarian. Disagreements within the early church were many. And sometimes these disagreements became personal. People were passing judgment on others who did not follow the same customs that they did. The church was becoming divided. So, Paul felt obligated to say something about it. He wanted them to "cool it." The church was big enough for all kinds of options. The important thing is that their lives were to give glory to God.

The Bible affirms the oneness of all Christian believers. It is committed to keep the unity of spirit in the bond of peace. The church is not a man-made structure; it is a fellowship of the twice born. It is a group of people who live with a sense of our oneness in Christ we share together the assurances and hopes of our common faith.

Our emphasis should not be on division, but unity. Unity allows for diversity. A belief in the oneness of all Christian believers.

People are different, but human nature is one. We have unity with diversity.

So, it is in the Christian Church. We are one in Christ. It is so easy to exaggerate our differences and lose sight of our oneness. This constant emphasis upon the lack of oneness in the Christian Church loses sight of one fact no one can deny that there are vast areas of disagreement, but there is also a fundamental area of agreement. And the things in which Christians everywhere are in agreement are so much more significant, and permanent than the things in which there is disagreement.

For over two thousand years the Christian Church has been in the world, transforming its society and changing people.

Jesus expects believers to be bonded together through common faith in Him and for the unity of believers to be a witness to His Lordship. Jesus wants the world to look at His church and say, "See how they love one another!" Together in him, we can experience the full blessings of unity and grow together in Christ.

Christ came into the world to save people. That is why any picture of Christ's final victory over the world can never be exclusive. The people who surround Christ's throne will not be saying that their side has "won." They will be giving thanks for God's grace through Jesus Christ.

The church is a community held together by grace – and grace has a name, and its name is Jesus Christ! Yet, our adversary is clever. Satan seeks division, knowing full well that a house divided against itself cannot stand. The Christian has no choice. If we want to be obedient disciples of Christ – we must seek unity. United we stand; divided we fall. In a word, Christian oneness is a witness. To the extent that those who confess Christ are united in love. The tragedy is history bears out the words of Christ – in reverse. We have come a long sad journey from the first century, when the pagans exclaimed, "See how the Christians love one another, "to the 21st century, when all over the world people dismiss us by saying, "see how these Christians hate one another." We simply have not given the world a corporate witness.

We must be a fellowship of people who live with a sense of oneness



in Christ. I fear too much has been made of our differences. Our emphasis should not be on division, but on unity. Unity that allows for diversity.

I believe what the church needs is to bring a new oneness of mind and heart and return to that which lies at the center of our common faith. We must make more of the cross. While we have many statements of faith, we have only one gospel. We have many altars but only one lamb of God. We have many creeds but only one cross.

It is the cross which stands central in the faith of Christendom. John the Baptist pointed to it when he said, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." St. Paul went up and down Asia minor proclaiming, "God forbid I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." St. John shares Jesus' words that are the heart of the gospel, "for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son."

The early church was held together by keeping that cross central. What a strange and complex group it was. These early Christians represented different nationalities with different languages and different traditions. We read about the fickle Galatians; the wayward Romans; the warm-hearted Philippians; and the unpredictable Thessalonians.

And yet, all of these different groups with the different backgrounds were held together in one great fellowship because the cross of Christ remained central.

Our sense of oneness is always through the cross. Whenever the cross ceases to be central, Christian-

ity becomes weak, and divided. Our way back to oneness is by kneeling again in confession before the cross. Our Lord must have anticipated our tendency to splinter-off into sects when he prayed John 17, "may they all become one as I and the Father are one." Jesus urged his disciples to break bread and share the cup together in remembrance of him.

We don't have to be afraid of differences in opinion within the church so long as the cross remains central. When Christians emphasized the cross, most of their disagreements will be resolved. The nearer we are to the cross, the nearer we are to one another. We do not hate people with whom we kneel before the cross of Christ. No one has a monopoly upon that cross. It's meant for all.

If you do not have a church community, we invite you to worship with us at Thurmont United Methodist Church. TUMC is an evangelical church with two worship celebrations on Sunday mornings and Sunday School for all ages. Whether you enjoy traditional hymns or contemporary worship music, you will find it at one of our Sunday morning celebrations. We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday. Our church is very Missions oriented. Each month we sent 10% of all gifts and tithes to missionaries and mission organizations.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Superstitions about the moon and the weather



In connection with Greenwich Observatory, it may not be improper to advert to one of the false notions which that institution has helped to dispel—namely, the supposed effect of the moon in determining the weather. It is a very prevalent belief, that the general condition of the atmosphere throughout the world during any lunation depends on whether the moon changed before or after midnight. Almanacs some-times contain a scientific-looking table constructed on this principle, the absurdity of which appears, if on no other grounds, from the consideration that what is calculated for the meridian of Greenwich may not be correct elsewhere, for the moon may even change before twelve o'clock at Westminster, and after it at St. Paul's.

If I recollect rightly, this was actually the case with regard to the Paschal full-moon a few years ago, the consequence of which (unless Greenwich-time had been silently assumed to be correct) would have been that Easter-day must have fallen at different times in London and Westminster. There are other notions about the moon which are of a still more superstitious nature.

In this part of the world (Suffolk), it is considered unlucky to kill a pig in the wane of the moon; if it is done, the pork will waste in boiling. I have known the shrinking of bacon in the pot attributed to the fact of the pig having been killed in the moon's decrease; and I have also known the death of poor piggy delayed, or hastened, so as to happen during its increase.

The worship of the moon (a part of, perhaps, the oldest of false religions) has not entirely died out in this nineteenth century of the Christian era. Many persons will courtesy to the new moon on its first appearance, and turn the money in their pockets 'for luck.' Last winter, I had a set of rough country lads in a night-school; they happened to catch sight of the new moon through the window, and all (I think) that had any money in their pockets turned it 'for luck.' As may be supposed, it was done in a joking sort of way, but still it was done. The boys could not agree what was the right form of words to use on the occasion, but it seemed to be understood that there was a proper formula for it.

Another superstition was acknowledged by them at the same time—namely, that it was unlucky to see the new moon for the first time through glass. This must, of course, be comparatively modern. I do not know what is the origin of it, nor can I tell that of the saying:

*A Saturday moon,
If it comes once in seven years,
Comes once too soon.'*

The application of this is, that if the new moon happens on a Saturday, the weather will be bad for the ensuing month. The average of the last seven years gives exactly two Saturday moons per annum, which is rather above the general average due from the facts of there being seven days to the week, and twenty-nine and a half to the lunation. This year, however (1863), there is but one Saturday moon, which brings the average nearer to the truth. I mention this to illustrate the utter want of observation which can reckon a septennial recurrence of a Saturday moon as something abnormal. Yet many sayings about the weather are, no doubt, founded upon observation; such appears to be the following:

*Rain before seven,
Fine before eleven.'*

At anyrate, I have hardly ever known it fail in this district; but it must be borne in mind it is only about ten miles from Thetford, where the annual rainfall is no more than nineteen inches, the lowest registered at any place in the kingdom. Another saying is, that 'There never is a Saturday without sunshine.' This is almost always true, but, as might be supposed from the low annual rainfall, the same might be said of any day in the week with an equal amount of truth.

The character of St. Swithin's Day is much regarded here as a prognostication of fine or wet weather; but I am happy to think that the saint failed to keep his promise this year, and though he rained on his own day, did not feel himself obliged to go on with it for the regulation forty days.

Another weather-guide connected with the moon is, that to see 'the old moon in the arms of the new one' is reckoned a sign of fine weather; and so is the turning up of the horns of the new moon. In this position it is supposed to retain the water, which is imagined to be in it, and which would run out if the horns were turned down.

The streaks of light often seen when the sun shines through broken clouds are believed to be pipes reaching into the sea, and the water is supposed to be drawn up through them into the clouds, ready to be discharged in the shape of rain. But it is more interesting, perhaps, as an instance of the truth sometimes contained in popular superstitions; for, though the streaks of sun-light are no actual pipes, yet they are visible signs of the sun's action, which, by evaporating the waters, provides a store of vapour to be converted into rain.

The Sea-serpent

On the 6th of August 1848, H. M. S. Dcedalus, on her way from the Cape of Good Hope to St. Helena, came near a singular-looking object in the water. The Captain attempted to wear the ship close up to it, but the state of the wind prevented a nearer approach than two hundred yards. The officers, watching carefully through their glasses, could trace eye, mouth, nostril, and form, in the floating mass to which their attention was directed. The general impression produced was, that the animal belonged rather to the lizard than to the serpent tribe; its movement was steady, rapid, and uniform, as if propelled by fins rather than by undulating power. The size appeared to be very great; but as only a portion of the animal was above water, no exact estimate of dimensions could be made. Neither officers nor seamen ever saw anything similar to it before.

The report of this incident caused a stir among the British naturalists, who were eager to meet the popular fancy of the sea-serpent with facts shewing the extreme improbability of the existence of any such creature. The Captain, nevertheless, insisted on the correctness of his report, and many professed to attach little consequence to the merely negative evidence brought against it.

On the 12th of December 1857, the ship Castilian, bound from Bombay to Liverpool, was, at six in the evening, about ten miles distant from St. Helena. A monster that suddenly appeared

in the water was described by the three chief officers of the ship. Nothing can be more plain than the honest good faith in which the narrative is written. The chief facts, in the captain's own words, are as follows:

'While myself and officers were standing on the lee-side of the poop, looking towards the island, we were startled by the sight of a huge marine animal, which reared its head out of the water, within twenty yards of the ship; when it suddenly disappeared for about half a minute, and then made its appearance in the same manner again—shewing us distinctly its neck and head, about ten or twelve feet out of the water. Its head was shaped like a long nun-buoy; and I suppose the diameter to have been seven or eight feet in the largest part, with a kind of scroll, or tuft of loose skin, encircling it about two feet from the top.

The water was discoloured for several hundred feet from its head: so much so, that on its first appearance my impression was that the ship was in broken water, produced, as I supposed, by some volcanic agency since the last time I passed the island; but the second appearance completely dispelled those fears, and assured us that it was a monster of extraordinary length, which appeared to be moving slowly towards the land.

The ship was going too fast, to enable us to reach the mast-head in time to form a correct estimate of its extreme length; but from what we saw from the deck, we conclude that it must

have been over two hundred feet long. The boatswain and several of the crew who observed it from the top-gallant fore-castle, state that it was more than double the length of the ship, in which case it must have been five hundred feet. Be that as it may, I am convinced that it belonged to the serpent tribe; it was of a dark colour about the head, and was covered with several white spots."

These are but examples of many confident reports made by persons professing to have seen the sea-serpent. Between 1844 and 1846, there were reported several appearances of this monster, in the seas fronting the United States and Canada. Twenty years earlier, the sea-serpent was repeatedly seen on the coasts of the United States, also about 1818, and in 1806. It is remarkable with what distinctness, and with what confidence, the observers state their notions of what they saw—not meaning, we suppose, to deceive, but in all good faith taking hasty and excited impressions for serious and exact observation.

It is not, however, the prevalent belief of naturalists, that the sea-serpent has been in all cases the *Squalus Maximus*. It seems to be now concluded, that the animal actually seen by Dcedalus, and Castilian was more probably a certain species of seal known to inhabit the South Seas. The creature so often seen on the American coasts, was in all probability a shark, similar to that stranded in Orkney.

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ECOLOGY

Dog Day lessons

Bill Meredith
The (retired) Ecologist

We are in the middle of the ancient season that the Romans used to call dies caniculares, more recently known as Dog Days. This was a significant time in back then. The Royal Astronomers would mark the time when the sun rose in the constellation of Sirius, the dog star; they could see at dawn on that date that Sirius was getting too close to the sun, so they could predict with confidence that they were in for a period of hot, muggy weather. And they were always right.

We didn't have pre-school or kindergarten when I was young, so much of my early education came from my grandmother, who ran her life by the Bible and the Farmer's Almanac, in that order. She was the first to tell me about Dog Days. When I got to school, probably about the third grade, I learned that the months of July and August were named for Julius and Augustus Caesar. I'm not sure if Grandma knew about Julius

Caesar; but she was aware of Augustus; the tax he imposed was the reason Mary and Joseph happened to be in Bethlehem when Jesus was born, and I'm sure she could have cited the chapter and verse to prove it.

I was born in the same year that Hoagy Carmichael wrote "Lazy Bones," and my wife has always maintained that he dedicated it to me. While there may have been some basis for that in recent years, back then it didn't apply to farm kids. There was work that had to be done, Dog Days or not, and that included everyone.

The first cutting of hay had been made in June, and the second crop would be ready about this time, depending on how much rain we'd had, so the men were out in the fields all day; if the hay wasn't ready, fences had to be mended, machinery had to be repaired, and acres of field corn had to be hoed. Kids were kept busy. As a pre-schooler I had the job of picking beetles and caterpillars off the bean and potato plants and disposing of them in kerosene, contained in one of Grandma's Garrett Snuff cans.

It was a labor-intensive task; folks said kids were well-suited for it, being close to the ground.

Besides learning how to work, I learned a lot of things that made my mind receptive when I began to study science. One day my Dad was chopping wood near the house, and I was out in a field some distance away when I noticed something was out of synch. The axe made no sound when it came down on the wood, but when he raised it for the next blow, I heard a solid "WHACK!" as if he had hit an invisible log in the air over his head. He chopped rhythmically through the log, the last sound occurring after he finished. I thought it would be neat if I could do that and amaze people, so I went and asked him how he did it. He looked at me with an odd expression... I was used to that, for my questions often resulted in that look... but after he figured out what I was talking about, he gave me a clear explanation.

The axe made its sound when it hit the wood, but sound travels through the air at a fairly slow speed, so he had raised the axe before the sound got to me. I wasn't sure if I believed him at first, but that evening there was a thunderstorm, and he explained that the sound from the lightning travels about 1,000 feet per second, and since there are about 5,000 feet in a mile, if you count the seconds between the flash of light and the thunder and divide by 5, you can calculate how far away the lightning is... five seconds equals one mile.

Dog Days take their toll. One year I got some tree seedlings for Arbor Day, and when I set them out I put wire around them and supported them with sticks that I had recently pruned from trees. Most of the seedlings died,



In days gone by, one of the things you could always count on during the Dog Days was the local ice cream truck.

but one of the sticks sprouted leaves, even though I had stuck it into the ground top-end-first. It was a demonstration of the indomitable tenacity of meristematic tissue, and I had some hope that it might take root and survive, but temperatures above 100 in July that year were too much for it.

Somewhere I have a recording of Nat "King" Cole singing "Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer," and if I can find it, I'll put it on and listen to it, if the old turntable still works.

To read past editions of the Retired Ecologist visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Frederick Co. Forestry Board investigates Oak decline

On July 7, members of the Frederick County Forestry Board, along with a delegation of experts including representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, met to investigate reports of Oak decline on Stronghold's 3,000 acres at Sugarloaf Mountain Park.

Oak decline is the progressive weakening until the tree dies. Trees suffering from decline display dieback of branches—usually starting from the top of the tree. Most Oak decline across the U.S. is due to microbial disease and invasive species. In the northeast, the Gypsy Moth, has recently caused the loss of thousands of acres of Oaks. According to Stronghold

staff, however, many of the older Oaks died quickly with their leaves turning brown and remaining on the tress. This may indicate a response to the extreme weather conditions we have witnessed in the area: from the heavy rains in spring of 2018, to intense summer droughts, and extreme cold last May, just as Oaks were leafing out.

Two key areas of concern were visited, both of about forty acres in size. The first area, located at the top of the mountain close to the parking lot, is the prime observation area. Here, forest management was hampered by concerns about aesthetics, which appears to have resulted in pockets of Oak mortality due to overcrowding. The second area lies at the north of the park, off Stuart Hill Road. While this area was selectively harvested about eight years ago, about 70% of the remaining old Oaks also show stress, although new growth seems to be doing well.

Stronghold Administrators, the Frederick County Forestry Board, and previously mentioned advisors are assessing all options to improve the health of the Stronghold forest, help the survival of old trees, and ensure new growth. The first step is to submit samples of the ailing trees for testing to identify the diseases and formulate control strategies. This may include decreasing crowding or competition to encourage new growth, severing roots below ground level, and adjusting the forest management plan to new climate conditions.

The Frederick County Forestry Board encourages landowners to take a look at their Oaks and contact forestry or arboricultural experts if you notice substantial Oak mortality.

The Frederick County Forestry Board promotes the conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use of our forest resources and urban landscapes. We inform the public and vigorously advocate for local, regional, and national forest ecosystems. Trees enhance our physical and mental well-being; improve the quality of our streams, lakes, and the Bay; help cool the environment; retain and improve soil; produce oxygen while consuming carbon dioxide; and provide home for wildlife. Visit frederick.forestryboard.org for information on our programs, events, and resources.

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Natural beauty - fireflies & bees

Tom Anderson
Frederick County Forestry Board

While over 2,000 species of fireflies exist throughout the world, less than a half dozen species are commonly seen in our area. These winged beetles of the order Coleoptera and family Lampyridae are known to many as lightning bugs from their night time luminescent flashes. About 3/4 inches in length, both male and female fireflies produce flash patterns that are different for each species and vary by sex. The flashes are signals used to attract mates.

Fireflies, as with other bioluminescent animals, produce a chemical called luciferin, which produces light when oxidized in the presence of an enzyme catalyst. The luciferin component of firefly bioluminescence was first isolated in 1949 at the Johns Hopkins University Chemistry Department. The most common firefly species seen in our area, *Photinus pyralis*, the common eastern firefly, and *Photuris pennsylvanica*, the Pennsylvania firefly, emit yellow-green light. While all fireflies use the same luciferin, variations in pH and chemistry cause different light colors to exist between some species. The peak months for fireflies in Frederick County are June and July.

Nocturnal, yet most active in twilight and early night, males locate females by a series of unique flashes to which the females respond with similar flashes. The eastern firefly, the most common species seen in our area, mainly flies close to the ground, with the males using a "j" - shaped flight pattern, flashing on the upward part of the "j." Males flash roughly at six-second intervals, with the females flashing with about a two-second delay. The females typically will remain on the ground and will elevate the glowing part of the abdomen towards the flying male firefly.

Photinus fireflies do not feed as adults. The ground-dwelling larvae of fireflies generally glow and are sometimes referred to as glowworms. Firefly larvae should not be confused with another type of beetle species of the family Phegodiidae, native but not commonly seen in our area, of which the females and larvae also possess bioluminescent organs and glow. These are similarly referred to as glowworms, as the females dwell on the ground.

After mating, the female firefly lays her eggs just under the surface of the ground. The eggs hatch in three to four weeks, with the larvae feeding on other insect larvae and invertebrates like snails and slugs. Fireflies hibernate over winter in the larval stage, feeding in the spring for a few weeks until pupating and emerging as adults. Similar to other beetles, fireflies have a disagreeable taste to many predators, with scientific opinion that the light emissions may also be a defense mechanism by which potential predators may avoid feeding on fireflies. While not considered harmful to humans, it is recommended that fireflies not be eaten, as some species in addition to having a disagreeable taste may have a mild toxicity.

Carpenter Bees

Carpenter Bees are large insects that build nests in deadwood, bamboo,

and wooden structures. These bees make a single hole, then excavate galleries in the wood to build nests. Repeated infestation over time can cause extensive damage as the galleries enlarge. Carpenter bees chew their way through the wood but don't eat the material. These bees feed on pollen and are important pollinators of many trees, shrubs, and flowers. Carpenter bees are also very important recyclers of dead trees in the forest.

The female carpenter bee has a black face and a stinger; she spends most of her time in the nest. The male bee has a yellow face and does not possess a stinger. The male spends most of his time flying outside the nest; they will approach intruders due to their curious nature or to protect their nest. The ungainly flight patterns make it appear that the bee is dive-bombing the intruder.

Keeping wood structures well-painted with oil or polyurethane-based paint or sealant will repel most bees. Plugging holes with wood putty or other fillers is another way to combat them. Finally, there are a number of insecticides that can be used once the barrier methods are no longer effective. Keeping a good protective base coat is the most effective way to prevent attacks. Despite their damage, these bees are an important part of our ecosystems, helping to pollinate plants and speed up decay of dead wood in the forest.

Solitary Mining Bees

A solitary ground-dwelling bee in our area is the mining bee (*Andrenidae*). They are highly beneficial for

pollination of a wide variety of fruit trees, berries and other plants and are nonaggressive.

These native bees are similar to honeybees in size and coloring. Females burrow in the ground to create a nest that is typically is seen as a quarter-inch-diameter hole surrounded by a small mound of soil. She makes several cells in each nest, with each cell lined with a liquid produced by the female and stocked with pollen and nectar she has collected. A single egg is deposited in each food mass. Females can be seen hanging out at the entrance to their nests to protect against predators, such as wasps and parasites.

After hatching, the larvae use the stored food as nourishment and then pupate, becoming adult bees. The newly hatched adults, both male and female, overwinter in the nest and emerge in the spring.

Mining bees nest individually, not in colonies like other bees. However, in favorable habitat such as loose or sandy soil, many mining bee nests may appear close to one another, resembling an ant colony. While the female is excavating the nest, the male, which does not collect pollen due to the lack of an area on the hind legs needed to carry pollen, will fly around to chase off intruding bees. The males do not have stingers and will die later in the year.

Use of insecticides for control is not recommended, considering the importance of mining bees to pollination and their solitary and nonaggressive nature.

Yellow Jackets

With yellow jackets it is sometimes difficult to determine whether you



See page 25 for related article on efforts to see Endangered Species Act protection for the American Bumblebee.

should like them or not. On one hand, they can result in severe discomfort when you accidentally disturb a nest, and the workers swarm and in the process of defending their hives they attack you. On the other hand, yellow jackets are voracious predators of plant-feeding herbivores such as caterpillars, beetles and other pests. Yellow jackets contribute toward the reduction of pest populations.

Yellow jackets are wasps in the family Vespidae. There are many species of yellow jackets in North America. One of the more common in our area is the Eastern yellow jacket. Colonies can be underground, in dense shrubs or vegetation, or in human-made structures. Nests are made of paper and the outer shell encloses a comb that supports the developing yellow jacket brood. Unlike honey bees, nests contain no honey or pollen.

Although adults feed primarily on items rich in sugars and carbohydrates (fruits, flower nectar, tree sap, apple cider, etc.), the larvae feed on proteins (insects, meats, fish, etc.).

Adult workers forage for "meat," return to the nest, and chew and condition the "meat" that they then feed to the larvae. In this regard, yellow jackets are beneficial because they kill many insects that are pests in our landscapes and nurseries.

Why are yellow jackets so active and noticeable at this time of year? As fall approaches, the colony must produce queens (fertilized females) that will ultimately start next year's colonies. Yellow jacket workers are searching for meat to provide these potential queens. Once it gets a little colder, the fertilized females leave the hive and search for protected locations, such as under tree bark or in logs, to hide in and make it through the winter. In the spring, these individuals will start new colonies. Next time you come across a nest of yellow jackets, try to remember that they actually provide a pest management benefit - and maybe share your hamburger or chicken.

To learn more about the Frederick Forestry Board visit frederick.forestry-board.org.

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REAL SCIENCE

The 2021 Ig Nobel Award winners

Michael Rosenthal

We are all familiar with the Nobel Prizes, named for Alfred Nobel, that chronicle achievements in many fields of research that has strong impacts on life. In 1991 the Ig Nobel Prizes were established – a good natured parody of the Nobel Prize that honors “achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think.” The awards ceremony usually features mini-operas, scientific demos, and the 24/7 lectures whereby experts must explain their work twice: once in 24 seconds, and the second in seven words. Acceptance speeches are limited to 60 seconds. As the motto implies, the research being honored might seem ridiculous at first glance, but that doesn't mean it is devoid of scientific merit. Traditionally, the winners also give public talks in Boston the day after the awards ceremony; alas. This year the talks were done as webcasts.

The winners receive, in addition to eternal Ig Nobel fame, a 10 trillion dollar bill from Zimbabwe! Zimbabwe stopped using its native currency in 2009 because of skyrocketing inflation and hyperinflation. At its nadir, the 100-trillion dollar bill was roughly the equivalent of 40 US cents.

The Ig Nobel Peace Prize went to the governments of India and Pakistan, for having their diplomats surreptitiously ring each other's doorbells in the middle of the night, and then run away before anyone

had a chance to answer the door.

The Ig Nobel Prize in Economics went to a group of 9 people (names are available from me or online upon request) for trying to quantify the relationship between different countries' national income inequality and the average amount of mouth-to-mouth kissing. The honorees recruited 3,109 participants from around the world, spanning 13 countries on six continents, for an online study. They found that kissing was typically rated as more important in later phases of a romantic relationship. They found that income inequality was positively related to kissing frequency. The authors concluded that “Individuals kiss their partner more in countries where resource competition is likely to be more intense.

The Ig Nobel Prize in Physics went to Ivan Maksymov and Andriy Pototsky for determining, experimentally, what happens to the shape of a living earthworm when one vibrates the earthworm at high frequency. The scientists reasoned that since many living organisms are mostly made of liquid, which they deem akin to liquid drops, organisms should experience standing waves under the right conditions. Earthworms were chosen because “they have a hydrostatic skeleton with a flexible skin and a liquid-filled body cavity.” As obscure as this may sound (At least to me!) the authors contended that their results “could be used to develop new techniques for probing and controlling the biophysical pro-

cesses like the propagation of nerve processes inside a living body.

The Ig Nobel Prize in Entomology went to Richard Vetter, “for collecting evidence that many entomologists (scientists who study insects) are afraid of spiders, which are not insects.” He found that the prevalence of arachnophobia among entomologists surprising, given that they work so closely with creatures many non-entomologists find equally repulsive, and he wanted to learn more about what might be causing the aversion. One person in the study “had a recurring nightmare (from age 4 to age 8) of running around her house into the large web of a human-sized spider and waking up just before being eaten.”

The Nobel Prize in Medicine went to Nienke Vulink, Damiaan Denys, and Arnoud van Loon for diagnosing a long-unrecognized medical condition: Misophonia, the distress at hearing other people make chewing sounds. Three patients were referred to the honorees' center for studying obsessive-compulsive disorders in Amsterdam after reporting extreme distress and aggressive outbursts at the sound of someone else smacking their lips or breathing. The condition didn't fit any existing diagnostic disorder, but when the story spread through a Dutch Internet forum, close to 50 people suffering the described symptoms contacted center. Forty-two patients in all were assessed. It was found that triggering sounds



were all human-produced – sounds from animals, or from the patients themselves did not induce the same distress. Eighty-one percent of the patients reported lip-smacking and other sounds associated with eating as a trigger. About 64 percent found loud breathing or “nose sounds” distressing. Fifty-nine percent of the patients couldn't bear the sound of typing on a keyboard or the repeated clicking of a pen. Many of the patients responded aggressively to these triggers, and often were ashamed about their excessive reaction. The authors identify this phenomenon as a new psychiatric disorder, naming it misophonia.

Here is a good one, the Ig Nobel Prize in Medical Education, which the reader will find highly relevant. Recipients are a group of 9 world leaders (including Donald Trump) for using the COVID-19 viral pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more

immediate effect on life and death that scientists and doctors can.” The idea behind this award is to stimulate useful discussion on a topic by the use of factual vagueness. All of the world leaders in the ward are said to have ignored scientific expertise, instituting disastrous policies for dealing with a global pandemic. The hope of the prize is that such activity will stimulate people with thinking more clearly by listening to scientists more carefully and politicians less so in future.

The Ig Nobel Prize in Psychology went to Miranda Giacomini and Nicholas Rule, for devising a method to identify narcissists by examining their eyebrows. Psychologists often believe that grandiose narcissism is a bad personality trait, marked by selfishness, egotism, entitlement, and vanity. Although such individuals, they point out, are often superficially charming, it is good to be able to spot a narcissist at first glance. The winning scientists recruited 39 undergraduates to pose for photographs with neutral expressions and had them fill out the Narcissistic Personality Inventory. They then used these photographs for a series of studies in which participants were asked to rate each of the faces in terms of how narcissistic they thought they were. Eyebrows are among the most expressive features of the face, and the researchers found that people rely on eyebrows to accurately pick out the grandiose narcissists. The conclusion here is to beware of people with distinctive, well-groomed eyebrows. (841 words)

There are a few more Ig Nobel Prizes, but I find them too unpleasant to write about. They can be found on an Internet search.

The cicadas are gone. I was disappointed with my cicada experience, the sum total of which was some cicada sounds in the woods next to my house and dead cicadas on the sidewalk. This was nothing like my experience on the Bard College campus in the Hudson Valley some years ago. A recent New York Times article cited how a handful of chefs were cooking with cicadas. If any of you out there ate cicadas and you contact me, I will forward your experience (and maybe a recipe!) in my next Real Science article.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Settling into me dotage

Jack Deatherage

‘Creme de Cassis’ hollyhocks somehow- “No. Not somehow. I know exactly how.”

Some idiot- “No. Not some idiot. Twas the Village Idiot what wrote the plant name on a piece of paper-thinking for the umpteenth year in a row that he’d still be able to read the print after the paper being constantly watered and sun bleached come planting out time.”

Okay. (eye roll) The hollyhock seedlings ended up being mistaken for Mexican Gherkins and got planted in cloth buckets with the okra. So far, both are doing well enough, though I suspect they’d do much better in buckets of their own. Still, I work within the space I have and the buckets have been moved about the Church of the Falling Rain so’s to take advantage of what sunlight falls on that part of the planet.

As usual, my grandiose garden plans went sideways before the DW and I filled the last of the cloth buckets with potting soil. I ended up driving back and forth between Countryside Gardens- east of Gettysburg, and Emmitsburg Landscape & Garden Supply- behind the old Zurgables hardware store for potting soils. Three different types of potting soil- all seemingly doing what I need them to, though the last one is holding water better than I expected. I think that type has water-holding crystals or some such stuff mixed in with whatever else was in the bag. (The lot of them will end the year dumped in one of the emptied stock tanks and will be mixed for next year’s projects.)

We positioned the Church of the Falling Rain in the largest chunk of daylight we could find in the yard and began to arrange the buckets before the trees were fully leafed out. Solidly in place, I began to overcrowd the chain-link walls with tomato plants that are likely to top the 6’ high panels, and pole beans: lima, runner and yardlong, and squash, cantaloupe and watermelon. The latter three have sprawled across the old carpet that serves as weed suppression inside the Church, through the panels, into the yard beyond, while also managing to climb the panels and even set fruit- 3’ above the bucket! A watermelon that can potentially reach 25 pounds will need a sling to support it long before that!

Standing in the dog room door-

way, I struggle to recall what the yard looked like the first summer I had to mow it. I fail. It’s been 33 years and every square foot of yard soil has been churned and planted since that day. Dozens of crocuses, tulips, daffodils, Dutch and English irises, hundreds of lilies- Asiatic and trumpet! Disappearing lilies, Virginia bluebells, dozens of daylilies, bee balms, hollyhocks, foxglove, monkshood, columbines, poppies, butterfly bush, clematis, morning glory, English climbing roses, bleeding hearts and gladiolus are a few that come easily to mind. Some struggle still in our lackadaisical care. Well, my lackadaisical care. The DW still tries to stay ahead of the weeds, though that would require a flamethrower and tanker of herbicide at this point.

Trees have sprung up, only one of which I planted - an invasive *Paulownia tomentosa*- that occupies the center (more or less) of the yard and commands what we can grow most everywhere else. I can almost remember the various flowerbeds and vegetable patches that once grew productively in what is now shaded, or ruined by the tree’s sprawling root system. (A word of caution to those thinking of planting any tree - there’s this thing called the Internet. Use it to do some research before you end up paying someone hundreds of dollars to remove a tree you shouldn’t have planted!)

As bad as the *Paulownia* is, *Ailanthus altissima* (which actually has commercial uses- in China), *Morus nigra* (black mulberry) and some overly weedy version of an *Acer* cultivar have managed to compete with it in casting shade and dropping billions of seeds that need constant control to keep the yard weed-tree free! The *Juglans nigra* at the bottom of the yard only throws shade and juglone where I don’t want either. All the trees have to go so I can focus on my tomato experiments, reestablish masses of lilies, build at least one 100 sq/ft of garlic bed and continue trialing various vegetables and flowers that catch my eye in passing.

The dog run wire fence will come down and a single heavy wire will run from post top to post top helping to create a line for trialing various pole, runner and yard-long beans. We might even plant a table grape or two! Hell, I might even try replanting, and espaliering the crab

apple trees the DW’s dog chewed up when they were newly planted saplings a coupla decades ago. Oh. I’ll need a coupla more clothesline poles planted as well. I’m enjoying the domestic task of drying clothes on a line. Saves on the cost of running the dryer- as well as having it repaired. (Said savings could go into the garden?)

The DW casts a raised eyebrow glance at me as I expound on my plan to renew the yarden. At least old Balor remains asleep. She must finally be coming to terms with what she married 30 years ago this month? Or perhaps senility is more advanced in her than me? (We’re doomed if that’s the case!) More likely, hopefully, she knows I’ll have forgotten most of my current plan before the trees are felled and chipped into future lily bed mulch.

It must nuzzle at her, the knowledge that something new will distract me from the plan and I’ll go off on some unexpected, expensive, adventure! Maybe roses? We’ve talked of a rose garden. Clearing out the trees would create a sunny place for roses. Climbing roses, cabbage roses, fragrant roses, shrubs, pillars and dog roses! I’ve also talked of growing several cultivars of tobacco, and hops, and heirloom wheat, barley and spelt varieties. Or installing a water garden! Or some version of a fish tank that hooks to a hydroponic design



Don’t ask us... we have no idea what this photo is about...

I could conjure from what little I’ve read about such things?

Or maybe I’ll have a window of clarity and I’ll manage to stay focused on growing tomatoes and cucumbers for the tattooer, and play at growing peppers for myself? Might have to grow some poppies or hemp to deal with the increasing pain that’s beginning to rule both my knees, though I’m told there are legal plants growing in the yard that would take my mind off the pain by sending my thoughts to some other world?

The gods are rolling about, tears of laughter falling from their cloud hidden faces. Yes, the thunder and

rain we’ve had of late is because of my “plans”. Just wait until I fully commit to whatever plan I end up with for next year! I’m betting the four horsemen of the Apocalypse come storming through this place to trample my garden while I’m dancing (hobbling) nekked in the Church of the Falling Rain trying to call down some rain ‘cause I’m tired of carrying water to the non-weed plants.

Friggin’ weeds grow no matter what.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Goldenrod - the yellow Fall flower

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Goldenrod – what do you think of when you hear that word? Often just the word could make some people sneeze, or at least associate sneezing with this plant. However, ragweed happens to be the culprit of our allergies, not goldenrod. Ragweed blooms about the same time as goldenrod and is not at all showy. The pollen on its green flowers is spread easily by wind, making it easily accessible to all those that are allergic to fall pollen. Since this two plants bloom at the same time, and the goldenrod is the plant we can easily see because of its showy golden yellow flowers, very often the goldenrod gets a bad rap simply because it's blooming when we begin to sneeze.

Knowing that this plant is not our "sneeze machine" can allow

us a bit more of an open mind to the benefits of the goldenrod. Not only does it give us great color from late July through October, depending on the species, but it is a great plant for our beneficial insects. Bees, butterflies and many other insects depend on these flowers when little else is blooming for nectar. Having goldenrod in your garden will encourage bees and butterflies to either remain in your garden for a bit longer or drop by for a visit as they pass through.

Generally, solidago have little insect and disease issues. Some may get stem galls, which don't harm the plant, but in a garden it may cause concern because it looks a bit funny. It is a swelling of the stem caused by a parasitic fly. If considered an eye sore, the gall can just be cut out and disposed of in the trash. Some species can also get powdery mildew if in too much

shade or the soil is too wet. In either case, insects and diseases are tolerated by this genus of plants, making most of the species a good selection for the perennial garden.

Solidagos have yellow flowers, bright and showy. Most will tolerate many soil types and like full sun. As we look at some of the different species, I'll point out the differences in the soil and sun needs.

In order to have the longest bloom time from this genera, different species of the goldenrod will be necessary. Although each species will have peak bloom for three to four weeks, they do not bloom from July through October. Let's take a look at some of the common species that can be found in this part of the country.

Beginning with the earliest of the bloomers, Solidago juncea blooms in July. It likes well-drained soils and full sun. As it does tend to spread; division is recommended every three years or so. Like many of the species, this one likes full sun and well-drained soils. It tolerates very dry conditions and rocky areas.

Solidago speciosa, showy goldenrod, is a late blooming plant. It reached 3 feet tall and wide, so give it some space in the garden. The flower spike can be as long as a foot! It's a very upright plant, not arching like some of the goldenrods.

Solidago odora, as the name suggests, has a scent of anise, and



To truly appreciate Goldenrods all one needs to do is stand by one in the Fall and watch the bees that descend upon them. Chicago O'Hare airport looks like a sleepy backwater town compared to bees descending upon the Goldenrods.

is commonly called scented goldenrod or anise goldenrod. This one typically blooms in August and can manage a little bit of shade. It's naturally found in open woods. It gets about 2 feet tall and wide, so not a huge one, and it is very well behaved.

I have a few favorite species of goldenrods, and this one in on my list. A lower, spreading, ground cov-

er-like goldenrod is zig zag goldenrod, Solidago flexicaulis. Growing best in the shade, unlike most goldenrods, it has small clumps of yellow flowers that "zig zag" down the stem. It gets about 1' – 2' tall and is a more dainty show than most of the other goldenrods. This flowers in August through early September.

Solidago sphaelata 'Golden Fleece' was discovered in 1985 and introduced in 1989 by Mt. Cuba Center. This selection of S. sphaelata is dwarf, looking good in the front of a fall perennial border. It is one of the shortest goldenrods, only getting one foot tall. The straight species, Solidago sphaelata, will reach 2'-3' tall and is one of the later bloomers – starting in mid-September. I would suggest planting the selection in your garden for consistent size and control.

Fireworks goldenrod, Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks' tolerates moist soils, unlike many of the other species of goldenrod. It also does well in part shade to full sun. The spray of flowers gives it its name: fireworks. This is a later season bloomer, typically in September. The straight species, Solidago rugosa is unpredictable in size, however, 'Fireworks' will consistently reach about 2' tall and is very well behaved. It, too, is on my list of favorite goldenrods.

Blue stemmed goldenrod, Solidago caesia, prefers part shade, unlike many of the other species. As the name infers, the stems have a blue color to them, depending on how the light hits it. I first saw this plant in a fellow Master Gardener's garden. She has it planted in the shade in both a container as well as in the ground. A very sweet plant, the flowers are in small clusters up and down the arching stem. It will reach 2'-3' tall, but it does arch, so in the garden you may see it more horizontal and opposed to upright. This is one of my favorite goldenrods, as it is so unlike any of the others.

Solidago rigida, stiff goldenrod, is a late summer bloomer. Unlike typ-

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THE MASTER GARDENER



Small Town Gardener

The beautiful balance of a small garden

Marianne Willburn

As we get back to some semblance of normal, I am thrilled to be touring other people's gardens again – and people are thrilled to finally share them with others. Thus I spend a couple hours at someone's pride and joy only to spend the next 72 hours in mine, rethinking everything from plant choices to maintenance plans.

It's one of the best ways I know of re-charging the batteries during a season that doesn't stop for stragglers; however, it does open up new opportunities for self-torture, particularly when the gardens visited are small and painstakingly manicured – and from my perspective, infinitely manageable.

I say, 'from my perspective' because the owners of these gardens would no doubt have a few choice words to say upon that topic; but when a gardener makes the transition from a smaller property to a larger one (as we did eight years ago), and the existing garden is more 'nature' than 'garden,' nothing seems manageable anymore. Once the euphoria has worn off, there's the issue of intimacy to be considered.

The idea of feeling enclosed by garden rooms or surprised by winding pathways and sheltered corners makes me feel a little giddy at this point. Sure, I've been in big gardens where this state of intimacy is seamlessly incorporated into the landscape, but I've also been in big gardens where I had to step over interns seamlessly incorporating it – and no one is eager to work around here merely for 'horticultural experience' and an excellent tuna-salad sandwich come lunchtime.

In smaller spaces, the chal-

lenge is to separate spaces to create depth. When it comes to large properties, one must link separate areas to create an overall sense of place. Either challenge is of course made more complicated by new construction, as the task of 'connection' is somewhat remediated by time, but on the whole, smaller properties have the edge here – there is simply less plant material and time necessary to create a sense of place.

In addition, the marketplace is being flooded with products and plants that reflect the lifestyles of the two biggest demographics in history: downsizing Baby Boomers and small-sizing Millennials.

(Generation Xers, as usual, are forgotten in this marketing love-fest. But we've got our John Cusack movies to keep us company when we can't sleep over college tuition and nursing home costs.)

From Bushel & Berry patio fruits to dwarf shrub cultivars such as 'Fine Wine' weigela and 'Baby Lace' hydrangea, the choices are varied and wonderful. Small-garden gardeners are no longer subject to a few determinate tomato plants and a squash-less summer. The marketplace is indeed, theirs.

All this to say that it really is an excellent time to have a

smaller garden – and not only to have one, but to revel in it. So even if your long-term plans include 'property,' don't give up on the space you have right now. And if you're having a hard time visualizing a garden in that area, may I suggest a clever little book: *Big Dreams, Small Garden: A Guide to Creating Something Extraordinary in Your Ordinary Space*.

Yes it just happens to be mine and this is a brazen and bald-faced plug; but it may help motivate you to re-think the space around you and create a garden that combines beauty, utility and above all, balance. After all, work/life balance is what we're searching for – Baby Boomer, Millennial or Cusack-riddled Generation X-er. If you've got a small garden, you're halfway there.

Marianne Willburn is an author & Master Gardener who writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of the new book Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She blogs at Small-TownGardener and Garden-Rant.

ical goldenrods, the golden yellow flowers are on top of the tall stems in a cluster. Very tolerant of poor soils, this goldenrod will reach 3' – 5' tall! Certainly one to check out for the background of the garden.

One to avoid is *Solidago canadensis*, Canada goldenrod. This particular species is very aggressive and very difficult to control in a garden or meadow. Once it takes hold, it really takes over. We have trouble with this one in our meadow, and it will choke out other native species of plants. Although it is very showy, pull this one out of the garden when it makes its appearance.

Goldenrods pair nicely with many of our native perennials like ironweed and asters in sunny gar-

dens and meadows. Mixing the shade goldenrods with plants like ragwort (*Packera aurea*), coral bells (*Heuchera villosa*) and Tiarella make great combinations. Using these plants in containers for late summer and fall color is a great option too. They do great in meadows, perennial borders, and cutting gardens.

Goldenrods have a bad reputation. Most are manageable, provide that needed late summer, early fall nectar and food source, and provide lots of color in the fall garden. Try some and see how you like them in your garden!

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Don and Nancy*

PETS

Submarine pets

During World War II many United States submariners carried mascots with them in the Pacific. They padded aboard submarines and proved themselves steadfast in boredom and in battle. During the worst of war these canine mascots brought their shipmates some of the comfort of home.

Dogs could serve a practical function, leading patrols onto foreign shores to search for food and barking a warning if there was danger. Cats have served as pest control on ships for centuries. Any and all submarine pets provided relief from the monotony of being at sea for months on end.

Submariners' pets were usually small and of mixed breed. Crews acquired them through purchase and gift or in trade for a case or two of beer. One dog even dashed aboard a sub as the boat was getting under way. The dogs cheered and amused the men during their long war patrols. They helped relieve the tension and weariness of hours of silent running or nights of surface attacks. The men doted on their dogs. They fed them steak and bacon; they gave them ID cards and service records; they took them on liberty all over the Pacific, and more than one mascot acquired a taste for beer. Crews made their pets leashes and collars, complete with combat submarine insignia and service stars. Some dogs wore special coats emblazoned with their boat's war record. At least one miscreant even went to captain's mast.

Garbo was the perfect subma-

rine mascot. A mongrel puppy so small she could be concealed in a white sailor's hat, she came aboard the USS Gar (SS 206) in Hawaii about the time of the boat's tenth war patrol. She and the crew took an immediate liking to each other, and she remained on board for the rest of the Gar's fifteen war patrols. The puppy made her home in the forward torpedo room. Whenever the sub got under way, Garbo stationed herself all the way forward on the bullnose and barked. Once each patrol she toured the Gar from stem to stern; as she arrived in each compartment, the crew there would come to attention.

Garbo earned the combat submarine insignia that she wore on her collar, along with a star for each successful patrol she made on the Gar. Under the heaviest depth-charge attacks, when the gauges were leaking, light bulbs breaking, and fires breaking out, Garbo remained as playful as ever. Motor Machinist Mate Second Class Jim Bunn said, "She should have gotten a medal for keeping our spirits and morale up when we needed it most." Anyone was welcome to pet her, but only the skipper, Lt. Cmdr. George Lautrup, Jr., and the cook, Red Balthorp, could pick her up. The skipper would put her on his shoulder and carry her up the ladder to the bridge at night for fresh air.

One night while the Gar was running on the surface during a war patrol in the Palau Islands, Garbo stepped off the cigarette deck and vanished into the darkness. The C.O. immediately

began a dog overboard search. With the boat making frantic circles in enemy waters, a lookout finally spotted the mascot below the bridge, safe on the main deck.

Between patrols Garbo stayed with the crew at their hotel in Pearl Harbor. She joined in the ship's parties, and like some of her two-legged shipmates, she didn't know her limit. After lapping up too much beer, she tended to blunder into furniture.

Garbo gave birth to two pups while the sub was in route to Ulithi; the father belonged to the USS Tambor (SS 198). The Gar's crew traded the pups to other submarines for cases of beer. At the end of the war, when the Gar returned to the States, Chief Motor Machinist Mate Jim Ellis took Garbo home with him.

Sugie joined the crew of the USS Besugo (SS 321) when he was six weeks old. At the sub's commissioning party in June 1944, the puppy, wearing a custom-made sailor's blue jumper, looked on from the arms of the exec.

Sugie made the shakedown cruise and all five-war patrols during which the Besugo sank more than forty thousand tons of enemy shipping. He liked beer and whiskey, disdained gilly (a vile beverage distilled from the alcohol in torpedo fuel), and would, in a pinch, drink a pink lady. Submarine food suited him fine, and he especially enjoyed sitting in a chair while the crew spoon-fed him. His appetite didn't stop there: he chewed gum (and swallowed it), he would eat soap if someone didn't keep an eye on him, and he liked to chew up socks whenever he could, especially the skipper's.

Skeeter, mascot of the USS Halibut (SS 232), was a swashbuckler too. The crew acquired him in Lefty's bar in San Francisco while the sub was undergoing overhaul in 1944. During his tour on the Halibut, Skeeter appeared at captain's mast twice, perhaps a canine record. He was first charged with disturbing the peace in the forward battery compartment and with being surly and belligerent. Cmdr. I. J. Galantin, the Halibut's C.O., dismissed the case with



Cats were a mainstay on almost every submarine. They were easy to keep and kept the rat population in check. Not to mention, they were just great to have around!

a warning. Skeeter's second trip to mast came when he mistook a chief petty officer's leg for a fire hydrant. But the dog eventually received an honorable discharge and was mustered out of the Navy in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in July 1945.

Myrna's mother, Luau, was a plank owner on the Spadefish, having come aboard in February 1944, lured from the landlubber's life by a large, tender steak after the crew discovered her in a Vallejo, California, bar. She distinguished herself in the service. When writing up the Spadefish's first war patrol, Lt. Cmdr. G. W. Underwood noted that Luau "contributed greatly to the morale with her ready playfulness with all hands. She was a bit perturbed by the depth charges, but soon recovered with only a slight case of depth charge nerves."

If Hollywood had dreamed up a sea dog, it would have been Betty, a white toy poodle who was the mascot of the USS Whale (SS 239). She came aboard in Honolulu in September 1943, prevailing over the protests of the Whale's executive officer by licking the captain's hand. She was then designated Dog First Class, issued service and medical records, and given the run of the ship. She avoided the noisy engine rooms and hid in the control room during gunnery practice.

The men liked to take their dog on liberty in Pearl Harbor because, as Lt. Emmett Fowler, Jr., recalled, Betty was a "girl getter"; it didn't take long for the poodle's escorts to strike up conversations with their mascot's attractive admirers.

The weather was bad at Midway when the Whale returned from one patrol, and the port captain ordered the sub to remain outside the harbor till conditions improved. Unwilling to linger where his vessel might become a target for Japanese submarines, the C.O. entered port anyway. The irate port captain met the sub at the pier and yelled at the C.O. while the Whale was going alongside, then came aboard and continued to argue. Tiring of the stream of abuse, Betty slashed an eight-inch rip in the port captain's pants leg. A subsequent admiral's inquiry in Pearl Harbor exonerated the Whale's C.O. Betty had only been defending her crew. The port captain was relieved of his duties.

Victory and the end of the war meant the breaking up of most submarine crews. Garbo, Skeeter, Betty, and other dogs went home with crew members. Porches, lawns, and the occasional cat replaced steel hulls, tile decks, and depth charges. Gabby, mascot of the USS Gabilan (SS 252), proudly represented all submarine sea dogs when he marched with his crew in a welcome-home victory parade in Mobile, Alabama, in October 1945.

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Getting pets down to their ideal weight is the most important thing to do to prevent or treat osteoarthritis. This will decrease forces on joints, cartilage, bones, and soft tissues. It slows degeneration and reduces pain. Weight loss relieves lameness and pain.

Weight management begins with knowing your dog or cat's Body Condition Score and target weight. Your veterinarian can help to determine these values and setting up a plan to reach the goal of the ideal weight.

Keep this in mind. Nestlé Purina Lab found that dogs fed low calorie diets lived an average of almost 2 years longer than the dogs eating 25% more food per day. Also the dogs eating fewer calories had a lower rate and later onset of chronic disease (such as osteoarthritis). Osteoarthritis is more likely in dogs given more food and developed earlier in life. It was also more severe and more medications were needed to treat the pain from osteoarthritis.

The total daily allowance of calories needs to include all sources of food: meals, snacks, table food. Ideally, table food should be limited to none. Healthier snacks would include raw (cleaned) or steamed vegetables such as green beans, peas, baby carrots, broccoli, and cauliflower. Also, ice cubes and rice cakes are acceptable. Avoid starchy foods such as potatoes, rice, bread or baked goods.

Nutritional Supplements and Medications

Once again check with your veterinarian before starting supplements and medications. Some can be used together and some should not be. It is not advisable to do-it-yourself.

Nutritional supplements are con-

sidered slow-acting with mild effects. It can take weeks to build up their levels in the body. These products are not well-regulated and companies do not have to prove their efficacy. They are only required to show safety. Good quality control is not required either.

- Glucosamine-acts as anti-inflammatory, limits joint destruction and pain, helps cartilage healing
- Chondroitin-controls water within cartilage
- Glucosamine and Chondroitin are commonly used together. They can reduce the need for Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID)
- Methyl sulfonyl methane (MSM) - this provides building blocks for cartilage repair, has anti-inflammatory properties and may act as an anti-oxidant
- Omega 3 Fatty Acids-take about 1 month to show effects. Fish oils are better because they have more bioavailability than flax seed oil for pets.
- ASU-Avocado Soybean Unsaponifiables-provide cartilage repair and inhibit inflammation associated cartilage degradation. Gives DASUquin its name.
- Green-Lipped Mussel Extract-this can provide mild pain relief. It can take weeks to see positive effects.
- Anti-oxidants and free radical scavengers- examples are Vitamin C, Vitamin E, S-Adenosyl methionine (SaMe), Super Oxide Dismutase (SOD)

Anti-Inflammatory medications (NSAIDs)-fast acting, prescription-only medications

Use only one of these at a time. They can be used with other classes of products (i.e. Nutraceuticals/nutritional

supplements above). These medications work by blocking the activity of cyclooxygenase enzymes which produce "bad" prostaglandins which control pain and inflammation. The problem is that "good" prostaglandins are affected too. These maintain kidney and stomach health. The goal is to inhibit the bad prostaglandins while sparing the good ones. Some examples are carprofen(Rimadyl) and Meloxicam

There is a newer class of NSAID called Piprants which work differently from the other medications in this class. The first in this class is Grapiprant called Galliprant and it is now available.

Human over-the-counter NSAIDs suppress good and bad prostaglandins. They are not good for dogs and are very bad for cats. This is because cats have a very sensitive liver, which processes the medication very slowly so they can build up toxic levels. There is a low number of products approved for short term use in cats. There are no approved NSAIDs for long-term use in cats in the USA.

Straight Pain Relievers

These medications can be added to an NSAID. They work on pain pathways without any anti-inflammatory properties; hence they do not alter the disease process (unlike NSAIDs). Gabapentin-is used especially for neurologic/spinal pain. It can cause drowsiness. Tramadol-can be used in cats, but does not taste good. Has been found not to be very effective in dogs.

Consult with your veterinarian for information on these products and where to find them. Often you can get them directly from your vet's office.



Bentley was surrendered to the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him and he did not get along with the cats in the home. Bentley is a 7-month-old Lab/Husky/terrier mix. He's an active guy who loves to play outside in the yard. Bentley sometimes forgets how big he is and because of this, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Because of his past history, a home without cats would be best for Bentley and he can also be a little choosy about what dogs he likes, too. If you think you've got the right spot for Bentley, please fill out an application today!



Olympia came into the shelter as a stray. She was found at Olympia Candy Kitchen and the nice people there kept her fed and well until she could be brought to the shelter. She is one sweet little girl. We think she's about 4 months old and would love to find her forever home. Maybe with you!



Alicia came into the shelter as a stray as a very young kitten without her mother. She was bottle fed and raised in foster care until she was ready to find her home. Alicia has been with other kittens and does not seem to mind sharing her space with them. She is a playful girl who loves to climb in cat trees. Do you have the right spot for Alicia?

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



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THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

A horse adventure

Emma and Sarah Simmons

We love summer vacation. We work hard during the school year. We always do our homework and turn it in on time. We practice our music and do our Science projects. And we've both made straight A's ever since Kindergarten. So when it gets to be summer, we're ready for some time off. This year our family went to Colorado to visit our grandparents. We've never been out West before and it took quite a while to get there. We drive, you see. We drove and drove for 1,600 miles, and that was only on the way there. It took us 4 days to get there, but another 4 days (1600 more miles) to get back home. That's a long time to be cooped up in a car!

But it was actually kind of fun. We got to see so much we had never seen before, like acres and acres of windmills and oil pumps throughout the rural West, tall grass prairies in Missouri, the Great Plains in Kansas and Colorado, and finally the very rocky Rocky Mountains. And all along the way, we saw horses. So if you've never been away from the East coast, rest assured that horses are all over the United States. It's a comforting feeling for horse lovers.

When we finally got to Colorado, imagine our surprise when we drove into our grandparents neighborhood and saw the neighborhood sign, "Flying Horses." Our Mom took a photo of us in front of the development's mascots! We wanted to get on these huge steel steeds, but they were at least 25 or 30 hands (about 9 feet if you need a hand to feet conversion). A bit too tall to jump on. Our vacation was going really well so far.

We had a great time in Colorado. There are so many horses and horse farms. Everywhere we drove we saw horses and more horses. And while it was interesting to see Western horses, it also made us think a lot about Mike's horses back home. We wondered how Wesley, Kit, and Scott were doing. It kind of surprised us how much we missed our Maryland thoroughbreds. And while we had a great time visiting our grandparents, when it was time to start our journey back home, we were kind of glad because it meant that we would see our three sweet steeds soon.

But little did we know that we still had another adventure to enjoy. Our parents had a surprise for us. After the long drive back through the prairies and plains,



the windmills and oil fields, and the zillion acres of corn and cows, we finally arrived in the great state of Kentucky. Yes, horse country. The site of the Kentucky Derby. The state with more Thoroughbreds than any other state in the Union. Home of bluegrass and hotbloods. If you're a lover of all things horses, we don't need to tell you how ecstatic we were. Our parents had planned two equine outings for us.

The next morning we went to a place called New Vocations. They work with retired or injured racehorses to get them ready for adoption and new lives off the race

track. This was an amazing place with beautiful horses, mostly thoroughbreds. We took a tour of the farm and got to see more than a dozen horses.

Some horses there had to do rehab to help them recover from injuries. Others are very jumpy and happened to nip a lot, habits they learned at the racetrack. These horses had to be taught how to relax and get along with other horses and people before they could be adopted.

As we walked through the barns, it reminded us of how lucky Mike's horses are. Mike takes such good care of Wesley,

Kit, and Scott, all x-race horses. And he's teaching us to do the same. So many race horses are treated like 'things' that have value only as long as they are winning races. If they get a bad injury or don't win enough races, then they are not important any longer. They are disposable. So are lucky to find their way to people like Mike, others, not so lucky.

Mike treats his horses like they are important no matter if they are sick or well. If Wesley gets sick or Kit gets injured, he doesn't just get rid of them. He makes sure they have everything they need to get



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better. And if they need weeks or even months to heal, Mike's ok with that. He makes sure they get the right medical care and lets them just roam around the fields, grazing on sweet green grass.

The way Mike treats his horses is the way the horse owner in our next Kentucky adventure treated his thoroughbreds. Saxony Farms in Lexington is a beautiful old Southern farm that breeds and raises horses.

When we got there, the owner, Mr Hundley, showed us around and told us about the farm. It was where he was born and grew up so he knew it very well. They only have about a dozen mares and foals and Mr Hundley said he liked it that way. If he has more horses, he told us, he wouldn't be able to really get to know them. As we walked around the barn and met the mares and their foals, he said that he could tell we were used to being around horses. We told him about Mike and his wife's farm and horses in Maryland. Mr Hundley said that Mike had done a great job teaching us about horses.

And we were so glad to have been taught so well about how to interact with horses because Mr. Hundley said we could help him lead the horses and foals from the barn to the field. And we got to pet them and watch them play



Emma and Sara finally get to put hands on a horse smaller than themselves.

too. We never knew how soft and fluffy foals are. And it was amazing to see them darting and zig-zagging around.

By the end of the day, we were so happy to have had two amazing horse adventures in Kentucky. And

the next morning, we were more than ready to get back in our car again because we knew it was pointed toward 'our' horses back home.

To read additional Pets articles, visit the author section of emmitsburg.net.



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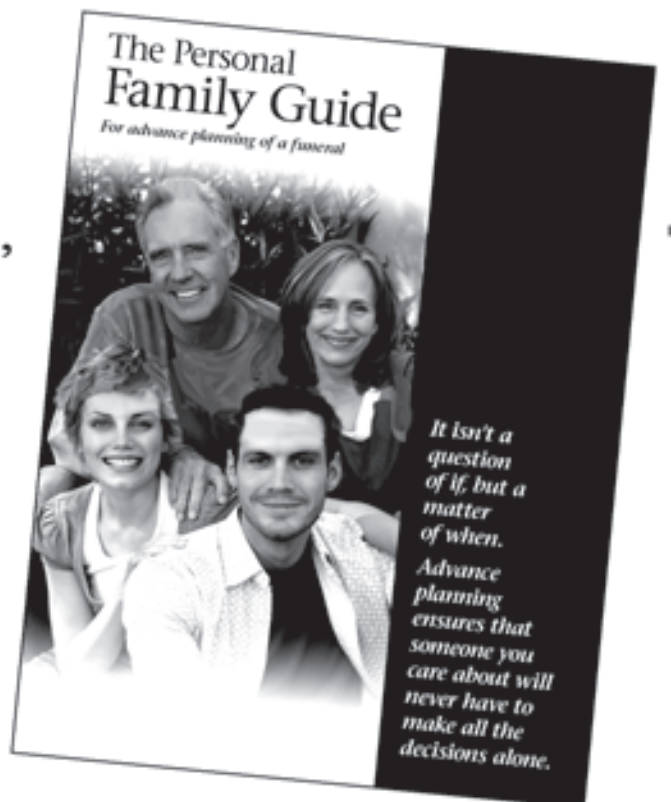


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HEALTH NOTES

Frederick Health launches DAISY Award Program

Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Health

Frederick Health, which provides comprehensive health-care services to the residents of Frederick County with more than 100 providers, 17 specialties and multiple locations, has announced its participation with the DAISY Foundation in presenting the internationally recognized DAISY Award.

A signature program of the DAISY Foundation, the DAISY Award was created to honor and recognize the outstanding efforts of direct care nurses in providing extraordinary and compassionate care to their patients. Created in 1999, the not-for-profit DAISY Foundation, which is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune SYstem, was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes, Jr, who died at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). The nursing care Patrick and his family received while he

was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses.

“We created the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses to honor the nurses that cared for Patrick during the last weeks of his life. Our goal was to ensure that nurses know how deserving they are of our society’s profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, and skill they put into their work, and especially for the caring with which they deliver their care,” said Tena Barnes Carraher, Co-Founder and Vice President of Marketing and Communications for the DAISY Foundation.

Over the past 22 years, the DAISY Award has grown in both prestige and importance.

“At the time we started the program, we could not have anticipated that the DAISY Award would come to be regarded as a strategic tool for nurse recruitment and retention and would be adopted by health-care facilities all over the U.S. and beyond.” continued Barnes Carraher. Currently, 4,800 health-care facilities in 29 countries partici-

pate in the DAISY Award program, including several other health-care systems within the state of Maryland such as Adventist Healthcare, Johns Hopkins, and Meritus.

Direct care nurses within Frederick Health may be nominated for the DAISY Award by patients, families, and colleagues. A wide range of nurses currently delivering care throughout the Frederick Health system are eligible for the award. This includes nurses at the Frederick Health Hospital, nurses providing outpatient care through Frederick Health Medical Group, nurses that practice in home treatment, as well as hospice nurses, rehabilitation nurses, those at the Kline House, and many others. Each of these facets of Frederick Health play a unique and important role in patient care across many types of clinical settings.

To receive the award, nominees are reviewed by a committee of their peers. Frederick Health is planning to distribute the DAISY Award on a monthly basis with the first DAISY Award winners being

announced in October of this year. Each honoree receives a certificate commending them as an “Extraordinary Nurse”, flowers, and a DAISY pin. Award winners will be recognized by their individual unit.

“Frederick Health is proud to be among the hospital systems throughout the United States participating in The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses program,” said Diane McFarland, Chief Nursing Officer.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, the role of the health-care system and health-care providers has been a common topic of discussion. Throughout the pandemic, nurses have remained at front line of the COVID-19 outbreak response, facing nearly overwhelming challenges and obstacles on a daily basis. Elected officials and the general public have shown their appreciation for frontline health-care workers with numerous campaigns, both on a local and global scale. The DAISY Award is another way for people to honor the commitment and dedication of nurses.

“Nurses play an important role in delivering high quality care to the community we serve. The DAISY award recognizes Frederick Health nurses for their clinical expertise and extraordinary compassionate care they provide to their patients and families everyday” added McFarland.

With over 3,000 employees, Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of health-care and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in the community.

For more information on the DAISY Award or with other general inquiries, visit frederickhealth.org. To nominate a direct care nurse for the DAISY Award, please visit frederickhealth.org/DAISYaward. There will also be collection boxes at various Frederick Health locations where paper nomination forms may be submitted in person.

Visit FrederickHealth.org to start the journey to better health and well-being.

Thank your Nurse!

Frederick Health nurses are committed to excellence and provide extraordinary care to our community every day.

Say thank you by nominating your favorite nurse for a DAISY Award today.



Back to school immunizations available for Frederick County residents

The Frederick County Health Department will offer back to school immunizations for children August 11th through September 8th at the Frederick County Health Department building, located at 350 Montevue Lane. Service is by appointment only.

You may now schedule your appointment for the following time slots. Please call 301-600-3342.

- Saturday, 8/14: 8 a.m. – noon
- Tuesday, 8/17: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8/18: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8/24: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8/25: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9/1: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9/8: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Required immunizations help children stay healthy, so that they and their families miss school and work less often. Learn more about recommended childhood immunizations here.

COVID-19 vaccinations will not be offered at the back to school clinics. The best place to get back to school immunizations is at your child’s medical home or pediatrician. The Health Department’s goal is to ensure that all children are fully vaccinated. We will be offering childhood immunizations for all children in need of vaccines during these scheduled clinics. For additional information about our vaccine clinic click here.

Visit FrederickHealth.org/DAISYAward

Be on the alert for sick songbirds

Sick and dying songbirds with crusty eyes and neurological symptoms have been reported in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Cause of the illness is currently unknown. We are tracking this emerging disease issue.

As many of you have heard, there have been recent reports of sick and dying songbirds. The affected birds have crusty eyes and neurological symptoms that may include seizures, difficulty standing, and head shaking. In late May 2021, bird mortalities were reported in the Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. In June, there were additional reports from Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. In Pennsylvania, most of the cases have occurred in the SE region of the state. We are tracking this emerging issue and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

Species affected

The primary species reported are blue jays, common grackles, American robins, northern cardinals, and European starlings. Many of the reports are

of young birds that have recently left the nest, but adults are also affected. In Pennsylvania there have been 70 reports of birds showing the described neurological symptoms and crusty eyes. Birds affected are not restricted to a specific family or group of birds. The affected group includes 12 species from 10 different bird families.

Cause of the illness

At this time, we know more about what is not causing these symptoms and deaths than what is causing them. A number of diagnostic labs across the country are working on unraveling this mystery. In Pennsylvania, the Wildlife Futures Program at Penn Vet is working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to test birds for different pathogens and toxins. At a national level, the USGS Wildlife Health Lab tracks results from across the country and reports the following pathogens have not been detected in any birds tested to date: Salmonella and Chlamydia (bacterial pathogens); avian influenza virus, West Nile virus, and

other flaviviruses, Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, herpesviruses and poxviruses; and Trichomonas parasites. Toxicology tests are ongoing.

One speculated cause circulating in the popular media is that the illness is related indirectly to the emergence of brood X periodical cicadas because of the temporal and geographic correlation between the emergence and bird deaths. At this time, this is all speculation, and we need to wait for results from the diagnostic labs before we can fully understand the issue. What you can do?

The Pennsylvania Game Commission recommends that you:

- Take bird-feeders down to increase “social distancing” in birds in order to reduce the potential risk of disease spread.
- Wash feeders and bird baths and soak them in a 10% bleach solution before putting back out after this problem is over.
- Wear disposable gloves to collect any dead birds, and place them in plastic bags for disposal in trash.



Baby Bluejays and Robins are one of the most commonly reported species dying as a result of the virus.

- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling birds or feeders.

Other ways to help birds

Birds rely on natural habitats such as forests, fields, wetlands, and woodland edges. Backyards, community parks, and other open space can provide critical habitat, especially in urban and suburban areas. One of the most

important actions you can take is to retain and enhance native plant communities, reduce amounts of lawn and hardscape, and minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides. Natural areas dispersed across the Commonwealth are needed to support and retain healthy bird communities. Healthy bird communities are better able to withstand other stressors. We can all make a difference. For additional information see Landscaping for Wildlife as well as related extension publications.

Protection sought for American Bumblebee

Conservation groups petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant Endangered Species Act protection to the American bumblebee. Once among the nation's most commonly observed bumblebees from coast to coast, the bee has declined by an estimated 89% in just the past 20 years.

The highly adaptable forager was once a common sight across grasslands, fields and open spaces in 47 of the lower 48 states. But habitat loss, pesticides, disease, climate change and competition from honeybees have contributed to the insect's dramatic decline, including its disappearance from eight states.

The states that have seen some of the largest declines of the bee over the past two decades are the same states that have seen the largest increases in use of the neonicotinoid pesticides that are well documented to harm such pollinators.

In New York State, the American bumblebee has declined an estimated 99% from historic levels, according to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. In Illinois, where the bee once represented 1 in 4 bumblebee sightings, it has disappeared from the northern part of the state and, overall, is down an estimated 74% since 2004.

First described before the United States won its independence, American bumblebees are known by their distinctive black-and-yellow, furry color pattern. They're social insects who live in colonies that can number in the hundreds, with workers and a single queen. They make their nests in pre-existing cavities like rodent burrows and rotten logs, or on the surface of the ground in large grass bunches.

“It's unfortunate that we're forced to

call upon the Endangered Species Act to protect a species so fundamental to human and ecosystem health,” said Keith Hirokawa, a professor of law at Albany Law School.

The bee is a foraging generalist that provides essential pollination services to a wide variety of plants, native and cultivated, across its vast range. Its largest remaining populations are in the southern Great Plains and Southeast, but the bees are also found in southwestern deserts and historically as far north as North Dakota and Maine.

They can survive in a wide range of habitats, including urban areas. The loss of such a wide-ranging generalist would have considerable consequences for entire ecosystems and crop production.

“Pollinators such as the American bumblebee are essential if we intend to combat climate change successfully,” said Claire Burke, a student at Albany Law School. “Without *Bombus pensylvanicus* spanning 47 of the lower 48 states, vegetation at the heart of the food chain for animals and humans will be hard pressed to reproduce and survive.”

The species' decline has been driven by multiple concurrent threats. Habitat loss and degradation are limiting nutrition from diverse pollen and nectar sources and weakening bumblebee immune systems. Pesticide use reduces survival and harms reproduction as well as immune systems, and weakened immune systems make the bees more susceptible to diseases that are spread by domesticated bumblebees and honeybees.

“There's no question that human activities have pushed this bee toward extinction, so we have the ability to wake up, reverse course, and save it,” said Jess Tyler of the Center for Bio-

logical Diversity. “But this late in the game, it's going to take the powerful tools provided only by the Endan-

gered Species Act to get the job done. Anything short of that and we risk losing this iconic part of the Amer-

ican landscape forever.”

To learn more about the Center For Biological Diversity visit biological-diversity.org

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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

Chapter 38: Industry Today

In Thurmont and surrounding areas, there is about one acre of industrial land for every fifteen acres of residential land. Of these acres, about 40 per cent are devoted to heavy industry and the remainder is devoted to light industry uses. Industrial land is concentrated along the railroad and at the east end of the community. The municipal electric, sewerage and water systems are adjacent to over 200 acres of industrial land available in Thurmont.

The town officials, businessmen of the community, service clubs and the local banking institution have always been very receptive to new industry desiring to locate here and have been very helpful in promoting a healthy atmosphere in getting the industry established.

The following industries located in the community provide substantial employment and labor problems are few:

Moore Business Forms, Inc.

Thurmont is indeed very fortunate to have as a part of its industrial make-up, a plant of the world's largest manufacturer of business forms.

The Thurmont plant of Moore Business Forms, Inc., was the first Eastern Division plant to be established outside of New York State. Located on Apple's Church Road, the plant was constructed in the fall of 1950. Manufacturing operations began in December 1950 with ten employees and one press. In the years that followed the plant has been enlarged four times and employment has grown to over 350 people.

In keeping up with old and new customer demands for a top-quality product, the Thurmont plant established the beginning of the Eastern Division's steady growth in plant facilities.

The establishment of the first new plant at Thurmont, proved the soundness of locating manufacturing facilities in areas strategically close to Moore's many large Eastern markets. This policy was established early in 1959 at a meeting of Sales, Production and Financial executives. Until that time, all Eastern Division manufacturing facilities were located at Niagara Falls and Elmira, New York.

In deciding upon the establishment of this first area plant, scores of possible locations were considered before the Thurmont site was picked. In addition to closeness to

markets for Moore products, Thurmont was selected because of the proximity of good railroad and truck line facilities as well as the availability of an adequate supply of labor, power and water.

The original plant, approximately 31,000 square feet in size, began operation with one press in December of 1950. In 1951 and 1952, additional presses were installed and the local plant began coating the carbon paper which it uses in the products it manufactures.

By 1953 production reached such a point that plans were made for a 30,000 square foot addition. This addition, adjoining the east wall of the plant was completed in 1954, doubling the amount of floor space.

Additional press equipment was installed during the next four years and an addition to the plant was built in 1957. At the end of 1957 employment had increased to 164 and the production volume was nearly fifteen times that of the first full year of operation.

Product growth and diversification, coupled with more equipment, led to the third addition, totaling 10,000 square feet, in 1961.

To meet the extremely close manufacturing tolerances required in forms used by modern business and industry, the plant was air conditioned in 1962. The annual production volume had increased by more than 60% over that of 1957.

In the years that followed, the Thurmont plant had a steady growth in production and employees. Pro-



Thurmont mainstream ~1960. Sharp eyes will note the sign on the right to be the same sign that now says 'Hobbs Hardware'!

duction volume increased by more than 6% in 1963 and by approximately 10% more in 1964. At the beginning of 1964, there were 214 employees. By September 1965 the Moore team at Thurmont had grown to 255. In 1965 another addition of 35,000 square feet was added to provide space for additional manufacturing equipment.

Today, seventeen years after the original plant was constructed, the local plant has 106,000 square feet of floor space, 350 employees representing an annual payroll of \$1,900,000. The Thurmont plant today represents a total investment by the Moore Corporation exceeding \$3,400,000.

Business forms manufactured at Thurmont are universally used by all types of businesses. As a result, the Thurmont plant produces busi-

ness forms for organizations of all sizes — from a one-man operation to those comprising the largest industrial corporations.

The Moore plant at Thurmont has enjoyed a steady growth since it was first established in 1950. Its contributions have added much to the Eastern Division, to the Moore Corporation, and to the economy of Thurmont as well as to the eastern seaboard area which it serves. The record of its growth reflects the continually increasing demand for the total value products for which Moore Business Forms, Inc. has become known over the years, in producing "the right business form, for every form of business."

Claire Frock Company, Inc.

The Claire Frock Company was established in Thurmont in 1936 by A. Jules Bernstein of York, Penn. When operations began, the company had thirty employees and the plant was located on East Main Street at the corner of Carroll Street. The plant was greatly enlarged in 1948 and was equipped with the most modern cutting and pressing machinery and included a complete shipping department. In 1947 the firm was incorporated and many improvements were made to their manufacturing facilities.

Several years ago the plant facilities were moved into a completely new and modern plant just east of the Moore Business Forms plant.

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The Claire Frock Company manufactures garments which are sold throughout the United States and Europe and since its establishment in Thurmont in 1936, it has enjoyed a steady growth and provided substantial employment for the community.

Thurmont Shoe Company

The Thurmont Shoe Company began its operations in the community in 1944 under the name of Cannon Shoe Company. In 1945 a new and modern shoe factory was built on Apple's Church Road and the facilities, which were originally established in a storeroom on Church Street, were moved to the new location. There are approximately 200 persons employed by the Thurmont Shoe Company which produces some of the finest footwear made. The finished product is shipped to Baltimore where it is distributed to more than 100 stores throughout the country.

Creager Flower Shop

Creager's Flower Shop is one of the oldest industries in Thurmont. It was begun in the early 1870's by Chambers Creager who raised not only flowers but also a wide variety of vegetable plants. His son took over the business and the present owner, Allen Creager, is the grandson of the founder. Mr. Creager specializes in cut flowers, bedding and potted plants and also raises many thousands of vegetable plants.

Hillside Turkey Farm

The turkey industry in Thurmont had its beginning as early as 1937 when Ross V. Smith and Samuel T. Royer, Jr., organized and established the Hillside Turkey Farms. From a small beginning, this firm has increased until today over 5,000 poult are hatched weekly. The firm reserves a portion of these for breeders and the rest are raised for market. There are other producers in the community, but on a smaller scale. It is believed that the total turkey production in the Thurmont area reaches over 30,000 annually.

The Goldfish Industry

The goldfish industry began in the early 1870's near Lewistown and developed rapidly. By 1920 Frederick County was producing 80% of the goldfish used in the United States, and they were being shipped from Thurmont to all parts of the country. The industry was centered between Thurmont and Lewistown. Over-production with sagging prices caused many producers to go out of business. Two of the most famous local producers of goldfish were Maurice J. Albaugh and Frederick Tresselt. Today the business is operated by Mr. Tresselt's son, Ernest.

Thurmont Cleaners

In 1948 William Specht established a cleaning plant on West Main Street which was later taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stride. As the business services grew and increased, the Strides erected a new and modern building on Apple's Church Road. To-day this firm serves the area with a fleet of trucks and does an excellent job in taking care of the community's cleaning needs.

Thurmont Upholstering Store

In March 1938 James Black established a small upholstery business in a storeroom on Church Street. As the business grew it became necessary to seek larger quarters, so a plot of ground was purchased on East Main Street and a new building was erected. To-day this business is well established and growing with the community.

Farm Equipment Center

This firm began operations in 1945 under the proprietorship of Robert K. Remsburg. A complete line of farming machinery and repairs, together with a large farm shop provides a much needed service for the farmers in the area. A complete line of household appliances are also carried by the Farm Equipment Center which has served the community well for over twenty-five years.

The Fruit Industry

Thurmont is fortunate in having some of the finest orchards in the county located in the immediate area. Extensive peach and apple orchards are found all along the foothills of the mountains. The blossoms are a pleasing and beautiful sight in the spring time and their fruit is eagerly sought after in the summer and fall months.

The Hoke Furniture Company

The Hoke Wood Products Company was organized in 1946 by Lloyd Hoke. The old furniture factory located on East Main Street was purchased and new and up-to-date machinery added. Later the name was changed to the Hoke Furniture Company. Today this company manufactures a large variety of furniture and has become outstanding in its field.

Late's Meat Market

Many years ago, George F. Late and his son Howard began a meat market in the old Osier Building. Upon the death of his father, Howard continued the business and added many new operations over the years. Today the business is operated by George Late, a grandson of the original owner. The business is modern and complete, serving both wholesale and retail trade, and it has become one of the largest abattoirs in Western Maryland.

Beall's Express

Probably one of the best known trucking firms in the area is Beall's Express. This local firm has been serving the community for over 43 years and was begun back in 1924 by Otto Beall. The business started out with only a one and one-half ton truck and a used one at that. Today the business consists of 34 pieces of equipment and besides the local terminal, operates terminals in Baltimore, Maryland and York, Pennsylvania. This trucking firm has served the community well in 43 years and today is under the management of Charles Beall, son of the founder.

Other Industries

There are many other industries that serve the community and help to

provide jobs for the local citizens. These include:

- Grove Lime Company: Redi-Mix Concrete
- Ridge Pike Homes: Redi-Cut Homes
- Smith Lumber Company: Lumber & Pallets
- Federal Stone Corp.: Swimming Pool Tile
- Thomas-Bennett-Hunter: Concrete Blocks
- Thurmont Belt & Novelty Co.: Belts and Novelties
- Thurmont Cooperative, Inc.: Feed
- Furniture Specialties Co.: Beautician Equipment


As time passes more firms will be added to this list for Thurmont is a progressive town and refuses to stand still.

Early in 1968, Americas Venom Laboratories, Inc., established a "poison plant" at Jungleland Snake Farm near Thurmont. Previously, only two such laboratories of this type existed in the United States — Miami and Silver Springs — both in Florida. About 95% of the New World's pure venom is produced by the Miami Serpenterium and the Ross Allen Reptile Institute.

This new laboratory is headed by Joseph Kilmon, and the new facilities are a result of a life-long ambition to have his own venom lab and an active interest in poisonous animals. Daniel Lyons a Baltimore cinematographer, and Richard Hahn, a partner of Jungleland, are directors of the firm, in which Jungleland holds an interest.

In addition to poisonous snakes, the

Mary Ann Dayberry



Mary Ann Dayberry, 93, of Emmitsburg, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 29, at her home, with her family at her side. Born December 10, 1927 in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Barbara (Zimmerer) Stadler. She was the wife of the late Edward L. Dayberry. He passed in 1999.

Mary was a loving and devoted wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, baking, watching old movies, and listening to music. She loved her family, and more than anything, loved spending time with them. She always kept her cookie jar full

for the grandkids. Surviving are her children, Carol Swam of Fallston, MD, Linda Sams and husband Michael of New Franklin, OH, Barbara McDonald and husband Michael of Emmitsburg, Michael Dayberry and wife Cathy of Baldwin, MD, James Dayberry and wife Pam of Baltimore, Phillip Dayberry of Emmitsburg, Joseph Dayberry and wife Barbara of Shrewsbury, PA, Mary Catherine Dayberry of Emmitsburg; and Martin Dayberry and wife Lisa of York Springs; brother, Charles Stadler of Baltimore County; 28 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by 3 sisters and 5 brothers, and a granddaughter, Diana.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at on Monday, May 3, 2021 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Rev. Martin McGeough, C.M. as celebrant. Burial followed at New St. Joseph Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Emmitsburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

lab will be extracting venom, from such diversified life forms as bees, shrews, poison arrow frogs, stonefish, scorpions, tarantulas, black widow spiders, giant African centipedes, sea grenomes

and others. It is Mr. Kilmon's hope to eventually house the largest collection of poisonous animals in the United States at Jungleland.

Chapter 39 next month

MYERS-DURBORAW



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James and his wife, Michele, had a lifelong goal to own a funeral home right here in Carroll County. They are life-long residents who have graduated from local high schools and are currently residing in Eldersburg. It was a perfect match and in June of 2021, the formal process of transferring the business ownership took place.

James, Michele and the entire staff of Myers-Durboraw look forward to serving the families of Carroll and Frederick counties and continuing the extraordinary service folks have come to know and expect from the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home. We are always available for any questions or concerns.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Taneytown's Gunsmith - Philip Creamer

David Buie

Last month's examination of the 1790 census covering Taneytown's inhabitants provided names including prominent citizens such as Adam Good, tavern keeper, and Eli Bentley, clock-maker. This month, we will highlight the life of Philip Creamer, one of the town's premier gunsmiths whose reputation came chiefly after he migrated west to Illinois and Missouri. Articles during the remainder of the year will highlight the lives of other men on the list.

Philip was born in Taneytown around 1775, a son of German immigrants according to family genealogy. He probably received his initial gunsmith training from someone already turning out weapons in the town. However, he may have gotten other experience at the Harper's Ferry Armory, which was established soon after 1800. He married Margaret McKean, a local woman, and began a family.

Not long after settling the estate of his deceased father around 1805, he relocated to the western frontier region of St. Clair County, Illinois, close to St. Louis. There he built and repaired guns for local settlers. His work's numerous account entries are found in the ledgers of the influential trading firm "Bryan and Morrison." It is strongly believed that Creamer may have played a significant role in the initial design and devel-

opment of what would become known as the famous St. Louis plains rifle.

By 1809, Creamer's reputation had increased significantly, and he began making pistols for William Morrison's personal use. As a trader with powerful connections, Morrison could have ordered pistols from virtually any maker he chose. Instead, he opted to arm himself with a set crafted locally by Philip Creamer, and Morrison's powerful endorsement must have contributed to Philip's growing popularity.

Creamer's reputation rapidly spread throughout the frontier. It was soon a colloquialism that a man of dependable reputation and character was "as sure as a Creamer lock." This earned his work a special place in the hearts of people compelled to defend their reputations in the field of honor. Men about to engage in duels were known to seek out Creamer beforehand so he could personally put their pistols "in a perfect condition" for dueling.

Between 1817 and 1824, money was raised to present then Secretary of War John C. Calhoun (1782-1850) with a pistol made by Creamer. Calhoun not only accepted the gift but was so taken with its quality that he wrote the maker to inquire how he had learned to produce such magnificent weaponry. However, the proud gunsmith refused to reply, believing he was "no showman or stud-horse to be advertised."



Half stock, muzzle-loading percussion pistol, made by Philip Creamer, bearing the inscription "Andrew Jackson" on the stock plate. (Courtesy of the Hermitage Historical Museum in Davidson County, Tennessee).

Calhoun would serve two terms as Vice President of the United States - in 1824 under John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), and again in 1828 under Andrew Jackson (1767-1845). So perhaps it is no coincidence that "Old Hickory" would have been familiar with Creamer's work or eventually come to own a fine set of dueling pistols made by this celebrated gunsmith as well. One of the pistols is now in possession of the Hermitage Historical Museum in Davidson County, Tennessee. The Hermitage Mansion (now a museum) was the home of Andrew Jackson and his wife, Rachel (1767-1828).

The Jackson dueling pistol owned by the Hermitage is an outstanding example of Creamer's overall mastery of the art of gunsmithing. It stands out as unique even in that bygone age when all fine firearms and dueling pistols were held to the high-

est standards. It is also a sure bet that a man like President Andrew Jackson would demand and be satisfied with nothing less than the absolute finest. Like many finer pistols of the day, the original Creamer pistol sported inlaid bands of gold and a gold-covered maker's cartouche. Philip Creamer's hand engraving is the finest to be seen, especially for a gunsmith located on the frontier in early 19th century America. The engraving done on the Jackson pistol was undoubtedly some of Creamer's best work.

Jackson's dueling pistol is outfitted with a fine percussion lock. Creamer was one of the earliest frontier gunsmiths to specialize in making them. It's probably no coincidence that another pair of St. Louis gunsmiths, the Hawken brothers, were also known for their early use of and perfection

of the percussion ignition system on both fancy pistols and their famous St. Louis plains rifles.

In 1825, Philip Creamer returned east and worked at the Harper's Ferry Armory in West Virginia. He stayed only two years and then returned to the St. Louis area, where he worked as the gunsmith for the newly opened St. Louis Superintendency for Indian Affairs until 1833. He remained in St. Louis until 1835, operating his gun shop on "Olive near Fourth." It is during this time that he likely built Jackson's dueling pistols.

It is believed that Creamer died in Green County, Illinois, around 1841.

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

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 5

Bad Day for Blacksmiths

Bernard Welty, of Emmitsburg, suffered a very painful accident while adjusting his horse-shoeing machine. The clutch evidently did not catch and the crank flew back, striking him a hard blow on the nose, breaking it.

Francis Null, of Harney, had the misfortune to get kicked by a horse while shoeing him. The hoof struck him on the side of the face and made an ugly cut on his cheek. It was very fortunate that he was not killed.

Thunderstorms

Graceham was visited by a very disastrous hailstorm on Saturday, when hail stones the size of large grapes smashed the blades from corn stocks, cut and badly damaged other vegetation and shattered windowpanes in numerous buildings. The hail was a company by a violent windstorm, which did damage to trees only.

On Sunday Thurmont and vicinity was the object of a hail and wind storm, hail falling in that place the size of peas and large grapes. The wind uprooted trees, tore big limbs from other trees and did other damage in general. Lightning struck the barn of Howard Eckenrode and set fire to the building. Quick work by Mr. Eckenrode prevented serious damage. A tree in front of Weybright's Store was blown over and struck the house of Edward Hobbs just across the street and also snapped the telephone wire leading into Roger Studio.

Memorial Meeting

A general meeting of the people at the Mechanics Town District will be held August 12 in the Town hall to hear a recommendations from the memorial committee for memorial to be directed to those who are in the service during the world war and those who gave their lives for their country. At this meeting the citizens will be asked to approve the recommendations, so that steps may be taken to look into the raising of the funds necessary to a wreck such a memorial. A large attendance as requested and the committee especially request that all portions of the district be represented.

Thieves At Work

Thieves were at work in Taneytown, taking advantage of the dark streets on Monday night. Unknown parties

entered the store of S. C. Ott and carried off about \$25 worth of merchandise. They also broke into the Allison service station and stole two new auto tires, gas, oil, &c. At Dr. Brenner's a large lock was broken and a thorough investigation was made by the intruding parties.

August 12

Child Dies From Dreaded Disease

Infantile Paralysis, a dreaded disease that has crippled many children in the section, caused the first death in many years this morning when it took the life of Melvin Sanders of Fairfield. The child was ill only a few days when he developed one of the most severe cases seen recently in this region. Last Monday the boy was taken ill and a physician was called. His sickness was not regarded as serious and there were no signs of paralysis. On Wednesday his condition took a turn for the worse but there was no indication of paralysis. This symptom became evident Thursday and the house was quarantined. Melvin was one of a family of eight children of Mrs. George Sanders. Four years ago the father of the family died a mysterious death along the railroad, it generally believed that he was struck by a train. The children were then distributed to various homes in the county by the mother.

Arnold Barn Burns

The barn on the farm of the Arnold brothers, near Bridgeport burned to the ground on Friday morning. The fire is supposed to have originated from the steam threshing machine that was working there, but the fire broke out in the end of the straw stack just below the blower, on the opposite side of the building from the engine. The wagon shed and other buildings were saved by the hard work of the threshing hands as well as the threshing outfit itself. Thrashing had not been in progress long before the fire occurred. The dwelling house on the farm was destroyed by fire 15 years ago.

Girls Locate Boozers' Top Secret Still

It fell to the lot of a number of young girls who are spending the summer at the Buena Vista camp for girls just outside of Emmitsburg, to uncover that for which Revenue Agent and Prohibition Scouts have been searching unsuccessfully for weeks – The Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former- Former Boozers

Top Secret still for making corn liquor.

The girls were out for a hike recently and as they passed a secluded spot in the mountains they discovered a trail leading into the bush. They decided to follow it and explore until they discovered to wear into what it led. They had not proceeded a great distance when they came to the end of the rainbow and found the still. It was a well-equipped affair, modern in every respect. It was no amateur article, but was designed to turn out contraband booze for general consumption. It was a good size, having a boiler, copper tubing, reservoir, water tank and all the others elements that go with making up a proper machine for turning corn into white whiskey.

Fearful they might be discovered by the owners of the still and reprimanded for being too inquisitive, they retraced her steps to the road. Just to say reach the highway they encountered a man and excitedly unfolded the tale of their strange discovery, which the stranger absorbs silently and proceeded on his way. As they were neared Buena Vista they were met with a car load of rough looking men, who gave each of the girls a soda pop and candy and told them that they had discovered a top secret government project and they needed to keep what they saw a secret. The Boozers apparently forgot that women, no matter what age, are unable not to gossip, and that's how we got the story.

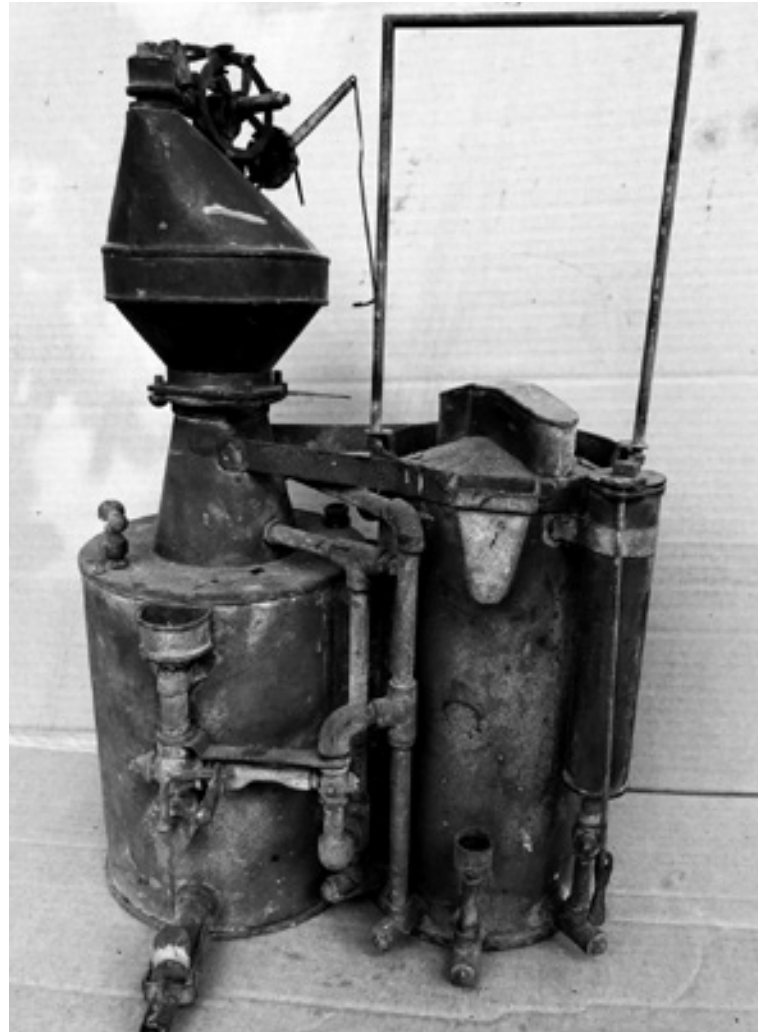
August 19

Autos and Lightning

Automobiles, like lightning, too funny stunts. They also compare favorably with lightning in the speed at which some of these stunts are executed. Take, for instance, the case of the machine, driven by a lady (of course) from Creagerstown, that in making the turn at Carroll Street in Thurmont, on boundary Avenue last week, crossed and re-crossed the railroad tracks, then for no apparent reason under the sun, slipped over the pavement and stole the lower half of Johnny Krieger screen door. It was done so quickly that Johnny didn't even have time to offer it the upper half before it had wheeled around and was gone.

Bank Stock Sale Close Monday

The subscription for 5,000 shares of the New Emmitsburg State Bank closed on Monday, largely over subscribed. The subscribers total 284, which is not only



A scale replica built by the police of the still found by the two girls on August 12. The actual still was able to produce 30 gallons a day, meeting 50% of the daily needs of the Former-Former Boozers Association members.

a splendid showing but ensures that the new bank will begin business under very favorable conditions. The state bank will succeed the old Annan-Horner Bank, the institution, which has for years been one of the most substantial banks in the County. The capital stock of the new bank will be over \$30,000 and it will have a surplus of 25,000.

August 26

Gorilla Sighted In Fairfield

Sunday evening while driving along the Fairfield Road, Ray Weichert saw a gorilla as it crossed the road not many feet in front of his horse. Not only do the young man see the beast, but the horse as well, and it was a difficulty it was kept from running away. The animal cross the road leisurely, walking on its hind legs, climb a fence and assess appeared into the underbrush. It was described as being about 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and smelled to high heaven. When word reached Fairfield, almost every woman claimed that the description fits their drunk husbands.

Bridge Fire

The Trestle spanning the second mountain gap above Thurmont was set a fire early Monday afternoon, supposedly by one of the large locomotives. It was discovered by Dr. Bernard O'Toole, who happened to be passing by.

The Trestle is built of wood and has upon it several barrels filled with water. Dr. O'Toole emptied one barrel on the fire, but could not get to the second barrel necessitated him going through the fire. This he did, suffering some slight burns and singed hair. After emptying the contents of the second barrel on the fire without extinguishing it, he went to the night watchman shack and telephone the train dispatcher at Hagerstown.

Help was hurried to the scene and the fire extinguished and new ties and rails replaced with a little loss of time to the trains. Dr. O'Toole says the heavy steel rail was red hot and the expansion had bowed it some inches out of line.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING

It's August, that's just peachy!

Kathy Jo Serfass
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

Peaches, like many of our other stone fruits, did not originate in North America, but rather in China thousands of years ago. While the Spanish brought peaches to South America in the 16th century, it wasn't until a hundred years later when peaches finally made their way to North America. The French introduced them to Louisiana, and the English brought them to Jamestown. Today, there are over 2,000 varieties of peaches worldwide, including those that are cling or freestone, those with yellow, white, or melting flesh, and even doughnut peaches.

As a child growing up in rural Adams County, PA, August meant it was time for the family to get together to make soup and can fruit and veggies for the upcoming winter. I had two jobs – one was cutting the corn kernels off the cobs after they had been blanched and the other was to peel peaches. My cousins and I would have a contest to see who could peel the skin off of the peach in one continuous peel. Of course, that peel better not have flesh on it! We made a lot of good memories on those August summer days, and we continued to enjoy those peaches throughout the winter.

Since then, I look forward to the start of peach season more than that of any other fruit. Peaches are my favorite fruit, regardless of variety. While peaches are traditionally used in desserts, I've

begun to look for more savory recipes for this fruit. Peaches complement ham very nicely, and grilling peaches has become a new favorite way to enjoy them. Here are a few different peach recipes that I hope you'll enjoy.

Peach Ricotta Prosciutto Toasts

Ingredients:

18 baguette slices (1/2 inch thick)
1 3/4 cups whole milk ricotta
1 Tbs olive oil
1 tsp lemon zest (from 1 lemon)
1/4 tsp kosher salt
1/2 tsp black pepper, divided
36 peach slices, 1/4 inch thick from 3 fresh peaches
4 ounces sliced prosciutto, torn in 1/2 inch pieces
1/4 cup torn fresh basil

Preparation: Preheat grill to medium-high (400 – 450 degrees F). Place baguette slices on un-oiled grates, and grill uncovered until charred on both sides, about 1 minute per side. Stir together ricotta, oil, zest, salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a bowl. Spread mixture evenly over baguette toasts. Top each with 2 peach slices. Divide prosciutto and basil evenly among toasts. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper.

Sage-Rubbed Pork Chops with Pickled Peach Relish

Ingredients:

2 cups white wine vinegar
1 1/2 cups water

1/4 cup sugar
2 Tbs yellow mustard seeds
1 bay leaf
1 Tbs whole black peppercorns, plus 1 Tbs coarsely ground black pepper
Kosher salt
4 large ripe but firm peaches, pitted and cut into 1/2 dice
3 Tbs extra-virgin olive oil
20 small sage leaves plus 1 Tbs chopped sage
Four 1-inch-thick, bone-in pork rib chops (10-12 ounces each)

Preparation: In a large saucepan, combine the white wine vinegar with the water, sugar, mustard seeds, bay leaf, 1 tablespoon of whole peppercorns and 2 tablespoons of salt and bring to a boil to dissolve the sugar. Put the diced peaches in a large, heatproof bowl and pour the hot brine over them. Let the peaches stand for 1 hour, and then refrigerate them for about 30 minutes until chilled.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of the oil with the chopped sage, coarsely ground pepper and 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon of salt. Rub the mixture all over the chops and let stand for 30 minutes. Preheat 400 degrees F. In a large ovenproof skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil until shimmering. Add the chops to the skillet and cook over moderately high heat until browned, 3 minutes per side.

Transfer the skillet to the oven and roast for 5 minutes, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat nearest the bone registers 145 degrees F. Transfer the chops to a plate to rest for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a medium skillet, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the sage leaves and cook over moderate heat until crisp, about 1 minute per side.

Put a pork chop on each plate.



Using a slotted spoon, top each chop with about 1/2 cup of the pickled peaches. Garnish with the fried sage leaves and serve. The pickled peaches can be refrigerated for up to 1 week.

and let stand for 5 minutes. Place the brie on a serving plate and top with marinated peaches. Drizzle with honey and serve with toasted bread.

Recipe by Food and Wine

Grilled Brie with Honey Thyme Peaches

1 round of brie cheese
1 Tbs olive oil
1 cup diced peaches
3 Tbs honey, divided
1 Tbs white balsamic vinegar (or regular balsamic vinegar)
1 tsp chili flakes
1 tsp fresh thyme leaves
1 loaf of bread, cut into slices
2 Tbs butter, room temperature

Preparation: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Heat a grill or grill pan over medium high heat. Add the olive oil to the pan and place brie in the hot pan. Cook for 4 minutes on each side. Do not move the brie as this will allow the grilled marks to form. Remove from the grill once cooked on both sides. While the brie is cooking, mix together the butter and one tablespoon of honey. Spread over the bread slices and bake in the oven until toasted, about 5 minutes, flipping once.

In a mixing bowl, combine the peaches, remaining 2 tablespoons of honey, balsamic vinegar, chili flakes, and thyme. Mix together

Recipe by Little Kitchen

Peach Crumb Bars

Ingredients:

For the crust:
1 cup granulated sugar
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
1 cup unsalted cold butter, cut into cubes
1 large egg, lightly beaten

For the peach layer:
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 Tbs cornstarch
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
5 large peaches, peeled and diced
1 tsp fresh lemon juice
For the icing:
1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 tsp almond extract
1 Tbs milk

Preparation: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F if using a glass pan, or 375 degrees F for a metal pan. Lightly grease or spray a 13 x 9-inch baking pan and set aside. For the crust, whisk together sugar, flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Using a pastry cutter, blend in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Add the lightly beaten egg and mix until the dough starts to hold together, but is still crumbly. Gently press a little more than half the dough into the prepared pan.

For the peach mixture, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl. Add the diced peaches and toss to combine. Drizzle lemon juice over the peaches and toss to coat. Pour the peach mixture over the crust and spread evenly. Using your hands, press together handfuls of the remaining dough to create clumps. Scatter the clumps and remaining crumbled dough over the fruit layer leaving some peaches showing through.

If using a glass pan, bake for 50-55 minutes, or until lightly browned. If using a metal pan, bake for 40-45 minutes. Cool completely, then chill before cutting and icing. To prepare the icing, whisk together the powdered sugar, almond extract and milk to a desired consistency. Drizzle on the bars just before serving.



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MOM'S TIME OUT

Teaching children work ethics



Mary Angel

The other day, my mom and I got into a conversation about work ethic and kids. This led to a whole other conversation that started with my mom saying, “In my day...” The whole thing started my little gray cells thinking about my kids and their friends and their work ethic. All of these questions started swirling around in my head. Had we raised our kids with a good work ethic? Had we even spoken to them about what a work ethic should look like? Why do some of their friends seem to have a less than acceptable work ethic? Is this going to turn into another “anti-technology” article?

As you all know we have four kids and they are all very different, and the topic of work ethic is no different. I don't mean to imply that any of them have a bad work ethic, but it does depend on the work you are talking about. Let's face facts, most kids have “those” chores that they would avoid if they could. Which chores fall into “those” categories would depend on which child and at what stage in life they are. For example my second son couldn't stand brushing the pool when he was younger. Now that he is older, and I suspect taller, he would take brushing the pool over scrubbing a bathroom any day. Helping me purge the junk in the storage room would be at the bottom of all of their lists and doing the dishes would only be at the top of the youngest list. However, chores are not the work ethic I am referring to.

My kids can avoid or whine about chores at home and then shine like rock stars at someone else's house. This holds true of a real job as well. When my oldest got his first job at the local grocery store, my husband and I would hear how wonderful he was every time we went shopping. His coworkers, manager, and other shoppers would say how helpful and polite he was. Now he works in a warehouse full-time and the same is true, nothing but complements. I don't ever recall talking to him about a “good work ethic”. We have always encouraged our kids to put 110% into whatever they decide

to do, but never work ethic specifically. Our kids know that whether they chose to go to college or learn a trade, they needed to do the best job they could at their chosen career.

We also raised them to always say “yes ma'am” and “yes sir” and to give at least two weeks' notice if you are going to leave a job. We felt these were pretty basic teachings. Although I had been a stay-at-home mom for the past 20 years (until recently), my husband has always been a very loyal hard worker. The only job he was ever let go of was for being “too honest”. Maybe there is something to be said for teaching by example. They have all made it clear that chores are one thing, but getting paid to do a job outside the house is a completely different story.

My confusion comes when I see some of their friends (or hear stories about them) throwing little temper-tantrums at work because they don't like doing something they were asked to do. I am also dumbfounded when they complain that some they work with are making more money than they when they have only been there less than a year and the employee they are complaining about has been there for 20 years. Or when they are a twenty something and not in school and working a part-time job at most. My favorite is when they are not working at all and tell us they are waiting for the right job to come along, all while spending the majority of their day online gaming.

I realize I am starting to sound

like my parents but that isn't going to stop here. Maybe this is not just about their work ethic. Maybe it is about the younger generations being too focused on life being fair (which I have explained ad nauseum that it is not) or being entitled. I am sure my parents said similar quotes about my generation. I know I did not let my kids fail enough, or encourage them to try things I thought would end in failure. I also know they learned from every failure they had. I also know many kids who could have benefited from being made to do a little more hard work when they were growing up. I believe that hard, laborious jobs and even messy, disgusting jobs can develop a wonderful work ethic. How many of us country parents remember digging fence post holes in the heat of the summer, helping a neighbor bale hay, or even weeding the family garden that happened to be over a half acre in size. Hard work, after all, is what this country was built on (now I am really starting to sound like my parents).

Part of the problem is obviously us as parents. It could be the lack

of letting them fail, not teaching them what a work ethic is, or even making them too comfortable. I used to joke that all of my babies were induced because they were too comfortable where they were. There is some truth in that with regard to young adults. If we make their lives too comfortable and don't require them to contribute to the house they are living in, then why would they want to change and move forward? I love my children dearly, but my job is to raise them to be wonderful, hardworking, respectful adults who will one day move out of my house and be independent. So, give your children chores, let them fail (and give them a big hug), make them work hard for you or someone you know, and teach them that this world hasn't been waiting for them to be born, but instead looks forward to seeing their amazing contributions to making it a better place to live.

To read past editions of *Moms Time Out*, visit the *Authors* section of Emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

The Great Frederick Fair is all about the kids

Karen Nicklas

The Great Frederick Fair is excited to host the first annual Great Frederick Fair Youth Livestock Sale, and even happier to announce ZERO commissions will be charged to the 4-H and FFA members selling their livestock projects in 2021, thanks to one of our amazing partners, Krietz Auto! The Livestock Sale Committee had already announced the exhibitors would not be charged commission on add-ons.

After The Great Frederick Fair hosted an independent Youth Livestock Show last year and allowed the 4-H to host their auction on our vir-

tual platform. Many of the participating children and their parents asked the Fair to consider running the show and sale from here on out. The youth organizations (clubs) are run in conjunction with the University of MD (4-H) and public-school rules (FFA). The restrictions set in place by both organizations, as a result of the ongoing pandemic, threatened the possibility to host any in-person activities. Not knowing how quickly organized sports and clubs might be able to reestablish their schedules, the Fair Board made an extraordinary decision, in December, to meet the children and parents' request to host a youth livestock show and auction during this

year's 159th Great Frederick Fair and into the foreseeable future.

Our agricultural community partners stepped up right away! In order to host Livestock Shows and an Auction, there are a few items that were needed. Farmers' Cooperative purchased pens and gates for the livestock show rings, Wolfe Auctioneers donated all of their services and equipment for the Youth Livestock Auctions, Krietz Auto purchased all of the award banners and purchased the naming rights of the Livestock Show with the stipulation that the kids would not have to pay to sell their animals this year!

Funds needed to purchase Livestock Scales for animal weigh ins

were donated by The ABC Junior Show (formerly the ABC Summer Bonanza Jackpot Show), which was an organization founded by Mr. David Eigenbrode and Dr. Raymond Ediger in 1999 for youth livestock exhibitors in Frederick County. Many other community sponsors are also stepping up in addition to their normal Fair sponsorships to help make the greatest Youth Livestock Show and Auction our County has ever had!

We invite and encourage Frederick County to come to the Fair, attend the Youth Livestock Shows (Sept. 17-25) and support these youth exhibitors at The GFF Youth Livestock Sale in the

South Side Tire & Auto Beef Show Ring (Building 18) on Saturday, September 25. Turkeys and Rabbits will be sold, beginning at 10 a.m. and then Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goats at 1 p.m. For ALL the details, visit www.TheGreatFrederickFair.com.

In addition to the livestock sale opportunities, The Great Frederick Fair, is continuing the tradition of a Youth Exhibit Building as well as an annual cake and baked goods auction, Sunday, September 19 at 5:30 p.m. (Building 18). The proceeds will be going back into the youth programs at the Fair as well as a scholarship fund. Details for applying for the scholarship can be found online, www.thegreatfrederickfair.com.

Library events

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library's doors are open, the have less hours but may be available to bring out materials to your car during closed hours. Please call to make arrangements. The library's new hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 3 – 6 p.m., Wednesday 4 – 7 p.m., 2nd & 4 Saturday of the month 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Library is closed on Monday and Friday.

Adult Story Time with Joan – Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 7 p.m. Joan will be sharing short stories from several books virtually.

In the Kitchen - Wednesday, 1 p.m. Weekly program of recipes that are delicious and easy to prepare. Prior programs are also available.

Musical Thursday with Dave – Thursdays, 3 p.m.. Join Dave and his friends and listen to music from many different styles and genres.

Family Friendly Friday Night Fun – Friday, starting at 7 p.m.. Family Friendly Friday Night Fun can be a little bit of everything. Poetry, Music, or something else.

Saturday Story & Craft – starting at 11 a.m. Listen to a good book and make a really fun craft. Then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, there are no limits to your creativity!

To join these events live, on line, or learn more about them, visit the Franklin County Library System's website at www.fcslpa.org/events, or you can call the library at 717-74-2240.

Frederick County Public Library

Summer is going quickly! It is hard to believe we are approaching the last weeks of summer, back to school season, and the transition to more structure and routine – which many of us may not have had for some time. While school may be starting soon, there is still plenty of time to “Rediscover the Magic” of Frederick County by registering and completing the Summer Reading Challenge which runs through August 31. Reading with kids and to kids encourages a love of reading and learning, and alleviates the missed learning opportunities due to the summer slide. Register and log reading at FCPL/beanstack.org/reader365. Earn 1000 points and be sure to stop by any FCPL branch to pick up your finisher prize! Con-

tinue logging points to earn virtual tickets for prize drawings. Drawings can be viewed and entered at FCPL/beanstack.org/reader365. All tickets need to be entered by August 31, as the drawing will occur on September 1, with winners being notified by phone.

Bring a blanket and move and groove to stories and music on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., at Emmitsburg Memorial Park, 11 Chesapeake Avenue. For more songs, stories, and fun, visit the deck at Thurmont Regional Library, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Then take a stroll through the library nature trail and enjoy an interactive story walk.

Visit the Emmitsburg Branch Library or the Thurmont Regional Library for browsing and checking out books and movies, picking up holds, or computer usage. Study rooms are available for individual use at Thurmont Regional Library and expanded outdoor Wifi is available 24/7 at both branches. Curbside pick-up, personalized picks, and free printing (20 pages) are other popular services. Emmitsburg's hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thurmont Regional Library's hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Masks are currently required in all county buildings for anyone over the

age of 5, and are available at the service desk if needed.

August's virtual programming highlights include:

August 2, 9, 16; Baby Storytime 101; 10-10:15 a.m.

August 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25; Teen-Led Computer Science for Teens (Grades 6-12); 2-3p.m.

August 3; Let's Build a Fairy House; 10-10:30 a.m.

August 4, 11, 18; Toddler Storytime; 10-10:15 a.m.

August 5; Do Plants Need Dirt? Hydroponic Gardening; 2-2:30 p.m.

August 7, 13, 20, Preschool Storytime; 10-10:30 a.m.

August 10; Frederick Reads – Rediscover the Magic; 7-7:15 p.m.

August 12; Family Mindfulness Road Trip Edition!; 10-10:15 a.m.

August 14; Romancing the Regency: Bridgerton, Romance, and History; 7:30-8:30 p.m.

August 17; Teen Game Night – Among Us (Ages 13-18); 4-5 p.m.

August 24; Basic Wilderness First Aid; 10-11 a.m.

August 31; Dungeons and Dragons: Let's Play! (ages 13-18); 4-6 p.m.

Staff have enjoyed meeting new community members this summer and reconnecting with older ones. We love to hear about what you are reading and watching and are always happy to make new suggestions; we look forward to seeing you around the library!



Head Start is a **FREE** program for 3 & 4 year old children. The program includes a full range of comprehensive services designed to support eligible families and encourage learning.

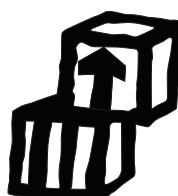
We support children's development and school readiness by offering activities that encourage social and emotional and cognitive growth, positive health and nutrition choices, and strong families and communities.



For more information, call the Head Start office at 301-378-9140.

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- Child's health information
- Proof of family income for the past 12 months or past calendar year
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School is just weeks away...

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

By the time the August edition comes out, our FCPS summer programs will have concluded and the first day of the new school year for students will be only a few weeks away. We had about 5,000 students take part in a variety of summer programs, and reports are good.

Frederick County Public Schools probably has the earliest start date for the 2021-22 school year in the state, although there are many systems around the country that begin in early or mid-August. This upcoming calendar was created by the Calendar Committee at the Board's direction. There were a number of reasons for beginning in mid-August, but for me one of the most persuasive was when we heard from high school students, especially those in dual enrollment programs, how it would improve their academic lives.

I don't have to guess, because I've heard from a few people – but only a few – that this calendar will not be popular with everyone. We'll see how they feel when school is out at the very beginning of June, barring too many snow days. One good thing about the calendar is that if you don't like it this year, things can potentially change the next. Fall conferences, for instance, have been anywhere from early Octo-

ber to the week of Thanksgiving. That was based on parent and staff feedback, as well as other items that cause the calendar to shift such as holidays. Election day comes every other year, while the primary election only affects the school calendar once every four years. (It alternates between April and June, depending on whether it's a presidential election year or a gubernatorial one.)

We haven't even been hearing from teachers who, after the most grueling year of their professional lives, needed some quality R&R time this summer. What I've heard is that they are excited to get back to a more normal situation so they can do what they know how to do best – teach and care for their students. More about the 2021-22 school year in a moment.

In addition to the seemingly successful programs this summer, we had an extremely low occurrence of Covid within our student population. That was due to our layered mitigation strategies, fairly high rate of vaccination in Frederick County, and a low instance of infection in the community. Masks and distancing were not part of the summer picture. Who isn't ready to be done with this global pandemic? Not so fast. World, meet the Delta variant.

Most of the emails that the Board is currently receiving concern mask-wearing and have been brought on by recent recommendations from

the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This is largely because the preponderance of the Covid cases in the United States, but not to-date Frederick County, are now of the Delta variety. The number that is often used is one thousand times the viral load of the original, making it extremely transmissible. One doctor said that if it hasn't found you yet, it will. The one bright spot is that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines seem to still be highly effective against the Delta variant. (I'm not even going to talk about the Lamda variant that I just heard about for the first time...)

So, what does this all mean for our school system? If we've learned one thing from this pandemic, it's that it would be foolish to say in July what we might do by mid-August. It is truly a constantly moving target. In November 2020, the Board put the day-to-day operational decisions in the hands of our superintendent, Dr. Theresa Alban. That determination has served FCPS well. Of course, no decision has been universally liked or appreciated, but we lost no staff or students to Covid (as happened in other states), and details can change more easily when we don't have to wait until special Board meetings are called in order to hash out details. It's made us more flexible and accommodating as a system. FCPS had stu-

dents in small groups in the buildings in Dec. 2020 even after all the other Maryland systems had to revert to total virtual school again.

Dr. Alban is in regular contact with Dr. Brookmyer of the Frederick County Health Department, as well as the other Maryland superintendents and state level education and health personnel. It is never just one number they look at, but rather a more holistic approach. As of this writing, Maryland still has reasonably good numbers in terms of vaccination, spread, and hospitalization. Of course, we know that no student 12 or younger has had the opportunity to get vaccinated. Reports are that the earliest this might occur is late 2021-early 2022. We will continue with many of the layered mitigation strategies such as improved ventilation, air filtration, hand washing, and other hygienic measures. Our plan is to have every student in a school building that wants face-to-face instruction. This means we cannot use distancing in the vast majority of our schools.

That leaves masks. Please know that FCPS will make that determination in plenty of time for the first day of school, and a solid rationale will be provided. Again, Dr. Alban is paying close attention to the data and the experts, and the decision will be made with the idea of maintaining the safest environment for our students. That is a promise I can make.

Back to school immunizations available for Frederick County residents

The Frederick County Health Department will offer back to school immunizations for children August 11th through September 8th at the Frederick County Health Department building, located at 350 Montevue Lane. Service is by appointment only.

You may now schedule your appointment for the following time slots. Please call 301-600-3342.

- Saturday, 8/14: 8 a.m. – noon
- Tuesday, 8/17: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8/18: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8/24: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8/25: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9/1: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9/8: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Required immunizations help children stay healthy, so that they and their families miss school and work less often. Learn more about recommended childhood immunizations here.

COVID-19 vaccinations will not be offered at the back to school clinics. The best place to get back to school immunizations is at your child's medical home or pediatrician. The Health Department's goal is to ensure that all children are fully vaccinated. We will be offering childhood immunizations for all children in need of vaccines during these scheduled clinics.

FASD announces school opening plans

The new FASD Health and Safety Plan, effective August 1, addresses how the district intends to implement health and safety measures for students and staff for the coming school year.

The school district had operated classes on a hybrid basis during the past school year, but for the coming school year, the plan calls for a full re-opening for all students grades K-12 with in-person learning.

However, the district noted that it would follow CDC, and state Department of Health and state Department of Education guidance plans regarding the reopening and operation of school facilities. Additionally, the plan stated that, "to prevent the spread of disease,

staff and students will be encouraged to stay home when not feeling well."

Regarding COVID protocol measures, "students and staff will be reminded of the correct way to wear a mask and/or face shield," if a point is reached requiring face coverings. With regards to maintaining social distancing in classroom, the district will implement such practices on an "as needed" basis, as dictated by the status of the pandemic. The district will also ensure there are sanitizers, soap, and paper towels adequately maintained to ensure that proper hygiene practices are enforced.

The full district Health and Safety Plan can be viewed on the FASD website at fairfieldpaschools.org.

A letter from the district Superintendent, Michael Adamek, addressed parents and students regarding the forthcoming school year, stating, "mask/face coverings will be optional for students and adults in our buildings as we open schools," adding that the district will continue with

enhanced cleaning regimens..."

Adamek stated, "We hope all students are excited to return to school this fall for in-person instruction," and pointed out that the district will offer "fully-remote" instructions (which he termed "FACE Cyber") as an option for those desiring such.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our students to pick a National Day in August and write about it. National Days generally have a fun, or quirky side to them, but, they often have a serious side too.

Sophomore Victory and hope

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024

August 14 celebrates Victory over Japan Day. In 1945, on August 14, Japan unofficially surrendered to the U.S. The following day, the surrender was announced to the rest of the world. This marked the final ending of World War II, and celebrations ensued. According to Holiday Insights, "On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri. At the time, President Truman declared September 2 to be VJ Day."

Victory! After six years of catastrophic violence, the Axis powers that had worked to conquer the world were finally defeated through the unwavering heroism of the Allies. While great leaders, like Winston Churchill, were certainly essential in leading the Allies to victory, there were millions of unnamed soldiers, citizens, and "ordinary people" whose heroism helped goodness prevail in the face of monstrous evil.

The life of one such "ordinary person" belongs to a Catholic priest named Maximilian Kolbe, whose charity and sacrifice in World War II exemplifies

the everyday heroism that millions made in sacrifice for freedom.

Born in 1894, Kolbe lived with his parents in Poland. Raised in the Catholic Faith, he had a strong inclination towards a religious vocation from a young age. As a writer, Kolbe recounted a vision he had of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who appeared to him at about ten years old. In the apparition, Mary offered him the choice of two crowns: a white crown, representing chastity and purity, or a red crown, representing martyrdom. Maximilian asked for both.

Kolbe's encounter with Mary no doubt fostered his love of Jesus' Blessed Mother further and intensified his desire to live in pure love for others through a religious state. In 1917 while in seminary, Kolbe founded the Militia Immaculata, a group whose mission was to bring souls to Jesus, following the motto, "To Jesus, through Mary." Kolbe was a proficient writer, and he helped the mission of the Immaculata Friars by publishing books, pamphlets, and a daily newspaper called 'Little Diary.' Some years earlier with the Militia Immaculata, Kolbe also worked to publish a monthly magazine called 'Knight of the Immaculate,' which is still in print today.

Kolbe took his vows as a Franciscan friar in 1914 and went on to study in Rome to earn a doctorate in philoso-

phy and later a doctorate in theology in 1919, when he was ordained a priest. Kolbe spent several years in Japan as a missionary and founded a monastery on a mountain on the outskirts of Nagasaki. When he became quite ill, he had to return to Poland in 1936.

Kolbe was in his friary in Poland when World War II began. In 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland. According to Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church's online biography, "On being released, many Polish refugees and Jews sought sanctuary in Kolbe's monastery. Kolbe and the community at Niepokalanów helped to hide feed and clothe 3,000 Polish refugees, approximately 1,500 of whom were Jews. In 1941, his newspaper "The Knight of the Immaculate" offered strong criticism of the Nazis. Because of the aid he provided to the Jewish people, the Gestapo arrested Kolbe on February 17, 1941, and he was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp.

The horrors of Auschwitz cannot be overstated, nor should they ever be forgotten; over one million people were murdered at this concentration camp alone.

While in Auschwitz, eyewitnesses said that Kolbe endured his suffering with a deep faith in God, and an unwavering determination to continue to love the other prisoners around him.

In July of the same year, at least one

prisoner escaped from Auschwitz. In retaliation and punishment, the Nazis selected ten prisoners to be killed through starvation. One man selected was Franciszek Gajowniczek. He cried out in sorrow when he was chosen, and Maximilian Kolbe heard him speak of his wife and two children. Though he was a total stranger to this man, Kolbe immediately asked to take his place so that Franciszek could be spared. The Nazi commander then approved the switch, Franciszek was spared, and Maximilian Kolbe was sent to die. The ten men spent at least fourteen days in an underground bunker with no food or water. Kolbe cared for each of them as they all faced death together, retaining his gentle and peaceful demeanor. Kolbe was one of the last men alive in the bunker; when the guards wanted the cell emptied, they executed the remaining prisoners with a lethal injection.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe died on August 14, 1941. Four years later on the very same day, Japan surrendered to the U.S., and World War II finally ended.

The Catholic Church wrote that "the deed and courage of Maximilian Kolbe spread around the Auschwitz prisoners, offering a rare glimpse of light and human dignity in the face of extreme cruelty. After the war, his reputation grew, and he became sym-

bolic of courageous dignity." The man whom Kolbe took the place of, Franciszek, went on to survive Auschwitz, was reunited with his wife, and lived to be 94 years old. He dedicated much of his life to sharing the story of Kolbe's witness, sacrifice, and love.

Pope John Paul II canonized Maximilian Kolbe in 1982, and he stated that "Maximilian did not die but gave his life... for his brother." What a powerful statement summarizing not only the life of Maximilian Kolbe, but the lives of millions who sacrificed themselves out of love for their families, their countries, and their fellow brothers in World War II. August 14 is a feast day for the Catholic Church, who celebrates the life and sainthood of a man whose example has inspired millions. For the world, August 14 marks the beginning of victory and the end of the Second World War. These two holidays are uniquely intertwined: without the small, victorious moments of heroic individuals fighting against evil, there could never have been the largest victory of our modern age. These stories of hope and love are reminders that good triumphs over evil at the end of it all. That is something worth celebrating.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior Youth full

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

Youth. Vigor, freshness, spirit. These years between childhood and adulthood are a period of growth, maturity, and discovery. It is also the time for mistakes, hurdles, challenges, and missteps. In a matter of seconds, you can be both childish and mature, flip flopping between these identities, neither of which fit over you completely like a glove.

The stereotype of the teenager is one of attitude, rebelling against authority, and overall brashness. Loud music, no regard for tradition, and the love of causing nothing but trouble. In my experience, since I write this in the last week of being a teenager, this hasn't always been the case. I'm a rule follower, was always the teacher's pet, and never snuck out or partied. Sure, I play loud music. I was raised by two metalhead older brothers and a classic rock dad who grew up in 70s California. My most listened to songs during high school were Eve of Destruction by Barry McGuire and Blowing in the Wind by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Reminiscent of your youthful protesting days?

My generation gets a lot of flak for that, and I'm sure yours did too. Your picketing and leaflets have become our social media campaigns. While we can argue about the effectiveness of them, one thing rings true across generations: teenagers believe they can change the world. I usually hear this statement said condescendingly, with an eye roll from a parent tired of the vigor, freshness, and

spirit of this youth. When this was said to me in high school, I wanted to fight back, claiming that I didn't believe it and I wasn't the naïve child they were making me out to be. But I was, and in some ways, I still am.

I wish I had a better response to that statement back then. Although I'm still in my youth years, I've lost some of the spirit characteristic of this time. I wish I could go back to those days, where I unabashedly 'fought the man' in my own ways, when I would write petitions and collect signatures all without my parents knowing so I didn't get that demeaning statement thrown at me. I miss the lack of responsibilities, the freedom of thought, the ability to make mistakes that don't carry drastic consequences.

Despite the bad reputation of youth, the United Nations is one such group that recognizes the immense power of the teenager. International Youth Day is celebrated every August 12th since it was started in 2000 and revolves around a theme relating to cultural and legal issues that youth face around the globe. The purpose is to engage youth in advocacy and awareness of these issues and to empower youth to organize for themselves. This year, the theme will be about food systems and protecting the environment with sustainable agriculture. What underlies each International Youth Day is the belief that these social movements, although not specific to only the teenage experience, cannot and will not be successful without the mobilization of the youth population.

The United Nations is not the only organization that knows the power of the teenager. Marketing campaigns specifically target teenagers who are full of insecurities and instabilities that these

companies can profit from. We're emotionally vulnerable, which makes us more likely to feed into these social movements as well as to blanket ourselves in products that will seemingly give us the confidence and security we're missing. I won't sugarcoat and say that the high school years are easy. These months are spent worrying about things that won't matter once you graduate but seem like life or death in the moment. But if teenagers understood the power they hold as spirited, emotional youths like marketing campaigns do, then the United Nations would have an easier time mobilizing us. And so would you.

The next time you pass a teenager in the parking lot, where their riding their skateboards into traffic and playing their music too loud, remember when you were that age. Were you full of rebellion and "naïve" positivity? Were you insecure and anxious, too? Did you fit the Hollywood stereotype of teenagers or were you flying under the radar, just trying to get by in life? These are formative years that everyone passes through, and no one comes out the same as they went in. The child becomes an adult, mostly through trial and error. So, they make mistakes, tend towards naivety, and we can't help but be frustrated. But we can love the youth for where they are at and how far they have to go, and also for the vigor, freshness, and spirit that we've lost but they haven't.

"Teenagers believe they can change the world." I didn't know how to respond to it then, but now I do. Teenagers do believe they can change the world. From childhood to adulthood, the world opens up around you and it is in this period of youth that we become aware of all of it, the good and the bad. We spend our childhood looking for-

ward to middle school, high school, and beyond. And when we see that it isn't the perfect picture we imagined, we want to change it. We want it to be everything we envisioned and more, without the negativity and suffering that we hadn't factored in. We were naïve for not considering the consequences of adulthood, yes, but we were children. We still are. And so are you, even in your eightieth and ninetieth years. You are still that curious child. You are still that loud, spirited teenager. Those parts of you haven't disappeared, even if they are buried under yearly tax deadlines and mortgage payments. So why do you want that

part of me to disappear? If you could go back there and see the world with rose colored glasses, wouldn't you?

Yes, I believe that I can change the world. Maybe it's not in the large scale, massive social rebellion that I had envisioned in high school, but that doesn't mean I'm powerless. My presence and my absence change the world. Yours does too, but the saddest thing I've learned as I inch towards adulthood, is that you can't see it anymore.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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UNUSUAL AND UNIQUE NATIONAL DAYS OF AUGUST

Senior

A show about nothing?

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

The 16th day of this month marks the much-anticipated National Tell a Joke Day. In preparation for this solemn occasion, I thought it would do us well to consider the big joke in the sitcom that essentially lacks a punch line.

I have watched Seinfeld for years. The show about nothing captivated the attention of the nation and has been the subject of books written through the lenses of philosophy, sociology, and cultural commentary. The show, then, surely must have accomplished something, perhaps in spite of its less than lofty goals.

Seinfeld is a continual justification of the rightful reliance of comedy on common experience. Is it possible that Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld produced the show in an effort to relay the endurance of our common humanity in the face of monotony and occasional persecution? I really doubt it. In fact, I think David and Seinfeld would be insulted by the accusation of humanitarian aims. After watching accounts of writers and actors on the show, it has become clear to me

that the Brooklyn Jews did not write their comedy in an effort to relate to Indiana farmers; instead, their comedy seems to have been written on the strict criterion of making each other laugh.

For those who have not seen the show, you are not missing much, but you are missing something. The plot revolves around four friends who often hang out in the apartment of their comedian friend Jerry, played by Seinfeld, in Manhattan's Upper West Side, and a humble coffee shop right down the street. Eccentric "hipster doofus" Cosmo Kramer lives across the hall and is often joined by the self-centered George Costanza and their common feminist friend Elaine Benes. In almost every episode, one or more characters devotes much of their attention to maintaining or ceasing a relationship with a new sexual partner. Each one is horrified of the responsibilities of marriage, blames their faults on their closest friends, and engages in, but rarely admits to, the manifestations of blind selfishness.

It makes for a great comedy and the motor of the show is biting observation on everyday situations. David and Seinfeld were certainly risk-takers but simultaneously wholly uninterested in the ramifications of the consequences of these risks. The show worked on multiple levels at the same time. For exam-

ple, many episodes in the fourth season are dedicated to the plight of Jerry and George as they pitch a show to NBC for a "show about nothing." This fictitious show obviously refers back to the show itself and almost forces the viewer to ask the question, "is this really my life?"

David and Seinfeld like to brand themselves as apathetic nihilists, indifferent to the concerns of their neighbor and eminently more invested in their own personal satisfaction, let alone personal gain. I would suggest, though, that the two were successful in confirming an even deeper reality in this attempt to divorce their experience from base-level empathy. The characters in Seinfeld are morally reprehensible, apparently content with their lives of promiscuity, instability, and relative independence. This contentment, though, is a moral lesson for the viewer in that nobody actually wants to be content with those states of life. The promiscuity they practice results in sexual frustration, the instability results in a lack of appreciation for wholesome stability, and the apparent independence results in a penetrating resentment in the mandatory experiences of life that require dependence.

Ultimately, no one seeking happiness wants to be like the four secular Manhattanites. I do not think David and Seinfeld are moral guideposts; on the

contrary, their disinterest in their fellow neighbor, feigned or not, does not seem to me to be praiseworthy. Out of their own search, though, they were able to produce a television program that touched at some enduring questions that are worth consideration. Jerry, for example, thinks that he has reached the pinnacle of his romantic search when he meets an equally sarcastic woman who urges him to say, "Now I know what I've been looking for all these years. Myself!" This rather unfortunate solution to romantic yearning, though a common experience, proved to be nothing more than an exercise in narcissism.

In another instance, Elaine breaks up with one of the most gentlemanly men she has ever dated because she found out that he is against civil legal provisions for abortion. This scenario highlights the preeminent position that is granted to political ideology in the dating world and the ultimate priorities that people require of their romantic partners. Miraculously, Kramer is frequently the most insightful in the group and can often serve as the voice of reason; his idiosyncrasies are more perpetual than they are situationally identifiable.

Finally, George casually lights a cigarette in front of his fiancé out of the slim chance that her disgust will force her to end their relationship. In other

words, George would rather rely on the initiative of his fiancé, of whom he is deathly afraid, instead of ending a relationship that will lead to a lasting marital union. This situation brings up topics of the infantilization of men and the steps that people in general will go through in order to avoid a decision that they know must be made.

While slightly unusual, these situations are not that surprising to me. This is part of the genius of the show about nothing; it floats very delicately between the relatable and the absurd. This balance was certainly a priority for the show's founders and also a priority for its faithful viewers, who had many other options on the primetime dial.

What is the joke of this show about nothing, then? You are. You, the viewer, will subject yourself to the humorous but life-depleting musings of two Brooklyn comedians. I have a feeling that David and Seinfeld knew that the attention to and obsession with the minutiae of daily life would strike a chord with the workaholic American viewer. This situational accuracy, though, serves as an effective hook to the consideration of deeper matters that the secular four would probably consider ridiculous.

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

Graduate

Happy Book Lover's Day

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

I still remember the moment I fell in love with books. I was in third grade, and my classmates were having a read off. Basically, they would take turns and time each other as they read out loud, and whoever could read the fastest would be considered super cool, and everyone else would be in awe of them for the rest of the day.

I read a lot as a kid. My mother immigrated here from the Philippines when she was younger and thought it was very important for me to speak and read English, not only fluently, but better than anyone else. This meant I was not allowed T.V. or video games, and I was only allowed to read books.

When you're younger, you never really think about the process. I knew I could read, and I noticed that I read a lot more than most of the other kids in my class, but I didn't think of myself as a book lover. All I know is that when D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) time came around, I never had a problem picking up a book and reading.

Anyways, my friends were having a read off, and someone called me over to take my turn. I picked up the book "Amelia Bedelia Bakes Off" because I knew that the sentences were much shorter and far fewer than the books my friends were picking up to read (obviously, we didn't have a set of rules, or else we'd all be reading the same book). But I picked it up, and my friends started counting- One Mississippi! Two Mississippi! Three Mississippi! And 7 Mississippi's later, I flipped

the last page and was done. I gained quite the reputation then, which now that I look back on it, was a very nerdy thing to be proud of.

But since then, I was known as the fast girl reader in Mrs. Scott's class, and I thought it was my duty to always be seen with a book. And I realized that the bigger and more difficult the book I held, the cooler I seemed to get.

As a result, I was in the third grade and carrying around a copy of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Fellowship of the Ring". Now, I don't want to give you the wrong impression. I was definitely not some reading genius, and I absolutely did not have the brain cells at that age to process what Mr. Tolkien had written. But I had watched the movie and saw that it had the same title. I put two-and-two together and figured if anybody tried to ask me what it was about, I would tell them what happened in the movie. When my friends saw me carrying a chapter book- an extremely thick chapter book with very tiny print, I might add- they thought I was even cooler.

As time went by, I became more and more devoted to my role as the cool, fast reader kid. So, during lunch or recess, if they allowed me, I'd spend time in the library. Being that I did actually enjoy reading, probably not to the extent that I let on however. I began to challenge myself more and more with the books I decided to read.

And that is where my journey began.

I started out with the well-known books: The Junie B. Jones series and the Magic Treehouse stories, then as I got older, I started reading books like "Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll, "The Spiderwick Chronicles" by Holly

Black and Tony DiTerlizzi, and the Narnia books by C.S. Lewis. Eventually, I started reading the controversial books like the "Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger and "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. I even found my favorite book of all time, "Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt.

And the older I got, the more I realized that I wasn't reading the books just so that my friends thought I was cool, but because I loved becoming immersed in the world each book was about.

Reading a book is a special experience. It is similar to watching T.V., but in my opinion, it is much more captivating than any T.V. show. The joy you feel while reading a book, while dissecting every line and every word just in case there is a hidden meaning or clue, is an incredibly unique and magical experience.

Despite the individual nature of reading, we share the joy and sadness and emotions with all the other readers. You feel it. You imagine the world in your own brain without the influence of other's interpretation. And, I think, that is a feeling that no television or movie adaptation can recreate.

As I got even older, reading books was no longer cool. Everyone had iPhones and Macbooks, Youtube and TikTok. There were so many outlets that allowed us to distract ourselves, quickly and without effort. The hassle of going to the store to pick up a book was no longer on trend. Why would you read a book when you can watch a thousand videos in the same time span? Why buy paper copies when you can digitally save them onto your phone?

Reading became less and less about the experience. And more and

more people decided to wait until Hollywood made a movie about a story instead of actually reading the book.

But I believe we should preserve the existence of our books. One day, our hard drives will stop working and our technology will become out of date, and there will be no existing transcripts of our ideas than those that exist in books.

No matter how advanced technology becomes, nothing can imi-

tate the feeling of a page against your fingers, or the smell of freshly printed ink. Books are transportation devices, vessels for ideas to stay immortal, and they should be treated as such.

I hope this month, you pick up a book and allow yourself to be transported on an adventure.

Happy Book Lover's Day.

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



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HOME DECOR

Throwing traditional interior design rules to the wind

Jess Crawford
Cotton & Co, Keymar

One of the many, many beauties of today, is the lack of rules when it comes to interior design and home decor. When you picture the early 1900's, you probably envision the Victorian era. Lots of rich textiles, velvet furniture, ornate woodwork, etc... When you look back on the 1920's, you can picture a certain style. Probably lots of authentic farmhouse and industrial design; reminiscent of a simpler time. Then we move into the 1940s where the Art Deco and waterfall vibes start coming through. Around the 1950s and 60s, Mid Century design makes an emergence and takes hold. With sleek lines and a Scandinavian influence. Then we flow into the 1970's, full of lots of color and texture and carefree hippy vibes.

Fast forward another fifty years. When it comes to interior design now, we aren't restricted by one or two decade-specific styles. We are lucky to be able to borrow from the last century's worth of designs and decor, mingle and mix them, to create our own individual look. We have the internet and social media at our fingertips,

that fill us with ideas and inspiration on a daily basis. We get to watch through little thumbnails of people's lives, how they create and decorate their spaces. We fluidly share ideas and inspiration with one another, whether we realize it or not, which is probably one of the most redeemable qualities of social media as a whole. We see how this friend decorates their home in a bohemian way, this relative is drawn to Mid Century, while that neighbor is drawn to a more modern-farmhouse look. And we are able to see how these designs can really be integrated together. The rules have changed. We can decorate however we want, borrowing from as many time periods as we want, and still create a cohesive look and living space.

There are less rules about how furniture is used too. One of my most favorite, versatile pieces of furniture is a dresser. I love a good dresser. And I must not be alone, because we sell a ton of dressers at the shop. No longer are dressers strictly for storing clothes and never being seen other than by overnight guests. Dressers are excellent storage, useful in just about any room of the house. A refinished dresser can



A mixed-era display by our vendor Misft Vintage, incorporating retro, farmhouse, industrial and mid-century notes.

be painted (or not) into any color that suits your home and theme. They make excellent storage for kid's toys, tv stands, unique bases for one of a kind kitchen islands, storage in a mudroom, or a sideboard for a dining room or hallway. The uses are really endless.

I think it's fair to say, in the past twenty years or so, we've ditched being chained to certain era-specific styles, and are able to freely express ourselves, by borrowing from numerous past styles to achieve an individual look for our homes. We've talked a lot in previous additions about the bohemian revival. Full of jewel tones, natural elements, wicker and rattan, and bold textiles and textures. But we really haven't touched much on Mid Century. Which is a super hot trend right now. One of my biggest points of pride in my shop is, that I have a team of vendors that each offer their own unique twist on vintage. There is something in the shop for everyone's style. And we have a couple of vendors that specialize in curating and refinishing vintage Mid Century furniture and integrating Mid Century inspired home décor.

Mid Century Modern (MCM) furniture is generally very well made, solid and stands the test of time. Some designs are very sleek and simplistic, with very clean, modern lines. While others reflect that, but also add in geo-

metric patterns into the design of the piece too. With their sleek Scandinavian style, these pieces fit seamlessly into most homes. While MCM may initially seem decade and era specific, it really can be incorporated into so many different design styles. If you tend to decorate in a more Modern Farmhouse style, a MCM piece would still fit well into your home. Either in a natural wood or refinished in black or white. Or even a combination of the two to create a two-tone paint-and-wood effect. They also generally show beautiful wood grains, that can be rejuvenated with a fresh coat of furniture oil.

MCM is often thought of as a minimalistic design style. And many people use the MCM style as a way of creating a beautiful, welcoming but also minimalistic home or space. But Mid Century design also blends naturally with a boho inspired theme. Which is completely opposite of Farmhouse and Minimalism. Picture a beautiful MCM low boy dresser, refinished in a deep jewel-tone green or teal, as either a dresser in a bedroom, or console in a living

room. Or a super funky, bold patterned ceramic lamp. Or a pair of refinished MCM end tables in a master bedroom, refinished in a gorgeous, bold color. While the designs themselves are simple and elegant, they can also be used to achieve a boho look too. I think because MCM is such an adaptable style, that can be molded and morphed into whatever look you're trying to achieve. And since the decades back up to one another, MCM décor and furniture, definitely vibe with a retro inspired home too.

Our staff is always more than willing to help you bring a design or idea to life. Not only are we more than willing, we love to do it. So bring us your design ideas, inspiration, etc... and let us help you bring it into fruition. Located in Keymar, Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique is open weekly, Friday-Sunday, and always updating the shop with new inventory, fresh finds, refinished vintage furniture, and a little something for everyone.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Local resident wins Russo Brothers film grant



Pietro Ferraro in Italy circa 1955.

A decade ago, my grandfather, Pietro Ferraro, gave my father, Pete, some old reel to reel audio tapes. On these six reels were recordings of several dozen Italian-speaking voices from 1966. Pete stored the recordings away with the intention of one day utilizing them to create a big project of some sort. Recently, Pete was able to dust those recordings off and start work on the documentary he had waited 10 years to begin, when he was awarded the Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum Grant.

Anthony and Joseph Russo are award-winning Italian American filmmakers, famous for being the directing team behind Marvel films such as Avengers: Endgame, Avengers: Infinity War, Captain America: The Winter Soldier, and Captain America: Civil War. The Russo brothers have partnered with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and the Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA) to offer the opportunity for artists to create films that “explore the present, past, and future of this unique and important cultural expression and identity.”

Pete was one of over 200 applicants from the United States, Italy, Canada, and Spain to submit proposals for the \$8,000 grant. His submission was one of eight chosen to receive the grant. The foundation stated that the grant recipients presented a “specific vision for the exploration of what we believe are truly interesting and dynamic themes.”

Pete has completed the shooting process for the film, *Il Messaggero*, and has begun the process of editing. The project documents how his father, an Italian immigrant, brought joy to an Italian village and its sister community 5,000 miles away. Pietro passed away in December of 2014, but his wife, Maria, and son, Franco, are working closely with Pete to transcribe the recordings and bring the voices on the reels to life. The recordings featured voices of locals

in Italy that told stories and messages that Pietro would play for their relatives and loved ones in America. Pete took to a community just outside of Pittsburgh, where his family immigrated to, to find and interview descendants of those whose voices were featured on the tapes. “It’s been fascinating to hear these voices recorded over 50 years ago,” he said. “They are remarkable time capsules encasing memories of joy, sorrow, and many other emotions.” Pete’s parents came from a small town called San Pietro in Guarano in the southern Calabria region of Italy. “They and a great many of their friends and family made Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania their home, but always remained close to their sister community in Italy,” he said. “They worked in factories, steel mills, and construction. My great grandfather even worked on the H. J. Heinz farms as a migrant worker. The famous condiment company began in Sharpsburg,” he added. The Italian immigrant influence on Sharpsburg is still evident today.

Pietro was the last of his immediate family to arrive in America in 1966. He was the eldest of five siblings. “My dad was a very lovable guy,” Pete expressed. “My parents and older brother came to the U.S. with nearly nothing to join my dad’s family here and make a better life.” Pietro lived the rest of his life in Sharpsburg and was known around the community as someone who loved everyone. Pete added, “He loved to spread joy any way he could. For example, he had a large workshop in his basement that he used to fix items for people and would often be seen making repairs to people’s homes and cars.” He was very active in the Italian American community, his local Catholic church, and even sang in a traditional Italian band composed of other immigrants from San Pietro in Guarano. “I’m still learning of the everyday little things he did in life. After his passing, a neighbor told me how he met her at

the street corner every morning to give her Animal Crackers just to brighten her day.”

Growing up, Pete would often observe his dad filming family and community events with his Super 8 Millimeter film cameras, and later, with his video cameras. This sparked Pete’s interest in TV production which led to a career in television creative services and marketing. For over 30 years, he’s worked for TV stations in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg. Pete currently works in Baltimore for a group of TV stations, leading a team of creatives and developing marketing campaigns for the TV stations and their clients. He’s worked with celebrities such as Alex Trebek, Pat Sajak, Paris Hilton, Arsenio Hall, Jerry Springer, Bo Derek, and several others. You may have seen some of Pete’s work if you watched the Catholic Cougars win the Maryland state football championship in 2019. He was the executive producer of the live game broadcast. He has been awarded ten regional Emmys and is the founder of his own media company, Easy Street Productions, LLC, which provides archival footage to documentary productions around the world. He has supplied footage to programs that have aired on The Discovery Channel, National Geographic, PBS, ESPN, HBO, Netflix, broadcast networks, and others.

Each of the recipients of the Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum Grant will submit their completed films at the end of August, and three finalists will have their

Gettysburg Choral Society announces auditions for 2021 season

The Gettysburg Choral Society is happy to announce that auditions are now being scheduled. Singers who can read music and have choral experience are especially encouraged to audition. There is a particular need for basses.

The audition process is very simple! Each auditioning singer will be asked to sing a well-known song and will be evaluated for range and quality of voice production.

The choral society, formed four years ago, meets on Monday evenings from 7-9 P.M. starting on September 13th. The rehearsal cycle will end with a concert on Friday, December 10th. All auditions and rehearsals are held at Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 East High Street, Gettysburg.

To arrange a personal audition, please contact our director, John McKay, at 717-476-1054 or email him at zoemckay@aol.com.

films screened during NIAF’s 46th Anniversary Gala Weekend. The winning film will be announced on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at the gala in Washington D.C. The grant will cover most but not all of the costs. Keep an eye out for *Il Messaggero* on Kickstarter.com, where you can soon help fund the documentary and receive rewards in return. Individuals and businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities may contact Pete at info@PublicDomainFootage.com.

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Saturday, August 7

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Tickets: 301-748-5359 or 301-271-3820 - Stop at the Complex Fridays after 5 p.m.

<p>11:45 - Early Bird Baretta RT Max-5 12 gauge (Must be present) 12:00 - CVA Cascade FDE Vell Camo 350 Legend 12:05 - \$500 Cash 12:10 - Rock Island Meriva 12 gauge 12:15 - \$300 Cash 12:30 - Savage Axis 243 Winchester 12:35 - \$300 Cash 12:40 - Savage 93R17 BTV 17HMR 12:45 - \$300 Cash 1:00 - Ruger American Vortex Pkg. 6.5 CR 1:05 - \$500 Cash 1:10 - Wicked Ridge Rampage 360 Xbow Pkg. 1:15 - \$300 Cash 1:20 - Legacy Citadel Tactical 12 gauge 1:25 - \$300 Cash 1:30 - Winchester SXP Hybrid Hunter MOB 1:35 - \$300 Cash 1:40 - Savage Axis XP Muddy Girl Pkg. 7mm-08 1:45 - \$300 Cash 1:50 - Henry Single Shot Youth 20 gauge 1:55 - \$300 Cash</p>	<p>2:00 - Savage Axis II XP 55 308 Win. Pkg. 2:05 - \$500 Cash 2:10 - CVA Scout V2 44 Remington 2:15 - \$300 Cash 2:20 - Savage 120 Waterfowl Camo 12 ga. 2:25 - \$300 Cash 2:30 - Ruger American 308 2:35 - \$300 Cash 2:40 - Ruger American Predator 6.5 Creedmoor 2:45 - \$300 Cash 2:50 - Weatherby Element Synthetic 12 ga. 2:55 - \$300 Cash 3:00 - Weatherby Vanguard 270 Winchester 3:05 - \$500 Cash 3:10 - Ruger EC95 9mm 3:15 - \$300 Cash 3:20 - Ruger Wrangler SA 22 LR 3:25 - \$300 Cash 3:30 - Taurus G3 9mm 3:35 - \$300 Cash 3:40 - Ruger MK 114 22LR 3:45 - \$300 Cash 3:50 - Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ M2.0</p>	<p>3:55 - \$300 Cash 4:00 - Glock 41 GEN 4 45ACP 4:05 - \$500 Cash 4:10 - HiPoint 995 Pink 9mm 4:15 - \$300 Cash 4:20 - Mossberg 500 Super Bantam 20 ga. 4:25 - \$300 Cash 4:30 - Mossberg Patriot Synthetic 243 Winchester 4:35 - \$300 Cash 4:40 - Mossberg Patriot Syn. Vortex Pkg. 25-06 4:45 - \$300 Cash 4:50 - Mossberg Patriot Walnut 7mm Rem Mag 4:55 - 26-Gun Safe from Tractor Supply plus 3 Guns! - Thompson Center Venture Predator Max 223 Remington - Legacy HOWA 1500 270 Winchester Fluted Barrel - CHIAPPA 202 12 ga. OU 5:00 - CRMOTO Force 400 ATV or store credit by Stoneham's</p>
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LOCAL ARTS

Adams County Arts Council's youth programming

The Adams County Arts Council (ACAC) received a grant from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust (RCHCET) for \$15,000 to support youth arts programs in 2021-2022. ACAC's Programs for Youth include summer camps, after-school programs, and family classes that serve children from pre-school through high school throughout the calendar year.

These programs benefit area children and their families by providing high-quality educational arts programs in a safe, positive, and supportive environment. RCHCET was a vision of Adams County resident and fruit broker Robert C. Hoffman, who was devoted to the promotion of social welfare and lessening the burdens of government. The Trust offers grants twice

a year to nonprofits that benefit residents of Adams County.

"The past year has demonstrated the value of creative outlets for connection and has taught us all to deeply appreciate real-time, in-person experiences," says ACAC Outreach Coordinator Lisa Cadigan. "Support from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust has been critical in helping us adapt in challenging times so we can continue to serve the most vulnerable populations in our community," added ACAC Executive Director Leona Rega.

With in-person experiences possible this year, ACAC is pleased to have already enrolled more than twice as many campers for the 2021 season as compared to the summer of 2020, which suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACAC is offering 54 public camps for children of all ages in a variety of disciplines including music, pottery, weaving, drawing, creative writing, photography, culinary arts, and more. Plans are also underway for several after-school programs in the fall and spring, including a chamber music festival, Music Together® classes, and a new iteration of ACAC's popular Eat Smart, Play Hard program called the Kids' Dinner Club.

Funds from RCHCET will support materials and contracted instructors for ACAC's youth programs in 2021 and 2022, allowing ACAC to provide scholarships to children from low-to-moderate income households. "We are carrying out the legacy of Bob Hoffman, who throughout his life was quick to support positive activi-



ties for kids," said Steve Rasmussen, Chair of the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust Advisory Committee. As of the writing of this release, 42% of enrolled summer campers will participate thanks to the availability of scholarship funds. ACAC aims to support at least 40%

of after-school program students with scholarships as well.

For more information about outreach programs at the Adams County Arts Council, contact Lisa Cadigan at lcadigan@adamsarts.org visit www.adamsarts.org or call 717-334-5006.

Majestic Theater returns to live shows

It is finally time to celebrate "Another Opening, Another Show" at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater with an exciting lineup of live performances on the historic stage starting this fall. The 2021-2022 Celebrity Season kicks off in September and includes live music, breathtaking adventure films, magical shadow dancing, musical theater, nostalgic and funny live plays, and even a jaw-dropping fusion of improv comedy and hypnosis from comedy legend Colin Mochrie! Tickets go on sale Wednesday, Aug. 4 to Majestic Theater members, and Friday, Aug. 6 to the general public.

Creating a unique fusion of folk, rock, and pop, the band Skerryvore

arrives direct from Scotland to kick off the 2021-2022 Celebrity Season on Friday, Sept. 10. The concert will mark the first time the Majestic Theater has hosted a live performance since March 2020, when performing arts centers across the country closed due to the pandemic. More amazing live music performances include Australian guitar virtuoso Tommy Emmanuel, CGP on Oct. 5, and singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot on Oct. 21.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16 the Majestic welcomes musician, vocalist and composer Damien Sneed with A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul. Mr. Sneed starred in the 2020

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Majestic. For this new tour, he teams up with Grammy Award-winning singer Karen Clark Sheard to pay homage to the Queen of Soul with fresh renditions of her greatest hits.

Sharing laughter and delight is a wonderful way for the community to come together and celebrate after more than a year apart – and the 2021-2022 Celebrity Season delivers! Master mimic and show business legend Rich Little makes his Gettysburg debut on Friday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Little's Gettysburg show is funded by the Majestic Theater Centennial Endowment Fund.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company lands on the Majestic Theater stage on Saturday, Feb. 12 with The Complete History of Comedy (abridged). Laugh with these high-energy comedians as they explore the full range of comedy

from the high brow to the low and everything in between. Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom is the hilarious and true story of the beloved sitcom I Love Lucy, and L.A. Theatre Works brings it live to the Majestic Theater stage on Feb. 25.

Improv comedy legend Colin Mochrie, of Whose Line is it Anyway? returns to Gettysburg on March 18 with his newest mind-blowing comedy show, HYPROV: Improv Under Hypnosis. Colin teams up with master hypnotist Asad Mecci to hypnotize 20 volunteers from the audience, who are then whittled down to five of the best to do improv scenes with Colin while they are still under hypnosis! What can possibly go wrong? And on Saturday, April 30, family humorist and Central Pennsylvania native Kim Weitkamp shares her songs and stories of growing up free range in

the heart of Amish country.

Weitkamp's performance is made possible by the Majestic Theater Centennial Endowment's Sites Family Endowed Fund for Children's Programming.

Musical theater and dance productions will amaze audiences with feats of artistry throughout the 2021-2022 season. The Brothers Grimm and their fairy tale characters invade November 4-7 with the musical Into the Woods, presented by Gettysburg College's Department of Theatre Arts and the Sunderland Conservatory of Music.

On March 6, Catapult: Magic Shadows is a spellbinding production featuring incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of stories from around the world. This performance, made possible by WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital's Healing HeARTS Healthy Family Series. In April enjoy what millions of women worldwide have been laughing along with for 20 years! Menopause the Musical, a hilarious musical parody set to classic tunes from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, will have you dancing and cheering in the aisles on April 12.

In addition to this blockbuster lineup of live shows, back by popular demand on Friday, Jan. 28 is Mountainfilm on Tour, bringing the best in documentary shorts from the annual Telluride Mountainfilm Festival direct to the Majestic's giant screen. This celebration of adventure, environment, and the human spirit tours internationally each year following the festival.

Tickets for September and October shows are already on sale. Tickets for the remainder of the 2021-2022 season can be purchased starting Aug. 6 online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org, by calling 717-337-8200, or by stopping by the Box Office at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg.

The Majestic Theater is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a cultural celebration for its campus and community.

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Enhancement, not destruction

Tristan Anderson
MSMU Class of 2024

Whether the realization is sharp or dull, it is nonetheless true that for being humans, we sure hate humans. The beginning of an arts column article might seem like an odd place to bring up mankind's inconvenient tendency to self-resentment. While the objection might be granted, there is an inherent unity to the method of art and the accusation. When new buildings are produced, new models of vehicles or styles of clothing released, or even something so obviously related to aesthetics as a new sculpture, there is frequently some form of complaint about humanity disturbing nature for his own aesthetic profit. Regardless of whether the form produced is actually beautiful, it would be incredibly unfair to accuse man as being such an infinitely self-centered creature that he would willingly destroy the environment just for his viewing pleasure.

Regardless of how visually pleasing something is, one of the key principles that makes that something qualify as art is the presence of creation. Art is something that is made out of necessity. Making something, in this respect, is the exercise of the limited human power to bring an object into being, or to change it fundamentally. Destruction, on the other hand, is the elimination of what is already in a state of being. As such, the two in and of themselves cannot ever share the same goal. Art is directed towards existence, while destruction is directed towards inexistence. While the creation of art may require the usage of different pieces to create it, nothing is actually destroyed in the process. In the creation of a statue, the granite that it is made of is not eliminated from existence. Notably, the excess material is shed to carefully construct a new design out of the solid block it once was.

From this point of argument, it can be suggested that to create something else, the root items of it

have to be destroyed. This perception, especially in art, is incorrect. For each art form, materials are not themselves destroyed to create the aesthetically appealing object, but rather changed. Take, for example, the same idea of a statue made of granite. The unnecessary stone is chipped away, only to reveal a carefully drawn design by the sculptor. While the granite is no longer in the shape of a block, it still is granite. The actual material itself has not changed, but rather has been altered into a different form. In this sense, it can be said that art is transformative by nature, rather than destructive. The essence of the materials is not destroyed but made into something altogether new without removing the value of the underlying elements.

In addition to art being a change in form rather than material, it serves an additional purpose of preservation rather than destruction. Without a doubt, the natural world in which we live is perhaps the most beautiful collection of objects the human eye can ever perceive. True art, as a result, has what is best described as a "minimally invasive" interaction with this natural environment. This environment encapsulates all of human activity, whether that activity is positive or negative. Since art itself is also a human activity, it is not possible for it to be separate in any way from the environment in which it occurs. As a result, it would be once again unfair to accuse art of destroying natural beauty, as to do so would make the aesthetic produced not art in any respect.

It would be impossible to deny, however, that art does in some way change or challenge the natural beauty around it. While it is certainly founded on the rules established in the environment, art is, plain and simple, a modification of that environment according to what appeals to the human eye. Think, for example, of the red brick used in many houses during the early days (and even until modern times in some for-

tunate places). The often-deep red of the brick, when seen alone, is not enough to draw much attention. Sure, it may look nice, but the goal lies elsewhere. Certain shades of red when paired with green accentuate one another through contrast, and the same occurs when snow falls, and the deeper reds show a nearly direct opposite to the bright white. In this case, the two elements, natural and manmade, work together in a kind of harmony to produce a pleasant image for the viewer. It is almost as if man tames nature into the image he desires, destroying none of it but rather adding to it and molding it to produce something not entirely new but nonetheless unique.

It still has to be considered that taste applies in this as in all circumstances. While it is true that some works (especially in modern circles) do not possess the required principles to be art even when paired with nature, there are plenty of individual examples that possess all yet are still complained about as violating nature. As with anything to do with any form of art, something can be good and artful and yet not according to taste. Some colors are more attractive to some, and some forms are more attractive to others. Nothing can be done to change it, making the important part only to accept that some art is objectively beautiful but just not to personal preference. Some might find log cabins to be aesthetically pleasing when paired with the natural environment, while others might find metal or stone the same. None of the positions would be incorrect, as each art is appealing and valid equally, though not to the individual.

I was fortunate enough over the past month to experience these ideas firsthand at a wooden flooring job, where much of the work revolves around natural beauty. Stains are selected not to destroy the naturally appearing grain and imperfections of the wood, but instead to enhance them with bright hues of gray and brown. The



A small memorial garden near the art museum in Philadelphia that demonstrates the concept of nature being directed in beauty by manmade art. The flower garden itself unites around the statue of the faithful dog, with the dark and light colors of the two contrasting and drawing attention to each other. Cities, despite what you may think, aren't always aesthetic voids.

rough slices of wood themselves are carefully reworked into new shapes and forms to be used more easily in everyday life. Rather than viewing the matter as a tree simply being destroyed, in the extended picture it is transformed from a towering plant into a timeless picture of natural work fused with human work. Taken as a whole, these individual actions produce something new and beautiful, not only the destruction of something already beautiful. Nature morphs into something more than itself, into a natural floor. It may sound cheesy, but it is a perfect sentiment all the same.

It is incredibly easy to think that art destroys or ruins nature. If you were to make a survey, it might not be a surprise to find that a majority of those polled would answer in exact agreement.

As always, however, the agreement of the majority is hardly an ample justification for a belief. In this case, playing around with the terminology of art itself, it gradually becomes clear that art cannot be a destructive force. Rather than destroy, it must create. Instead of tearing down, it has to transform. It is the exercise of man's greatest feature, second only to that of reason. The relationship of art to nature is one of creation, in which the old is not destroyed but strengthened and transformed into something still itself and yet still new, something that not only justifies the process of art even in these utilitarian times, but also resounds with the human spirit.

To read other articles by Tristan Anderson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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This year's Plein Air will take us to local parks!
Come out and watch these amazing artists as they paint!

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

TLL fall season is fast approaching

Ryan Tokar
Thurmont Little League

As busy as things have been at Thurmont Little League (TLL), it's hard to believe that the Fall season is only a few short weeks away. Registration opened on July 1st for ages 4-13. TLL will once again be offering 5 different levels of play: T-ball, Instructional (Coach Pitch), Minors, Majors, and Intermediate. Fall Ball is a great time to start a new player or move up to a higher level of play, it's a shorter and less rigid schedule that focuses on player development and most importantly--FUN! The league is also looking for volunteers for all age groups. Managers, assistant coaches, umpires, and team parents are always in demand. Visit the TLL website at www.TLL-Baseball.com and click the registration tab to sign up today!

Despite the fast-approaching fall season, baseball has been ongoing

as tournament teams from the spring season have continued playing throughout the blazing 90 degree days of July. The 9-11 year old team finished in 2nd place in the 2021 MD District 2 Tournament. After playing 6 days in a row, oftentimes in intense heat, they came up just short in game 2 of the Championship to Brunswick. This team showed an amazing amount of heart, and many of these players still have one or two more years of little league left to make another run at the championship.

Meanwhile, the 11-12 year old team represented TLL well with their showing in the District Tournament. They started out with a decisive win over Mountain Valley, before losing back-to-back games against impressive Brunswick and Montgomery County teams. For many of these players, it was their last time putting on a uniform representing TLL. We are proud of their many accomplish-

ments and wish them the best of luck as they move on to the next level. The tournament season will wrap up in August as the Minors All Star team competes in two different tournaments in Brunswick and PenMar.

There were plenty of other activities to keep our players and volunteers busy this summer. On Saturday, July 26th, players, coaches, and board members participated in the Emmitsburg Heritage Parade. Two floats representing TLL tossed candy to the crowd and advertised the upcoming registration for Fall Ball. Everyone had a great time, and afterwards all the players got a chance for a photo with the State Champion Catocin Cougars baseball team. It was an amazing opportunity for these young players to see what they might achieve in the future through continued practice and hard work.

On June 30th, TLL was the host location for the attempt at breaking the record for the World's Largest Game of Catch. Despite poor weather, and an All-Star game that drew many of the expected attendees out of town, there were still 90 participants from Thurmont with a total of \$665 raised for CureSearch. In total, there were 862 participants



Thurmont and Brunswick All Star teams pose after the Championship Game

in 48 locations around the United States. Unfortunately, they came up just shy of the record, but plans are already in place for another attempt next year (hopefully with better weather this time around). All participants will still receive a pin commemorating the event.

Finally, in mid-July Thurmont played host to the 2021 Intermediate State Championship. The games were held at East End Park on the newly renovated field behind the police station. Special thanks to the Town of Thurmont Public Works staff who worked hard on improvements to the field, dugouts, and surrounding areas. Also, to Guardian Lawn Care and PJ's Roofing who completed work on the installation of a new pitcher's mound and setting new bases.

The Thurmont Senior Center was also gracious enough to allow volunteers to cool off inside and also to use their kitchen for concessions. Teams from all over the state came to Thurmont to be a part of the event. An opening ceremony was held honoring all guests; featuring the Mayor of Thurmont, color guard from the Thurmont Cub Scouts and representatives from D2 as well as TLL.. The team from Maudgansville ended up as the 2021 State Champion. All in all it was a great event for the town of Thurmont.

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Community Foundation Athletic/Sports Camp Scholarships Available

Through August 15, students in grades 6 through 12 may apply for financial aid scholarships to attend fall 2021 athletic and sports activities or athletic camps. The scholarships are funded by The Dustin and Courtney Muse Memorial Fund, one of more than 740 component funds of The Community Foundation of Frederick County.

The application and details of all requirements may be accessed through the Community Foundation's website at www.ScholarshipsFrederickCounty.com. Applications must be submitted through the Community Foundation's online scholarship system no later than 11:59 p.m. on August 15. Scholarships support participation fees only, and payment will be made directly to the youth athletic organization and/or as a reimbursement to the parent/guardian with proof of payment. Applicants must be a Frederick County resident and have a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is a recognized leader in providing scholarships to area students, made possible by generous donors who establish funds or add to existing funds. For more information about creating or adding to an existing scholarship fund, visit www.FrederickCounty-Gives.org.

CHS Class of 2021 athletic scholarship recipients

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

Catoctin High School said goodbye to the graduating class of 2021 on June 3rd. A few days prior to graduation, awards and scholarships were announced by the virtual senior awards ceremony presentation. The presentation honored several graduates for their academic excellence, and three graduates in particular for their involvement in the athletic program. The CHS recipients of athletic scholarships for 2020-2021 are Ethan Burdette, Chayne Barnhart, and Dylan Click.

Ethan Burdette is one of the two recipients of the CHS Athletic Boosters Scholarship, offered by the Catoctin Athletic Boosters Club. Burdette has played basketball since the first grade and went on to play for the CHS boys basketball team for each year of high school. He has also played on the CHS boys lacrosse team since 10th grade. Burdette may continue to further his athletic career in the future at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he will major in aerospace engineering.

Burdette has received a number of additional scholarships, such as the CHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Scholarship, Lions Club Scholarship, and the Army ROTC Scholarship. He was a member of the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Student Government Association. Burdette's grade point average earned him the Governor's Merit Scholastic Award. He also maintained four years of honor roll and graduated with highest honors.

Burdette considers his most memorable achievement of his high school athletic career to be winning the 2020 regional championship for boys basketball with his team in 11th grade. The victory was the CHS boys basketball team's first regional championship in 39 years. Looking back on the last four years, Burdette feels that the friendships he has made, as well as the memories made on bus rides to and from games, are what he will miss most about his high school athletic experience. He credits each of his coaches for their significant contribution to his athletic and academic success. "They all pushed me to be the best I could, not only on the field but in the classroom too," Burdette expressed. His advice to younger athletes is to "set goals no matter how small they might seem. They will help you not only in sports, but in everyday life as well."

Chayne Barnhart was also awarded the CHS Athletic Boosters Scholarship, as well as the Buzz Barker Memorial Scholarship. Barnhart has participated in basketball since she was six years old, and volleyball since she was nine. She has been a member of the CHS varsity volleyball team and CHS varsity girls basketball team for four years, and served as captain of both teams

for two years. Barnhart has committed to the volleyball team at Messiah University, where she will major in biology.

Barnhart was selected to the Frederick News-Post Volleyball First Team All-County this year and Second Team All-County in 11th grade. She was also awarded the Volleyball MVP award for the past two years. Additionally, this year she was selected for the Central Maryland Conference (CMC) Gambrell Honorable Mention for basketball. Barnhart was a member of numerous honor societies: National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. She was also involved in the Senior Class Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) this past year. Barnhart was granted the Governor's Merit Scholastic Award, maintained honor roll throughout high school, and graduated with highest honors.

Of her four years of involvement in high school basketball, Barnhart's fondest memory is proudly cutting the net of the basket in celebration after the team had won the girls basketball regional championship this past year. She feels that the CHS varsity girls basketball coach, Amy Entwistle, has made the biggest positive influence on both her attitude and performance as an athlete. "She was one of my biggest role models in high school," said Barnhart. "She completely changed my attitude when playing basketball as well as volleyball." Upon graduating from high school sports, Barnhart anticipates that she will miss the community and the support they offer at the games the most—as well as her teammates that she played with for several years. Looking forward to continuing her volleyball career at Messiah University, she is most eager to meet new peo-

ple and make new friends, as well as to learn more and expand her athletic abilities. Her advice to younger athletes is "to not take anything for granted. I would give anything to play another season of both basketball and volleyball at Catoctin."

Dylan Click is the recipient of two athletic scholarships: the Catoctin Youth Association (CYA) Scholarship offered by the Catoctin Youth Football and Cheerleading Program, as well as the National Interscholastic Administrators Association Scholarship. Click has played baseball and football since the age of five, and basketball since the age of eight. He continued to play each sport throughout high school, and plans to heavily participate in club and intramural sports in college. He will be attending Virginia Tech to study sports media and analytics, with the intention to pursue a career as a sports analyst for a major network.

Of the senior class of 2021, Click was voted "Most Athletic" by his peers. He was awarded the Governor's Merit Scholastic Award, and was granted the Lions Club Scholarship and the Emmitsburg High Alumni Scholarship. Click was involved in several honor societies: National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. He also participated in the Senior Class Club and FCA. Like Burdette and Barnhart, Click has also maintained honor roll each year of high school and graduated with highest honors.

Click feels that his two most memorable athletic achievements are winning the 2019 Maryland 1A football state championship in 11th grade, and this year's Maryland 1A baseball state championship. His competitiveness and his will to win, he believes, is the source



Dylan Click standing with the 2021 Maryland 1A baseball state championship trophy

of much of his athletic success. "I didn't accept losing and I wouldn't be outworked," said Click. He also attributes much of his success to the coaches at Catoctin: former varsity head football coach Doug Williams, varsity head basketball coach Brian Burdette, and varsity head baseball coach Mike Franklin. "These coaches not only made me a great player, but an even better person." Click feels that upon graduating, he will most miss being able to play the sports that he loves with his friends that he has played with since middle and elementary school. "We made countless mem-

ories on and off the field, and the bonds that we made will never be broken," he expressed. While he will miss his teammates at Catoctin, he is looking forward to being a part of the "tight-knit" community at Virginia Tech. Click's advice for younger athletes is to "give 100 percent in everything you do, because if you don't, you will come to regret it later in life."

As our athletes of the class of 2021 further their education and athletic careers, we are excited to see their influence on younger athletes returning to the program—with fall sports beginning August 11th.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

All suffering - great and small

Jefferson Breland

This month I will introduce some ideas around the subject around suffering and our health. Next month, I will offer some ideas about how to be with suffering in more peaceful ways.

Over the past 11 years, I would have conversations with my mother about how to move through life more peacefully. I thought, "Hey, let's have a mother-son discussion about suffering?"

I offered my mother a definition of suffering that included the daily small happenings that raise our blood pressure, bring a tear to our eye, tighten our stomach into knots, cause to yell at the television, want to take a nap, and the like.

My mother disagreed. She said, "I know what real suffering is. That's not suffering." I agree that she knows what suffering is. At the age of two, she survived an automobile accident that killed her mother. She lived through the insecurities of being a wife of a WWII bomber pilot. Her only daughter died of cancer at age 14. She helped my father, her husband of more than 65 years, navigate the shifting of his memory that included more of the past, less of the recent, and almost none of the present. She experienced crippling, chronic knee pain. She broke both of her hips and fractured her pelvis all in one year in three separate falls when she was 93-years old. So, yes, she knows deep and profound suffering. She knows suffering inside and out.

In the play Hamlet by William Shakespeare, a few lines after the only line most people seem to remember, "To be or not to be..." is another that refers to these daily knocks or sufferings to our energy/emotional body and mind, "To die, to sleep no more: and by a sleep, to say we end the heartache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to..." Hamlet is basically saying that our birthright as human beings is pain and heartache, life contains suffering and the only way to end the suffering is death. Who knew Hamlet was a Buddhist? As far as death being the only way to end suffering, I say, "Maybe?" (My answer to this will come in part two next month.)

What I attempted to explain to my mother is the distinction between "necessary" suffering and "unnecessary" suffering. In short, "necessary" suffering is the big stuff as experienced by my mother. "Unnecessary" suffering is created by our expectations of how things should be. It is also when we attach meaning to stuff other people do or say to us forgetting that nothing is personal unless we choose it to be. (More on that last sentence next month.)

So with this distinction between necessary and unnecessary suffering, it is easier to see that it isn't only the big stuff that hurts. The small stuff that triggers emotional responses in our daily life puts us off balance too.

These smaller "slings and arrows" might be a person driving differently

than you want them to (going too fast, going too slow, changing lanes without signaling, etc.), politics (need I say more?), financial concerns, a word spoken in anger, a word spoken without thinking, unrequited love, the news, not finding a parking spot, spilling milk... the list is virtually endless. Some people call this type of suffering, "stress."

I don't like the word stress as our society uses it. Before the mid-1930s, stress was purely an engineering term used to describe the effect of compression, tension, or the load put on a building material. The word "stress" in the context of human activity is too general and doesn't acknowledge the specific emotion that has been created which then doesn't acknowledge that we can do something with the emotion or the cause of the emotion. We are not I-beams. (More on the "acknowledgement" aspect of this in next month's article.)

The effect of these repeated "smaller" sufferings, necessary or unnecessary is cumulative and can be significant. We feel them in the moment and they become almost invisible in our memory; however, our bodies remember everything. "Aye, there's the rub."

A biological reason for body memory/muscle memory is that when we experience an emotion, a feeling is created. We think our mind is where our emotions happen. The answer is yes and no. In the presence of an emotion our brains release



Barbossa came to us as a stray and he was pretty underweight, possibly missing a right eye and had a severe case of fleas. He was treated for the fleas and he quickly gained weight. A vet took a look at what was left of Barbossa's eye and it was decided to remove what was there and close it. He's doing really well! Barbossa is a such a nice guy and just wants to be around people. He's about 3 years old and would love to find a forever home - maybe with you!

For more information about Barbossa 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.

proteins into our bodies called neuropeptides. These proteins create a bodily sensation that our brains associate with the cause of the emotion be it fear, anger, joy, sadness, worry, or grief.

So what does this have to do with anything? Everything.

Over time, in the presence of repeated experiences, our bodies and minds can go on auto-pilot and continue to produce the same neuropeptides whose presence in our bodies can effect our health. It can effect the expression of our genes and produce dis-ease. It can cause tight muscles and joints since we usually store "stress" in specific parts of our bodies. It effects the way we walk, stand, sit, sleep, eat, etc. The "stress" becomes a part of our lifestyle; an accepted part of the way we live our lives. It's just the way life is. It the cost of doing business or living life, so to speak. That is often our story about it. (Stay tuned for more on this in next month's article)

Beginning in the early 21st century, a new field of medicine emerged called epigenetics. It is the study of the effect of lifestyle on the expression of our genes and thus our health. Studies show that 90-95%

of all disease are caused by lifestyle.

Wait a minute. You mean to tell me that only 5-10% of disease is genetic? So what does that mean to me?

I am glad you asked. It means that we have more potential influence in our health than we have been led to think. It means that when we pay attention to subtle symptoms we can make small, sustainable changes in our lives that will have a big impact on our health. It means that that we are not doomed by our genetic code as we have been led to believe. It means that we have the power to heal ourselves. It means hope.

Stay tuned to next month's Complementary Corner for some ideas about how we can wake up to our body's wisdom and do something with it. Thank you for your time.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.



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<p>Emmitsburg Community Center 300 South Seton Avenue Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM</p>	<p>Myersville Municipal Center 301 Main Street Monday-Friday, 9AM - 4PM</p>	<p>Thurmont Police Dept. 800 East Main Street Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM</p>	

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Fresh fruits & vegetables

Linda Stultz

Fresh vegetables are here, and much more will follow in the next few months. Maybe you have already had that first fresh tomato from your garden or local farmers market. Fresh vegetables are low calorie, high nutrient, readily available and best of all, great tasting foods that will help with the healthy eating style you are looking for.

Fruit is a nutritious food also, but it is higher in sugar. The good thing about fresh fruit is that the sugar is natural. Cleansing your pallet of processed sugar may surprise you in

many ways. Once you eat the things you were use to eating they may seem too sweet now. Sugar is a big cause of many health issues. Many people are pleasantly surprised how much better they feel by not consuming sugar. I know it is hard to give up all sugar but try to avoid processed sugar or adding sugar to your food. There are many natural sweeteners, like adding fruit to recipes, that will satisfy your sweet tooth if you cleanse your taste buds.

I hope this article with inspire you to check out the fruit and veggie isle the next time you go to the grocery store or to stop by the local roadside stand and stock up on the

fresh vegetables now available. Eating vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet any time of the year and an important part of a plan to lose weight.

Some people have decided to can or freeze their own vegetables. This is more work but we enjoy the time spent together and know that these foods are healthier than processed ones from the store. Talk to some of your family and friends about getting together and canning or freezing. It is always fun to work together and it makes the chore part of it less work when you have help. This would be especially helpful if you have never

canned your own food before and they would have fun teaching you. I

f planting a garden or canning your own food is not for you take a few minutes and get your family involved in planning the next grocery list. This will make them feel a part of the planning process and hopefully they will be excited about the kinds of foods you get and want to try new foods or eat more of the fresh foods and less of the processed snacks they usually eat. Involving kids in meal planning teaches them healthy habits and makes them feel important and may just get them interested in planting a garden, cooking and even coming up with some recipes of their own.

Whichever way you choose, enjoy

the fresh produce that comes from local farms. Some of the orchards have "pick your own" fruits and vegetables. This is a great way to spend a beautiful summer day. It is also an educational way to show the kids where fruits and vegetables come from and how they grow. Many children only know that they come from the grocery store and would really be surprised to see their green beans growing from a plant or see their apple hanging from a tree.

Meals are part of a healthy eating plan along with exercise so Keep Moving and call me at 717-334-6009 if you have any questions or have any ideas that I can share in future articles.

Planning for the Inevitable: FAQs

Doug Propher

Q. I've created a Will – it was easy. Is there another easy step I can take to help my survivors?

A. If you've completed a Will and advanced medical directive, a sensible next step is to develop a plan for managing your spending. Although we want to make things easier for your survivors, it's critical that you ensure you get through the last phase of life successfully. More specifically, you should be confident that you'll have enough available cash to meet your own needs. According to Eric Vinos of Vinos Financial Services in Thurmont, a common mistake people make is not thinking about cash liquidity far enough down the road. "Unfortunately, clients come to us who've made savings or investment decisions at 60 that end up trapping them at 70," Vinos said.

In a best-case scenario, each month you'll derive cash from a retirement account distribution, social security benefits, and perhaps withdrawals from personal savings. Whatever the source of your funds, however, it's imperative that

your life plan does not outspend your saved resources. For example, if you decide to withdraw too much too soon from your retirement account, you may deplete those resources despite having years left to live.

Moreover, there are any number of unexpected events that can create financial obstacles for you. The most obvious may be that resources invested in a retirement account are subject to the volatility of the stock market. In addition, inflation could make day-to-day living more expensive than your savings plan anticipated. Or, the sudden need to replace a roof can eat up money you saved for another purpose. If sharing assets with survivors after your death is part of your plan, then what you do with the assets matters, too. For example, if you dedicate cash to a trust for your granddaughters, then that cash isn't available to you anymore.

Likewise, the strategy you adopt for claiming social security affects your cash flow, because the earlier you make your claim, the less your monthly benefit will be – sometimes considerably less. And, the longer you work, not only do you continue to earn a salary

but your potential social security benefit continues to increase as well. Generally, an individual's benefit depends on how long he or she worked and how much was earned over that work history, so everyone will have a different benefit calculation. Nevertheless, as an illustration, an individual making a claim at 62 might receive a benefit of \$1,967 monthly, but if he waits until 67 the monthly benefit increases to \$2,844; that difference is substantial. However, if he makes his claim at

70 instead – and keeps working and earning normally – the monthly benefit can increase to \$3,557. Clearly, that's an enormous change in cash flow monthly.

One other logical approach is to eliminate debt to lessen your monthly need for cash. According to NerdWallet, the average balance owed on a credit card in 2020 was \$6,741. The average interest paid in 2020 on credit card debt was \$1,155. The average owed on an automobile was \$28,032. The less you owe when your time is up, the more your survivors will benefit.

Catoctin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

For more information about Catoctin Advisors, visit our website (www.catoctinadvisors.com) or send email to doug@catoctinadvisors.com. We're happy to help you. If you want to meet with a certified financial planner we can connect you with someone.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For August the third quarter moon is on August 1st. The New moon is on August 8th, and the waxing crescent passes four degrees north of Venus in western twilight on August 10th. The moon will set well before midnight for ideal viewing conditions for the Perseid Meteor Shower, peaking on the morning of August 12th. Look for perhaps a meteor a minute coming out of the NE after midnight until dawn. The almost full moon passes four degrees south of Saturn on August 20th, and the Thunder Full Moon is four degrees south of Jupiter on August 22nd. The last quarter moon is on August 30th.

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 July 31st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for August 2020; 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 August 2020 sky from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/. Sky & Telescope has highlights at <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/> for observing the sky each week of the month.

Mercury is too close to sun for view-



The Veil Nebula is a cloud of heated and ionized gas and dust in the constellation Cygnus. It constitutes the visible portions of the Cygnus Loop, a supernova remnant. The source supernova was a star 20 times more massive than the Sun which exploded between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago.

ing this month, but Venus dominates the western twilight for the rest of this year. Mars was close to Venus in the middle of July, but now is completely lost in the sun's glare for the next two months. Jupiter and Saturn both reach opposition in the SE this month, with Saturn closest to us on August 2nd, and Jupiter at its best on August 19, with the Full Moon beside it in Aquarius. The Great Red Spot is easy to spot with small telescope, as are the four larger moons. Much more distant, fainter Saturn is to the upper right of Jupiter in Capricornus, just east of brighter Jupiter. Enjoy the rings, now 22 degrees open and tilted toward earth and sun. Look closer and you may see its huge moon Titan, the most earth-like surface geology elsewhere in the solar system!

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the

north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

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. From Spica curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Hercules is overhead, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. It is faintly visible with the naked eye under dark sky conditions, and among the best binoc objects on the map back page when you download the SkyMap pdf file.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the "double double"... a fine sight under steady sky conditions.

Below Vega are the two bright stars of the Summer Triangle; Deneb (to the north) and Altair. Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross, known as Cygnus the Swan to the Romans. It is one of the most luminous stars in our Galaxy, about 50,000 times brighter than our Sun. It sits atop the Cross, and lies in a region where new stars and born and old stars die literally in front of our eyes! I was lucky enough to discover one such stellar death, Nova Cygni 1975, on August 27, 1975. It peaked at magnitude +1.8, the sixth brightest star of the summer sky, in two days, but faded below naked eye visibility in just two weeks, alas.

A far grander supernova some 15,000 years ago happened SE of the eastern wing of the Swan, epsilon Cygni. The Veil Nebula is faintly visible in big binocs and wide field scopes under very dark skies, but a colorful photographic target. Look to the west at brilliant Venus, and imaging transposing it overhead to the wing of Cygnus; how our ancestors must have been awed by the sudden and perplexing change in the changeless stars! Far more material was blasted out into space than in my nova, and the shock wave from this supernova, now spanning three degrees (six moon diameters), continues expanding at a million miles per hour! What a lovely funeral wreath, with ashes to enrich the Galaxy with life-giving elements. The bright star to the right is 52 Cygni, just visible to naked eye SE of epsilon Cygni.

To the south is the southernmost

member of the Triangle, Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle. If you scan the Milky Way with binocs or a small spotting scope between Altair and Deneb, you will find many nice open star clusters and also a lot of dark nebulae, the dust clouds from which new stars will be born in the future.

To the southeast, Antares is bright in the heart of 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! Just above the tail of the Scorpion are two fine naked eye star clusters, M-7 (discovered by Ptolemy and included in his catalog about 200 AD) and M-6, making one of the best binocular views in the sky. Your binoculars are ideally suited to reveal many fine open star clusters and nebulae in this region of our Galaxy. Get a dark sky site, and use the objects listed on the back of the August 2021 SkyMap print-out to guide you to the best deep sky wonders for binoculars and small telescopes.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. Above it is the Trifid Nebula, M-20, another fine and very colorful stellar nursery. Just east of these young star birthplaces is the fine globular cluster M-22, faintly visible to the naked eye and spectacularly resolved in scopes of 8" or larger aperture. Look just east of the top star in the teapot of Sagittarius with binoculars.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit emmitsburg.net.

Farmers' Almanac

"Summer has set in with its usual severity."

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Mild, then warm; isolated p.m. showers and thunderstorms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7); stormy turning cooler (8, 9, 10). Hot and humid (11, 12, 13, 14) with occasional storms (15, 16, 17); cooler, less humid (18, 19, 20) turning warmer with thunderstorms (21, 22, 23, 24). Hot and humid again (25, 26, 27, 28) ending the month with stormy weather (29, 30, 31)

Full Moon: August's full moon will occur on August 22nd and since August 11th marks the end of the 'Dog Days of Summer', it has been referred to as 'Dog Moon'. Other Native American tribes called it 'Fruit Moon' or 'Ripe Moon' because of the many fruits and vegetables that ripen during the month.

Special Notes: The Gruber Almanac, LLC proudly announces the release of the 226th edition of J. Gruber's Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac! The Almanac is now available at newsstands and at popular retailers

throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, almost 2 month earlier than past years! For a full listing of retailers and their locations, go to www.almanac.com/where-to-buy but why wait? Order The Almanac today at www.almanac.com/order and have it delivered right to your front door! Consider taking advantage of our popular 3-year subscription, which offers guaranteed delivery of The Almanac for the next three years with no increase in price for only \$23.50! Or you can register as a Friend of the Almanac (FOTA) and receive a hard copy of the current edition, have immediate access to the digital version of The Almanac (and to next year's digital edition, too!), access to past digital editions, the monthly newsletter, all for the low price of only \$15. All great deal for a great almanac!

Holidays: Labor Day is a just few weeks away and signals the end of summer, the promise of cooler days ahead, and the start of school for many. Begin planning now and make a list of things that need to be done and when they need to be completed. Schedule immunizations and/or physicals, purchase new clothes, and an assess school supplies that will be needed with ample lead time to

ensure a successful 'first day' for your young students.

The Garden: August is the peak of the hot and dry season and your plants will need water more than anything during this time. If watering is limited or restricted in your area, concentrate on getting the most to newly planted trees and shrubs. If you use thick mulch and give it a good soak, water will be retained much better over much longer periods of time.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 27, 28, 29); weeding and stirring the soil (7, 8, 9); planting above-ground crops (14, 15); harvesting all crops (20, 21, 22); the best days for setting hens and incubators (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); transplanting (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 30, 31)

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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COMPUTER Q&A

All PC hardware is not equal

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

If you have ever gone shopping for a new computer only to find yourself overwhelmed, you are certainly not alone. Purchasing a computer-based on price alone is typically not a good idea. A computer is meant to make things easier, not more frustrating. Often inexpensive or discounted computers lack in performance or include outdated hardware. While you might not need the fastest computer or the latest technology it's better to invest in a machine that will last into the future. With the announcement of Windows 11 and the stricter CPU requirements, we are finding that even many of the new computers being sold in stores now, won't be able to run the new operating system.

CPUs or the Central Processing Units are the brainpower behind a computer. Choosing a computer system with enough power to perform the tasks you wish to complete is very important since on most laptops the CPU is soldered to the motherboard and on desktops, you won't be likely to want to upgrade that component due to expense and possible hardware configuration conflicts. Processors are rated in GHz or Gigahertz often ranging between 1 GHz and 4GHz the higher the number the faster the processing speed. Today CPUs are made with multiple cores which divide up processing power. As mentioned in last month's article Windows 11 will require Quad Core processors which means users with devices with unsupported processors will not be able to upgrade from Windows 10 when the free upgrade becomes available.

Hard Drives are where data including your Operating System, Programs, and personal files are stored. One would expect that manufacturers would be using the faster hard drive speeds available especially since consumer part prices are often better for newer technology but often, they are not. We have been finding even brand name computers like HP are selling new computers with old technology hard drives that can contain moving parts that can experience mechanical failure. Most often on the PCs bought in a store, the label will only display the storage capacity; new computers typically come pre-installed with drives able to store between 128 GB or Gigabytes to 1TB or Terabyte of data. More storage space does not equate to more speed.

RAM there are two different physical sizes of RAM or memory which won't matter much when purchasing a new computer. One or more memory modules may be installed to reach the total amount of memory installed. Most chips will contain between 1GB and 16GB of memory. There are different generations of memory that also determine the range of speeds that they support. DDR3 memory is still very common with the newest RAM technology being DDR4 memory.

Graphics can either be integrated (built into the CPU) or if better quality graphics are desired, through an installed supported GPU (graphics card). While a GPU can be added

later for desktop machines, there are several things you will want to consider in advance including power, motherboard support and physical space for a card must be considered in advance. If you intended on gaming or doing any photo/video rendering or editing you will want to consider any minimum graphics requirements along with how much you wish to invest.

Motherboards are where the components listed above as well as the Power Supply are connected. Motherboards can come in different physical sizes and can support varying features. For example, while all laptops support Wi-Fi, not all desktops do. Some devices have only a few USBs and may not support newer faster technology

such as USB 3.2. Windows 11 will also require something called Trusted Platform Module which may not be supported on older motherboards.

The overview above just scratches the surface on understanding some of the differences that one can find among seemingly similar hardware. It's important to note that older hardware regardless of compatibility with Windows 11 will have less support and thus will potentially experience unresolved hardware and software issues. If you rely heavily on your computer having newer hardware can provide an overall better experience.

If you find yourself looking to purchase a new computer, consider contacting us



at Jester's Computers in Fairfield, PA. We can help you with purchasing a new laptop to meet your needs or even better, build you a custom desktop PC with quality parts and the latest technology supported by Windows 11. For over 20 years our family-owned and operated business has provided affordable quality computer repair and support services. Contact us by calling or texting 717-642-6611 or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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HUMOR

Things only Martha Stewart would know:

Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.

Use a meat baster to "squeeze" your pancake batter onto the hot griddle and you'll get perfectly shaped pancakes every time.

To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.

To prevent egg shells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard boiling.

Run your hands under cold water before pressing Rice Krispiest treats in the pan and the marshmallow won't stick to your fingers.

To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm against the kitchen counter before squeezing.

To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stove top.

Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.

When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.

If you accidentally over salt a dish while it's still cooking, drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt for an instant "fix me up."

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

Brush some beaten egg white over pie crust before baking to yield a beautiful glossy finish.

Place a slice of apple in hardened brown sugar to soften it.

When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.

To determine whether an egg is fresh, immerse it in a pan of cool, salted water. If it sinks, it is fresh, but if it rises to the surface, throw it away.

Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

Don't throw out all that leftover wine. Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

If you have a problem opening jars: Try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non slip grip that makes opening jars easy.

Potatoes will take food stains off your fingers. Just slice and rub raw potato on the stains and rinse with water.

To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.

Use air freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting

to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily. Now look what you can do with Alka-Seltzer.

Clean a toilet. Drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China.

Clean a vase. To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry. Drop two Alka-Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle. Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka-Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka-Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar - Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water.

Great Predictions by Experts (of their day)

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 15 tons." Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of Science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what ... is it good for?" Engineer at Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us," Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible," A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" Harry M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not



COVID-19 is causing hurt.
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Our lives have been turned upside down by COVID-19, leading not only to threats to our physical health but also to our mental health. If you or others you know are struggling with depression, alcohol or drug misuse, trauma, or thoughts of suicide, there's a way forward. Call 2-1-1 or visit awayforwardtogether.org for assistance and guidance. You're not alone—help is available now.

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HUMOR

Gary Cooper, "Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make." Response to Debbie Fields' idea of starting her company, Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this." Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives or 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you; you haven't got through college yet.'" Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get Atari and H-P interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react. He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools." 1921 New York Times editorial about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work.

"You want to have consistent and uniform muscle development across all of your muscles? It can't be done. It's just a fact of life. You just have to accept inconsistent muscle development as an unalterable condition of weight training." Response to Arthur Jones, who solved the "unsolvable" problem by inventing Nautilus.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles H.

Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899.

"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction". Pierre Pacht, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon". Sir John Eric Erickson, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon- Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, 1873.

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